

Maryknoll Christmas (#2176)
Copywriter: Mary Guinane McNamara

OE Teaser Copy options:

*Our gift to you - Exclusive Maryknoll Christmas Cards
Your 2007 Maryknoll Christmas Cards inside...*

Letter Copy:

*Behold, the virgin shall be with child and
bear a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel,
which means, "God is with us."
– Matthew 1:23*

Dear Friend of Maryknoll,

On behalf of our Maryknoll Missioners and all whose lives you have touched with your generosity, please accept our deepest gratitude for your kindness throughout the year.

As the Advent and Christmas season approaches, I want you to have these exclusive **Maryknoll Christmas Cards** as a token of our appreciation for your prayers and support for our important mission work around the world.

These beautiful cards reflect the simple, joy and beauty of the season and are a beloved Maryknoll tradition. Please use them to send greetings to your loved ones and let them be a testament to your faithful commitment to the work of all our Maryknoll Missioners.

I'm sure it saddens you, as it does me, that while our Missioners work to bring the basic necessities to children struggling to survive in destitute living conditions, children right here in our own country celebrate the season deprived of its most important gift – the light of Jesus Christ in their lives.

As early as July, the stores begin to fill with toys and decorations, yet images like the ones on your cards of the Madonna with Child, are becoming harder and harder to find.

The commercialization of Christmas happened gradually over time and now it is up to us to take action to reverse that trend. We are asking all of our Maryknoll family members to join us in a prayerful effort to **"keep Christ in Christmas."** Will you help us?

I'm sending some suggestions for **"keeping Christ in Christmas"** with my letter that are easy for even the smallest child to carry out. I hope you'll share and reflect on these ideas with your family. Through prayer and simple intentional acts we can all make a difference.

The prayerful intentions and collective actions of the worldwide Maryknoll family have already proven to be a powerful force for change. Your financial and spiritual gifts have made it possible

to bring food, shelter, medicine and - most importantly - hope to God's poorest children around the world.

Because of your generous participation, Father Thomas Goekler, M.M. has been able to "bring morning" to the gang-ridden streets of Honduras...

Eight years ago when I first started the mission here in Chamelecón, Honduras we were burying one teenager a week. Extreme poverty, no jobs, little education and almost no self-respect meant more often than not, for the people here every day was a day of "mourning."

But now, many more days bring true morning – they dawn glorious and filled with hope because one of our kids has left the gangs and started rehab. To date, our graduates have built more than 300 homes and we are thankful to you each time we are able to give "morning" back to one of our young people. Thank you!

Please keep Father Thomas and the youth God has placed in his care in your prayers. Each day brings them new challenges, but also the opportunity to share the Word of God and fill young hearts with hope for a better tomorrow.

In Rundu, a poverty-stricken outpost in Namibia, Father Wayne Weinlader ministers to more than 300 youngsters, many AIDS orphans or sick with AIDS themselves. These beautiful children come to Father Wayne for the only meal they will have that day, often taking home their slice of bread to have something to eat at bedtime.

Sadly, though the meal they receive from Fr. Wayne may be their only nourishment, these children come for something even more important. With no parents to care for them, their time at the Maryknoll mission is the only place where they feel loved and wanted.

Will you help us maintain our emergency AIDS missions so that no child goes without a meal or ever feels unloved or unwanted?

When you give a gift of \$15, \$20, \$30 or even \$50 to help these children and thousands like them, you will be living our Maryknoll Family mission to "**keep Christ in Christmas.**" Rest assured whatever contribution you can manage will be received by grateful hearts.

Especially during the holy season of Advent and Christmas, the light of God's love guides us in our work. Please remember our Missioners often for they rely on your prayers for strength and courage.

As always, you will be remembered in my prayers, but if you have a special need, please tell me about it on the enclosed special intention form and return it along with your offering.

May the blessings of Advent and the peace and joy of Christmas be with you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Dennis Cleary, M.M.

Director

P.S. Thank you for helping ***“keep Christ in Christmas”*** by using your exclusive **Maryknoll Christmas Cards**. Please begin sending them soon to share your faith and the work of Maryknoll Missioners with family, friends and loved ones.

Reply copy:

Dear Father Cleary,

I received my exclusive **Maryknoll Christmas Cards**.

To help ***“keep Christ in Christmas”*** and support the work of Maryknoll Missioners, please accept my special gift today of:

\$10 \$15 \$ 25 \$50 \$100 \$ _____

Follow-up Letter copy:

OE Teaser Copy options:

*A special gift to you from your Maryknoll family...
Remember to "Keep Christ in Christmas"*

"O come let us adore Him!"

Dear Friend of Maryknoll,

Though thousands of miles may separate you from the Maryknoll Missioners and all those around the world who have been blessed by your generosity, **you are always in our hearts.**

Every day, you are in our prayers of gratitude for the Lord's blessings on the entire Maryknoll family. Thank you for continuing your commitment to our mission work and helping to bring food, medical supplies and the hope of God's love to families in dire need in Namibia, Peru, Kenya and other far corners of the globe.

Not long ago, I sent you the beautiful collection of exclusive **Maryknoll Christmas Cards**. I'm writing today, to encourage you once more to share them with family and friends as a way of ***"keeping Christ in Christmas"*** this year.

With my letter is an assortment of personalized labels that coordinate with your cards, a gift from your Maryknoll family to thank you for all you do in prayer and action to support our efforts.

You're under no obligation to pay for these gifts, of course. But, please use them often as a reminder of your important role in helping Maryknoll Missioners shelter children orphaned by AIDS in Namibia and share the Gospel with youth struggling to stay out of harm's way in the gang-ridden neighborhoods in Honduras.

Even as you read my letter, Father Thomas is working diligently in Honduras to educate young men and women. Nearly half of all 18 year-olds there cannot read or write and Fr. Thomas relies on generous supporters, like you, to ensure that these young people finish their schooling and learn a trade.

One house, one family at a time, Fr. Thomas and graduates of the *Caminando por la paz* or **Walking for Peace** program are rebuilding abandoned neighborhoods and reversing the poverty and gang culture.

Your prayers and support are critical to the work of Fr. Thomas and other Maryknoll Missioners. I hope you'll find it in your heart to send a special gift this Christmas to honor their diligent efforts in difficult circumstances.

"Therefore, since we have such hope, we act very boldly..." (2 Corinthians 4:12)

Just as your financial help supports our ministries overseas, your personal commitment to **"keeping Christ in Christmas"** is important to our Maryknoll family. It was little changes over time that led to the sadly commercialized Christmas society focuses on and it will take time to reverse that process. Please don't give in to discouraging thoughts that your individual actions won't make a difference. They will.

Today, you can **"keep Christ in Christmas"** by sharing your prayers and words of gratitude with one of our infirmed missioners. When you send your gift, please sign and return the enclosed greeting card and we'll deliver it to an aging or ill missioner receiving special care right away.

Be sure to include your Special Prayer Intentions on the reply form and use the envelope provided to send your Christmas offering today. I will include your needs in my prayers as always.

Thank you on behalf of all our Maryknoll Missioners for helping us bring meals to the hungry, medicine to the sick, shelter to the homeless and most importantly, hope all God's people by sharing the Gospel.

May God bless you and yours this Christmas and all throughout the year!

With gratitude,

Rev. Dennis Cleary, M.M.

Director

P.S. If our letters have crossed in the mail and you've already sent your Christmas offering, thank you! Please enjoy your **Maryknoll Christmas Cards** and personalized labels all throughout the Advent and Christmas season.

With Bounce Back Card P.S. option:

P.S. Many of our Maryknoll missionaries are in need of **extra** care due to age or illness. When you return your gift will you also sign and return the card include with my letter to help lift their spirits and thank them for their dedicated service? Thank you!

Reply copy:

Dear Father Cleary,

I want to help *“keep Christ in Christmas”* and share my blessings with the poor and needy. Please accept my gift to Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers today of:

 \$10 \$15 \$ 25 \$50 \$100 \$