



Christmas 2017

Dear *Maryknollers,*

As we pause to reflect on the Birth of Jesus, we are truly humbled that God assumes humanity for each of us. Just as three wise men followed a star, each of us is following a star that promises LIFE within and beyond us. The world, including the USA, seems to be falling apart. In some places it is. We do not despair or give up because a reading of Scripture demonstrates that the life 2000 years ago is not very different from today's messy world except Jesus is present and we have HOPE.

What do you see, observe or reflect on when you are at an airport? A priest friend of mine told me about an event in JFK air terminal . He observed a young Jewish man with dreadlocks, hat, and long black coat all traditional attire. His two small sons were dressed as he. The mother held the third child, a girl. The children and parents were quiet until people came off the airplane. Suddenly the boys broke through the crowd calling " abba , abba, abba". Hugs and kisses joined their voices and the grandfather's. Father said he had a whole new understanding of abba. It is all about relationships and my understanding of God would for ever be changed.

23 years ago Rwanda experienced a massive genocide of 800,000 people. How does one survive a massacre? How does a community build itself anew? The leadership presented and mandated one day the last Saturday of each month to Umuganda, which means s voluntary spirit. No taxis, no buses, no cars are on the road. All is silent. Good deeds are the goal of the day for everyone 18 years old and older. No one is exempt. The Rwandans are rebuilding their country and bringing together diverse tribes. What about each of us?

In September, Maryknoll Former Students planned a world- wide reunion in Vancouver. Maryknoll Sisters, who had taught in Hong Kong were invited to cruise beautiful Alaska for 10 days. 73 Maryknollers and four Maryknoll Sisters were there to renew friendships. There were

90 other Maryknollers, who were not able to make the cruise, came to lunch with us before we embarked. Many of those that I taught are grandmothers, yet it seems like yesterday I was just beginning. I also went to California for the Development Department to thank our donors. We met with 75 people, some of whom were in my first class in 1955. I was truly blessed to have this opportunity to thank God for all that was and will be. I am back at Maryknoll working with the Director to raise funds for 2018.

Love and prayers,

Sister Jeanne Haulihan

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND JOY-FILLED NEW YEAR!

