



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

RENEWED COMMITMENT

Since spring 2020, all of us have been put to the test as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, which threatens so much of what we know and hold dear.

And yet, in as much as the signs of the time are unnerving, frightening and chaotic, moments like these also have the potential to be hopeful — the beginning of something new, a new sensitivity to the needs of others, a call to action where we see a need, a renewed commitment to God's mission for all of us.

With your support, the vast majority of Maryknoll lay missionaries remained in mission overseas. That is a testament to the commitment and compassion of not only our missionaries, but also our receiving communities, our partners, our financial supporters, and our staff. There were challenges that required

adjustments and difficult decisions. We asked much more from our supporters. But this effort paid off.

Maryknoll lay missionaries remained at the forefront in responding to the unique challenges posed by the pandemic in each of the nine countries where we serve. We played a critical role in ensuring that our communities and partners were well-served through food distribution, health care, education, pastoral care and restorative justice programs.

The stories linked through this report demonstrate the profound accompaniment and mutuality that provided light and hope in this time.

Many of us in mission-sending organizations are struggling right now with questions of meaning and direction, just as disciples and missionaries have


since the time of Christ. As we look to the future, Maryknoll Lay Missioners is embarking on a process discerning what mission looks like in the 21st century: For what is the world crying out? With so much of creation groaning, what does God see and how does God want us to respond? What does that mean for each of us in our vocations, for our lives?

As we invite the difficult questions, our faith reminds us that Jesus lives with us in this unique time, in the streets of Tanzania and Cambodia. He stands in line with us in Cocha-

bamba, Bolivia. He crosses borders with us in Juárez and El Paso. And Jesus makes all things new. The question of our age might be: Do we see him? Will we know him? And will he experience our love and compassion?

You have helped us to see Christ in the world today. You have helped us speak words of comfort and compassion, to offer what we can so that Christ's love might be known more deeply. We thank you for standing by Maryknoll Lay Missioners now and always; we greatly appreciate your generosity, your partnership, and your friendship.

Yours in mission,


Ted Miles
Executive Director


Sarah Welch
Chair, Board of Directors

Maryknoll lay missionaries participating in Catholic Volunteer Network's #WhyService social media campaign



Reading and responding to the SIGNS OF THE TIMES in 2020

As it did for the rest of the world, the Year 2020 — with the emergence of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic — upended lives and presented unprecedented new challenges for Maryknoll Lay Missioners.

Reading and responding to the “Signs of the Times” in 2020 required a constant willingness and readiness for us to change, adapt, re-imagine and re-configure our ministries and support services.

We are proud of how our missionaries tackled this worldwide crisis in their communities and are grateful for the vital support of our donors in this challenging time.

In March 2020, many overseas volunteer and mission organizations recalled all of their overseas volunteers and missionaries home. At Maryknoll Lay Missioners, where many of our missionaries have made long-term commitments to the communities where they work, we instead provided all of them the option of having us bring them home or remaining in their regions.

▼ In Cochabamba, Bolivia, **Juan Gomez** (top photo) and fellow missionary **Cortney Freshwater** (bottom) organized daily lunches for the many people in their community struggling to find food during strict lockdown periods.



Watch the video here.



◀ As COVID spread at an alarming rate in detention centers at the U.S.-Mexico border, **Heidi Cerneka** (right) won several difficult cases for migrants and asylum-seekers she represents as an attorney in El Paso, Texas.



Read the story here.

► Clockwise, from top left: Lay missionaries **Abby Belt** (Haiti), **Loyce Verwyer** (Tanzania), **Tawny Thanh** (Bolivia), **Jill Foster** (Haiti), **Hiep Vu** (Bolivia) and **Joanne Miya** (Tanzania) sew protective masks for their communities.

Read the story here.



For various good reasons — age, health, family and access to health care, to name a few — some returned to the U.S., while the great majority stayed in their regions. Some of the missionaries who initially returned home, eventually chose to go back to their ministries.

As a result of COVID lockdowns around the world, many missionaries needed to adapt their ministries or start new initiatives to respond to the urgent needs in their communities. Their responses ranged from organizing emergency food relief to COVID education, from providing soap and handwashing stations to making and distributing protective face

masks, from online teaching to providing technology for students from marginalized communities to participate in remote learning.

Meanwhile, on the home front, Maryknoll Lay Missioners’ offices in Ossining, New York, were closed and then only partially re-opened, and all staff worked remotely for most of the year. We created new virtual events for advancement, mission education and communications — and involved and highlighted missionaries and their ministries in all of these. With revenue streams like Church Dates suspended during the pandemic, we worked hard to fill the gap with other fundraising.



◀ Early on in the pandemic, lay missionaries **Dr. George Stablein** (left) and **Sam Janson** conducted COVID-19 education at a parish in Mwanza, Tanzania.

[Read the story here.](#)



▼ **Joanne Blaney** (right) helped provide meals for the large homeless population of downtown São Paulo, Brazil. Her work in restorative justice took on a larger systemic dimension as she helped to implement a UN-sponsored effort to reform Brazil's justice system by training state tribunal officials.



[Watch the video and read the story here.](#)



► Through his youth development ministry at a community library in rural El Salvador, **Larry Parr** facilitated WiFi and computer access that allowed marginalized high school and college students to continue their studies remotely.

[Read the story here.](#)



This year, for the first time in our 45-year history, we were unable to send a new class into mission. But we still held virtual orientation sessions in the fall and kept those candidates engaged with us, laying the groundwork for a large combined orientation class of 2020 and 2021 in the fall of 2021.

Through it all, we were greatly blessed with the support of our loyal donors, who stepped up during these challenging times and responded generously to our emergency appeals.

Thank you, *asante sana* and *¡muchas gracias!*

► At the HOPE Project, which supports the education of orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV in Mombasa, Kenya, **Rich Tarro** has organized monthly emergency food distribution to needy families during the pandemic.



Read the stories here and here.



▼ During the pandemic, many people lost their jobs and ability to provide for their families. In El Salvador, **Ann Greig's** soy nutrition project provided skills training workshops for women in chocolate and piñata making to help them generate more income.



Read the story here.



◀ In Cambodia, Maryknoll lay missionaries **Julie Lawler** (in the back) and **Russ Brine** and Maryknoll Lay Missioners member **Father Charlie Dittmeier** kept the Deaf Development Programme (DDP) going.

▼ Through widely distributed public service announcements, DDP played a crucial role in keeping the country's Deaf community informed about COVID.



Read the stories here.



MILESTONES

Returned missionaries **Joe and Linda Michon** (Class of 1990) were honored with the **2020 Bishop McCarthy Spirit of Mission Award** during a livestreamed event in November 2020. They served for 13 years as Maryknoll lay missionaries in Mexico, Bolivia, and at the U.S.-Mexico border and today continue to help refugees and migrants and promote fair trade.



Asante sana to two of our longest-serving lay missionaries — **Liz Mach** (far left) and **Susan Nagele** — who retired in 2020 after serving primarily in East Africa for 44 and 36 years respectively.



Our **Advent Celebration of Hope** featured musicians Vallimar Jansen and Greg Walton and artist Brother Mickey McGrath, in an evening of storytelling, music and art. Missioners and members of their communities offered reflections on the joy, hope and courage that sustained them through this difficult year.



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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mklm.org/board

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2020 Operating Income and Expenses

Total support and income

Charitable donations and other public support	\$1,905,595
Grants from trust.....	\$1,864,000
Grants from government (Paycheck Protection Program)	\$322,842
Investment returns	\$78,251
Other income and gains	\$15,108
REVENUE TOTAL	\$4,185,796

Program and support services expenses

Program services

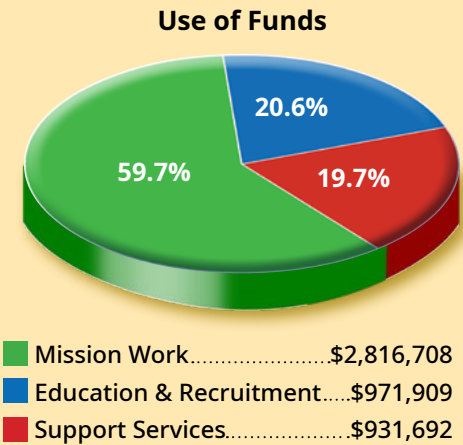
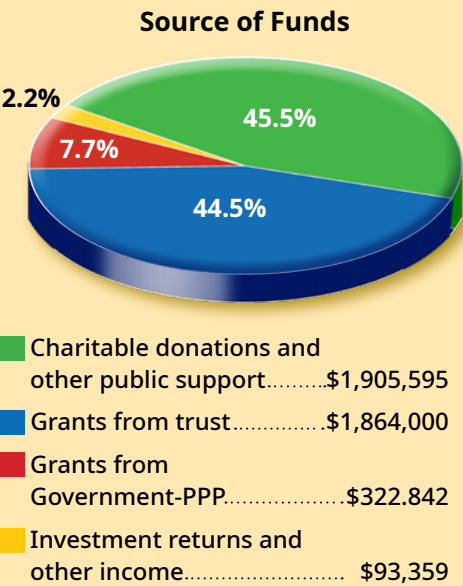
Mission work	\$2,816,708
Education and recruitment	\$971,909
Subtotal.....	\$3,788,617

Support services

Fundraising	\$273,869
Administration	\$657,823
Subtotal.....	\$931,692

EXPENSES TOTAL.....	\$4,720,309
NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	(\$534,513)

Actuarial gain (loss) on pension liability	(\$239,721)
Change in net assets	(\$774,234)
Net asset balance	(\$1,698,960)



Maryknoll Mission Association of the Faithful Inc. is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization incorporated in the State of New York. A copy of the complete financial statements, audited by Craig, Fitzsimmons & Meyer, LLP, is available at the Maryknoll Lay Missioners headquarters in Maryknoll, New York.



5 MINISTRY AREAS

- Education & Leadership Development
- Faith Formation & Pastoral Care
- Healthcare & Health Promotion
- Justice & Peace
- Sustainable Development



MORE THAN **10,000** LIVES AFFECTED



RECOMMITTING TO THE 'BELOVED COMMUNITY'

From Maryknoll Lay Missioners' July 1, 2020 statement "Our Commitment to Anti-Racism and the Beloved Community":

We strive to become "a dynamic anti-racist organization that reflects the ethnic and cultural richness of the Catholic Church in the U.S. and the world." We acknowledge that too often we have fallen short of these ideals.

We commit to examining our complicity in the sin of racism, to atone for our sins, and to courageously open ourselves to the grace and gift of God's creative work for internal change.

May we — and the entire family of God — open ourselves to the breath of God that our hearts may overflow with love, that our will be God's will, that we be formed by grace



and courage for the opportunities before us, and that our collective work lead us to become the beloved community God desires for us.

[Read the full statement here.](#)

"Fraternity is the true cure for the pandemic and the many evils that have affected us. Along with vaccines, fraternity and hope are, as it were, the medicine we need in today's world."

—Pope Francis (Feb. 8, 2021)



Juan Gomez cooks a big batch of rice for the pandemic meal ministry he and fellow Maryknoll lay missionary Cortney Freshwater organized in Cochabamba, Bolivia. In the spring and summer of 2020, the two organized, cooked and distributed more than 4,000 meals out of their home. Their meal ministry provided a crucial lifeline to people living in the streets and lacking food during the city's strict COVID lockdowns.



Maryknoll Lay Missioners

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