MISSION: A WAY OF Life
ANNUAL REPORT
2022
Maryknoll Sisters
Making God’s Love Visible
To be a missionary, whether one remains here at Maryknoll or goes out to the missions, means that a person must be selfless, with one outstanding idea—to carry on the work that Christ has given, under any circumstances, no matter how difficult.

– Mother Mary Joseph, 1931
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MESSAGE FROM THE President

Dear Friend and Benefactor,

This year has been one of weathering climate change, facing economic challenges, and enduring the tensions of political and social strife around the world. We at Maryknoll are looking at new ways we can contribute to God’s mission by addressing needs resulting from climate change, migration, and all forms of discrimination.

In each of our missions, we work with the people for justice, a peaceful community, and sustainable ways of living. We extend God’s loving energy, as we are part of one human family and One Earth Community. It is your generosity in support of our work that has helped us envision a new mission presence. Seven sisters gathered in August 2022 to discern a new place and a new way to be in mission. Their discernment led them to Chad in Africa. We await to hear news from this new establishment in 2023.

Our new ways also include expanding our mission presence in Monrovia, California, to become a collaborative, integrated center for healing the Earth, healing our human relationships, and welcoming the stranger. Our Sisters have worked or lived at our place in Monrovia since 1920. It has always been a place of healing and recuperation, first for Japanese TB patients, then other patients, and most recently our retired Sisters. Now we look to heal and nurture the world as we participate in God’s mission.

We remember you in our prayers daily, and we are grateful for your presence in our lives. You are integral to our mission to make God’s Love Visible. God bless you and all your loved ones.

With deep gratitude,

Sister Teresa Hougnon, MM
President
Prayer for Benefactors

O Loving God of Thankfulness, we, Maryknoll Sisters, in the silence and prayer of our hearts, Thank You for gifting us beyond measure through our Benefactors and their Loved Ones! They are helping us to reach beyond to those in need, helping us to be among those who are trying to be the best part of someone’s day through compassion and care! May our Benefactors continue to be Your Holy People, O Gracious God, helping us to rebuild the heart of the world with LOVE!

Amen!

– Sister Theresa Baldini, MM and Sister Helen Werner, MM
HELPING OPEN THE DOOR OF EDUCATION IN Bangladesh

With your help, the school is having a significant and positive impact on lives in Bangladesh! God bless you for your kindness, generosity, and willingness to help create the ‘ripples of good’ that will change the world.

Sister Miriam Francis Perlewitz, MM

BACHA—Bangladesh Alternative Course for Human Advancement—is the name of an extraordinary school in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The school was founded in the early 2000s by the late Sister Joan Westhues, MM and Sister Miriam Francis Perlewitz, MM, who still works as an advisor and mentor at BACHA today.

The school grew out of a Values program the Sisters had created called “Education for Life.” This program aimed to prevent drug use among high school students—especially girls, since there were no drug rehab facilities for women in the region.

Unlike the system of rote learning that is prevalent in most Bangladeshi schools, BACHA teaches students to think and discover for themselves, using their intelligence and creativity in a values-driven setting.
“When we opened the school in 2001,” Sister Miriam recalls, “it was possibly the only liberal arts English-medium school in Bangladesh. Sister Joan and I both taught and worked to train new teachers. We’ve had the most success finding candidates from our own students and graduates.”

The idea of the “ripple effect” is central to the Maryknoll Sisters’ practice of maximizing the effects of the work they do with the funds they have. Education is one of the best ways to accomplish this. Educated people can not only improve their own living conditions and those of their families, but they can also pass on their knowledge to others. BACHA now has about 900 students from Nursery to Grade 12 levels.
PROMOTING HEALTH AND WHOLENESS OF BEING IN Panama

The transformative work of Sister Jocelyn and her colleagues is possible thanks to the generosity of caring people like you. Your generous support makes you her partner in mission, enabling her and her colleagues to share God’s healing love with those most in need.

Sister Jocelyn Fenix, MM

When Sister Jocelyn “Joji” Fenix, MM arrived in the province of Darién in the Central American nation of Panama, she found people suffering from the problems so common in the developing world—poverty, exploitation, indifference by those in power. The people were worn down by hunger, sickness, unemployment, and a loss of hope.

Sister Jocelyn is a medical doctor, and one of her first ministries was to see to the health of the people, many of whom are migrant farmers and few of whom have easy access to basic health care. Her work extends far beyond the examination room, however. Sister has introduced the people in her community to a holistic approach to health.

“I am primarily involved in health promotion through practicing alternative forms of health care, including Ayurvedic medicine, use of herbal medicinal plants, reflexology and massage. I promote healthy
diets and organic vegetable gardens, and the raising and consumption of goat’s milk, free range chicken, cheese, etc.”

To help promote and carry out her efforts, Sister Jocelyn has recruited and helped to train Health Promoters—local people who can both assist with providing health care, and spread the word that it is available.

Rebirth and renewal are key themes of Sister Jocelyn’s ministry. This is also seen in the work that she and the local people do to restore the local rainforests and plant life, which have been impacted by over-logging, over-development and climate change. The Pastoral Care Center maintains a farm that preserves almost 100 acres of native rainforest, and a seedling bank to preserve and restore local trees, flowers, and plants.
FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN Japan

"I am very grateful to our donors for what they provide for us to continue our mission wherever we are. Because right now, the world is getting smaller.

Sister Abby Avelino, MM

Imagine living in such fear and uncertainty that you’re willing to leave everything you know based on the word of a stranger who promises you stability and security, for you and maybe for your children. Then imagine traveling, full of hope, to a place you’ve never been, only to end up exploited and poor—a financial or even physical captive. Promises broken. Dreams destroyed.

This is the evil of human trafficking, and every year millions of people fall victim to it. Most are women, but this abomination affects children and men as well.

In Japan, where labor exploitation is the main issue, Sister Abby Avelino, MM established a regional Talitha Kum network, which is an international network that combats human trafficking.
“My ministry is mainly with migrants, women and children in Japan, and migrants are very vulnerable when it comes to trafficking, sexual exploitation and labor exploitation,” Sister Abby explains. “They’ll come to us to seek help, especially for shelter, accompaniment, support, counseling and legal and financial assistance.”

Sister Abby’s work is difficult and often risky. “With its high profile and visibility, Talitha Kum has been able to make these situations less dangerous. Less fear of retribution means trafficked women are more likely to seek help, and that help will be easier to provide.”

Sr. Abby (left) with a group of migrants at the Kalakasan Migrant Women Empowerment Center in Kawasaki, Japan.
Maryknoll Sisters serve as stewards of the garden God gave us. We strive to tend to the Earth and our brothers and sisters, pulling the weeds of injustice, and sowing seeds of healing and hope, wherever we can.

One such “gardener” is Sister Rose Marie Cecchini, MM. She views Mission as “responding to calls beyond known horizons.” This commitment has carried her to her current mission in Gallup, New Mexico. Many of the Native American communities who live in that region are suffering the effects of past uranium mining and atomic testing on their land.

“They have revealed to me their deep love for Mother Earth and shown me how to participate in its healing by changing our human life patterns that threaten living systems,” Sister Rose Marie says.

When God’s creation hurts, so do God’s people. Sister Rose Marie understands the consequences of contaminated soil, water, and

I am profoundly grateful for the ever-faithful family members, friends, and Maryknoll Sisters sponsors who accompany me with their prayer and generosity. I hold them in my heart and in daily prayer for abundant blessings.

Sister Rose Marie Cecchini, MM
air that contribute to cancer and other illnesses for generations of those who live nearby. These communities also face extreme poverty, racism, and other injustices.

Sister works with indigenous environmental justice groups and participates in annual events and collaborates with other organizations and faith communities in “prayer for the healing of ourselves and all of the human family—that we might learn what it means to care for and live in harmony with all of God’s creation for present and future generations.”

In addition to environmental activism and advocacy, Sister Rose Marie is a founder of Gallup Solar, a program that provides solar power for those in need, especially the thousands of Navajo families without electricity.
In Tanzania, Sister Felista Wanzagi, MM is blessed with the opportunity to help the children of her homeland escape lives of poverty and live the futures that God has in store for them.

Sister works with the Chanua Children’s Group, a group of several dozen orphan children in the Mwanza Region. In addition to being without their parents, many of these children have AIDS or are HIV+, and have very few resources that they can turn to.

“We help with school materials, getting access to health facilities, food, transportation and tuition. Our goal is to teach the children that all people, including them, are valued and have a place in the world. We give them life skills training and encourage children in the Group to help each other.”
Sister Felista and her colleagues work closely with the schools the children are attending and with local offices and community leaders. They consult regularly with teachers, religious leaders and the local population. The children are provided with extra education, physical and spiritual exercises, and entertainment to help relieve the great stress they are under in their daily lives. Special attention is paid to the children’s medical conditions, their studies, and their lives with their families and in the community.

The children Sister Felista works with could certainly tell you that those are not just empty words… many of them would not survive without your help, and many of them would live their lives without ever seeing or knowing about God’s love for them.
Monrovia, California is home to a Maryknoll Sisters retirement home, located in a former hospital operated by the Sisters. It is also in the epicenter of the severe drought that has affected the southwestern U.S. in recent years.

In keeping with their commitment to environmental responsibility, the Sisters recently decided to remove six acres of grass and replace it with sheet mulch, also known as “lasagna mulch.” The mulch is made from cardboard and wood chips, and is so called because it is set down in layers, like lasagna.

The mulch has the effect of renewing the soil by enabling it to hold more water, and attracting beneficial things like fungi and earthworms. The land can then be used to grow vegetables, flowers, or even trees using significantly less water than the grass did.

Sister Arlene Trant, MM is the coordinator of the retirement home. “The cry for healing is something we are responding to,” she says. “This was dry before, but because we did the mulching, it has turned into soil. So it’s bringing forth what we wanted it to, and doing what grass could never do: keep the ground moist.”

This project is the first of a series of environmentally friendly projects the Sisters plan to undertake with their 20,000 square feet of land. “We are hoping to expand later, step by step, and continue this energy,” said Sister Arlene.
Meet two Sisters who have exemplified that mission isn’t just abroad, but a way of life embraced at home as well!

Sister Connie Krautkremer, MM’s dedicated journey of compassion has spanned continents over the past five decades. For over forty years she spent time immersing herself in the culture of Tanzania as a school teacher and group leader, working with women to enhance their self-awareness and empowerment skills. However, Sister Connie’s most recent mission keeps her closer to the women of Maryknoll, right here in the Center. As director of the personnel department, she remains a guiding light for Sisters who are living in the Center, as well as those out embarking on their first missions. “I’m getting to know each one of these people at a much deeper level,” she says. “And that is a gift.” Sister Connie’s dedication to empowering women and nurturing the growth of her fellow Sisters is a true testament to the Maryknoll Sisters way of life.

Sister Ro Milazzo, MM, with her indomitable spirit, has chosen a life dedicated to selfless service and compassion. Although retired, Sister Ro makes efforts to impact her permanent residence in Ossining, New York by immersing herself in volunteer work. Weekly, she visits soup kitchens and a women’s prison, and teaches English as a second language. Her warm smile and gentle words of encouragement offer comfort to those who cross her path and are in need of uplifting. “I used to go to Iraq, or Congo,” Sister Ro said. “Now that I’m 91 and living in this area, it feels to me that this is the place that nourishes me. I’d like them to know Maryknoll.” Her continuous drive to Make God’s Love Visible provides a glimmer of hope to those throughout Ossining and proves that for the Maryknoll Sisters, mission is truly a way of life.
I am indeed one of the many who benefitted from the Maryknoll Sisters’ overseas mission in Hong Kong. The Sisters entered into educational ministry in Hong Kong in order to attain equal educational opportunities for girls. The academic excellence and character formation provided by the Sisters produced many distinguished young women who made meaningful impacts in the society and also in their homes. This occurred in a context of charity, social justice, and righteousness by the Maryknoll Sisters in Hong Kong. The students have worked in the areas of hospital service, women’s welfare, and skills training, to name a few. Maryknoll Sisters overseas missions are definitely a blessing to the world’s underprivileged—actually to all people—and should continue to be supported. The Maryknoll Sisters’ spirit is forever shining through.

— Magdalen Yum 
MSS 1976

As a former student at Maryknoll Convent School in Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong, I thank God for the years I spent under the tutelage of the Maryknoll Sisters. The Sisters, as missioners, go where they are needed across the world. Mission is a way of life for them and they make it look so seamless. They are full of unconditional love and help with medical needs, serve as teachers, provide support to the poor and indigenous people, and much more as needed.

— Moira Richards Conzelman
Maryknoll Convent School, Class of 1967
Not only did we receive the best education, the Sisters instilled in us values and spirituality that are invaluable in helping us face the many challenges of life after graduation. I most value their kindness, dedication, can-do spirit and especially social justice exemplified by the Sisters. I am forever grateful to the Maryknoll Sisters and I wholeheartedly ask our alums to support our Sisters in their continuing mission work in the poorest countries to help make this a better world.

— Tania Chen Souza
*Maryknoll Convent School, Class of 1967*

**REFLECTIONS FROM OUR PARTNERS IN MISSION**

We have been blessed to have a four-generation relationship with the Maryknoll Sisters spanning over 75 years. Our “Aunt Peggy” was a Maryknoll Sister for well over 50 years! Over 30 of those years she taught and served in Hong Kong. After my Mother passed Aunt Peggy stepped in, loved, and nurtured me from my late 20’s into my 60’s. She was my “moral compass” during those years. She taught me the art of missionary work, I went onto to become involved in missionary work in Kenya to orphans, and mothers with young babies cast into prisons unjustly. As well as serving the young children in the Kibera slums with resource houses to help the poorly educated young Kenyans get better education, the answer to coming out of poverty. I lived firsthand, as
well as my children and grandchildren, the true meaning of the ongoing Maryknoll Sisters mission in this world and what a wonderful legacy of service these brave and dedicated women forged over the past 100+ years! We have been blessed and our family Trust will be “donating annually in perpetuity” for the care of the elderly Maryknoll Sisters, all of whom I call my Auntie’s! — The Shepherd Family

Reading Maryknoll Magazine through the years I am convinced that supporting the Sisters, financially and in prayer, is my small part in building God’s Kingdom. As a Foundation board member, I can say that the Maryknoll Sisters’ mission, values and approach to service align closely with ours. Maryknoll projects originate from the needs of the communities they serve, and are meant to eventually become self-sustaining by the communities who are served and whose well-being is provided for. The Sisters focus on education, skills and social/emotional and spiritual development, especially for children and women. They evangelize by love, lived in service, and I am glad to be a small partner in their big endeavors for God. — Tom and Ann G.

I have always admired those people who give of themselves quietly, without fanfare, out of a genuine heartfelt caring for others. I think of the Maryknoll Sisters that way. They toil far away, out of the spotlight, in overlooked places, to help people whose lives are bereft; and they help them to find some solace, dignity, and a community fashioned out of love and commitment. Think of how many lives would have been deprived of God’s presence if there were no Maryknoll Sisters. That is a bleak world I wouldn’t want to consider. — James C.
GIVING

PLANNED AND LEGACY GIVING
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 FUNDS
• INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT (IRA)
• STOCKS AND MUTUAL FUNDS
• A BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL

NOW ACCEPTING CRYPTOCURRENCY
Maryknoll Sisters have partnered with TheGivingBlock.com to ensure your safety, security and convenience. Donating a non-cash asset like cryptocurrency is one of the most tax-efficient ways to support the important mission of the Maryknoll Sisters. Similarly to donating stocks, the simple process of donating in cryptocurrencies is beneficial to you and the Sisters! The gift is tax deductible at the full market value, but you owe no taxes on the assets you donate. We accept donations in Bitcoin, Ethereum, and over 80 additional leading cryptocurrencies. Please visit maryknollsisters.org/cryptocurrency for more information.

There are many other options as well! To learn more or to arrange a planned gift to the Maryknoll Sisters, please contact our Planned and Major Gifts Office.

📞 (866) 662-9900
✉️ PlannedGiving@mksisters.org
OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

MAKE A DONATION
Your donation today will help our sisters who serve poor, oppressed and marginalized people in 19 countries around the world. Every gift, regardless of size, is appreciated and makes a difference!

BECOME A PARTNER IN MISSION
You can specify an amount to be charged each month to your credit card or withdrawn from your bank account. 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. You may cancel or change your gift at any time by contacting us.

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, tote bags, t-shirts, tumblers and so much more! Books written by the Sisters are also available! To place an order, go online to: maryknollsisters.org/shop or call 914-941-7575 ext. 5707.

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. To buy a brick, go online to maryknollsisters.org/support-us/brick-campaign or call 914-941-7575 ext. 5707.
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Sister Marian Teresa Dury, MM (102)
Sister Lilla Marie Hull, MM (103)
Sister Ann Teresa Kamachi, MM (101)
Sister Rita Kane, MM (102)
Sister Rose Andree Krieger, MM (100)
Sister Betty Ann Maheu, MM (100)
Sister Mary Reese, MM (100)
Sister Helen Werner, MM (103)
2022 JUBILARIANS

75 Years

Sister Barbara Barr, MM
Sister Marilyn Evans, MM
Sister Jean Fallon, MM
Sister Margaret Hennesey, MM
Sister Kathleen Higgins, MM
Sister Charlotte Hobler, MM
Sister Marilyn Ingraham, MM
Sister Cecilia Santos, MM
Sister Nancy Thomas, MM

70 Years

Sister Joan Delaney, MM
Sister Virginia Fabella, MM
Sister Jeanne Houlihan, MM
Sister Eleanor Killion, MM
Sister Dolores Ritter, MM
Sister Gloria Ruiz, MM
Sister Mary Ann Smith, MM
Sister Marcelline Yurkovic, MM
WE THANK God FOR THE BLESSINGS BROUGHT BY THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE

60 Years

Sister Maureen Hanahoe, MM
Sister Theresa Kastner, MM
Sister Rosalie Lacorte, MM
Sister Mary Ellen Mertens, MM
Sister Joan Mury, MM
Sister Helene O’Sullivan, MM
Sister Daniel Joseph Pardini, MM
Sister Suzanne Rech, MM
Sister Janet Srebalus, MM

50 Years

Sister Patricia Edmiston, MM
Sister Rachel Lauze, MM
Sister Arlene Trant, MM
These Maryknoll Sisters went home to God in the year 2022. We pray for them and celebrate their lives of faithful, selfless service.

_Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace._

_Sister Jacqueline Dorr, MM died on February 19, 2022. She was 92 years old and had been a Maryknoll Sister for 74 years._

_Sister Cecilia Santos, MM died on March 18, 2022. She was 93 years old and had been a Maryknoll Sister for 75 years._

_Sister Joan Frances Delaney, MM died on April 28, 2022. She was 92 years old and had been a Maryknoll Sister for 70 years._

_Sister Rita Marie Keegan, MM died on June 2, 2022. She was 88 years old and had been a Maryknoll Sister for 65 years._

_Sister Mary Dolores Mitch, MM died on June 30, 2022. She was 85 years old and had been a Maryknoll Sister for 62 years._
Sister Marlene Louise Condon, MM died on October 9, 2022. She was 89 years old and had been a Maryknoll Sister for 67 years.

Sister Maria Norma Valdemoro, MM died on November 28, 2022. She was 87 years old and had been a Maryknoll Sister for 56 years.

Sister Mary Patricia Norton, MM died on December 1, 2022. She was 94 years old and had been a Maryknoll Sister for 76 years.

Sister Teresa Ann Lilly, MM died on July 25, 2022. She was 94 years old and had been a Maryknoll Sister for 66 years.

Sister Rose Corde McCormick, MM died on July 31, 2022. She was 98 years old and had been a Maryknoll Sister for 69 years.

Sister Barbara Frances Barr, MM died on August 27, 2022. She was 94 years old and had been a Maryknoll Sister for 75 years.

Sister Alice Cardillo, MM died on December 22, 2022. She was 77 years old and had been a Maryknoll Sister for 57 years.

Sister Teresita Perez, MM died on December 29, 2022. She was 83 years old and had been a Maryknoll Sister for 55 years.
2022: ONE EARTH COMMUNITY GALA
In 2022, our Sisters had a very special peace ceremony. The Maryknoll Sisters joined together to design and handcraft a beautiful sign, “Imagine Peace.” This sign was made by our sisters to pray for not only peace for Ukraine, but for the world.

“God of love and peace, we pray for the people of Ukraine. We pray for an end to senseless violence. We pray for all those living in fear and at risk that you’ll hold them close and protect them. Amen.”
Today we have many Sisters serving in 19 locations around the world. Contributions received by the Maryknoll Sisters go to support these global ministries of support, education, and pastoral work as well as our retired Sisters at the Center:

Program Activities: $17,446,337 (79.04%)
Management and General: $2,166,498 (9.86%)
Fundraising: $2,359,674 (10.74%)
Total: $21,972,509 (100%)

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.
Thank you. We are truly humbled over the remarkable progress and achievements made possible through your continued support in 2022. Your dedication, as reflected in our Annual Report, has strengthened the collective efforts that have driven our beliefs forward. Last year was a true testament of the power of unity and generosity, and we are proud to have you as our partners in mission.

The success of these endeavors demonstrates the significance of your trust in our cause. You inspire us to reach new heights and encourage us to persist in our pursuit of positive change. As we look back at 2022, we are excited for the future and the opportunities it holds. With you by our side, we are confident in our ability to make an even greater difference in the coming years.

Once again, thank you for your true dedication. Together, we are creating a brighter and more hopeful world.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Leslie Mancuso
Development Director