



VOCAATION NEWSLETTER

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Maryknoll Vocation Encounter 2011

From July 28th to July 31st, 2011, Maryknoll offered a unique experience to young men and women to answer the call of Jesus and serve in overseas mission.

Thirty prospective candidates for the three entities of Maryknoll gathered at Maryknoll, NY to discern a call to overseas missionary work. Seven came to contemplate a lifetime commitment as a Maryknoll priest or brother, and six came to discern with the Maryknoll Sisters. A large number came to discern with the Maryknoll Lay Missioners.



Closing Mass at Bethany

The Maryknoll Vocation Ministries teams at Maryknoll, NY presented a varied schedule of vocation witness stories, theological development of mission, and shared reflection and prayer. All who attended learned that Maryknoll is indeed a family committed to heed Jesus' command to go forth to all people everywhere! Participants in this informative event met current and returned missioners; listened to mission stories from those

who have worked in Africa, Asia, and Latin America; and learned about the evolution of Maryknoll's overseas mission efforts. The weekend was an opportunity to learn about life as a Maryknoll missionary and begin to reflect on whether God was calling the various participants to ministry in overseas mission.

All who attended the retreat realized that they have the same questions, they seek the same answers, and they desire to follow Jesus' challenge to serve our Church in mission.

Mission is about relationships!

From July 5th to July 15th, 2011, Maryknoll offered five young men a unique experience to answer the call of Jesus. Coming from near and far, they journeyed to Guatemala and El Salvador this summer to see how Christ's salvific work continues among the poor and marginalized of Central America. During the first week of their mission trip, they joined a number of Maryknoll missionaries who live and work with the *Q'eqchi'* Indians in the northern jungle region of the Petén in Guatemala. The second week they visited the sites of modern day martyrs in El Salvador.



Fr. Bill Mullan celebrating Mass with *Q'eqchi'* Indian community

Pastoral mission experience began in Guatemala and centered on visiting the impoverished Indian villages served by Father Bill Mullan and Brother Marty Shea. Participants also accompanied Fathers Ted Custer and Bill Senger to visit homes, meet people, and celebrate Mass in the small villages around the provincial capital of Flores, Petén and Lake Itza. An added attraction to the mission immersion trip was a guided tour of the ancient Mayan ruins at Tikal.

During the second half of the mission trip, participants journeyed by bus to El Salvador. Accompanied by Fathers John Spain and Jack Northrop, they visited the sites of the Central American Martyrs; the chapel where Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated; the site of the massacre of the four Churchwomen, and the Catholic University of San Salvador where six Jesuit priests and their housekeepers were brutally slain. Participants also visited with the Maryknoll Sisters and Lay Missioners who work in El Salvador.

Joshua Massatt wrote the following reflection about his trip:

"We came up close to the poverty of many of the people in Guatemala. We listened to Maryknollers discussing the variety of ministries they engage in, to help the people. Some Maryknollers take care of the people's health, bringing medications to them for AIDS and other widespread diseases. Others work toward ending gang and drug violence, alleviating the poverty, bringing education to many, or bringing people catechesis or the sacraments.

We learned also that Maryknoll has a history of martyrdom in Guatemala and El Salvador. Its members stayed with the people in spite of the genocides of right wing governments in these countries, thus earning the name, “the Green Berets of the Catholic Church.” Some Maryknollers were killed by the regimes that held power in the 1980’s, because they spoke out for the economic and human rights of the impoverished, trying to bring an end to the tortures and executions the governments used to crush their people into submission.



Joshua reads at Mass in Romero Chapel in San Salvador

Visiting and praying at the tomb of the martyr Archbishop Romero of El Salvador was a particularly moving experience for me. Hearing the wide variety of ministries and needs that exist in these countries showed me that I also could fit in, if the Lord calls me, however different from most Catholics I am. We saw the beauty of the presence of the Holy Spirit in this trip, as well. We were not only confronted

with what is ugly and hard in life. We also were shown what is sacred. Because many Indians lack a priest most of the year, they will walk eight hours over mountains to reach Mass when they can. The Maryknollers give up their comfortable lives in the States to be with the poor and serve those in need.

The purity of Indians and Missioners’ faith and love could be heard in their voices and seen in their faces. This is what the Church is all about, for her purpose is mission, and God has a mission and a ministry for each soul He has made.”

WANT TO SHARE IN SIMILAR EXPERIENCES TO JOSHUA’S? CHECK OUT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT!
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**MARYKNOLL VOCATION DISCERNMENT MISSION TRIP
 TO EL PETÉN, GUATEMALA: JANUARY 3-10, 2012**

Join us this coming January for a jam-packed, full-tilt, hands-on experience of overseas mission! From January 3rd to January 10th 2012, young men, age 40 and under, who are interested in becoming a Maryknoll priest or brother are

invited to join us in Guatemala for our annual Winter Mission Immersion Trip to Guatemala. There you will experience the mission reality centered on living among and serving the Q'eqchi' Indians in the northern jungle region of the Petén. You will visit the impoverished indigenous villages served by Father Bill Mullan, M.M. and Brother Marty Shea, M.M. and accompany Fathers Ted Custer, M.M. and Bill Senger, M.M. to visit the homes of their



Q'eqchi' parishioners, explore the realities of subsistence farming, and join in the joyful and unique celebrations of Mass in the small villages around the provincial capital of Flores, Petén and Lake Itza. An added attraction to the mission immersion trip will be a guided tour of the ancient Mayan ruins at Tikal. The Maryknoll winter mission immersion trip will take place from **January 3rd to January 10th, 2012**. Come join us in Guatemala this January to see how Christ's salvific work continues among the poor and marginated of Central America. For more information and to apply online, visit the Vocations website:

<http://www.maryknollvocations.com/cb2012info.htm>

Our Newest Missioner: Fr. Rodrigo Ulloa-Chavarry, M.M.

Rodrigo was born on October 17th, 1980 in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Rodrigo, the middle child of Marco Ulloa and Sandra Chavarry, living with his sister Maryana and brother Arnoldo in Zone 8 of that city until 1998. After graduating from El Roble Catholic High School, Rodrigo and his family moved to the United States in 1999. Upon arriving, Rodrigo's family first settled in Florida but later relocated to Virginia where they currently reside. Determined to get his college degree, Rodrigo began examining different possibilities--the military's full tuition program attracted him the most. Assisted by his cousin Brian, Rodrigo joined the U.S. Air Force for a 4 year enlistment. His first assignment was Ellsworth AFB in Rapid City, South Dakota. While stationed there, he enrolled in National American University to pursue a computer science degree.

Three weeks after the World Trade Center attacks, his life took a turn when he was deployed to the United Arab Emirates in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Little did he know that during these 4 months in the Arab desert, God

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would knock unceasingly at his door, calling him to the priesthood. Upon returning to South Dakota for the last year of his enlistment he began to discern whether to join the seminary or continue in the Air Force. We know what happened!

After separating from the Air Force, he accepted God's invitation and decided to study for the Diocese of Rapid City. In the fall of 2003, he was sent to St. Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota to study philosophy. One free weekend, he took



Fr. Ed Daughtery, Superior General, and newly ordained Fr. Rodrigo Ulloa-Chavarry

a trip to Indiana to visit a friend's family. That Sunday, he met a Maryknoll priest named Fr. Peter Chabot, M.M. who was celebrating Mass in his friend's parish as part of a mission promotion appeal. It was hearing Fr. Peter's story that attracted Rodrigo to the Maryknoll missions. Later in the year, the bishop of Rapid City, the Most Rev. Blase J. Cupich, DD met with Rodrigo to discuss the progress of his formation. Surprisingly, though, the first words from the bishop were, "*I hear you are interested in Maryknoll!*" After hearing Rodrigo's reasons for why he thought Maryknoll would be a better fit for himself, the bishop said, "*I went to China with Maryknoll and if this is your call, I don't have any reservations about transferring you to Maryknoll.*" And so, with his bishop's blessing, Rodrigo joined Maryknoll on May 13th, 2004, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima.

Fr. Ed Daughtery, Superior General, and newly ordained Fr. Rodrigo Ulloa-Chavarry

At Maryknoll's houses of formation (initially at Maryknoll, NY and later in Chicago) he began a life of prayer, theology and scripture study as well as an introduction to Maryknoll spirituality and history. His academic and spiritual life was leavened by new friendships and the excitement of living near and in two of America's major cities. Rodrigo's first few years in Maryknoll exposed him to the wider scope of knowledge and experiences that all future priests need. In 2007 he was assigned to Cambodia for his Overseas Training Program, a unique element of Maryknoll's formation. This two year placement enabled him to experience mission in the first person: learning a new language; adjusting to an Asian culture; living as a stranger in a Buddhist country; and experiencing the Maryknoll spirit in a community of Maryknoll priests, brothers, sisters, and lay missionaries.

On May 27th, 2010, Rodrigo professed his final oath, becoming a permanent member of the Society. On September 25th of the same year Rodrigo was ordained to the transitional diaconate. As a deacon, he continued his pastoral ministry at Chicago's St. Clare of Montefalco parish assisting in baptisms, catechesis and youth ministry.

On June 4th, 2011 Rodrigo Ulloa-Chavarry, M.M. was ordained to the holy priesthood and assigned to Nepal. His ordination coincided with the 100th birthday of Maryknoll. Fr. Rodrigo thanks God for his vocation and prays for God's guidance and strength as he begins a lifetime of service of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ on overseas mission.

We are bound together by an oath!



Daniel, Fr. Ed Dougherty, and Shaun

At the Maryknoll community Mass celebrated in the Chapel of Our Lady Queen of Apostles on Thursday, May 26th, 2011 Seminarian Daniel Kim, from Orange Diocese in Southern California, professed his first oath to the Maryknoll Society. Accompanying Daniel for this joyous occasion was his father, step mother, and a close family friend. Daniel entered the Maryknoll formation program in

August 2009 and is currently studying theology at the Catholic

Theological Union in Chicago. During the summer of 2011 he took summer courses at the Mission Institute of African Studies in Nairobi, Kenya. On his return to the U.S. he will begin his second year of theology at CTU.

Seminarian Shaun Crumb from St. Cloud Diocese in Minnesota also renewed his temporary oath to Maryknoll during the community Mass. In July, he headed for Cochabamba, Bolivia to begin an intensive Spanish language course at the *Instituto de Idiomas de Maryknoll*. Upon completion of language school, Shaun will continue in the two year Overseas Training Program which equips Maryknollers with the knowledge and skills needed for long term overseas mission.

The Maryknoll Community is very proud of both Daniel and Shaun. They exemplify the quality demanded from Maryknoll candidates who will work in foreign lands proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Fall Retreat at Los Altos, California

The Maryknoll Office of Vocation Ministries announces a three-day Vocation Discernment Retreat to be held at the Maryknoll residence in Los Altos, California from Friday evening, October 21st through lunch on Sunday, October 23rd. The retreat is called *For All the Saints: Models for Mission*, and provides an opportunity for men in discernment for missionary priesthood and brotherhood with Maryknoll to come together for a time of prayer, reflection, worship, and fellowship.



Last year five men participated in the experience, and spent the better part of three days listening to Maryknoll mission stories and retreat conferences, celebrating Mass, joining in a communal praying of the Liturgy of the Hours and the Mission Rosary, adoration and prayer before the Holy Eucharist in silence, and being with the veteran Maryknoll missionaries who live in community at the Los Altos residence.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn about life on the missions from Maryknoll priests and brothers who have spent extensive time overseas.

Fall is a time for new beginnings, a time to check out what life as an overseas missionary has to offer. Come and join us from October 21 - 23, 2011 in California. Let Christ encounter you and lead you to mission!

Click here to apply: <http://www.maryknollvocations.com/losaltos2011.htm>