



 maryknoll
lay missionaries
2024
ANNUAL REPORT

A World in Need of FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE



▲ Kindergartners at Patronato Lidia Coggiola in El Zaito (Zaragoza), **El Salvador** use art to practice naming their emotions during a visit with missionary **Sarah Bueter** in March 2024.

Cover Photo: Evalyne and three of her eight children in front of their new home with Maryknoll lay missionary **Rich Tarro** and HOPE Project's **Florah Mwandoe**. Under Rich's leadership, the HOPE Project in Mombasa, **Kenya**, has been able to build decent new homes for families of students who previously had been living in unsafe, makeshift structures.

Dear companion in mission,

The end of a fiscal year is an opportune moment to look back with an eye for assessment and appreciation. We begin by acknowledging the generous contributions of many talents, time and treasure that make the mission of Maryknoll Lay Missioners possible. We extend sincere gratitude to the benefactors who support our missionaries and their ministries overseas, as well as to the board of directors and the staff who work tirelessly to facilitate and promote our vision and mission.

This fiscal year report covers the period from Oct. 1, 2023 through Sept. 30, 2024. The 2023 class of candidates completed their orientation program in December, the first to do so in El Paso, Texas. Three new missionaries were sent to El Salvador, Cambodia and Kenya, and one returning missionary was also sent to Kenya. A new process was initiated for the recruitment of candidates from El Salvador.

Our missionaries in nine different countries purposefully focused on the application of nonviolence in their respective communities. Our latest mission assembly, which concluded in April 2024, affirmed the decision to deepen our understanding and commitment to nonviolence through a social analysis process that engaged local communities.

Situations of conflict, violence and poverty continue to challenge Maryknoll Lay Missioners' response. In Haiti it became necessary to withdraw our three missionaries for their safety. At the U.S.-Mexico border, we began a new collaboration with the Maryknoll Affiliates to facilitate more volunteers to support the shelters that work with migrants.

Maryknoll Lay Missioners bid a fond farewell to Richard Gatjens, who retired after 24 years of service on staff; and Meinrad Scherer-Emunds, who retired as our communications director after six years. Both touched the lives of many missionaries, colleagues, donors and partners over the years, and they will be missed. Other transitions included the hiring of a new communications manager (Jennifer Tomshack) and mission services manager (Daniel Lizárraga).

One thing is certain; we have much to be grateful for. There is change, there is faith in action, and renewed commitment as we look to make a difference in a world in need of faith, hope and love.

In mission,

Elvira Ramirez
Elvira Ramirez
Executive Director

Mike Wrob
Mike Wrob
Chair, Board of Directors

Maryknoll Lay Missioners STORIES IN 2024

FROM HAITI TO TANZANIA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In early 2024, the security situation in Haiti completely collapsed — including in the northern town of Gros Morne, where Maryknoll lay missioners have been working since 2018. With heavy hearts, our three missioners in Haiti were forced to relocate that February and March. Susan Silveus and her husband, Mike Lattanzi, eventually joined educational ministries in Musoma, Tanzania, while veteran missioner Sami Scott is now assisting Haitian refugees in the Dominican Republic with entrepreneurial training, savings and loan groups, and agricultural formation.

Top: **Sami Scott** at her hen house in Gros Morne, **Haiti** (left), and teaching an entrepreneurial workshop for women in Consuelo, **Dominican Republic** (right). / Middle: **Susan Silveus** dancing with students and teachers at Lékol Jezi Mari in Gros Morne (left) and surrounded by students of the Little Flower School near Musoma, **Tanzania** (right). / Bottom: **Mike Lattanzi** working at the Grepren tree nursery in Gros Morne (left) and teaching at the St. Pius X Seminary Secondary School in Musoma (right).



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In Cochabamba, **Bolivia**, **Louise Locke** has been accompanying older, incapacitated and abandoned adults in two ministries run by women religious: the Asilo De Ancianos Buen Pastor (Good Shepherd Old People's Home; photos top, right and bottom left) and a Missionaries of Charity shelter for men (bottom right).



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ACCOMPANYING OLDER ADULTS

CAMBODIAN COLLABORATIONS

In 2024, the Maryknoll Sisters concluded their ministries in **Cambodia** as had the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers a few years earlier. Our four Maryknoll Lay Missioners are now the only active Maryknoll presence in the country.

Left: **Kylene Fremling** provides physiotherapy to students living with disabilities at LaValla School in Takhmao.

Right: **T.T. Hoang** hands out staples of food to poor fisherfolk who live in floating villages along the Tonle Sap river and lake.

Bottom left: **Julie Lawler** continues her work at the Deaf Development Programme in Phnom Penh, a longtime Maryknoll ministry.

Bottom right: At the Missionaries of Charity-run Home of Hope in Chom Chao, **Hang Tran** serves young people living with developmental and physical disabilities.



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RESILIENCE

In his seventh year as a Maryknoll lay missionary in **South Sudan**, **Gabe Hurrish** aimed to be “a presence and witness through action of God’s love and mercy.” As the nation of South Sudan continued to struggle through inter-ethnic conflict and violence and widespread corruption and mismanagement, the people persevered.

At St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Riwoto, North Kapoeta, Gabe taught at a secondary school, was involved in parish ministry and maintained a small tree nursery to serve the parish and the community.

Top: Gabe with the parish’s primary school children.

Below: Life at the waterhole

Bottom: Gabe with two of his secondary school students.



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MILESTONES

OCT 23 - SEPT 24



Maryknoll Lay Missioners restarted its **"Friends Across Borders"** mission immersion trips in March 2024, when nine visitors were welcomed to El Salvador for a six-day immersion experience. It was the first FAB trip since they had ceased due to the pandemic. It was followed in September 2024 by a FAB trip to Tanzania.



On Dec. 2, the Class of 2023 had their **Sending Ceremony** in El Paso, Texas. It was the first Sending to take place in El Paso, where Maryknoll Lay Missioners had moved its mission services department earlier in 2023. From left, **Sarah Bueter** (sent to El Salvador), **Theresa Glaser** (Kenya), **Kathy Flatoff** (returning to Kenya) and **T.T. Hoang** (Cambodia).



On Aug. 13, 2024, Maryknoll Lay Missioners kicked off a yearlong celebration of its **50th anniversary** with a webinar on **"Nonviolence in Action."**



Two new leaders joined the Maryknoll Lay Missioners staff in August 2024: **Daniel Lizárraga** was hired as the new mission services manager, and **Jennifer Tomshack** became the new communications manager.



In August 2024, Maryknoll Lay Missioners and Maryknoll Affiliates signed a lease on a house in El Paso for the purpose of establishing an "intentional community" near the border. **Bethany House** has six bedrooms and space for gatherings for volunteer affiliates and returned lay missioners who want to serve at the migrant shelters at the border.

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.

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Catherine Heinhold**
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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Elvira Ramirez
Executive Director

Ana Rodrigues
Director of Operations

* Maryknoll lay missioner ** Returned Maryknoll lay missioner

2024 OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSES

Total support and income

Charitable donations and other public support	\$3,535,775
Grants from trust	\$350,000
Investment returns	\$223,728
Other income and gains	\$24,539
REVENUE TOTAL	\$4,134,042

Program and support services expenses

Program services

Mission work	\$2,184,624
Education and recruitment	\$520,649
Subtotal	\$2,705,273

Support services

Fundraising	\$638,227
Administration	\$385,443
Subtotal	\$1,023,670

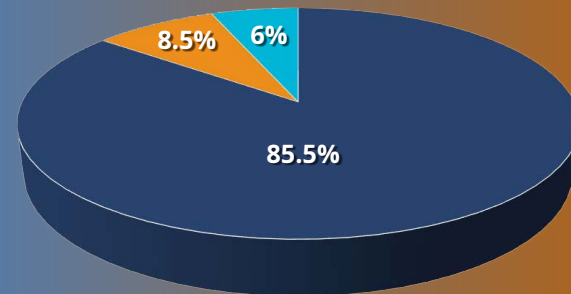
EXPENSES TOTAL \$3,728,943

NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS \$405,099

Change in net assets \$405,099

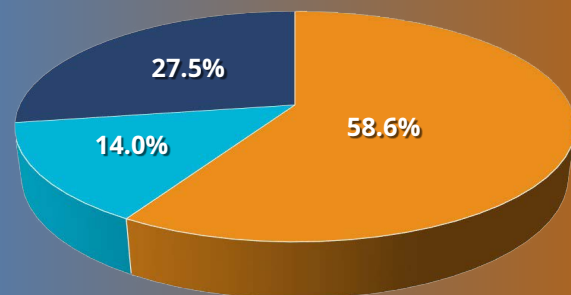
Net asset balance \$2,037,003

SOURCES OF FUNDS



Charitable donations and other public support	\$3,535,775	85.5%
Grants from trust	\$350,000	8.5%
Investment returns and other income	\$248,267	6.0%

USE OF FUNDS



Mission work	\$2,184,624	58.6%
Education & recruitment	\$520,649	14.0%
Support services	\$1,023,670	27.5%

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.

MARYKNOLL LAY MISSIONERS BY THE NUMBERS



MORE THAN 10,000 LIVES AFFECTED





Heidi Cerneka speaks with migrants at a migrant shelter in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. An immigration attorney and veteran Maryknoll lay missionary, she works on migration, women and human trafficking both at Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center in El Paso, Texas; and at the Instituto Terra, Trabalho e Cidadania (ITTC) in São Paulo, Brazil.



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