



Christmas 2015

Dear Maryknollers,

*"For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread, a shelter, a space a safe place for growing, **for everyone born a shining star overhead.** And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy. Yes God will delight when we are creators of justice."*

Shirley Murray "A Place at the Table"

The faces of the migrant children are truly the face of God - hungry, homeless, fearful, traumatized, hoping. I find myself thinking of Mary and Joseph, who were also migrants as they fled Herod's soldiers.

Mission Sunday, October 18 at St. Patrick Cathedral Sister Rosalie Lacorte and I were Maryknoll representatives. Cardinal Dolan was in Rome so Bishop Byrne was standing in for him. Pope Francis' visit speeded up the completion of the renovation of the Cathedral. It is bright and beautiful after the men finished scraping off the dirt and paint which allows the veining in the stone to be visible. The small TV screens have been replaced by larger rectangular ones. Even the MTA got into the clean-up act. There was no rubbish or newspapers on the walk from the platform to the main part of Grand Central.

What a fabulous presenter we had this month. Her organization, *Linked Neighbours*, help migrants and community to understand the cultures and values of both the migrant and the home territory. Just for one example, if we say a party begins at 7 p.m. we mean 7 p.m. That is not true for the migrant who may have a more relaxed understanding of time and who arrives at 9 and is on time. By sharing and listening they learn together. The organization is so successful that all the police force of Westchester County have taken the program. There are 11 million immigrants in USA. 7 million pay taxes and pay into social security. This amounts to 14 billion dollars yearly for Uncle Sam. Why did this program begin? A police officer shot an innocent migrant. He was acquitted. The program has 300 volunteers, 150 of them are high school students. English is taught morning, noon, and night. One of the community colleges raises \$125,000 to support the English programs.

Our bazaar, which may be the last, was a success. It seemed to me that the items sent from the missions were better than ever. The creativity of indigenous people is outstanding. I see God's hand in the weaving which reflects their closeness to the environment. Global warming is a fact.

May your **Christmas** be one of **JOY** and the **New Year** be **Blessed** with **HOPE**.

Love and prayers,

*Sister Jeanne Houlihan*



"To love God, we must know God" Mother Mary Joseph