



Centennial Events Newsletter

Issue # 14 November—Mid-December, 2011

1. The Bridging Ceremony

➤ On December 12, 2011, feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe—patroness of “America” (South, Central, and North), after the Society’s 4:15 p.m. Closing Eucharistic Celebration and following supper, the Bridging Ceremony will take place. At that time, those who can will accompany the Cross, which contains relics of our three Founders, as it is carried in procession (with glow sticks and carol singing) from the Society Chapel—past the back of St. Teresa’s—to our driveway. There this **Relic Cross** will be transferred and carried by us to our main building foyer where it will be welcomed by our MRC Sisters. We will then enter our Chapel singing *Ecce Ancilla Domini*; after a special prayer, the Relic Cross will be left in the Sanctuary.

2. Creations and Transformations

➤ A **time capsule**, which the Society is creating, will include the following from the Sisters: Ring and Cross, Constitutions, Complementary Document, Directory, Yellow Book 2002-2009 (updated), Mk Srs Booklet (2011 edition), 16th GA Direction and Proceedings, Development passport, 2012 Planner, Land Ethic, UN Sustainability Statement (Ann Braudis), and the Fall 2011 issue of Westchester Land Trust.

➤ To honor Mk’s three Founders, three **Incense Cedar trees** will be planted in Spring—two at the seminary and one at our Center. The inscription on the plaques at the bases of the trees will read: “*The Maryknoll Family plants these trees as a living tribute to the seeds of mission planted 100 years ago [followed by the names of our Founders].*”

➤ The wondrous “refreshment” of our **Heritage Exhibit**, which is near completion, included “labors of love” such as painting, replacing curtains, re-framing and mounting

signage, as well as securing a new world map and digital frames for rotating photographs.

➤ Two large **banners** of our Centennial Logo were created to place on our property next to Ryder Road. Special thanks to our Sr. Pat Edmiston and to Annette Chan-Norris.

➤ Benches for the **Garden of Gratitude and Promise** arrived; native grasses were planted near each of the five meditation areas, and the 400-million-year-old rock was treated with sealant. Additionally, the **Conservation Easement** agreement was reviewed by our attorney, final points were agreed upon with the Westchester Land Trust’s legal counsel, and the legal document is almost finalized.

➤ Issues # 11 and #12 of **Mollie’s Legacy of Love**, inspiringly detailed the “Years of Struggle for Official Recognition from Rome” from 1916 to 1920, and the process of “Preparing for Canonical Status.”

3. Honings and Decisions

➤ Because of the UN’s designation of the first week of February as “Inter-faith Harmony Week,” our **Inter-Faith Harmony Prayer Day** is scheduled for February 5, 2012. Participants to this joint (Congregation/Society) event in our Main Chapel will be the Briarcliff-Ossining Ministerial Association, who represent different Christian denominations, Jewish and Muslim Faiths. We will also invite the Buddhists from Carmel, NY, and a Hindu community to participate in this Gathering.

➤ Our April 20-21 symposium, entitled **Mk Srs’ Centennial Symposium: Hearts on Fire**, will include book sales, for example, of the Centennial Edition of *Hearts on Fire*, Sr. Claudette LaVerdiere’s *On the Threshold of the Future*, Sr. Janice McLaughlin’s *Ostriches and Dung Beetles and Other Spiritual Masters*, Affiliate Jackie Maggiore’s *Vessel of*

Clay: The Inspirational Journey of Sister Carla, etc. Note: there will be no registration fee nor cost for meals for symposium participants.

4. Networks and Volunteers

➤ Annette Chan-Norris continues to contact and generate ardent supporters, for example, in **alums** from the Yucatan, from East Coast Hong Kong alums, and—with Sr. Joan Chatfield’s assistance—those in Hawaii.

➤ Eleanor Swanson also reported on planned supportive activities of **Affiliates**, among others, in New Jersey and Milwaukee.

➤ Ro Hardiman and Eleanor Swanson are diligently gathering information to pass on to their respective associations (**Full Circle** and **Affiliates**) about our needs for volunteers at specific Centennial events.

5. Strategies and Achievements

➤ Current **ideas** for promotion of events include flyers posted throughout the Center, information sent by personal e-mail, Website blog posts submitted by the event planner(s) and others, Facebook posts that are linked to our website, and last-minute tweeting on Twitter to build momentum and drama for the specific celebration.

➤ Sue Palmer, our Communications Manager, also reported that the Media Plan is shaping up and will include **press releases** distributed to, for example, Catholic News Service, NCR, America Magazine, U.S. Catholic Magazine, Catholic Digest, PBS, National Public Radio, Propagation of the Faith Office/ Mission Magazine, Catholic.net (Internet voice to Catholic youth), local media (both diocesan and secular), as well as international diocesan and secular media of nations in which we currently work.

Sue also envisions phone calls to **key media personnel** inviting coverage of an event and/or interviews with Sisters, as well as promotion strategies such as airing a short film about Mk Srs on **YouTube**, and using **display advertising** that would be similar to public service announcements (PSA) to raise awareness; our “ads” could have text about

our early history, followed by “bullets” about our transformations and future plans.

➤ **Translations** of our illustrated history, *Maryknoll Sisters: Mollie Rogers Worldwide View*, into Dutch, Korean, and Spanish are done. Future translations may be into Swahili, Portuguese, Tagalog, and Chinese.

➤ Our Development Department plans to participate in **Ossining’s Fair** on June 9, 2012, as a “special thank you to Westchester for 100 years of welcome!”

➤ Attached to this Newsletter is a one-page **list of Centennial events** at the Center.

➤ Finally, **Invitations to our Opening Liturgy** have been sent out. Part of the text is as follows.

... The seed that Mollie planted has blossomed so that today women from twenty-two nations now serve in twenty-five countries.

Maryknoll Sisters strive to become women of the Gospel in word and deed. Our foundress, Mother Mary Joseph, often spoke of the Maryknoll Spirit “as being a reflection of the love of God—nothing more nor less than that—a reflection of the love of God.” (1932) Though each Sister comes with skills and compassion, no one knows what challenges she will face. With resourcefulness and humility, walking hand in hand, side by side with local communities, we make God’s love visible and experience great love and compassion both from our supporters and the beneficiaries of our efforts to serve.

Each day people are changed by their encounters with Maryknoll Sisters—and, each day, Sisters are changed by their encounters with others. As we celebrate our Centennial—100 amazing years of God’s enfolding love working in us and through us, we are full of deep gratitude and great promise.

We cross borders.

We build bridges.

We serve the human family.

We heal the earth.

We celebrate this Centennial year with gratitude and humility, knowing we could never have done this alone.”

**LIST of CENTENNIAL EVENTS
at the MARYKNOLL SISTERS CENTER**

2011

Dec. 12 (Mon.) Bridging Ceremony after the Society's closing Mass.

2012

Jan. 6 (Fri.) Opening Liturgy/Ritual (in-house)

Jan. 7 (Sat.) Reflection Day

Jan. 8 (Sun.) Opening Liturgy/Ritual (public)

Feb. 5 (Sun.) Inter-Faith Harmony Prayer Day

Mar. 3 (Sat.) Centennial Art Exhibit of Sister Yoo Soo Kim, MM
to May 20-21.

Mar. 4 (Sun.) Sixth Annual Music for the World Concert

April 20-21 Maryknoll Sisters Mission Symposium: *Hearts on Fire*
(Fri./Sat.)

May 16-17 Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns (MOGC)
(Wed./Thurs.) (Functions to be held in Washington, DC)

May 20 (Sun.) Liturgical Concert
(Dinner honoring the Hawthorne Rosary Hill Sisters on May 20)

June 2 (Sat.) Dedication of Garden of Gratitude & Promise

June 3 (Sun.) Celebration of Land Preservation

June 9 (Sat.) Participation in the Ossining Fair as a special "Thank you to Westchester County"

July 2 (Mon.) Concert by Miriam College High School Glee Club (Philippines)

August (*tba*) Reflection Day on Dominican Heritage

Sept. 28-30 Joint Symposium: *Mission into the Future: Linking Global and Local Mission*
(Fri./Sun.) (Hosted by the Congregation, Society, Lay Missioners, Affiliates)
Congregational Center and Society facilities

Oct. 27 (Sat.) International Bazaar/Multicultural Festival

2013

Jan. 6 (Sun.) Closing Liturgy/Ritual