

The Maryknoll Brothers

The Catholic Church in the United States and a new way of mission

Brother Kevin Dargan MM

Maryknoll my Maryknoll

**The Verses for the Maryknoll Brothers from the Maryknoll
Hymn**

WITH MICHAEL'S CONQUERING SWORD IN HAND
MARYKNOLL MY MARYKNOLL
A BROTHER LOYAL MAY I STAND
MARYKNOLL MY MARYKNOLL

PLAY MY PART MY ALL TO GIVE,
IN MARY'S HEART WITH CHRIST TO LIVE
SPEND AND BE SPENT, PRESS TOWARD THE GOAL.
OH HOUSE OF GOD MY MARYKNOLL
(Sung to the tune of Maryland my Maryland)

These verses were composed in the late 1940's .

The Venard

(**Brothers Brendan McGillicuddy, Alfred Meschio, Albert Staubli, Eugene DeMong, Thomas McCann, Xavier Lambe, Aquinas Yeater, Isidore Bafrau, Henry Carter, Paul Chamberlain, Alphonse Gross, Daniel Doherty, Luke de la Motte, Theodore Coon, David McKenna, Leo DePinto, Joseph Ziegler, Aidan Dunleavy, Vianney Flick, James Murray, Hilarion Flanagan, Martin Shea, Luke Baldwin, Neal Evans, Frederick Steinbach, DePaul McHugh, Aloysius Moliner, Leo Hengy, Victor Marshall, Matthew Kirwan, Mark Waite, Frank Norris, Shaun Theis, Christopher O'Leary, Regis McShea, Felix Fournier, Kilian White, Flavian Guglucci, Brendan Corkery, Ignatius Callaghan, Loyola Rocha, Samuel Aragon, Bonaventure Redman, Dominic Russo, Stephen Daley, Simeon Norton, DeSales Sermersheim, Xavier Greene, Anthony Mantel, Emile Potter, Thomas Weir, Nicholas Connolly, Gerard Langland, George Lannen, Edmund Stack, Vincent Parkinson, Martin Barry, Miguel Holstegge, Henry Corcoran, Daryl Ducote, Gonzaga Chilutti, David Sheehy, Robert Gibbons, William Buckley, Warren Hulshof, Dean Noble, Richard Higgins, Carl Puls, Theodore Schienweis, and Ambrose Mudd** were all assigned to The Venard)

The first occupant at Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania (the Venard) was **Brother Thomas McCann**. Shortly afterwards **Brother Thomas McCann** was joined by the then **Father James Edward Walsh** at the farm that was to become The Venard. Brother Thomas did great work on helping the fledgling school get off the ground. He was procurator and general overseer. He also was a great public relations man with the neighboring areas. He was responsible for most of the work that first summer along with some students, in preparing the school for occupancy. He also worked out of there on Mission Promotion. This school was where the young men joining Maryknoll first experienced the Society.

Brother Daniel Doherty and **Brother Luke De La Motte** were both teachers on the faculty. They taught in the Science department **Brother Daniel** doing Biology and Chemistry and **Brother Luke** doing Biology.

Brother Stephen Daley used his skills as a former coal miner and dynamited the swimming pool by the lake. He also cleared much of the land in the same way there is a story about his expertise in that he could look at a tree trunk or boulder gauge what amount of dynamite was necessary and cut the sticks to that length. He never made a mistake in his estimates of how much dynamite would be needed to remove whatever was in the way.

Brother Alert Staubli, Brother Paul Chamberlain, Brother Conrad Fleisch, Brother David McKenna were among some of the men who maintained the building. These men maintained the boiler room and also handled many of the day to day repairs that occur at any boarding school.

Brother Paul Chamberlain in addition to his daily labors continued his kite building and became quite good in crafting large kites. The skies over the school soon filled with Brother Paul's creations. This gave hours of enjoyment to Brother Paul and his ground crews who helped him launch his fanciful creations.

There was a time when Brother Paul decided to make a really large kite of stupendous proportions and to attach it to the overpass just below the Venard. He laid out the plans and then announced that when it was built he would go aloft in the kite to view the surrounding area. Needless to say those plans were quickly stopped and Brother Paul continued to build passenger - less kites. (Final story related to the author by Brother Vianney Flick December 2009)

Brother Fredrick Steinbach, Brother Xavier Lambe, Brother Theodore Scheinweis and **Brother Aloysius Moliner** were some of the Brothers who established the farm at the Venard. Due to the work of these men and other Brothers and the hours of manual labor that the seminarians gave the farm at the Venard was very successful. **Brother Albert Staubli** had devised a canning process that was run by the boiler room engines so that in a good season fruit and vegetables could be put up for winter. (Autobiography of Brother Aloysius Moliner)

Brother Hilarion Flanagan (Brooklyn, New York) was able to use both the livestock projects and the canned goods to keep both the Venard and Maryknoll, New York well fed during the war rationing period of the Second World War. He also seemed to find extra gasoline and tires when they were needed. He also refereed the basketball games and it was noted that for a man of his size, which was large, he was graceful and light on his feet. (Father James Lehr to the compiler) **Brother Christopher O'Leary (Boston, Massachusetts)** worked in the Business Office. There are many stories about Brother Chris' great memory and poor eyesight. How Brother Chris would take the money for deposit but only do the entries twice a day. No matter how many deposits, he was never known to make a mistake, and everything was entered legibly. **Brother Martin Shea (Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts)** began his years as Rector's secretary here at the Venard.

Many of the Brothers worked at Camp Venard. This was a summer camp that Maryknoll ran as a Boy's Camp. They also had the help of some of the seminarians. They had sports, swimming and hiking on a daily basis.

Outside of Maryknoll, New York this was the oldest Brother's community. In many cases the Brothers here first established bonds with future priests. It seems that nearly everyone has a story to tell of the Brothers. It was also the first of the schools that Maryknoll closed in 1966. **Brother David McKenna** and **Brother Frederick Steinbach** were the last Brothers stationed there. There is a wonderful photograph of the last supper at The Venard in the Archives with both Brother David and Brother Fred and the three priests who were the last of Maryknoll's presence there.

Seattle

(**Brothers Thomas McCann, Charles Fowley, Martin Barry, Patrick Clerkin, Adrian Riley, Stanislaus Kammer, Ambrose van Kempen, Theophane Walsh, Fabian Buntin, and Martin Barry** were all assigned to the Seattle Japanese Mission. **Brother Ronald Rinella and Brother Tim Raible** served in the Promotion House in Seattle.)

The Diocese of Seattle asked Maryknoll to come west and do work among the Japanese there in 1920. The parish was also used as a promotion house. It was a separate parish until it was combined with another in the early 1950's. **Brother Thomas McCann, Brother Charles Fowley, Brother Martin Barry, Brother Patrick Clerkin, Brother Adrian Riley, Brother Stanislaus Kammer, Brother Theophane Walsh, Brother Philip Morini and Brother Ambrose Van Kempen** were all assigned there. Most of the Brothers worked in the parish elementary school that was staffed by the Maryknoll Sisters.

Some did double duty as bus drivers for the school pickups and deliveries at start and end of the school day. In between they also work around the school either in maintenance or in the Physical Education area. There are early pictures of unidentified Brother escorting students to the bus.

It has been said that Maryknoll **Brother Adrian Riley** was instrumental in setting up the inter school athletic league. It was based on the physical training program that he had set up at the parish and the intra-school and interschool matches he set up for the various teams. Other Brothers in their spare time helped at Mission Promotion doing secretarial work for the office.

During the Second World War the Sisters, Fathers and Brothers all followed their parishoners to the relocation camps they were sent to. They were joined by Maryknollers who were repatriated from the Orient in 1942. The Japanese missionaries and the pastors of the parishes in Seattle and Los Angeles soon were working at the camps. Maryknollers served as chaplains to at camps in Idaho, Wyoming, California and Arizona.