

## **Maryknoll Missioners**

**Letter to President Clinton calling for his full support of the ICC, from: Helene O'Sullivan, M.M., Maryknoll Sisters Congressional Leadership Team; Victoria Armour-Hilernan, Maryknoll Mission of the Faithful, and Raymond J. Finch, M.M., Superior General, Maryknoll Society:**

"The ICC will not prevent all future human rights violations. But it will provide a forum to prosecute the most heinous international crimes when national systems are unable or unwilling to do so. It will also serve to deter those who would commit genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, by confronting them with the threat of punishment. It would offer redress to victims where national courts cannot provide it. It would also strengthen peace and end the cycle of violence, by offering justice as an alternative to revenge. And it would contribute to the process of reconciliation by replacing the stigma of collective guilt with the catharsis of individual accountability. But unlike the ad hoc tribunals, which can raise questions of selective and political motivations, the legitimacy of a permanent ICC created by treaty by UN member nations would not be open to challenge. The Court would have the same mandate wherever the crimes under its jurisdiction are committed."