



# Following the CALL TO ACTIVE NONVIOLENCE



▲ Children play at the St. Justin's Centre for Children with Disabilities in Musoma, **Tanzania**. Maryknoll lay missionary **Jaclyn Geyer** began her ministry there in 2022. For many years now, different Maryknoll lay missionaries have worked closely with the Immaculate Heart Sisters of Africa in their ministries in the Musoma diocese. **Andy Perry** also started working at an IHSA ministry, the Rosemiriam Dagg Centre in Musoma, in 2022. (Photo by Jerry Fleury)

**Cover Photo:** A conflict mediation circle facilitated by **Joanne Blaney** with diocesan leaders in Curuá in **Brazil's** Amazon region.

*Dear companion in mission,*

For Maryknoll Lay Missioners, 2022 marks the year of a Mission Assembly\* that inspired reflection, and re-commitment to service among marginalized individuals and communities throughout the world. The way forward was illuminated by the call to active nonviolence in all ministries.

Countries around the world began to emerge from the paralysis of the COVID pandemic, but entrenched economic, political and social challenges continued to impact poor and marginalized communities the most.

Perhaps it was the resilience of the people Maryknoll missionaries share life with, perhaps it was the gifts of faith and dedication, or perhaps it was the power of the Holy Spirit that moved Maryknoll Lay Missioners to resolutions that promote a future full of hope. Most likely it was a combination of all these.

Together with the support of benefactors and loyal donors committed to social transformation and inspired to be a part of faith in action, Maryknoll lay missionaries continue to live into

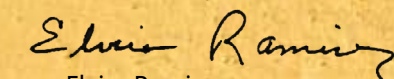
the difficult questions of our times. The personal encounters reflected in the programs and ministries throughout 2022 energize the lives of Maryknoll's missionary disciples.

With grateful hearts for the generous support from family, friends and donors, Maryknoll lay missionaries respond in their respective mission communities with joy, dedicated to social justice and committed in love to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus.

The staff and board of directors of MKLM likewise are honored to respond to the call of God's mission by sharing time, talent and treasure.

We invite all people of good will to join Maryknoll Lay Missioners to walk with us among the peoples of Cambodia, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania, Haiti, Brazil, Bolivia, El Salvador and the US-Mexico Border.

In mission,

  
Elvira Ramirez  
Interim Executive Director

  
Sarah Welch  
Chair, Board of Directors

\* 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.

# Embracing a RENEWED VISION & FUTURE

In 2022, Maryknoll Lay Missioners completed a two-year assembly process that was designed “to establish a vision for how we can be effective in mission in the 21st century, given changes in our own composition as an organization, as well as changes in the church, U.S. society and the world.”

This visioning process engaged and energized Maryknoll lay missioners, staff, board of directors and other stakeholders through discussions focused on reigniting passion and urgency for mission.

In February 2022, the process culminated in a two-week “**Expanded Mission Assembly**,” during which delegates from every country where Maryknoll Lay Missioners serve gathered virtually to deliberate on the key questions that had emerged from the two-year assembly process.

This assembly was led by outgoing director of mission Marj Humphrey and was the first in 13 years. **Some of the concrete questions** the assembly process tackled included:

- What is our vision of mission, and what values guide us?
- Can we agree on a specific focus for ministry, aligned with our emerging vision and our values?
- Who are we as a community, and who can be part of this community?
- What structures and decision-making processes would best meet our needs and align with our renewed mission, vision, values and focus?

The **major decisions made** during the assembly included:

- Agreeing on nonviolence as a cross-cutting focus for Maryknoll Lay Missioners work;
- Revising mission, vision and values statements;
- Expanding membership eligibility;
- Adjusting several internal structures and decision-making procedures.

*In El Salvador, at the end of 2022, our currently longest-serving missionary, Ann Greig, concluded her soy ministry in San Ramón and prepared to relocate it to a new site with fellow missionaries Melissa and Peter Altman.*

*Clockwise, from top photo: Ann at the soybean press in her kitchen in San Ramón. / With the Altmans at the future site of the soy project. / Telling beneficiaries about the closing of the San Ramón program. / Introducing the Soy Program to parish leaders in Asuchio.*



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*In 2022, Megan Hamilton started new ministries around addiction awareness and recovery support with Community-Based Health Centers in the Archdiocese of Mombasa, Kenya.*

*Together with the staff (in photos at right) of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Department of the Port Reitz hospital (top left), Megan (right in top right photo) launched an innovative program with patients who have a mental health diagnosis in addition to their substance abuse disorder and addiction history.*



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## VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

The following are the new vision, mission, and values statements for Maryknoll Lay Missioners:

### VISION

**Justice, compassion, and dignity for all creation**

### MISSION

**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.**

## VALUES

- **Simple Living:** We embrace the interconnectedness of all creation and commit to ecological justice. By living simply, we participate in equitable access to the fullness of life for all.
- **Community:** We embrace the challenge to grow from the goodness of communion with each other and God. We strive for understanding, empathy and learning in relationships.
- **Joy:** Amidst sin, suffering and death, we rejoice in the hope of the resurrection. We choose to live together creatively, celebrating the beauty and humor of everyday life.

- **Inclusion:** By crossing borders of geography, culture, race, religion and ideology, we work for peace, understanding and wholeness. We recognize that dismantling unjust structures is critical to affecting real change. We commit to celebrating diversity in all that we do.
- **Humility:** We enter into communities with listening hearts and openness. We honor the agency of the communities where we serve and the voice and wisdom of those who receive us.

**MEMBERSHIP AND STRUCTURES**

Although the assembly chose many new initiatives and changes, they also reaffirmed Maryknoll Lay Missioners' status as a membership organization and an association of the faithful. They wholeheartedly reaffirmed the identity of Maryknoll Lay Missioners as a Catholic organization, nourished by the sacraments, traditions and wisdom of the Catholic Church and grounded in the history and mission charism of Maryknoll.

Delegates approved taking initial steps toward widening eligibility criteria to extend to adults who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents, thereby moving us toward becoming a more international and intercultural community. They also approved, on an experimental basis, welcoming applications from people of other faith traditions who feel drawn to mission within the context of a Catholic community.

Since the conclusion of the Expanded Mission Assembly, Maryknoll Lay Missioners has been busy implementing this renewed vision and the organizational changes that were rooted in it. Elvira Ramirez, the new director of mission who succeeded Marj, said, "All of our missionaries, along with our staff and board, have embraced this vision for Maryknoll Lay Missioners and are now together engaged in fleshing and living it out."



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Two men shake hands on a bridge at Kuron Peace Village, **South Sudan**. In 2022 **Gabe Hurrish** supported the village's peacebuilding work in a remote area that has experienced decades of violent conflict.

## NEW MINISTRY FOCUS

# ACTIVE NONVIOLENCE

The 2022 Expanded Mission Assembly also defined **ACTIVE NONVIOLENCE** as Maryknoll Lay Missioners' **new overarching and cross-cutting focus**, encompassing three "legs": **prevention, intervention and restoration/reconciliation**.

As Marie Dennis — a new member of MKLM's Board of Directors, who facilitated the assembly and has been a prominent, long-time leader in promoting nonviolence — explained, "Nonviolence is a phenomenal witness to a world that is hungry for a new way to relate to each other. It's a spirituality, it's a way of life, it's a global ethic. Our choice of nonviolence puts us in harmony with a world shift and joins us to many other groups and individuals that are embracing nonviolence and working to build a more peaceful world."

In 2022, in both São Paulo and in **Brazil's Amazon region**, **Joanne Blaney** led training sessions for facilitators and multipliers in restorative justice, popular education and reconciliation.

**Photos from top:** Joanne mediating a restorative justice circle. / Participants in the restorative justice training course with women church leaders in the Diocese of Óbidos, Pará, Brazil (the Amazon river is in the background). / A conflict mediation circle with diocesan leaders in Curuá.



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*Victoria Arce in Cochabamba, Bolivia, began a new ministry with Hogar Nuestra Casa, a shelter for girls and adolescent women, ages 9 to 17, who were subjected to domestic sexual violence.*



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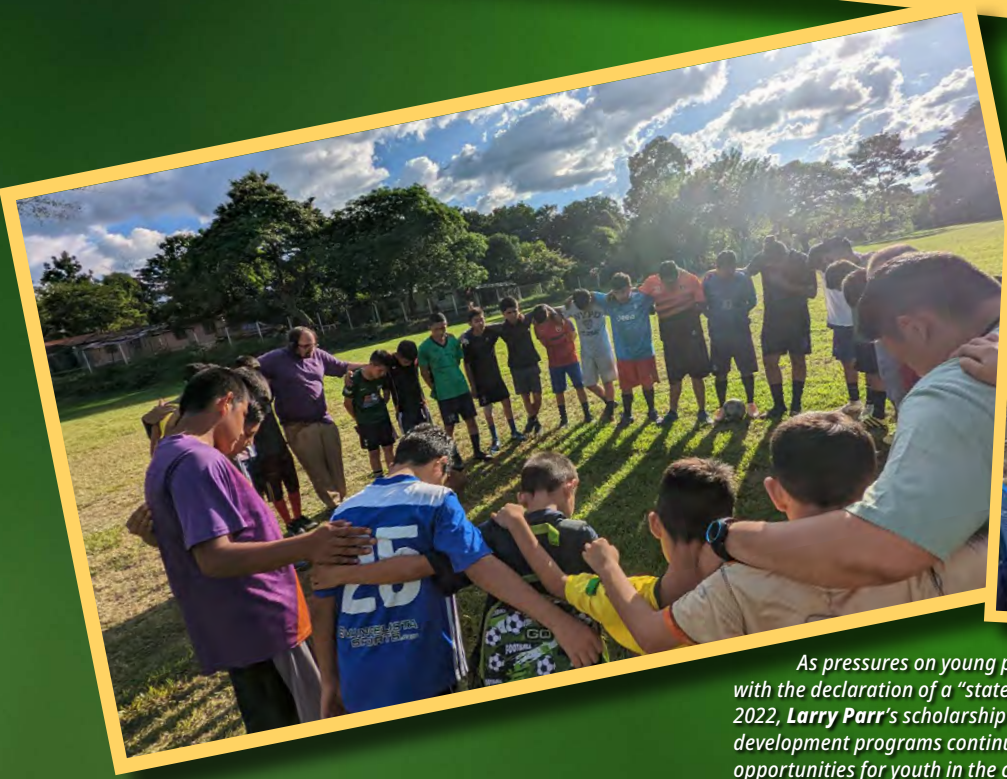
*Our ministries at the U.S.-Mexico border continued to expand. In 2022, **Sister Deirdre Griffin, SSJ** (second from right) joined the team in El Paso, Texas. Deirdre works as an immigration attorney and also serves at a migrant shelter. Maryknoll Lay Missioners also approved a new location for the region in Mexicali, Mexico, where Rick Dixon started on Jan. 1, 2023.*

***Below left:** A border patrol agent apprehends migrants at the Rio Grande in El Paso.*

***Below right:** Migrants line up outside Casa Betania, one of the new ministries in Mexicali.*



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*As pressures on young people in **El Salvador** grew with the declaration of a "state of exception" in March 2022, **Larry Parr's** scholarship and youth and community development programs continued to create life-changing opportunities for youth in the community of Las Delicias.*



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*In 2022, emerging from the COVID crisis, the **Deaf Development Programme** in Phnom Penh, **Cambodia**, faced major challenges, including sudden cuts in resources from several of its major funders.*

*Maryknoll Lay Missioners' **Father Charlie Dittmeier** (above) and **Julie Lawler** (receiving a haircut from a DDP graduate) continued to work with the DDP team to help deaf persons in Cambodia build a better future for themselves and their families.*



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# MILESTONES

On Dec. 10, Maryknoll Lay Missioners blessed and sent the new missionaries of its **Class of 2022** into mission. **Mike Lattanzi** and **Susan Silveus** went to serve in Gros Morne, Haiti, while **Anna and Kyle Johnson** — with their three children, Josephine, Collin and Charlotte — went to Mwanza, Tanzania.



In April, **Elvira Ramirez** (right) succeeded **Marj Humphrey** as Maryknoll Lay Missioners' **Director of Mission**.



In June, **Steve Veryser** (left) and **Juan Gomez** became the first area directors in Maryknoll Lay Missioners' new administrative structure, which had been established by the Expanded Mission Assembly. Juan is responsible for the Americas, while Steve is responsible for Africa and Asia. Together with **Heidi Cerneka**, **Joe Loney**, **Julie Lawler**, and **Dee Dungy**, they now form the **Mission Advisory Council**.

During an Oct. 23 celebration in Washington, D.C., **Merwyn and Kirstin De Mello** were honored as the 2022 recipients of the **Bishop John E. McCarthy Spirit of Mission Award**.



## 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.*

## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

[mklm.org/board](https://mklm.org/board)

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Greenwich, CT

**Heidi Cerneka\*, Vice Chair**  
El Paso, TX

**Robert Carlsen, Secretary / Treasurer**  
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**Ian Bautista**  
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**Maggie McCarty**  
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**Terence W. Miller**  
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**Larry Parr\***  
San Salvador, El Salvador

**Vicki Simon\*\***  
St. Louis, MO

**Mike Wrob**  
Del Rio, TX

## EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

**Ted Miles**  
Executive Director

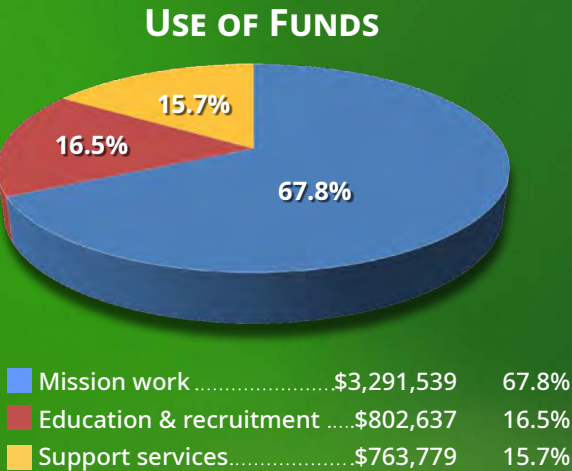
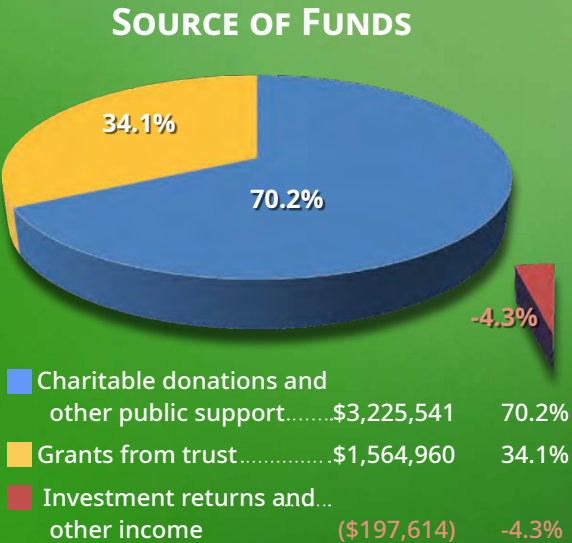
**Elvira Ramirez**  
Director of Missions

**Ana Rodrigues**  
Director of Operations

\* Maryknoll lay missionary \*\* Returned Maryknoll lay missionary

2022 OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSES

Total support and income	
Charitable donations and other public support .....	\$3,225,541
Grants from trust .....	\$1,564,960
Investment returns .....	(\$207,189)
Other income and gains .....	\$9,575
REVENUE TOTAL .....	\$4,592,887
Program and support services expenses	
Program services	
Mission work .....	\$3,291,539
Education and recruitment .....	\$802,637
Subtotal .....	\$4,094,176
Support services	
Fundraising .....	\$259,889
Administration .....	\$503,890
Subtotal .....	\$763,779
EXPENSES TOTAL .....	\$4,857,955
NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS .....	(\$265,068)
Additional revenue:	
Restricted funds from trust .....	\$2,465,871
Expense to fully fund missionaries'	
Defined Benefit Plan .....	(\$2,465,871)



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.

MKLM BY THE NUMBERS





Doña Evarista and her family live in a remote part of Tacopaya, about 12,000 feet high up in the Andean Mountains of **Bolivia**. Four of her seven children have a disability, and her family has greatly benefitted from the services and assistance lent by the **Fundación Justicia Social**, a community-based disability ministry run by Maryknoll lay missionaries **Filo Siles** and **Joe Loney** and their team.



[Watch video here](#)

[And read more here](#)

 **maryknoll  
lay missionaries**

**Maryknoll Lay Missioners**

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