

# Maryknoll Family

6<sup>th</sup> Edition



Winter 2020

Sister Jeanne Houlihan

jhoulihan@mksisters.org

Moira Richards Conzelman, MCS Class of '67  
(415) 606-2990 ~ moira@att.net

Leslie Mancuso, Dev. Director  
lmancuso@mksisters.org

Magdalen Yum, MSS Class of '76  
(415) 699-8822 ~ ykw1335@gmail.com

Chelsea Lopez, Communications  
clopez@mksisters.org

## *A Christmas message from Sister Jeanne...*

What a wonderful feeling to wake up each morning and thank God, no virus. Stay well. Prophets must have been lonely at times; John the Baptists was. When asked he asked his disciples to find out if Jesus was the Messiah, "Yes". He and they carried a Message. In their solitude and silence, they gave us a key to our hearts so we could become holy prophets announcing the Birth of the Messiah, Jesus. In our silence we join the holy men and women to say with joyous hearts, have a Blessed Christmas and Joyous New Year.

## **Maryknoll Sisters Center News**

### **Covid-19 Update**

As predicted Covid-19 returned to Maryknoll Sisters Center with the surge in infections country-wide. Four of our lay staff tested positive with the virus. For safety precautions, the third and fourth nursing floors were immediately placed under lockdown and Sisters on the other floors were confined to their corridors and not allowed to visit. All Sisters on the nursing floors were tested as well as the Sisters who had in-house contact with the staff. The lockdown from outsiders has not been lifted since April.

Last week, all tests results came back negative, which was great news. The Sisters are thankful for all our prayers and kindness for thinking of them.

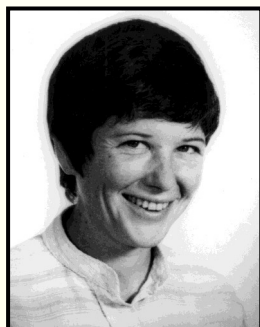
## Maryknoll Sisters Center News, continued.

### 40th Anniversary of Death of Maryknoll Sisters in El Salvador

Forty years ago, in La Libertad, El Salvador, four missionaries Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel, lay missionary Jean Donovan and two of our Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, were murdered by the Salvadoran National Guards during the civil war.



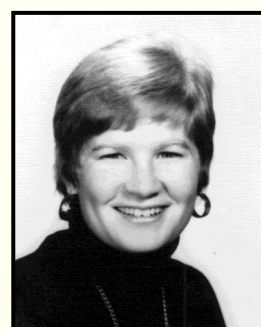
Sister Maura Clarke



Sister Ita Ford



Sister Dorothy Kazel



Jean Donovan

On December 2, 2020, Maryknoll Sisters hosted a webinar to honor the lives and deaths of these American missionaries who were killed 40 years on December 2, 1980. The memorial included prayer, remembrances and tributes, songs, meditative dance, video and slide shows. Hundreds participated in the virtual event. Maryknoll Sisters Nonie Gutzler, Claudette LaVerdiere and Norma Pocasangre were among many Maryknoll Sisters, family members and friends who paid tribute to the four women martyrs.

Many memorials were also held worldwide. At the gravesite where the Sisters were buried in Chalatenango, El Salvador, a visit and Mass was held. Many memorials and services were held online all over El Salvador. In Rome, Canadian Cardinal Michael Czerny held a Mass in memory of the four American martyrs. Pope Francis in his weekly audience on December 2 said, "With evangelical commitment and taking great risks, they brought food and medicine to the displaced people and helped the poorest families. These women lived their lives with great generosity. They are an example for all to become faithful missionary disciples." (<https://youtu.be/SquS4fD5INU>)

One important takeaway from the remembrance of Sisters Maura and Ita was the affirmation that the Sisters' sacrifices and unfinished work for the poor are not forgotten and Maryknoll Sisters will carry forward in new ways to address today's social injustices.

Maryknoll Sisters Center Webinar, December 2, 2020:

<https://youtu.be/7-DqxaW5X6o>

Please see coverage of this event in:

The Boston Pilot:

<https://www.thebostonpilot.com/articleprint.asp?id=189002>

National Catholic Reporter, Global Sisters Report:

[www.globalsistersreport.org/news/hundreds-honor-memory-four-churchwomen-killed-el-salvador-1980](http://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/hundreds-honor-memory-four-churchwomen-killed-el-salvador-1980)

## Maryknoll Sisters Center News, continued.



August 1980 in La Libertad, El Salvador, left to right: and Sr. Christine Rody, a Vincentian Sister of Charity of Cincinnati, who is presently the Defender of the Bond in the Cleveland Diocese and who served on the Cleveland Latin American Mission Team with Dorothy Kazel, an unidentified Cleveland missionary, Sr. Maura Clarke, Sr. Theresa Alexander, Sr. Pat Edmiston, Sr. Ita Ford (front) and Sr. Dorothy Kazel. (Maryknoll Mission Archives)

America Magazine:

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/12/02/el-salvador-martyrs-churchwomen-anniversary-czerny-239388>

From archives:

Over the past 40 years, the murder of the four missionaries was widely covered in the media and in seminars. Please be warned that the linked material may include graphic images.

Maryknoll Sisters' accounts:

Remembering Slain Maryknoll Sisters (Part 1): <https://youtu.be/WGGHlx9Inh4>

Investigating Missionaries' Murders (Part 2): <https://youtu.be/jf7rdYjKOus>

Maryknoll Sisters Never Forget Slain Missionaries (Part 3): <https://youtu.be/KD-BROENbA>

The New York Times: Killed in El Salvador, An American Story:

<https://youtu.be/8E-VwWXKLU>

The Four Churchwomen of El Salvador: <https://youtu.be/MVZIBGhdGwl>

Saturdays with the Saints, Four Women Martyrs of El Salvador (University of Notre Dame):

<https://youtu.be/OtjccJzeysl>

## Maryknoll Joint Mission News

News from Maryknoll Sisters Center in Monrovia, Southern California

A fire that started in the Angeles National Forest raged out of control, burning over 100,000 acres. This fire, named Bobcat, was encroaching on land close to our west coast Maryknoll Sisters Center in Monrovia, one of the foothills communities near the Angeles National Forest. When the Bobcat Fire was closing in and threatening the safety of the Sisters, evacuation warnings were sent to residents to be prepared to leave. Maryknollers and their families living nearby responded and organized a round-the-clock alert monitoring team and planned in detail emergency action to assist the Sisters. Air purifiers, supplies, eye drops and oxygen machines were delivered immediately. They also appointed volunteers Amy Kwok, Anna Wong, Annie Davis, Cara Cheung, Carmela Ma, Daisy Kwok, Daisy Tsang, Karen Chiu, Nymph Chan, Patsy Ma, and Sophie Chang King - forming the Maryknoll Marines team - to be on standby to help drive the Sisters out of harm's way at any minute.

Luckily, the Bobcat Fire was reportedly up to 80% under control after devastating over 100,000 acres of forested land, and the Monrovia Town Evacuation Order warning was lifted. It was a narrow escape since the Sisters residence was right by the foothills.

During the fire, the Maryknoll Marines teammates learned that the Sisters did not have enough transportation to safely evacuate everyone. They immediately started to raise funds among their classes of 1970 and 1977 and Maryknollers from Southern and Northern California, Hong Kong, Canada and the US to buy a van for the Sisters.

On October 26, the new van was purchased at a very good price which was negotiated by the Maryknollers and was delivered to the delight of the Sisters. An outdoor party was quickly organized to celebrate the much needed new transportation present for them. Everyone wore masks and only took them off for the champagne toasts and photo ops.

We salute the brave and generous Maryknoll Marines for coming to the help of the Sisters in their time of distress and need!

Our Maryknoll Spirit is alive and soaring!



The beautiful new sparkling van in the Sisters driveway!

*Continued on next page.*



## Maryknoll Joint Mission News, continued.



All of the Sisters outside their residence were thrilled to receive their surprise present.



Part of the contingent from the Maryknoll Marines Team!

## In Loving Memory...



Sister Lucia (Lucy) Yu, passed away on November 9, 2020 at the Maryknoll Sisters Center, Maryknoll, New York. Sister Lucy was a Maryknoll Sister for 74 years.

She was born on January 11, 1931 in Kyung Nam, Pusan, South Korea to Ki Duc Bin (mother) and In Kun YU (father). She had two brothers: Dr. Bong Yel Yu and Kang Yel Yu (deceased) and two sisters: Mrs. Ye Ja Yu and Soon Ok Yu (deceased).

In 1947, Lucy graduated from Kyung Nam Girls High School in Pusan, South Korea. She then enrolled at Seoul Women's Medical College, Pusan to study medicine and earned an M.D. in Obstetrics and Gynecology in 1955. To continue her studies further she went to the U.S. for a few years before returning to South Korea in 1964. There, she worked as Chief Doctor in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at Maryknoll Hospital, Pusan until 1965.

On September 16, 1965 Lucy entered the Maryknoll Sisters Novitiate in Quezon City, Philippines. She made her First Profession of Vows on April 30th, 1968 and her Final Profession of Vows on April 5, 1975.

Sister Lucy received her first mission assignment to Africa after making her First Vows. When she arrived to Kinango, Kenya, she studied Kiswahili and then served as Resident M.D. and Hospital Administrator in the government hospital from 1969-1975. She then served as Diocesan Medical Coordinator in Kisii, Kenya from 1977-1982. During this time, she also earned a Master's Degree in Public Health in 1983. After receiving her Degree, she was in charge of the Village Health Center in Bura-Tana River, Kenya until 1988.

Sister Lucy was called back to the U.S. in 1989 to serve as Program Assistant in the Support Services Department for the elderly Sisters at the Maryknoll Sisters Center, Maryknoll NY until 1990. She then joined the Congregation's Development Department and served on the Mission Education and Promotion Team until 1992.

Sister Lucy once again returned to South Korea this time to work at St. Joseph's Clinic for the poor until 1994. For the next few years, she immersed herself in education field teaching students. In 1996, she was assigned to Northeast Normal University in Jilin Province, China to teach Medical English until 2000. During this time, she also taught English at Jilin Electro-Engineering University. In 2004, she returned to Seoul, South Korea to serve as Staff Doctor at St. Joseph Clinic and provide medical care for the homeless until 2007. In 2005, Sister Lucy received The 21st Annual Award from the Korean Medical Association and the Boryung Pharmaceutical Company.

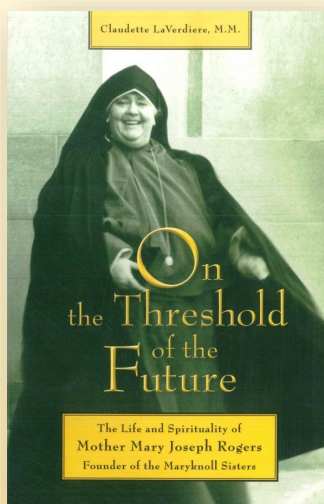
In 2008, Sister Lucy returned to the U.S. to retire at the Maryknoll Sisters Center in Monrovia, CA where she remained active with volunteer work until 2014. In 2015, she returned to the Maryknoll Sisters Center, Maryknoll, NY.

See Sister Lucy's lifework in video: <https://vimeo.com/481852278>

## Maryknoll Sisters Digital Gift Shop

After months being closed because of Covid-19, our gift shop is now open again. All proceeds of sales will benefit Maryknoll missions around the world.

Visit: <https://www.maryknollsisters.org/shop/>



*On the Threshold of the Future, The Life and Spirituality of Mother Mary Joseph Rogers, Founder of Maryknoll Sisters,* by Sister Claudette LaVerdiere. US \$20.00.

### Maryknoll Sisters T-shirt — \$17.99

Available in sizes small, medium, large and extra-large



Front



Back



**Cellphone wallets** stick to the back of your phone and help you carry less. Each cellphone wallet case has a pouch making it easy to carry your most important cards without needing a bulky wallet! \$8.00