



IMAGINE THAT!

Our imagination plays a vital role in how we encounter God's presence, God's beauty and God's love. It even plays a role in forming our hearts for mission, helping us to see not only the world in which God dwells but also the world that God envisions — and to seek ways to make that world a reality.

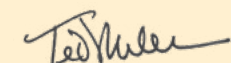
Within the Maryknoll Lay Missioners community, there is no shortage of imagination. Imagination has led our lives to mutual hospitality and accompaniment in nine different countries around the world.

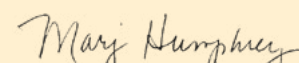
In 2019, we opened a new mission site at the U.S.-Mexico border and expanded our new presence in Haiti—places where national and international political, economic, environmental and church issues meet. We also embarked on an extensive planning process that will help us respond to changes in our organization as well as changes in the larger church and world. Enhanced digital engagement through a new website, more videos and improved social media enabled us to share more of the lives, joys and challenges of the individuals and communities who welcome us.

At our 25th anniversary as Maryknoll Mission Association of the Faithful, we recommitted ourselves to embrace God's call to banish doubt in favor of bold imagination, to envision the world as a better place, and to set about making it so. Individuals, couples and families have joined communities across the world in co-creative efforts to educate minds and hearts, heal bodies and souls, and restore justice and peace.

To all of our generous supporters, we express our sincere gratitude. As we join together in imaginative and loving community, let us commit to making God's mission our own. Let us share the dreams and yearnings of our hearts that together we may discover God's presence in all places and all encounters.

Peace and every good,


 Ted Miles
 Executive Director


 Marj Humphrey
 Director of Mission

Imagination and envisioning the world in the new Creation rather than the brokenness we experience daily has strong roots in the Judeo-Christian tradition. The Hebrews viewed imagination as the way that we could share in the divine creative power. Schooled in this tradition, Jesus invited his followers to engage their imagination as part of God's call to love and build community. Holy imagination allows God's possibilities to work within and through us, enabling us to see God in all things. In the Maryknoll tradition, we are sent forth to live and work with people of different cultures, races and religions in solidarity so all God's children can live in a more just and verdant world.

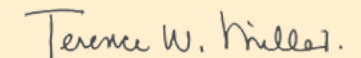
In this the 25th year of Maryknoll Lay Missioners as an association, we celebrated how the miraculous possibilities of God inspire men, women and families to cross boundaries of culture, nationality and faith to join their lives in community in a global network of solidarity with impoverished and oppressed peoples of the world. Animated by the Gospel, our lay missioners challenge unjust structures and systems, seeking transformation of the powers that create and benefit from marginalizing communities.

Together with our receiving communities, we strive for justice, peace and fullness of life through solidarity and partnerships that build the capacity of local communities to address their own needs.

Humans alone among all species have the capacity to ask, "Why not?" Holy imagination requires each of us to take that further, asking "How is God calling me at this time to enter into the world's brokenness to mutually envision and build the new Creation?"

As we commit to this ongoing discernment, let me express my deep gratitude to each of you as you use your imagination in humbly walking with the Maryknoll missioners featured in this 2019 Annual Report. In giving us the gift of imagination, God challenges each of us to join in authentic solidarity all of our hopes, imaginings, and actions toward the creation of a just and compassionate world.

In solidarity,



Terence W. Miller, Chair, Board of Directors



Maryknoll lay missioner **Peg Vámosy** plants tree seedlings with parish youth in Monte San Juan, **El Salvador**.



Above: Maryknoll lay missioner **Margarita Duran** (second from left) leads an art activity at the Center for Immigrant Integration in São Paulo, **Brazil**. Photo by Kathleen Maynard.

Cover: Migrants are gathered behind a fence at a makeshift detention center in El Paso, Texas. Photo by Sergio Flores.

U.S.-MEXICO BORDER

Heidi Cerneka starts border ministry, advocating for detained migrants



Heidi Cerneka at Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center in El Paso, Texas.

Heidi Cerneka relaunched Maryknoll Lay Missioners' presence at the **U.S.-Mexico border** in January 2019. She now serves as an immigration attorney at Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, an El Paso-based nonprofit that provides free and low-cost legal services to immigrants and refugees.

Heidi began her ministry during a particularly turbulent time at the border. "Since I arrived here," she said, "U.S. policy has consistently changed and affected what we are doing and how we do it."

Most of her work consists of representing migrants in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention who are seeking asylum. But together with her colleagues, she has also taken on a crucial national role in speaking out about how escalating government policies are affecting migrants and border communities on both sides of the fence.

The first person Heidi helped win asylum for was a woman from Uganda whose work advocating for youth had landed her in trouble with the Ugandan government. She had been beaten, imprisoned and raped, and two family members had been killed in a hit meant for her.

"Winning asylum is a road to a new life," Heidi said. But in 2019, that road was increasingly blocked by government policies expressly designed to deter and bar asylum seekers from entering the United States.

The "Remain in Mexico" policy and the "Metering" program have forced migrants and asylum seekers who arrive at the border back into Mexico. Tens of thousands are stuck living in the streets of Ciudad Juárez, at the mercy of gangs and others who find easy prey among the vulnerable foreigners.

During her visits to ICE detention centers in and near El Paso, Heidi witnessed how migrants were separated



from their family members and their children. "Their only 'crime' is having the courage to flee violence in their home countries and exercise their right to ask for asylum," she said.

Heidi sees policies like the metering system as an "erosion of our nation's values," and she believes that "the damage to human beings and to the integrity of the U.S. is irreversible."

"As people of faith," she added, "we have an absolute responsibility to look at our neighbor and ask ourselves, 'What does that person need to live a safe, healthy and just life? And what do I—and we as a community—need to do to make that happen?' ... God gives us these hands for a reason."

In 2020, veteran missionary **Coralis Salvador** joined Heidi in El Paso, and Maryknoll Lay Missioners plans to send other missionaries into ministries there in the near future.

Honduran refugees, stranded in Mexico. Photo by Normand Blouin, newscom.com.

HAITI

Chicken coops, soccer games and street blockades



Sami Scott holds the first eggs from the 'Hens for Haiti' project at the Jean Marie Vincent Agricultural Center in Gros Morne, Haiti. Photo by Vivian Niestrom.

In August 2019, after many years of planning and preparation, the Religious of Jesus and Mary (RJM) community in Gros Morne, **Haiti**, welcomed 1,000 hens to their new poulaye (hen house).

"The hens are here! The hens are here!" was the cry of delight that went across the northern Haitian town. The hen house and the shipping of the 1,000 chickens was one of the first large projects Maryknoll lay missionary **Sami Scott** had been working on since her arrival from Cambodia the previous October.

The new hen house is now helping to provide the community with a more stable, economic and safe supply of eggs. Women used to have to travel five hours to the Dominican Republic, cross over the border, buy eggs and then pay to get them shipped back. Now, thanks to Sami's collaboration with several organizations, a significant local egg production is creating new jobs.

"I am learning more about chickens and their care than I ever thought I needed to know," Sami said. "It is so important to be able to produce local eggs. It provides security and income for the local women, a market for local corn producers, and fresh eggs for the people."

Sami works at the Jean Marie Vincent Agricultural Center, where managing the chicken project is just one of many responsibilities for her. The center also plants tens of thousands of trees every year to combat deforestation and models sustainable agricultural practices and good water management for local farmers.

In early 2019, a few months after Sami started Maryknoll Lay Missioners' new mission presence in Haiti, **Abby Belt** joined Sami. Abby serves in two ministries: She provides continuing education to teachers at Jesus-Mary School and assists

with a scholarship, mentoring and empowerment program for young women at Mercy Beyond Borders.

A physical education teacher, Abby also coaches soccer at the school and is working with others to set up a soccer league between different local schools.

2019 was a challenging year in Haiti, particularly in the fall, when months of escalating political unrest, violent protests and gang activities brought most of the country's public life—including schools—to an abrupt and extended halt. While many American and international NGOs pulled their volunteers and staff out of Haiti, Maryknoll lay missionaries decided to stay.

In 2020, **Jill Foster** of the Class of 2019 became the third Maryknoll lay missionary in Haiti.

Abby Belt leads a dance at the Mercy Beyond Borders Leadership Camp with seventh-graders in Gros Morne.



FAMILIES IN MISSION

*Growing up in an overseas
missioner family*



Center: The **Loney Siles** family (Bolivia). Clockwise (from top left): The **Berry-Stableins** (Tanzania), **Maiorano Maynards** (Brazil), **Verysers** (Tanzania), **Altman** (El Salvador) and **Bond-Rochas** (Brazil)

Ever since 1975, when Maryknoll Lay Missioners got its official start as a Maryknoll program, we have had many **families with children serving together in mission.**

In 2019, after the addition of the **Verysers family** — Steve and Loyce, and their three children — Maryknoll Lay Missioners had six families with children under 18 in mission. During 2019, their children ranged in age from newborn Lucia **Maiorano** in São Paulo, Brazil, to 16-year-old Pauline and Ben **Loney Siles** in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Missioner families were serving in El Salvador, Bolivia, and two each in Brazil and Tanzania.

The three Verysers kids — twins Abigail and Justin, and Claire — became fast friends with Susanna and Louisa **Berry-Stablein** — daughters of the other Maryknoll lay missioner family in Mwanza, Tanzania. During Advent 2019, the five even had a Kids’ Retreat Day at lay missioner Joanne Miya’s house. The day included singing, reflecting, drawing and sewing a baby quilt to give away to an HIV-positive single mom and her baby.

“Our children are very happy to be part of the Maryknoll Lay Missioners community,” said Loyce Verysers. “It has deepened their faith. Claire, our youngest, asked me the other day when she heard news about fighting in another country, whether the people hadn’t gone to First Communion.” If they had faith, she thought, they would never fight and kill each other.

In 2019 the “Mwanza mini missionaries,” together with Eli and Evey **Altman** from El Salvador, also appeared in a five-minute video, mklm.org/mklm-kids. In it, they shared their experiences of living abroad, learning new things and making new friends.

Eli Altman says that he likes that people in his community in San Salvador are “nice and chill,” while his younger sister, Evey, is grateful for her friends at school. “When I first came here, this was my first school, and ... I knew nothing. But the kids at school helped me

learn and get used to the language of Spanish.”

Anne Berry, the mother of Susanna and Louisa, said, “Being here in Tanzania with my family and a part of the Maryknoll community is a really beautiful thing, and I’m so happy that I have this chance to show my kids what it really means to be a ‘person for others’ in the world.”

In Bolivia, Joe Loney and Filo Siles said that they appreciate that growing up in mission has given Pauline and Ben the ability to thrive in two different cultures and languages. Their teens have also gained first-hand knowledge of indigenous communities and extreme poverty in Bolivia.

But the most valuable lesson of all, said Joe, is “the ability of our children to see that working to help people with their basic needs and to remove the structural causes of poverty can be done.”



The five ‘Mwanza mini missionaries’ — from left, **Louisa, Justin, Abigail, Claire and Susanna** — proudly show off the quilt they created together at an Advent retreat. They sewed it for the baby of an HIV-positive mom.

2019 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



★ U.S./Mexico Border



Bolivia
Juan Gomez, Minh Nguyen and **Cortney Freshwater** teamed up with **Filo Siles** to provide one-on-one teaching to children with disabilities — Juan and Minh teaching sign language and Cortney working with children with Down Syndrome.

★ Haiti

★ Bolivia

★ Brazil



Brazil

After serving for eight and a half years in São Paulo, **Flávio Jose Rocha** and **Kathy Bond** — with their daughter, Maya — returned to João Pessoa in northeastern Brazil. In 2019, they continued their ministries there in holistic health, women's and human rights, environmental issues and "Theater of the Oppressed."

Kenya

At the end of 2019, **Coralis Salvador** completed her 19-year ministry in Kenya, most recently with HOPE (Helping Orphans Pursue Education) Project in Mombasa. **Rich Tarro**, who joined the Kenya region in 2019, succeeded her as the project's new director.



★ South Sudan

★ Kenya

★ Tanzania



Tanzania

The Tanzania region received five new missionaries in 2019. **Sam Janson** began working in the public-health ministry of a Maryknoll parish in Mwanza. He also restarted a literacy ministry there.



★ Cambodia

Cambodia

Julie Lawler, an experienced deaf-education teacher from the Texas School for the Deaf joined Maryknoll Lay Missioners' Class of 2019, preparing to serve at the Deaf Development Programme in Phnom Penh.

2019 MILESTONES

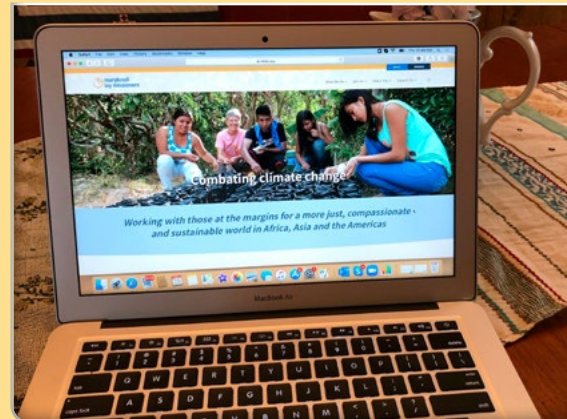
Class of 2019

Sending:

Julie Lawler,
Maryknoll Sister
Rolande Kahindo,
Jill Foster, Greg
Garrity and Brenda
Seymour were sent
forth on Dec. 14.



In August we
celebrated our
25th anniversary
as Maryknoll Mission
Association of the
Faithful. Although we
started as a Maryknoll
program in 1975, we
became a separate
yet interdependent
Maryknoll entity
in 1994.



Our new redesigned website
mklm.org went live Aug. 30.

MISSION STATEMENT

Maryknoll Lay Missioners is a Catholic organization inspired by the mission of Jesus to live and work with poor communities in Africa, Asia and the Americas, responding to basic needs and helping to create a more just and compassionate world.

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Director of Missions, Maryknoll Lay Missioners,
Maryknoll, New York

* Maryknoll lay missioner ** Returned Maryknoll lay missioner

FINANCES

2019 Operating Income and Expenses

Total support and income

Charitable donations and other public support.....	\$2,661,067
Grants from trust.....	\$2,120,450
Investment return.....	\$159,851
Other income and gains.....	\$1,144

REVENUE TOTAL \$4,942,512

Program and support services expenses

Program services

Mission work.....	\$3,229,462
Education and recruitment.....	\$1,017,973

Subtotal..... \$4,247,435

Support services

Fundraising.....	\$246,201
Administration.....	\$793,520

Subtotal..... \$1,039,721

EXPENSES TOTAL..... \$5,287,156

NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS (\$344,644)

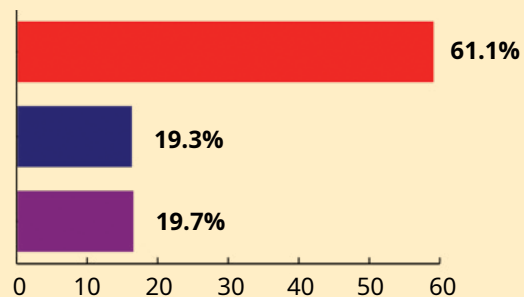
Actuarial gain (loss) on pension liability \$240,622

Change in net assets (\$104,022)

Net asset balance (\$947,014)

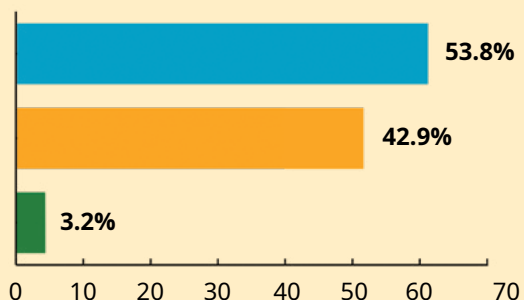
Uses of Funds

Mission work	\$3,229,462
Education & recruitment	\$1,017,973
Support services	\$1,039,721



Sources of Funds

Charitable donations and other public support
Grants from trust
Investment return



2019 by the Numbers

69 LAY MISSIONERS served during the year 2019 (plus 13 children in missionary families)

They directly affected **MORE THAN**

10,000 LIVES.

They served in **9** COUNTRIES in

5 MINISTRY AREAS

- education and leadership development
- faith formation and pastoral care
- healthcare and health promotion
- justice and peace
- sustainable development

Of the 69 lay missionaries,

9 were under 30; **13** were 30-44;
17 were 45-59; **30** were 60-plus.

In 2019 we recruited, trained and sent into mission

4 NEW LAY MISSIONERS.

Since 1975, we have recruited, trained and sent into mission

MORE THAN 700 MARYKNOLL LAY MISSIONERS.



Women and children from **Marungu, Kenya**, gather for a community meeting at a water bore hole. Maryknoll lay missionary **Pat Helmholtz** is assisting with the development of Tsavo Children's Village, which will provide homes and education to children orphaned or affected by HIV/AIDS and other vulnerable children. Photo by Jerry Fleury.

At the 25th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Maryknoll Mission Association of the Faithful, **Marj Humphrey, Director of Mission**, described the gravitas of mission needed today:

"We live in challenging times, in which we must face evolving issues of globalization, migration, climate change, the rise of nationalism, and an ever-changing universal and U.S. Catholic Church. In the midst of these changes, one goal remains constant: to continue to strive to develop relationships of mutuality and respect in the places where we live and work. To do so, we must continue to work toward effective enculturation in our mission sites.

"Clearly, the questions and challenges before us are daunting. Answering them will require us to be open to new visions, new voices in the conversation, and new approaches to mission."

“The world is waiting for new saints, ecstatic men and women who are so deeply rooted in the love of God that they are free to imagine a new international order.”

—Henri Nouwen



Juan Gomez teaches a computer class at Colegio San Juan Bosco, a Catholic boarding school in the rural town of Tacopaya in the Bolivian Andes. Photo by Nile Sprague.



Maryknoll Lay Missioners

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