

*Events within decades not necessarily in sequential order*

**1970s**

*Justice in the World, Call to Action, and Evangelization in the Modern World* published

Center of Concern, NETWORK and many other efforts begun

U.S. Bicentennial – Justice in the World/Call to Action process facilitated by the U.S. Catholic bishops

Vietnam War ends

New international economic order proposed at the UN

Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge government's killing fields in Cambodia

Coup in Chile; assassination of President Allende

First oil crisis

Hunger crisis

Soweto youth uprising

Nicaraguan revolution

Steve Biko killed

Rutillo Grande killed

Genocide in Burundi

**1980s**

Chico Mendes assassinated in Brazil

**A timeline of Maryknoll's Justice & Peace Office // Office of Social Concerns // Office for Global Concerns**

**1970s**

Maryknoll Society Justice and Peace Office and Maryknoll Sisters' Social Concerns Office founded

Supported Maryknoll Father Jim Sinnott who was deported from South Korea for speaking out in defense of those living in poverty.

Helped found the Washington Office on Latin America; served on the board for many years

Justice and Peace *NewsNotes* began publication

*Maryknollers around the world:*

Maryknoll Sister Janice McLaughlin – who worked as press secretary for the Justice and Peace Commission -- was deported from Rhodesia; worked at the Washington Office on Africa

In Chile, attempted to support the efforts made by then-President Salvador Allende

In Hong Kong, worked in community organizing

In Bolivia, during Banzer dictatorship, worked with impoverished, illiterate communities. (When democracy returned, they were ready to participate.)

Participated in Justice and Peace committee of the Archdiocese of Boston's priests senate

In the Philippines, directed social action centers/secretariats

Served on Justice & Peace Commission for the Union of Superiors General, Rome

Maryknollers in Tanzania assist in the implementation of "villagization" program and become involved in famine relief work.

**1980s**

Letter from Archbishop Romero to Fr. Tom Marti, written in response to Fr. Marti's expression of solidarity with Mons. Romero's appeal to President Carter to stop sending military aid to El Salvador, received after Romero's assassination.

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| <p>Assassinations in El Salvador of Archbishop Oscar Romero, four U.S. churchwomen and tens of thousands of Salvadorans</p> | <p>Following the killing of Maura Clarke, Ita Ford, Dorothy Kazel and Jean Donovan, the Maryknoll JPO/OSC made tremendous effort to educate the U.S. public about the reality in El Salvador and the U.S. role in perpetuating the war there.</p> <p>Maryknoll Sisters received the Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Award from the Institute for Policy Studies</p>       |
| <p>Reagan and Thatcher consolidate emphasis on neoliberal economic model</p>  | <p>Justice and Peace/Social Concerns meetings began in Latin America and were held on a regular basis for 25 years; eventually these meetings evolved into MesoAmerica and South America Global Concerns Committees</p>   |
| <p>War and repression in Central America</p>  | <p>Co-founded the Religious Task Force on El Salvador and Central America in Washington, D.C. and the Interreligious Task Force on Central America, based at the National Council of Churches in New York; served on the board of the Religious Task Force for many years</p>   |
| <p>Massacres of 626 Guatemalan villages</p>   | <p>Worked with ICCR, religious orders, unions and colleges to push U.S. corporations to pull out of South Africa to help end the apartheid regime</p>   |
| <p>End of Brazilian military dictatorship and Argentina's dirty war</p>   | <p>Worked with many other organizations to end the Contra War ("If it had not been for the Maryknoll Sisters, the U.S. armed forces may have invaded Nicaragua." CIA Director William Colby, unverified)</p>  |
| <p>South African Kairos document</p>  | <p>Worked with Guatemalan labor leaders, who were soon thereafter killed, on a resolution against Coca-Cola that resulted in the parent company taking over the franchise in Guatemala, recognizing the union and giving pensions to the family members of all the workers who were assassinated</p>  |
| <p>People Power Revolution in the Philippines</p>   | <p>Collaborated with the Church Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines to end the Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines</p>   |
| <p>End of the Cold War; Berlin Wall falls</p>   | <p>Worked with Korean advocacy groups to end U.S. support for the South Korean dictatorship</p>   |
| <p>Assassination in San Salvador of six Jesuit priests, their co-worker and her daughter</p>                                | <p>Invited U.S. bishops and other U.S. leaders to accompany visits to mission countries – for example, Archbishop Hunthausen and professors from Seton Hall and Notre Dame to Peru; four bishops and five labor leaders to Brazil</p>   |
| <p>First intifada in Palestine (until 1993)</p>   | <p>Worked to end apartheid in South Africa through protests, divestment and advocacy with Washington Office on Africa and Africa Faith and Justice Network.</p>   |
| <p>Zimbabwe's liberation</p>  | <p>Corporate responsibility work through ICCR: Newmont Mining, JP Morgan, Citibank, Cincinnati Power and Light, General Motors</p>  |
| <p>One million people march in New York City for nuclear disarmament</p>  | <p>Opposed nuclear power: "At the AGM of Cincinnati Light and Power (ca. 1984/5) I spoke against the company's plans to build a reactor on the Ohio River. The motion was soundly rejected (one shareholder accused Maryknoll of being communist), but some months later CL &amp; P abandoned the project. I felt like David after meeting Goliath!" (John Geitner)</p> |
|   | <p><i>Maryknollers around the world:</i></p> <p>In Kenya, worked on a diocesan team to form small Christian communities that</p>  |

promote justice and peace issues in their areas

In Bolivia, continued themes of justice and peace; presented documents to base communities that had circulated from national/regional bishops' meetings

In Venezuela, lay missionaries began Red de Apoyo

In Venezuela, founded and served as first director of Comision de Justicia y Paz of the religious men and women's orders

In El Salvador, worked with others to stop arms flow

In Chile, worked on the Justice and Peace commission after the 1988 plebiscite; worked specifically on cases of people detained and disappeared during Pinochet dictatorship

In the Philippines, worked on human rights abuse documentation in the post-Marcos period

In the Philippines, worked on the Environment & Development Program, CODEL (through 1994)

Maryknollers in Tanzania help form a justice and peace committee within the Religious Superiors Association. Research is conducted on the socio-economic and political situation of Tanzania as structural adjustment programs crush the economy.

The "Africa Desk" is established at Maryknoll, New York to help educate U.S. citizens about the crisis in Africa.

**1990s**

Peace agreements in El Salvador, Guatemala

Truth Commission in El Salvador

REHMI process in Guatemala

Bishop Gerardi killed

Nelson Mandela released from prison

Sendero Luminoso active in Peru

Pinochet concedes power in Chile and was arrested in London

**1990s**

Participated in election observer delegation to Haiti during first democratic election in many years.

With Fr. Steve Judd, who was then on the General Council, met with President Aristide while he was in exile in Washington, D.C.; participated in a human rights delegation to Haiti when pro-democracy activist Antoine Izmerly was assassinated; accompanied President Aristide back to Haiti when he was returned to power

Protested the first Gulf War, including engaging in civil disobedience to try to prevent the war

Participated in a peace and solidarity delegation to Israel-Palestine and Jordan immediately after the war ended

Annual Maryknoll Peace Prize leads to first open forum at the United Nations on the situation in Sudan

Participated in delegation to Guatemala to protest Guatemalan government's characterization of the abduction and torture of Sr. Dianna Ortiz; supported Sr. Dianna's search for truth for many years, including her vigil in Washington, D.C.

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|---|--|
| <p>Indigenous Peoples organize in the Americas – 500 years since Columbus’ arrival</p>  | <p>Participated in the Quincentenary Fast for Repentance, a 42 day fast at the time of the 500th anniversary of Columbus’ arrival in the Americas</p> <p>Participated in Coalition Missing to try to get information about the death of Fr. Bill Woods in Guatemala through Freedom of Information Act filings.</p>  |
| <p>End of apartheid in South Africa</p>   | <p>At the height of the Bosnian conflict, Maryknoll arranged a meeting at the UN in New York of the leadership of religious communities of Bosnia-Herzegovina</p>  |
| <p>Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa</p>  | <p>Maryknoll’s <i>Life Not Debt</i> Campaign initiated</p>   |
| <p>Environmental activist Ken Saro Wiwa executed in Nigeria</p> <p>End of Duvalier dictatorship in Haiti</p>  | <p>Religious Working Group on the World Bank and IMF housed at Maryknoll Office to facilitate dialogue with the international financial institutions over structural adjustment and debt cancellation. Meetings with Managing Director of IMF, President of World Bank and program staff of both institutions helped them begin to take missionary experience seriously. Engaged in civil disobedience to bring more attention to the need for debt cancellation.</p>                      |
| <p>NAFTA</p>  | <p>Economic Way of the Cross, developed by the Religious Working Group and Maryknoll, began as an annual witness in Washington, D.C.</p>   |
| <p>Zapatista uprising in Mexico</p>   | <p>Participated in election observer delegation to Mexico and in the founding of Servicio Internacional para la Paz (SIPAZ) in Chiapas</p>   |
| <p>Operation Hold the Line (El Paso, 1993) and Operation Gatekeeper (San Diego, 1994) seals off urban border crossings from Mexico; deaths in the desert along the border skyrocket</p> | <p>Continued Latin America Justice and Peace meetings</p> <p>Human face stories written by Maryknollers based on their experience as a grassroots level became the basis of many resources for education and advocacy about the impact of neoliberal globalization on the communities where Maryknollers lived and worked</p> <p>Participated in a delegation to Guatemala and many other activities in support of Jennifer Harbury’s efforts to find out what happened to her husband</p> |
| <p>Jubilee 2000, Seattle and anti-globalization demonstrations</p>  | <p>Major ad campaign for a “Shared Jerusalem” signed by 800 supporters and published in the New York Times, Congressional Roll Call and the Washington Post; collaborated regularly with Churches for Middle East Peace</p>  |
| <p>Genocide in Rwanda and Burundi</p>   | <p>Worked with the drafting committee and then a co-author to write the Kairos USA document</p>  |
| <p>Namibian independence</p>  | <p>Actively participated in establishing the Asia-Pacific Center in Washington, D.C.</p>   |
| <p>Wars in Sudan, Sierra Leone</p>  | <p>Co-founded the Jubilee 2000/USA campaign; served on initial executive committee and on the board for many years</p>   |
|   | <p>Maryknoll Social Concerns Office, with six Maryknoll Sisters and two lay missionaries, attended the UN World Conference on Women in Beijing.</p> <p>Significant work on Sudan, from “A Guide for Activists: Handbook on African Hunger” to House resolutions written in collaboration with People for Peace in Nairobi, that temporarily stopped aerial bombardment of Sudanese refugee camps</p>   |

Denounced structural injustices in Africa; with others, called for an invocation of the Genocide Convention in Rwanda

Actively opposed the North American Free Trade Agreement, based on the damage it would do to poor farmers in Mexico; actively opposed “fast track” process for Congressional debate of trade agreements

Society and Congregation given Special Consultative status through ECOSOC at the United Nations

Through letters and phone calls, convinced Rep. Sue Kelly (who represented Ossining) to cosponsor HR 611, a bill to cut off funding for the School of the Americas; ongoing support for School of the Americas Watch activities

Maryknoll Global Concerns Office founded as a collaborative program of the Society, Congregation and Lay Missioners.

Broad work at the UN began with focus on gun trafficking, child soldiers, peace-building, disarmament, poverty, sustainability; education of Maryknollers about the UN; some participation in UN regional processes

Played major role in organizing faith-based and civil society advocacy in response to the AIDS pandemic

Began serving on selection committee for the Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Award

At Maryknoll’ s urging, religious leaders formally recognize for the first time the environment as a critical area for engagement

*Maryknollers around the world:*

In Peru, worked in formation with midwives and health promoters. Coordinated on national level to set priorities and collect experiences of the health and medical problems of impoverished communities.

In the Philippines, established the Maryknoll Sisters Center for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation in Baguio

In Thailand, worked with Burmese refugees

In many areas, Maryknollers worked against domestic violence

Maryknollers in Tanzania help establish and staff the Center for Faith and Justice in Dar Es Salaam.

Maryknollers in Africa participate in election monitoring in South Africa and Tanzania.

Maryknollers in Tanzania respond to a call for assistance for Rwandan and Burundian refugees in western Tanzania.

In response to the growing level of violence in Kenya and Tanzania, the Africa Region sends personnel to study conflict transformation.

| 2000s   | 2000s   |
|---|---|
| Second intifada in Palestine  | Following the death of Father John Kaiser in Kenya, took a leading role in pressing for a full investigation, including significant interaction with the FBI  |
| Rachel Corrie killed in Gaza  | Participated in the Values Caucus at the UN in New York   |
| Terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon                | Participated in the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa   |
| Water war in Bolivia  | Following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, we opposed a retaliatory war on Afghanistan; convened Catholic organizations in Washington, D.C. to urge the Catholic bishops to oppose war and promote a shift in national priorities and an effort to build right relationships with other peoples.  |
| Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq/torture                                    | Participated in a solidarity delegation to Afghanistan to express support for the victims of U.S. bombs that were misdirected.  |
| East Timor becomes a sovereign state                                    | Responded to attempted coup in Venezuela in close coordination with Maryknoll lay missionaries in Venezuela; brought a delegation to Washington from Venezuela to explain what was happening; participated in a fact-finding and solidarity delegation to Venezuela; engaged with high level AFL-CIO international leadership to protest their apparent support for leaders of the attempted coup |
| Comprehensive peace agreement in Sudan                                  | Worked at the UN to control small arms and light weapons (Africa's "weapons of mass destruction")   |
| Wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone end                                    | Brought delegation of Maryknollers and colleagues from Central America to WTO ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico   |
| Ouster of President Aristide in Haiti                                   | Opposed the U.S. war in Iraq, helping to organize repeatedly public witness, statements and letters, times of prayer in Washington, D.C. and New York; worked for several years with Christian Witness on Iraq; engaged in civil disobedience   |
| Tsunami in Indonesia, Thailand, Burma                                   | Organized with Pax Christi International an international forum at St. John's University in New York on alternative approaches to security, moving beyond just war and justified violence   |
| Global financial crisis   | Developed Maryknoll position paper on trade and investment; helped found the Interfaith Working Group on Trade and Investment in Washington, D.C.   |
| Dorothy Stang assassinated in Brazil                                    | Worked with other faith groups in Washington, D.C. to organize and facilitate annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days event   |
| Peace talks between the Government of Uganda and Lord's Resistance Army | Participated actively in work at the UN on children including the Special Session on Children and the Convention on the Rights of the Child   |
| Post-election violence in Kenya and Zimbabwe                            | Helped found the Global Network of Religions for Children, a project initiated by the Arigatou Foundation in Japan; continued to support the regional networks, especially in Latin America and Africa  |
| Attempted coup in Venezuela   | Participated actively in the Financing for Development process at the UN; brought colleagues of Maryknoll from Oaxaca, Mexico to present a workshop during one of the preparatory meetings; attended the conference and high level dialogue in  |
| Conflicts over mining in Guatemala, Peru, the Philippines, Tanzania     |   |

Mexico and follow-up process in New York

Organized speaking tour of Mexican farmers who addressed effects of NAFTA

Focused work at the United Nations on women through the Commission on the Status of Women and active engagement in the formation of UN Women.

Took leadership of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development at the UN, enabling the committee to provide leadership for NGO involvement in the UN climate change debate.

Continued to work with other Catholic religious communities at the UN; to participate annually in the Indigenous Forum; and to participate occasionally in the ongoing Financing for Development process

Brought Maryknoll experience with mining in Peru to the UN Sustainable Development conferences

Following Operation Murambatsvina (Operation Restore Order), a large-scale Zimbabwean government campaign to forcibly clear slum areas across the country, Maryknoll Sister Janice McLaughlin supported a UN investigation headed by Anna Tibaijuka, executive director of UN Habitat. We met with Ms. Tibaijuka at UN Habitat in Nairobi to follow up on this investigation and to ask how the UN was responding to urban poverty in situations like that of Kibera in Nairobi.

Participated in Border Working Group, focused on justice for U.S.-Mexico border region; participated in "border pilgrimage" from San Diego to El Paso. Participated in "water bottle" action on Capitol Hill to raise awareness of deaths along the U.S.-Mexico border; several MOGC staffers travelled together to visit El Paso/Juarez.

Began to study the new cosmology to understand how ecological concerns could be incorporated into work of the Global Concerns Office; MOGC Ad Hoc Committee on Ecology developed reflection papers on GMOs, Water and Climate Change; made specific proposals to Maryknoll leadership on ecology and supported the significant steps, especially of the Maryknoll Sisters, toward sustainability at their Center

Worked with Maryknollers in Guatemala and Tanzania to oppose gold mining

Organized a major campaign to educate the U.S. public on Catholic Social teaching and U.S. foreign policy prior to the U.S. elections in 2008

Initiated campaigns on "Faith, Economy, Ecology" and "Sustainable Pathways to Peace and Inclusive Security;" hosted major forum on this topic with key organizations and colleagues; founded Faith, Economy Ecology Transition Working Group and website; hosted Maryknoll meeting in Cochabamba on this topic.

Participated in Zimbabwe elections as an observer; as post-election violence escalated, lay missionary Merwyn DeMello came to Washington to raise awareness; wrote and circulated a petition around the world through Pax Christi International that was signed by thousands of people of faith to express solidarity with the Zimbabwean people; worked with collegial organizations to keep Zimbabwe's human right situation visible internationally

*Thanks to  
JPO/OSC/MOGC staff  
members*

*who contributed  
their memories  
to this timeline:*

Sr. Ann Braudis

Judy Coode

Fr. Charles Davignon

Marie Dennis

Dan Driscoll Shaw

Sr. Mary Duffy

Sr. Jean Fallon

Mike Gable

Sr. Sandy Galazin

Sr. Meg Gallagher

Fr. John Geitner

Dave Kane

Fr. Jim Kofski

Sr. Doreen Longres

Fr. Tom Marti

Fr. John McAuley

Kathy McNeely

Terence Miller

Sr. Helene O'Sullivan

Cathy Rowan

Fr. Dave Schwinghamer

and to the participants at  
the May 2012  
"Maryknoll on the Hill"  
centenary event

Led NGO delegation to the Climate Change Conference COP15 in Copenhagen, Denmark; presented NGO position to delegates

Launched significant work on the impact of “Excessive Speculation in the Commodities Futures Markets” on global food prices; launched a major effort to educate and involve NGOs and other religious groups in this issue, including creating a Stop Gambling on Hunger website; worked with an extremely diverse coalition to educate Members of Congress and to advocate for inclusion of this issue in financial reform legislation

Served on the White House Task Force on Global Poverty and Development; arranged or participated in White House meetings on multiple issues, including Honduras, Sudan, food security/Feed the Future, religious freedom, nuclear disarmament, Northern Uganda.

On Honduras, participated in fact-finding trip shortly after the coup and in a religious leaders’ delegation about six months later; engaged actively in discussions with State Dept., National Security Council and Congress to make human rights violations more visible and to change U.S. policy opposed by Honduran human rights groups.

*Maryknollers around the world:*

In Zimbabwe, served on the board of the counseling services unit that provided medical aid and legal counsel to victims of torture

In Africa, helped establish the African Forum for Catholic Social Teaching

In Palestine, Congo, Iraq and northern Canada (with First Nation people), Maryknoll sisters served on Christian Peacemaker Teams

In Thailand, started outreach program for asylum seekers; worked with women escaping prostitution

In Burma, worked at Hope House, an AIDS hospice, and at a day care center

In Yucatán, Mexico, the new Affiliate chapter included environmental concerns as part of their spirituality

In the U.S., gave much effort to ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and to promoting peace.

**2010s**

Pope Benedict XVI writes *Caritas et Veritate*

Earthquake in Haiti

Arab Spring

Japanese tsunami and nuclear disaster

**2010s**

Participated in a solidarity delegation to Afghanistan with Voices in the Wilderness

Worked with the National Priorities Project to reduce U.S. military spending

Supported Bolivian efforts to hold former President of Bolivia Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada (Goni) to account for the killing of demonstrators during the “gas wars”

Organized a Maryknoll meeting in Guatemala on violence as part of the work on “Sustainable Pathways to Peace”



South Sudan  
independence

Pope Francis writes  
*Evangelii Gaudium*

Major work on food security, including chairing the Interfaith Working Group on Global Hunger and Food Security; engaged Congress and the Administration to promote agroecology

With the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy sponsored a briefing on Global Hunger and Food Security.

As co-chair of the NGO committee on Sustainable Development at the UN, led NGO preparations for the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20); invited to speak at Rio+20 on the ethical implications of sustainability

Created the "Stop Gambling on Hunger" website, part of the larger campaign to raise awareness of speculation in food commodities

Visited Havana, Cuba and met with several Catholic groups there to determine a possible future ministry site

Participated in multiple public witness events around the continued operation of the military prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Participated in multiple public witness events around the issue of climate change and the proposed Keystone XL pipeline

Continued participation in Ecumenical Advocacy Days, an annual weekend of workshops and lobbying on various social justice issues

Over the course of several trips, staff members visited missionaries in Africa, Central America and Asia

Participated as election observers in Honduras (2013) and El Salvador (2014)

*Maryknollers around the world:*

In the U.S., Maryknollers and Affiliates participate in (arch)diocesan peace and justice committees and with Pax Christi, focusing on fair trade, war and peace, immigration, ecological justice, and so many other issues ...