

RECTOR'S LETTER

September 19, 2021

Mission Appeal: Maryknoll Lay Missioners

Dear Friends in Christ:

Anh chị em thân mến trong Chúa Kitô:

Estimados Amigos y Amigas en Cristo:

Every year, like the other parishes of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, we get the opportunity to participate in the Missionary Cooperative Program by which our parish can support the Mission of the Church beyond the Archdiocese and even our country. While most of us are not called to serve as missionaries in foreign countries, by our prayers and financial support, we can support the effort of those men and women who do answer the call to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20)

This year, we welcome Mr. Sonny Nguyen on behalf of the Maryknoll Lay Missioners. Sonny will be speaking before all Masses this weekend to share about the work of the Maryknoll Lay Missioners and what they are able to accomplish with our support.

In this space, I wish to share some words from the Maryknoll Lay Missioners in advance of their appeal:

***Sonny Nguyen** and his wife Hong joined Maryknoll Lay Missioners in 2015 and were sent to serve in Cochabamba, Bolivia. As lay missionaries, they focused their work on education and pastoral care of the abandoned, abused, orphaned children with learning disabilities and the incarcerated and paroled women. Thanks to their experience, skills and efforts, Sonny and Hong were affecting the lives of many children and women in Cochabamba-Bolivia. Sonny and Hong say frequently what Mother Teresa used to say, "Not all of us can do great things, but we all can do small things with great love". Currently, Sonny is the US Church Relations Officer for Maryknoll Lay Missioners.*

Sonny will speak at all masses at Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral during the weekend of September 18-19, 2021 to share his mission experience as part of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston's Missionary Co-

operation Plan 2021. The second collection will be taken to support Maryknoll Lay Missioners. Your kind welcome and generous support is most appreciated.

*Maryknoll Lay Missioners is one of the largest U.S. Catholic organizations sending **laypeople** into global mission. Over the past four and a half decades, we have prepared and sent more than 900 missionaries who have accompanied people experiencing poverty and marginalization around the world.*

Your donations will allow Maryknoll Lay Missioners to prepare and sustain laypeople in global mission and to help build a more just, compassionate and sustainable world. This once-a-year opportunity is a wonderful way for all of us to participate in the ongoing global mission to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth! To learn more please visit www.mkmlm.org.

In the "modern world" we can sometimes fall into the trap of thinking that the spread of the Gospel to the ends of the earth is complete. In fact, we talk much (and rightly so!) about the New Evangelization, the reawakening of the faith already shared in places where Christian practice has grown lukewarm. We also talk about the important work of ecumenism and interreligious dialogue. However, there do remain significant populations on the earth that have yet to ever hear the Gospel proclaimed to them.

In fact, the missionary work of the Church never ends! We are called to share the Good News that we have heard not only within our families, social circles, and workplaces, but to the ends of the earth. For those who received the call to go to the peripheries to make the love of God known, may we provide our support financially and especially in prayer.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, we place all our trust in You. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Jeffrey L. Bame

Very Reverend Jeffrey L. Bame
Rector & Pastor

