

# Maryknoll Lay Missioners



## **Covenant Mass - Sending Ceremony**

December 7, 2024

*Maryknoll Sisters Center*

# Maryknoll Lay Missioners Covenant and Mission Sending

**Joshua Sisolak**  
**Marj Humphrey**

**Elvira Ramirez**  
Executive Director  
Maryknoll Lay Missioners

**Rev. Juan Zuñiga, MM**  
Secretary General  
Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers

**Sr. Genie Natividad, MM**  
Leadership Team  
Maryknoll Sisters

**Bob Short**  
Executive Coordinator  
Maryknoll Affiliates

**Maryknoll Sisters Choir**

## Welcome

**Elvira Ramirez**

**Processional Song:** "All Are Welcome" BB#414

## Entrance Rites

Music from Mass of Restoration

## Liturgy Of The Word

### First Reading

**1 Samuel 3:1-11**

**Lupe García**

During the time young Samuel was minister to the Lord under Eli, the word of the Lord was scarce and visions infrequent. One day Eli was asleep in his usual place. His eyes had lately grown so weak that he could not see. The lamp of God was not yet extinguished, and Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the Lord where the ark of God was. The Lord called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am." He ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I did not call you," Eli answered. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep. Again the LORD called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "You called me." But he an-

swered, “I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep.” Samuel did not yet recognize the Lord, since the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, “Here I am. You called me.” Then Eli understood that the Lord was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, “Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the Lord came and stood there, calling out as before: Samuel, Samuel! Samuel answered, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” The Lord said to Samuel: I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears it ring.

## **Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 40**    BB #763

### **Refrain:**

“Here I am Lord, Here I am. I come to do your will.”

### Reflection on Homily by Pope Francis

We cannot remain inert before the questions raised by the women and men of today, before the challenges of our time, the urgency of evangelization and the many wounds that afflict humanity,” the Pope said in his homily during the closing Mass for the Synod of Bishops in St. Peter’s Basilica on Oct. 27. He states;

“A sedentary church, that inadvertently withdraws from life and confines itself to the margins of reality, is a church that risks remaining blind and becoming comfortable with its own unease.

We do not need a sedentary and defeatist church, but a church that hears the cry of the world and — I want to say it, maybe someone will be scandalized — a church that gets its hands dirty to serve the Lord.”

Reflecting on the day’s Gospel reading from St. Mark in which a blind man hears Jesus pass by, asks for healing, regains his sight and then follows him, the pope stressed that following God on the synodal path entails cultivating the capacity to hear the Lord pass by and the confidence to follow in his footsteps.

“We follow the Lord along the way, we do not follow him closed in our communities, we do not follow him in the labyrinths of our ideas,” he said. “Let us remember never to walk alone or according to worldly criteria, but instead to journey together, behind him and alongside him.” (Homily at the closing Mass for the Synod of Bishops in St. Peter’s Basilica Oct. 27)

**It is with this hope of a synodal process, listening to the signs of the times, the peoples whom we serve and the Spirit among us that we offer the Maryknoll Lay Missioners identity statement as accepted by the 2023 Mission Assembly of the Association of the Faithful:**

“Maryknoll Lay Missioners is a Catholic mission-sending community committed to nonviolence through prevention, intervention, reconciliation and restoration. We are long-term missionaries and missionary families of different faiths and nationalities in ten countries in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. We strive to transform unjust structures to create an inclusive, anti-racist world with those who are on the margins.”

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia BB #912

## **Gospel:**

**Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8**

Jesus went around to all the towns and villages,  
teaching in their synagogues,  
proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom,  
and curing every disease and illness.

At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity  
for them

because they were troubled and abandoned,  
like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples,

"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few;  
so ask the master of the harvest  
to send out laborers for his harvest."

Then he summoned his Twelve disciples  
and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them  
out and to cure every disease and every illness.

Jesus sent out these Twelve after instructing them thus,  
"Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

As you go, make this proclamation: 'The Kingdom of  
heaven is at hand.'

Cure the sick, raise the dead,  
cleansing lepers, drive out demons.

Without cost you have received; without cost you are to  
give."

## **Homily:**

**Rev. Juan Zuñiga, MM**

**READING OF THE COVENANT**

*All Maryknoll Lay Missioners (current and returned) are invited to read the Covenant together.*

**Guided by the Gospel and the Mission Vision of Maryknoll Mission Association of the Faithful, and grounded in the spirit and history of the Maryknoll movement, I pledge:**

- to participate in Jesus' mission, contributing to the construction of God's reign of justice and peace on earth;
- to work with poor and marginalized peoples in cross-cultural mission, striving to create just structures and relationships;
- to celebrate the holiness of everyday life;
- to weave connections of mutual understanding and solidarity among people worldwide, thus opening my heart and life to ongoing conversion;
- to build and strengthen relations with the people of the U.S. Catholic Church, who send and support me in mission.

**In order to live out our mission vocation, we, as members of Maryknoll Mission Association of the Faithful, covenant with each other, before God, that we will:**

- support and challenge each other, creating and living in

- communities that witness to Jesus' mandate to love one another;
- consider and treat each other as equals and support each other's growth and well-being;
  - welcome the gifts and vocational charisms of each member;
  - reflect, worship and celebrate together;
  - accept the responsibilities and rewards which come with being accountable to one another, our sending communities, the local Church and Maryknoll Lay Missioners Leadership.

**Through this covenant we commit ourselves to mission as members of Maryknoll Mission Association of the Faithful, in the firm hope that our faith and actions will transform our lives, our organization, and our world through the power of God's love.**

**As members, we recognize that, we strive together for justice, peace, and fullness of life, and so our ministries are offered in response to the needs of the people with whom we live and work, and with respect for the integrity of all creation.**

## **SIGNING OF THE COVENANT**

**Bolivia:** Joshua Sisolak

**Strengthened by the Spirit of God and by the love of your sisters and brothers, go forth with confidence and courage to live the Good News!**

## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Readers:** Dorothy Hebrank and Ana Rodrigues

**Response:** God of Peace, hear our prayer.

**Offertory Song:** “Here I am Lord” BB #378



## Liturgy Of The Eucharist

“Holy Holy” BB #914

Memorial Acclamation: BB #916

Amen BB #918

Lamb of God: BB #919

Communion Song: “Pan de Vida” BB #335



# Mission Sending Ritual

**Introduction**

**Elvira Ramirez**

**Explanation of the Elements** **Sr. Genie Natividad, MM**

**Blessing of the Crosses** **Maryknoll Joint Leadership**

## Calling Forth of the Missioners

### *Callers*

**Bolivia**

**Sam Stanton**

**Joshua Sisolak**

**Kenya**

**Rev. Frank Breen, MM**

**Marj Humphrey**

**Receive the Crosses**



## BLESSING OF NEW MISSIONERS

*(All present are invited to join in the blessing by raising your hands and praying together.)*

Believe God's love so deeply that you will watch for and celebrate signs of God's power in you and in all others.

Trust your ability to know what is "enough" and to struggle in solidarity with those who are poor.

Live gently, letting your heart's desires lead you, letting God be at work and at rest in you.

Celebrate and live Eucharist enough to cherish the earth and all creation, to trust our identity as a multicultural community, and to form inclusive communities, following Jesus' example of eating with the excluded.

Josh and Marj, let your whole being rejoice in God who has done great things for us.

May your life be blessed by God. Amen

## Concluding Rites

**Final Blessing:**     **Rev. Juan Zuñiga, MM**

**Closing Song:**     "We Are Called" BB #617

## Acknowledgements

On behalf of Maryknoll Lay Missioners (MKLM) we want to express our heartfelt appreciation for celebrating this blessed event with us today - both in person and online! Your presence at Josh's and Marj's sending ceremony and your prayers for them as they begin their ministries mean so much to them and to everyone at MKLM.

We also gratefully acknowledge our Benefactors, the MKLM Board of Directors, the Friends and Families of missioners and the many partners who support our mission around the world.

Our gratitude extends to the members of the Maryknoll Society, Congregation, MK Affiliates, our partners, the Franciscan Mission Service, and Lay Mission Helpers who collaborated in the Orientation Program for Josh.

Our sincere thanks to the Maryknoll Leadership, especially Fr. Juan Zuniga, the Celebrant, for today's liturgy. *Muchas gracias* to the Maryknoll Sisters for "making God's love visible" in hosting this joyous celebration and to the Choir for leading us in thanksgiving and celebration!

*All are invited to join us for a luncheon with the Class of 2024  
In the Satellite Dining Room  
Immediately following Mass.*



**“Let’s just go together and  
see what God has in store for us.”**

*Mother Mary Joseph Rogers, MM*



**maryknoll  
lay missionaries**



*"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."*