Director's Greetings

Chosen & Qualified

A common question discerners ask me is, "Where does the desire to serve the poor overseas come from?"

Our deepest desires and longings are found in a very special place in our heart. Our intellect knows God, our heart desires God. And when our intellect and heart familiarizes with God, we also get in touch not only with the way God sees the world but also with how God cares for the world.

Care involves protecting that which you love. Jesus came to show us how God loves, how God desires and communicates with the world. And if Jesus spent significant time attending the poor, we are to look at this aspect carefully. The desire to serve the poor overseas is directly linked to the commandment Jesus gave us, namely, to love one another.

I was recently asked why it's important for a person to take time to consider whether he or she has a vocation to serve the poor overseas. It's because the "why", when given quality time -- when carefully looked at and properly discerned -- will produce great meaning and vision for our way forward in this world. In short, it aligns us to follow Jesus. If we claim to follow someone who served the poor, we should do the same. As the very name "Christian" implies, we who follow Jesus are to share in his preferential option for the poor. Our lives should manifest our concern for God's vision.

Having a concern for the poor overseas -- working for peace and justice in other parts of the world -- is part of our baptismal & confirmation promises. Our vocation as Maryknoll priests or brothers is a gift full of good news for those deprived, excluded and marginalized. It is as if we are using a magnifying glass to discover the layers of our vocation as baptized Catholics sent out into the world as missioners -- as heralds of the Gospel. Often the most difficult and thought-provoking questions bring us to a place of vision such as, "What kind of person do I want to become?" Think of the meaning behind the beatitudes Jesus preached during the Sermon on the Mount!

"Blessed are you..."

How do I know this vocation is for me then? When is the right time to decide? A good answer is when your intellect and heart agree that, regardless of how many more options are out there, this one makes the most sense and is worth committing to.

So if you have the desire to serve the poor abroad, Maryknoll can be your opportunity! I want to persuade you to make up your mind and apply now. Don't rush away from the passion of your life. Give it a shot. Do it. Suddenly, your vocation is no longer a mystery.

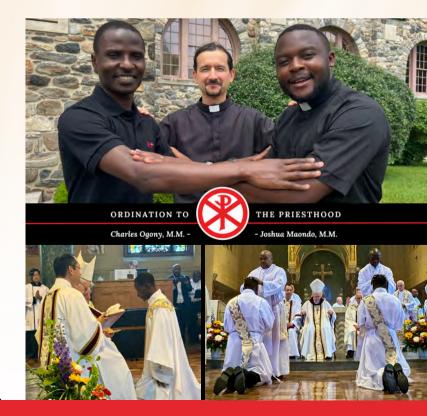
Here is a quote from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians: "watch carefully how you live... try to understand what is the will of the Lord... be filled with the Spirit... give thanks always and for everything."

Our Lady of Maryknoll, pray for the young men who are discerning a call to serve the poor.

Amen.

- Fr. Rodriga





VOICES OF OUR WORLD

Upcoming:



"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

The life of a Maryknoll missionary priest or Brother is one of blessing and being blessed.

Come, see and experience these blessings as you discern God's call to mission in your life!

Join us for our Come & See Retreat: October 11 - 13, Maryknoll Formation Community Chicago, IL

> Contact Fr. Rodrigo Ulloa: rulloa@maryknoll.org 914-504-1196

<u>Visit with us on campus</u>

(Please contact vocation@maryknoll.org for more information about these and other events.)

September 18th: University of Notre Dame Post-Grad Service & Social Impact Fair, 6 - 8 pm, South Bend, IN

September 19th: St. Mary Student Parish & Newman Center at the University of Michigan, 7 - 8:30 pm, Ann Arbor, MI

October 1st: "Beyond UD Post-Grad Fair", University of Dayton, 3 - 5:30 pm, Dayton, OH

October 25th: University of Minnesota Government & Nonprofit Career Fair, 10 am - 3 pm, Minneapolis, MN

2024 NCYC: El Camino | The Way!

National Catholic Youth Conference Maryknoll Vocations will join thousands of Catholic youth and their adult chaperones for a life-changing experience at 2024 NCYC: El Camino | The Way!, November 14-16, 2024, Long Beach, CA



What is God Spelling **Out in Your Life?**



V-O-C-A-T-I-O-N, really?



Oh, my goodness!



Calling - do I have one?



Ask for a sign.



Trust God to give you one.



Invite the Spirit in prayer.



OK, you've got this!



No more fear.

"Vocation" is spelled out through the daily acts of love in one's life.

Come experience RE

As part of the National Eucharistic Revival, Maryknoll Society members were asked:



What does "Eucharist" mean to you as a missioner?

"To me the Eucharist means participating in the life of Jesus both as an individual and as a community. St. Theresa of Avila put it well when she said: 'Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet, no eyes on earth but yours.' The Eucharist makes it so real how God depends upon us to carry on the message of Jesus as messengers of God's love, compassion and mercy for all." - Fr. Mike Snyder, MM

"The Eucharist calls us to both receive and give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ. We pray in the Eucharist, 'do this in memory of me.' As missioners we share in the embrace of the Eucharist when we receive from the community where we serve."

- Br. Wayne Fitzpatrick, MM

"After communion at every mass I ask the congregation to reflect silently for one minute on the meaning of Eucharist that comes from the Greek word 'eucharistia' which means 'thanksgiving.' A mature, genuine Small Christian Community is a Eucharistic Community. Sadly on any given Sunday around the world for different reasons, especially the lack of priests, millions of Catholics do not receive the Eucharist in a Catholic Mass. Yet the Second Vatican Council says that 'the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life." - Fr. Joe Healey, MM



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