



Christmas, 2016

Dear Maryknollers,

Is the world worse today than yesteryear? Sometimes it may seem that way but a reading of the Old Testament finds Syria in serious trouble just like today. The difference is in the planes, tanks, guns and ammunition, which means more people killed, homeless, abandoned. Power and greed were dominant and still are. The promise of the Messiah would bring justice and peace. This is the HOPE and I BELIEVE. Why? Everywhere you see small groups gathering to bring about justice and peace.

2016 was a record year of Maryknollers visiting from Canada, Hong Kong and the United States for the GALA. Generosity and loyalty are still shining forces of our former students. The singing of our school song at the GALA made we realize how avant garde the words were and still remain important for today. "to carry truth to home, country and the world". Certainly I witnessed this in many words and deeds at our first GALA. Needless to say our Alums made this a success.

A few thoughts about your former teachers: Sister Corinne is fair and will celebrate her 100th birthday in 2017. She sometimes joins the former students in singing the school song; Marie Ann Lipetzky at 93 meets the newspaper deliveries at 5 a.m. Her voice remains golden as she is a member of the choir. She is No. 1 in reworking the masculine nouns for God (who is not masculine); Ann Carol Brielmaier is not stopped by her walker. She travels everywhere and participates in all events at the Center; Mary Lou Tuefel will be 94 and has good days and less good days; Teresa Leung has the best up-to-date file on email and home addresses, phone numbers and latest information; Joanna Chan was one of four chosen by NYC to honor persons who have made contributions to the city. I really like her quotation." For a community leader, the fondest dream is perhaps not to see the final success of making it in America, but to look beyond the seeming differences that divide individuals." She was the only woman and the only honoree still living. If you are coming to NYC I hope you will visit the museum. It is completely digitized. And, if you are coming to NY I hope you visit me at Maryknoll. We do have rooms available for guests if you let us know in advance. Nancy Tong from Toronto and Vivian Ng from Albany, NY visited in the first week of December.

I chose the star for this letter because it symbolizes for me the ever-present God in all of life. A significant part of being at Maryknoll is being spiritually in process twenty-four/seven. "The evolutionary view of Christ reveals Christ as intimately present to salvation or to God beyond, not only one's religion,

but outside of religion, through art, science, love of nature, great generosity and service to other people. God adjusts: "God's self" to each of the creatures whose natures he created." (Thomas Keating: God is Love)

May I wish each of you the BLESSINGS of Christmas and Joy-filled New Year!

Love and prayers,

Sister Jeanne Houlihan