

# — Maryknoll Sisters — 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

*then*



*now*



*A century of service making God's Love Visible*

## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

**On February 14, 2020, we celebrated our centennial as a canonically recognized religious congregation.** On that day in 1920, Pope Benedict XV declared that the community, founded less than a decade earlier by Mary Josephine “Mollie” Rogers, was now a diocesan congregation and could engage in worldwide missionary work under the Church’s guidance. **In the 100 years since, all of our work has been possible only because of the dedicated support and prayers of friends like you.**



*Our Foundress, Mother Mary Joseph (bottom left) with Sisters preparing to leave for mission in China, 1922*

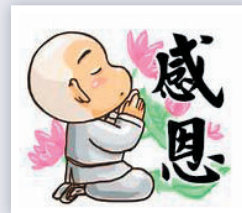
Today, we have 315 sisters, many who are serving in 18 locations around the world. Their missions focus on what is most needed in their communities: health care, education, an end to human trafficking and the abuse of women and children, and access to life’s necessities such as clean water and food.

Wherever they serve, you are with them every step of the way—supporting them through your generosity and enabling them to make God’s love visible. **We have great hopes for our second century of ministry, and we pray that you will continue to walk beside us and offer your support through your prayers and generosity!**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friend and Benefactor,

For all of us, this past year of the COVID-19 pandemic has given rise to many feelings: grief, worry, concern over decisions to be made. We Maryknoll Sisters share in those realities too. Yet in the midst of all this turmoil, we are filled with gratitude to God and to you, for the loving care you have shown us throughout these many months. We wish to express the depth of our thanksgiving through the Chinese characters of *gan en* (thanksgiving) and the kneeling figure beside them in a humble stance of prayerful gratitude.



Your sacrifice and generosity in support of our service to those in need has enabled us to show them the love of God in their lives in tangible and meaningful ways. In this Annual Report, we will tell you some of the specific ways you have enabled us to make a difference.

While much of the world has “sheltered in place,” you have partnered with us in our missions throughout the world. You have helped us fortify soup kitchens so that more hot meals can be served to those in great need in Peru. Emergency relief was sent to our Sisters in East Timor as they responded to the disasters caused by excessive flooding. And several Sisters here at Maryknoll are responding to the needs of unaccompanied minors at the border. We desire to serve wherever we can, as the impact of this pandemic on the poor and on our earth continues to be devastating. **We can do this because of you!**



Your heart is close to the heart of God, and together we strive to *make God’s love visible* wherever we are, even in troubling times. With grateful hearts, we remember you in our prayers each day asking God’s blessings on you and all you love.

Gratefully in Our Lady of Maryknoll,

*Sister Antoinette Gutzler, MM*  
Sister Antoinette (Nonie) Gutzler, MM,  
President, Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic



**Everywhere in the world, it's a nearly universal truth that education is the key to a better life and a brighter future.** In Tanzania, East Africa, a good education has been just a dream for most children. Any schooling they receive is meager and generally enforced through beatings and abuse, preparing them for little more than the lives of poverty their parents had experienced.



*Sister Celeste with a Mercy Montessori student*

**Sister Celeste Derr, MM** has been working to change that.

**Recently, thanks to the generosity of friends like you,** Mercy Montessori Pre & Primary School was able to complete construction of its permanent home there.

The children in this area live in conditions that are hard for us to imagine. Many of them have been orphaned or abandoned. They live in dirty and unsafe conditions, without electricity or clean water. In addition to malnutrition, they often have conditions like HIV and sickle cell anemia, and many have suffered abuse. No child should have to live under these conditions. Mercy Montessori was established to provide a way out and a way up.

**The need, and the demand, have been very great...** the school now has more than 200 students in classes I-VII (approximately equivalent to 1st through 7th grade), and 71 children in the Sacred Heart Daycare Center.

“From start to finish, our journey over six years has been filled with many unforeseen challenges,” Sister Celeste writes. “As always, over time, God has gifted us with what we have needed... **What our children experience daily is truly a miracle of God’s abundant love and grace!**”

**Jesus emphasized the specialness of children on many occasions,** especially in the Gospel of Matthew: “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me”; “Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven”; “See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.”



*Sister Esperanza grows food to help feed the poor*

The protection of children forms the core ministry of **Sister Esperanza Principio, MM**, who works in the South American nation of Peru with children and parents who are impacted by poverty and hunger, or by an environment of abuse or neglect.

“In my years of experience as a social development practitioner,” she says, “children are not always counted by the society to have voices of their own, their rights are not respected and promoted... children suffer from discrimination, poverty and malnutrition, risk not having access to formal education, and experience violence or neglect of a physical, emotional, psychological, or sexual nature.”



*Sister cares for the little children, as Christ taught us*

This assistance requires money, of course, and Sister Esperanza says that it has been a challenge to find partners and donors. **But you and other friends of the Maryknoll Sisters have stepped up and made it possible for this mission to go on.** By taking action on your belief that children are precious, you have helped to make God’s love visible, and to make hope visible, to the children of Peru.

**Sister Mary Little, MM and Sister Regina Pellicore, MM work to help underprivileged children in Cambodia gain educations and break out of cycles of poverty that, in some cases, have lasted for generations.**



*Sister Mary works with some of the older students*

“The purpose of the preschools is to enable Vietnamese children to understand, speak, read and write enough Khmer (the official language of Cambodia) so that they can go to the government school at the age of six,” Sister Mary explains.

Those children who become conversant in Khmer can enter the public school system. Many also continue studying part-time in the Maryknoll school to improve their language skills and help them keep up with their class work.

The students in this program have a rare opportunity to rise out of poverty and better their lives. As of the 2019-20 school year there were more than 100 students at the elementary school level, and more than 50 in secondary school. College scholarships are also available. “In 2019 three students completed university,” Sister Mary tells us. “Each of these young people are now gainfully employed in their field of study.”

**Thanks to these educational opportunities that are possible through your generosity, hundreds of children will have a chance at new lives free of poverty—and will be able to bring those benefits to their families and communities as well.** As always, the Maryknoll Sisters strive to create a “ripple effect” of benefits and blessings, extending far beyond the people they are able to work with directly.



*Sister Regina with preschoolers*

**Since 1993, Sister Margaret Lacson, MM has worked with women and children in Japan.** In 2002, she and a pastoral team set up the Kalakasan Migrant Women’s Empowerment Center. This facility ministers to the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of female Filipina migrant workers in Japan, many of whom are married to, and have children with, Japanese men.

Kalakasan means “Strength” in the Tagalog language. It refers to the strength that is required of these women while working for low wages in a country where they are often considered outsiders, and where most do not speak the language.

“The Center’s activities fall into four categories,” Sister Margaret writes. “The first is Crisis Intervention. We are part of a national hotline that takes calls from all over Japan from women in serious need of help. Our intervention sometimes entails introducing callers to lawyers or labor unions, or accompaniment to the City Hall for livelihood assistance.



*Sister Margaret (top) with migrant women and children*

“The second category is follow-up care, social integration, and healing for women who have experienced violence from their partners. Thirdly, we engage in lobbying and networking. It is important to lobby for laws that will better the women’s lives. Finally, we engage in food distribution. We receive rice from the northern part of the country to be given to single mothers or households that need assistance. We also receive donations from other sources. Food distributions are done twice a month. **The Center works to be self-sustaining through gifts from friends, the Maryknoll Sisters and other donors, and fundraisers.**”





"We give to the Maryknoll Sisters because these wonderful women do Christ's work, with compassion and grace, throughout the whole wide world. We know that our donation's worth is always multiplied, like the loaves and fishes, in all of the communities where they work."  
—Andre and Deborah D.



"I was a five-year-old kindergartener when I met the person who introduced me to the Maryknoll Sisters: Sister Rose Karen. Little did I know then that it would be an auspicious beginning to a lifelong connection with the Sisters and their mission of 'making God's love visible' around the globe.

"Through my 16 years at Maryknoll College, Philippines, I came to know how their life of service was grounded in love, faith, and transformation. After graduation I was blessed to carry with me the friendship of some of the Sisters I had met along the way. As they moved around the world to serve those living on the margins of life, I admired their courage and their dedication to the values of social justice. Today, my husband Juan and I are honored to support them in their life-giving work in areas like education, youth and women's empowerment, community health, and the environment."—Susie M.



"Our love for and friendship with Maryknoll Sisters was truly heaven-sent and deeply personal. We came to know them best through our late mother and mother-in-law, Sue, who, ironically, developed a fast friendship with the sisters on a 'silent retreat.' Over the years, we were slowly drawn to their magnanimous works in the developing world, as they really do make God's love visible. Eventually we realized we had developed an attachment to them all our own. I never expected two of my fondest friends would be 30 and 40 years older and wiser, but that is how our God of Surprises works.

"Our friendship has blossomed in all the ways one typically does, and defies age. We share our deepest trials, longings, struggles and joys. We pray for one another through sickness, isolation, loss, and separation. We celebrate holidays, retreats and other joyous occasions. We stand witness to our respective vocations in the sacraments.

"Steve and I are honored to humbly contribute in some meager way, to partner with them in mission. Clearly their work is for the greater good, and the world is better for it. May our Lord always bless them and keep them in safety and comfort, at the Motherhouse and on mission."  
—Lynn & Steve W.

## OUR 2020 JUBILARIANS

The Sisters listed here all reached milestone anniversaries of service during 2020. God blesses them, and we bless them too!

### 75 YEARS OF SERVICE (1945)

Sister Mary Aulson  
Sister Louise Bullis  
Sister Noel Devine

Sister Marie Morgan\*  
Sister Gloria Ryan  
Sister Kathryn Shannon

*\* Sister Marie died on November 23, 2020*

### 70 YEARS OF SERVICE (1950)

Sister Dolores Congdon  
Sister Rose Lauren Earl  
Sister Margaret Kilduff  
Sister Mary Ellen Manz  
Sister Rose Christopher McKeegan\*  
Sister Patricia Redmond  
Sister Patricia Ring

Sister Patricia Conroy  
Sister Roseann Hanley  
Sister Jean Maloney  
Sister Marie May  
Sister Jessie Poynton  
Sister Ann Reusch  
Sister Margaret Smith

*\* Sister Rose died on April 2, 2020*

### 60 YEARS OF SERVICE (1960)

Sister Luise Ahrens  
Sister Susan Baldus  
Sister Nancy Connor  
Sister Maura Flaherty  
Sister Anne Marie Kiley  
Sister Eugenia Lorio  
Sister Eileen Schwenk

Sister Patricia Arathuzik  
Sister Martha Bourne  
Sister Louise Elling  
Sister Margarita Jamias  
Sister Julia Kubista  
Sister Leila Mattingly  
Sister Nenita Tapia

### 25 YEARS OF SERVICE (1995)

Sister Marvelous Misolas

Sister Chiyoung Pak



*Some of our 2020 jubilarians*

## EVENTS

While most events of 2020 were cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we did succeed in having our **annual charity concert**, which took place just before the lockdown. On March 2, the Hudson Valley Wind Ensemble performed to a sold-out audience in the Sisters Center chapel. All proceeds from the concert were put toward Maryknoll Sisters mission efforts.



The Fall Raffle in 2020 was drawn on October 9th. The funds raised were especially important this year, as the Sisters faced many unplanned expenses due to medical needs and safety and social distancing protocols.

The Grand Prize of \$5,000 was won by Elaine L., and the two Second Prizes of \$2,500 each went to Clara A. and Toni B. All three winners are from New York State. Thank you to all who participated and helped the Sisters contend with these unprecedented challenges!



## IN MEMORY OF OUR SISTERS

The following Maryknoll Sisters went home to God in the year 2020.  
We pray for them and celebrate their lives of faithful, selfless service.



**SISTER HELEN KENNY,**  
on January 4, 2020, age 88,  
70 years a sister



**SISTER JOAN BERNINGER,**  
on February 10, 2020,  
66 years a sister



**SISTER VERONICA MARY MARTIN,**  
on March 16, 2020, age 100,  
78 years a sister



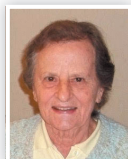
**SISTER MADELEINE GIUSTO,**  
on March 30, 2020, age 79,  
51 years a sister



**SISTER ROSE MCKEEGAN,**  
on April 2, 2020, age 89,70  
years a sister



**SISTER PATRICIA NOBLE,**  
on April 4, 2020, age 95,  
72 years a sister



**SISTER FRANCES CALCATERRA,**  
on April 13, 2020, age 90,  
69 years a sister



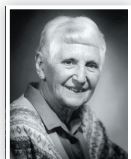
**SISTER VIRGINIA FARRELL,**  
on April 14, 2020, age 94,  
55 years a sister



**SISTER MARIE ZABALERIO,**  
on April 28, 2020, age 82,  
56 years a sister



**SISTER ALICE WENGRZYNEK,**  
on April 30, 2020, age 85,  
66 years a sister



**SISTER ANDRÉE NORMANDIN,**  
on May 1, 2020, age 97,  
73 years a sister



**SISTER BERNADETTE CORDIS DUGGAN,**  
on May 6, 2020, age 82,  
61 years a sister

*"The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever."—1 John 2:17*



**SISTER PATRICIA HAFEY,**  
on May 6, 2020, age 90,  
68 years a sister



**SISTER CONSTANCE POSPISIL,**  
on May 20, 2020, age 84,  
62 years a sister



**SISTER MARY LEE ENGLERTH,**  
on May 31, 2020, age 83,  
46 years a sister



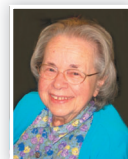
**SISTER ROSE GUERCIO,**  
on June 9, 2020, age 95,  
72 years a sister



**SISTER CHERYL ALLAM,**  
on June 30, 2020, age 72,  
54 years a sister



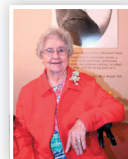
**SISTER ANNE CALLAHAN,**  
on July 30, 2020, age 85,  
65 years a sister



**SISTER AGNES MARY JOY,**  
on August 13, 2020, age 89,  
66 years a sister



**SISTER MARIAN SCHUMACHER,**  
on October 17, 2020, age 96,  
77 years a sister



**SISTER JOANNE MCMAHON,**  
on November 8, 2020,  
age 95, 74 years a sister



**SISTER LUCIA YU,**  
on November 9, 2020,  
age 89, 55 years a sister



**SISTER MARIE MORGAN,**  
on November 23, 2020,  
age 92, 75 years a sister

## MAKE A DONATION

Your donation today will help our sisters who serve poor, oppressed and marginalized people in 18 countries around the world. Every gift, regardless of size, is appreciated and makes a difference!

## BECOME A SPONSOR

Your monthly, quarterly or yearly contribution helps us plan and sustain our work. Recurring donors also receive a membership card, remembrance in our Friday prayers, and a special tribute in our annual Benefactors mass.

## ENROLLMENT CARDS

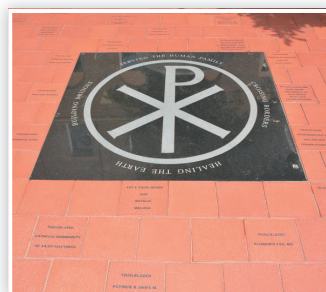
Your offerings help support the ministry, education, mission and care of Maryknoll Sisters around the world. As a Friend of the Maryknoll Sisters, you and those you enroll are partners in our spiritual community, and are remembered in these special ways:

- In Eucharistic celebrations at our Center and in missions worldwide
- In the prayer ministry of our infirm and elderly Sisters
- In the Sisters' daily prayers and good works
- At an annual Mass in honor of Friends and Benefactors



## BUY A BRICK

The Maryknoll Sisters Path to Mission project is to recognize our donors, whose support has made our mission work possible. The Path is meant to provide a place for prayer, meditation, reflection, healing and thanksgiving.



Many of our supporters are looking for ways to make a major, impactful gift to Maryknoll Sisters ministries. We want to make sure that this can be done without causing financial hardship for the donor... and in some cases, even providing benefits.

Below, we present some options for giving that you may wish to consider.

- **DONOR ADVISED FUND.** This option allows you to create a fund dedicated to making charitable gifts, **for which you can take an immediate tax deduction.** Any growth of the fund through investment is also tax-free. You can then recommend, at any time, that an amount of money from your fund be donated to a qualified charity of your choice, such as the Maryknoll Sisters.
- **INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT (IRA).** You can realize tax advantages by giving directly to the Maryknoll Sisters from your IRA. Qualified Charitable Donations (QCD) through your IRA have a maximum annual amount of \$100,000 per individual. (If you file taxes jointly, the maximum is \$200,000.) The Required Mandatory Distribution (RMD) can also be directed to Maryknoll Sisters to satisfy the distribution mandate while reducing your tax liability. **The requirements to receive these tax benefits are not complicated.** Your financial planner or accountant can assist you in making your gift to the greatest advantage.
- **ARRANGE A RECURRING MONTHLY GIFT.** You can specify an amount to be charged each month to your credit card or withdrawn from your bank account. You may also choose to make this gift quarterly or annually. In this way, you can make a more impactful gift over time instead of a lump-sum gift. To arrange this, visit our website at [maryknollsisters.org](http://maryknollsisters.org), tap the "Donate" button at the top and select "Monthly Gift." You may cancel or change your gift at any time by contacting us.
- **A BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL.** By leaving an amount in your will (after your other heirs have been provided for), you can make a potentially large gift while assuring that the money will still be available if you ever need it. You can choose to leave a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder after all your other bequests have been made.

There are many other options as well! To learn more or to arrange a planned gift to the Maryknoll Sisters, please contact our Planned & Major Gifts Office at (866) 662-9900, or email [PlannedGiving@mksisters.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@mksisters.org).



## VISIT OUR ONLINE GIFT SHOP!

All proceeds from our gift shop sales will benefit our mission work here and around the world. We have custom Maryknoll merchandise: mugs, tumblers, tote bags, phone wallets and so much more! There are also many treasures that have been made by our Sisters to share with you, such as books, paintings, prayer cards and more! **FREE gift with all purchases.**

To place an order, go online to:  
[maryknollsisters.org/shop](http://maryknollsisters.org/shop)

Or call 914-941-7575 ext. 5639



## CHECK OUT OUR NEW MISSIONARY LIFE PODCAST:

[www.maryknollsisters.org/missionarylifepodcast](http://www.maryknollsisters.org/missionarylifepodcast)

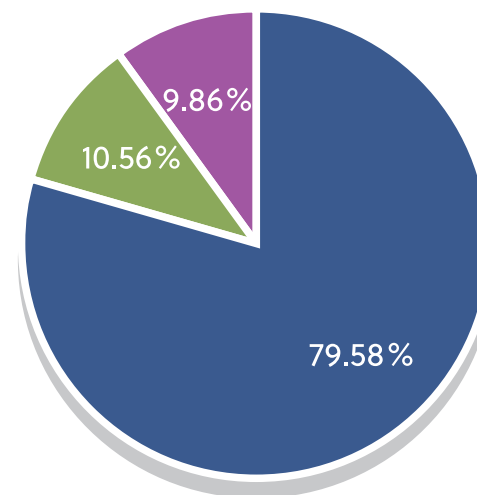
Our Missionary Life Podcast highlights the work of the Maryknoll Sisters, who have been serving the needs of the poor, ailing and marginalized overseas for the past 100+ years! Each episode will take you on a journey across the globe. You will get to experience a day in the life of a Maryknoll Sister serving in a part of the world where their service and compassion is sorely needed. Each episode is hosted by PR/Digital Communications Manager Chelsea Lopez, who has a talent for discovering the Sisters' most captivating mission stories.



We are thrilled to take you, our partners in mission, on this journey with us and know you'll enjoy learning how your prayers and support are helping so many!

[www.maryknollsisters.org/missionarylifepodcast](http://www.maryknollsisters.org/missionarylifepodcast)

Today we have many Sisters serving in 18 locations around the world. Contributions received by the Maryknoll Sisters go to support these global ministries of support, education, pastoral work as well as our retired Sisters at the Center:



PROGRAM ACTIVITIES	79.58%	\$16,516,353
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	10.56%	\$2,191,184
FUNDRAISING	9.86%	\$2,047,312
	100%	\$20,754,849

The Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc. is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization incorporated in the State of New York.

A copy of the complete financial statements audited by Berard and Associates is available at the Maryknoll Sisters Center at Maryknoll, New York.



**"Prayer** is one of the most necessary things in life, not only for us, but for the world at large. It is the very breath of the soul. We are counselled to pray without ceasing. Prayer offers us the channels through which our thoughts turn to God. Prayer keeps us close to God and brings us every grace that we receive, because after the first grace that was given to us gratuitously, we are told that we have never had any other grace which was not won but by prayer. Therefore, we see the necessity of prayer in our life."

~Mother Mary Joseph, "Prayer," 8/6/1930

## Thanksgiving Prayer for our Benefactors:

O Loving Gracious God, we thank You  
for blessing us with the bountiful goodness  
of our Maryknoll Sisters Benefactors!  
May each one dwell in peace within Your heart,  
knowing they are reflecting Your way of Loving  
to us and to those whom we serve.  
Their goodness radiates the healing love  
of Your inmost being into a suffering,  
yet ever-sacred world.

Their gifts for those in need  
offer grateful praise from the chalice  
of their hearts to You, O Gracious God.

Thank You for loving in and through  
each of our Benefactors,

and reminding us that great peace  
have those who love beyond measure,  
for it is there miracles happen!

So One with our Benefactors in offering  
this prayer of gratitude for their presence in our lives.

Amen!

— Sister Theresa Baldini, MM