



FALL 2026
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VOICES OF OUR WORLD

Contact us!
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Liên lạc chúng tôi!



New Director's Greetings

Introducing Myself!

Greetings to all our men in discernment! My name is Brother Joe Bruener, and I am following Father Rodrigo as Director of our Vocation Ministries Team. It will be my pleasure to accompany each of you in your spiritual journeys. I remember how difficult it could be at times and even confusing. I realize that you have many options in life; I am here simply and to prayerfully help you make the best choice.

I entered Maryknoll in 1991 as a Brother candidate. I had been a teacher in Milwaukee Public Schools for three years before that. I did my overseas training in Chile, Bolivia and Peru, which lasted three and a half years. That prepared me for my permanent assignment to Jilin, China, where I taught English at Bei Hua University and supported St. Joseph's seminary which is both "above ground" and recognized by Rome. I worked in China on and off for over fifteen years.

I was later called back to the US to work in vocational recruitment and Formation for Maryknoll; those were also good years. Most recently I have been serving in Bolivia, running our Center House and ministering at the St. Vincent De Paul/St. Martine De Porres Boys Home. I've now been asked back to lead our vocations ministries. I've met several of you and look forward to meeting each of you and discerning, together with you, your call to mission. I admire your courage to respond to God's call in the face of an American culture which is trying to negate your call and even your love of Christ and your desire to offer yourselves up to Him in a formal and sacred way. I'm praying for you and hoping that Maryknoll is your forever home!

God bless you!



"Discernment is a step by step process. It takes a lot of courage to make that initial contact. But they would not regret having made the call."

- Brother Joe



CHANGE IN PLANS:

Discerning a vocation sometimes involves an unexpected change in plans. This is no less true of us as a missionary community. Please note that the "Come and See" Retreat tentatively scheduled for October 16th to 18th in Chicago, IL, has been cancelled for this fall. Please watch this space for upcoming vocation discernment events and opportunities.

Discerner Huy Nguyễn's: Visit to Vietnam



"In the midst of these torments, which usually terrify others, I am, by the grace of God, full of joy and gladness, because I am not alone - Christ is with me."

- St. Paul Lê-Bảo-Tĩnh, Vietnamese martyr

#1 - I attended the beatification of Fr. Francis Xavier Truong Buu Diep (martyr) in Ca Mau, Vietnam. This photo was taken the day before. I'm standing next to Fr. Vincent Mai Minh Tuan, who was my catechist

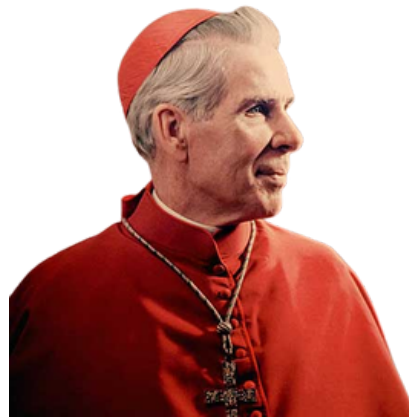
#2 - Here is a photo of me standing next to the relic (skull) of St. Theophane Venard, whom Maryknoll Fr. James A Walsh admired, at Tu Chau church in Hanoi, Vietnam

#3 - I visited Dinh Khao Pilgrimage Center in Vinh Long, Vietnam, to pray before the bones of St. Philip Phan Van Minh (priest-martyr) and Joseph Nguyen Van Luu (martyr)

#4 - The persecution site of St. Philip Phan Van Minh, 350 meters away from Dinh Khao Pilgrimage Center

A Witness of Mission

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen



On Thursday, September 24th, the beatification Mass for Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen (1895 - 1979) is scheduled to take place at the Dome at America's Center in St. Louis, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, presiding. This Mass marks not only the celebration of a person, but also of mission.

Archbishop Sheen was a tireless champion of the U.S. Catholic Church's mission in today's world. As such, he served as an inspiration to Maryknollers and millions alike in witnessing the Gospel, particularly during the height of the Cold War and the social unrest of the 1960s.

Archbishop Sheen hosted extraordinarily popular media ministries reaching millions weekly including his radio show, "The Catholic Hour" (airing from 1930 to 1950), and "Life Is Worth Living" (broadcast on television from 1952 to 1957). Archbishop Sheen received an Emmy Award in 1953 for "Most Outstanding Television Personality".

While serving as the National Director for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in 1951, then Bishop Sheen created the World Mission Rosary - a form of prayer that remains popular to this day in joining Catholics in prayer for today's world. Each decade of the World Mission Rosary is highlighted by a particular color representing each of five world regions - Africa, Asia, Oceania, Europe and the Americas. As then Bishop Sheen observed, praying the World Mission Rosary would "aid the Holy Father and his Society for the Propagation of the Faith by supplying him with practical support, as well as prayers, for the poor mission territories of the world."

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Bishop Sheen's creation of the World Mission Rosary. We invite you to pray it with us as part of your discernment:
<https://www.maryknoll.us/mission-rosary>

We also encourage you to learn more about this extraordinary missionary who remains as relevant today as he was for earlier generations of American Catholics. Among other resources, you may do so at: <https://fulton-sheen.catholic.edu/>

