



 maryknoll
lay missionaries
2021
ANNUAL REPORT

Our 2021 journey of TENACITY & RENEWAL



Dear companion in mission,

The COVID pandemic challenged us like nothing else in our short history. In this time of global change, it is easy to feel out of sync with the needs of the world. But grounding ourselves in a larger story of faith, compassion and hope can also give rise to the courage to do the necessary work of God's mission of love.

If 2020 turned our world upside down, perhaps 2021 allowed us to see what we are capable of as a community. In our 2021 journey, more than 45 Maryknoll lay missionaries remained in mission despite the challenges presented by the pandemic. Together with their communities, they responded to new and wide-ranging needs, adapted to the obstacles that continued to rise with ever-changing restrictions and sought new and creative ways of shared accompaniment. Throughout, our lay missionaries demonstrated remarkable tenacity and a sense of renewal grounded in a deepened call to journey with our sisters and brothers on the margins — a journey that embraces the reality that all life is sacred, precious and connected. The stories in this report are but a small sampling of this belief and the journeys to which it led in 2021.

2021 also helped us to see that the task of nurturing a vocation enlivening God's mission in the world is more important than ever before. In December, we sent 13 new missionaries to journey to five countries, our largest class since 2005. More importantly, with an eye to the future, Maryknoll lay missionaries embarked on another journey — one of exploring mission in the 21st century.

Between April and December, our community engaged in a period of intense reflection and dialogue as part of an Expanded Mission Assembly process* that would culminate in 2022. Our process helped us to see that, despite the uncertainty and disorder of our world, the Spirit is awakening us to deeper transformation, love and hope.

Amid the global need for healing, we are discovering an invitation to depth and something new. Not only did we begin to examine our mission, vision and values, but we also embarked on questions about our structure, the make-up of membership and our approach to mission.

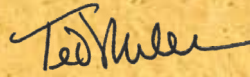
The mission assembly journey thus far has renewed our energy and commitment for mission. New questions and challenges have emerged as well. Through it all, we have remained confident that this creative space is opening a door to a renewed vision that will build upon our 46 years of global mission and guide Maryknoll Lay Missioners into a vibrant and dynamic future.

As it has been throughout these 46 years, all of this — the work of our lay missionaries combined with the efforts and resilience of the individuals and communities they accompany — is possible because of friends and supporters like you. Maryknoll Lay Missioners exists because of thousands of people like you who support us, donate to us, encourage us and stand with us as we try to create a just and compassionate world.

Just as it is true of our lay missionaries, so, too, are you woven into the fabric of every community. So, too, have you provided a hopeful, brave voice for the world when it was most needed. Our hearts are filled with gratitude.

As we continue to navigate the pandemic in the months and years ahead, may we renew our journey together, ever committed to God's mission of love and the promise of a future in which all may truly live as one.

Yours in mission,


Ted Miles
Executive Director


Sarah Welch
Chair, Board of Directors

▲ The Maryknoll Lay Missioners **Board of Directors** met in December 2021 at the **U.S.-Mexico border** in El Paso, Texas. The meeting included an immersion experience through one of our ministry partners, the Encuentro Project. It also gave the Board a chance to learn more about the ministries of our three lay missionaries at the border.

* The mission assembly is akin to a strategic visioning process but mirrors the assemblies of religious orders taking Maryknoll Lay Missioners deeper into reflecting upon the very why of our existence and what that means for us at this moment in our history. It was the first such process in over 12 years for Maryknoll Lay Missioners.

Moving toward a RENEWED VISION & FUTURE

The Year 2021 saw Maryknoll Lay Missioners continue to adapt and respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Missioners, staff and board also engaged in an extensive Mission Assembly process that created space for crucial conversations about the future of mission in the 21st century and around renewing our organization's vision, mission and core values.

That process laid the groundwork for an Expanded Mission Assembly, the first in 13 years, which would take place the following February.

During 2021, we continued to hold well-received virtual events, including several discernment retreats, a Pentecost celebration, our annual jubilee gathering and a prayer service for World Mission Sunday that also included the presentation of our 2021 Bishop McCarthy Spirit of Mission Award.

In 2020, COVID had forced an unprecedented interruption in our annual Orientation and Sending processes, but

▲ In Tacopaya, **Bolivia**, **Filo Siles** and **Joe Loney** started a new ministry in 2021 to assist the increasingly isolated older people in that municipality's rural Andean communities. Most of the area's younger people have migrated to the cities and abroad.



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[and more here](#)



▼ In 2021, **Haiti** continued to be rocked by unrest and violent street protests, culminating in the assassination of its president on July 7. In the northern town of Gros Morne, Maryknoll lay missionaries **Abby Belt**, **Sami Scott** (above) and **Jill Foster** (right) continued with their ministries in education, agriculture and reforestation.



[Watch video here](#)
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in 2021, we were able to train and send 13 new missionaries — our largest class since 2005. The orientation as well as the Covenant Mass and Sending ceremony followed strict COVID safety protocols.

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, *muito obrigado, asante sana, mési anpil, au kun* and ¡muchas gracias!

▲ At the Deaf Development Programme in Phnom Penh, **Cambodia**, **Julie Lawler** and **Father Charlie Dittmeier** continue to improve and transform the lives of deaf people. After learning — and improving their fluency in — Cambodian Sign Language, the DDP students receive an education with a basic literacy and math focus and, in addition, are also able to gain friendships and a crucial support system with other deaf people.



[Read stories here](#)



▼ In São Paulo, **Brazil**, **Margarita Durán** found creative ways to continue and expand her ministries in favelas and immigrant communities.



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▼ With 13 new missionaries, our **Class of 2021** was our largest class since 2005. We sent them into mission during a special Sending Ceremony on Dec. 11, 2021 at the Queen of the Apostles Chapel of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers. COVID restrictions limited the attendance at the ceremony.



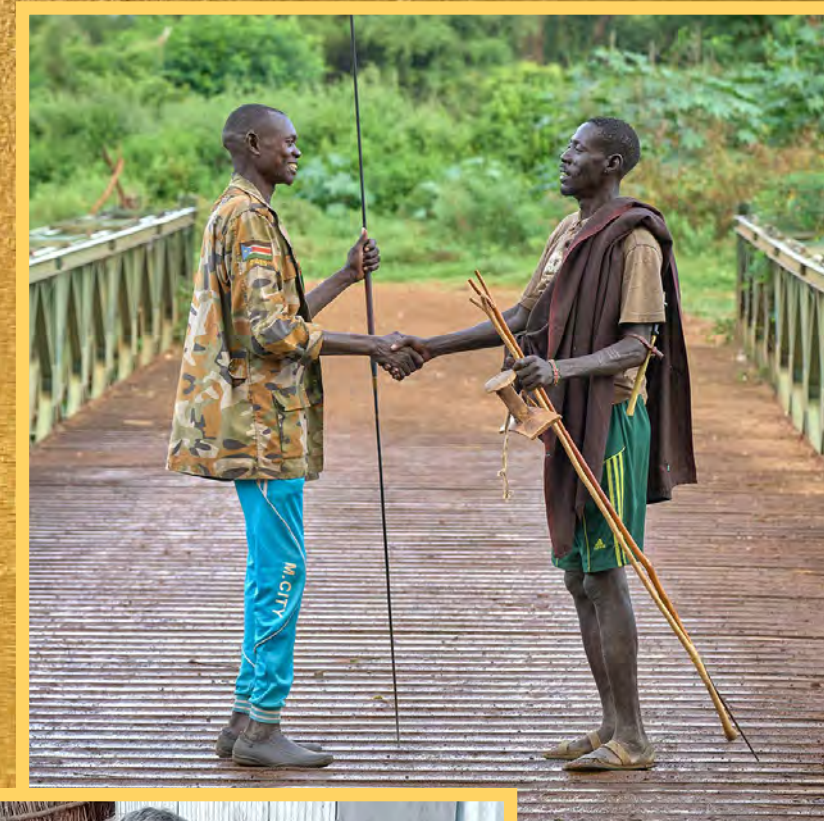
[Watch video here](#)



► In 2021, **Rich Tarro's** HOPE Project in Mombasa, **Kenya**, was able to boost its academic support for vulnerable children by constructing a new computer learning center that is now giving the students access to a wide range of digital learning content.



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► In 2021, **Gabe Hurrish** began new ministries at Kuron Peace Village, a model village founded by Catholic Bishop Paride Taban in **South Sudan**. Located in a remote eastern region of the country, Kuron Peace Village works to reduce violence and conflict among the various ethnic groups through peace intervention, education, health and socio-economic development. Gabe helps with administrative and communication tasks and grant and report writing.



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MILESTONES



In August, we mourned the death of one of our co-founders, **Maryknoll Father Jack Sullivan**. When the Maryknoll Lay Missioner program was officially established in 1975, he was its first director. Throughout our history, he collaborated closely with us and remained a spiritual guide, mentor and enthusiastic cheerleader to the association.

Marty Roers, a returned Maryknoll lay missioner (Class of 1995 - Kenya and Sudan) and a leader in global justice advocacy and mission education, was honored as the 2021 recipient of the **Bishop John E. McCarthy Spirit of Mission Award**. Marty was presented with the award during our virtual World Mission Sunday celebration on Oct. 24.



In the summer of 2021, we launched a **Spanish** version of our **website** at mklm.org/es/

For our virtual **Pentecost celebration**, we were thrilled to be able to feature the incredible talent of **Athenas**, the world's most popular Latin Catholic music artist, and her friend, bilingual composer and musician **Pedro Rubalcava**. Maryknoll lay missioners from around the world participated with short videos that reflected on the event's theme of "*Gente Puente/Bridgebuilders.*"



MISSION STATEMENT

Compelled by faith to engage with people across cultures and ethnicities, we live, love and work with communities on the margins to promote active nonviolence and healing.

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

mklm.org/board

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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Ted Miles
Executive Director

Marj Humphrey *
Director of Missions

Ana Rodrigues
Director of Operations

* Maryknoll lay missioner ** Returned Maryknoll lay missioner

2021 OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSES

Total support and income

Charitable donations and other public support	\$1,839,764
Grants from trust.....	\$1,315,829
Grants from government (Paycheck Protection Program)	\$363,817
Investment returns	\$138,863
Other income and gains	\$8,448
REVENUE TOTAL	\$3,666,721

Program and support services expenses

Program services

Mission work	\$2,327,760
Education and recruitment	\$861,735
Subtotal.....	\$3,189,495

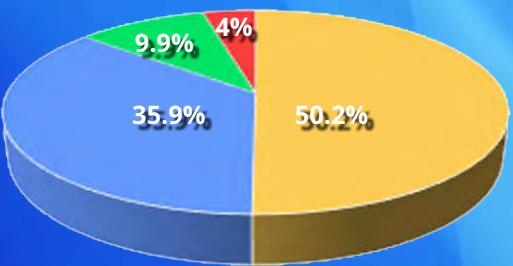
Support services

Fundraising	\$288,693
Administration	\$522,921
Subtotal.....	\$811,614

EXPENSES TOTAL.....	\$4,001,109
NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	(\$334,388)

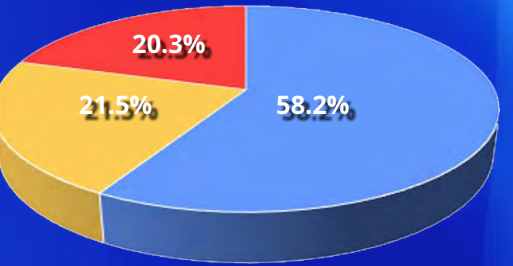
Actuarial gain (loss) on pension liability	\$1,032,498
Change in net assets	(\$698,110)
Net asset balance	(\$1,000,850)

SOURCE OF FUNDS



Charitable donations and other public support.....	\$1,905,595	50.2%
Grants from trust.....	\$1,864,000	35.9%
Grants from government - PPP.....	\$322,842	9.9%
Investment returns and other income.....	\$93,359	4%

USE OF FUNDS



Mission work	\$2,327,760	58.2%
Education & recruitment	\$861,735	21.5%
Support services.....	\$811,614	20.3%

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.



In 2021, we continued to grow our presence at the **U.S.-Mexico border**. **Debbie Northern** (second from left) joined our team in El Paso, Texas/Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. **Sister Deirdre Griffin, SSJ** (second from right) of our new Class of 2021 also prepared for a border ministry, which she began in January 2022. While the new U.S. administration brought some positive changes at the border, major challenges remained around its continuation of several restrictive Trump era policies.



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◀ **Joanne Blaney** continued to give restorative justice courses to prisoners and community leaders across **Brazil**. This photo is from a course she gave at the end of 2021 in a maximum security prison in the Amazon area of Rondônia. In 2021, through her ministry with the Human Rights and Popular Education Center (CDHEP) in São Paulo, Joanne trained the staff and judges in 10 state central courthouses throughout Brazil in restorative justice practices.



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