

Bro. Steve O'Neil's job running the Marianist non-governmental organization (NGO) at the United Nations places him in a unique position of seeing the big picture — a global understanding of issues — and using that information to influence policymaking at the United Nations. From this vantage point, he works as a pipeline of information: keeping Marianists in the field informed on international issues, and informing decision-makers at the U.N. of the realities facing the poor.

His Calling

While attending college in Virginia, Bro. Steve felt called to religious life. After meeting the Marianists, he said he felt at home. For the past nine years, he's worked in New York and served at both the U.N. and the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR). "I feel like I'm doing exactly what I'm supposed to with my life," Bro. Steve said.

Bro. Steve has recently engaged with the pharmaceutical company, Pfizer, about ways to be more responsive to the large number of people who have no or inadequate health insurance. He also is working to educate investment managers on the importance and benefits of socially responsible investing. He says this is challenging in a culture focused on profits.

Bro. Steve sees his work at the NGO and with the ICCR as complementary to the grass-roots work that religious and Lay Marianists do throughout the world.

"Our work for social justice has two aspects: direct service and systemic change," he says. "If someone is hungry, you have to feed them immediately, but you have to ask the question, 'Why is this person hungry? What parts of the system are failing him or her?' This is an important ministry from that perspective.

"Many Marianists work on the local level to address those immediate needs. But in our interrelated world, many of the pieces that keep a person poor and hungry cannot be addressed on the local level."

[Read more about Bro. Steve's work and our NGO](#)