



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 17, 2006

Readings

This week:

Isaiah 50:5-9a

James 2:14-18

Mark 8:27-35

Next week:

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

James 3:16-4:3

Mark 9:30-37

Psalm

Today

I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living. (*Psalm 116*)

Today's presider is Monsignor Eugene Boyle.

The Thomas Merton Center community worships and celebrates Sunday liturgy each week at the regularly scheduled 8:45 am parish Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Waverley and Homer Streets, Palo Alto. Members of the Thomas Merton community participate in planning these liturgies in the spirit of Vatican II and its call to "full, active and conscious participation" in Catholic liturgical life.

The Thomas Merton Center is supported by your donations. If you choose to donate, there are return envelopes in the bulletin on the last Sunday of each month for your convenience (donations by check or cash are welcome). The donation basket is in the back of church after Mass or available by the coffeepot after Mass—or you can use the envelope to mail your donation. Please do not put your TMC envelope in the collection baskets passed during Mass (these are for parish contributions only).

Calendar

Monday, September 18, 7:30 pm Spiritual Education Committee, Thomas House Hall

From
Thomas
Merton

Love...is a transforming power of almost mystical intensity which endows the lovers with qualities and capacities they never dreamed they could possess. Where do these qualities come from? From the enhancement of life itself, deepened, intensified, elevated, strengthened, and spiritualized by love. Love is not only a special way of being alive, it is the perfection of life. He who loves is more alive and more real than he was when he did not love.

That is perhaps one of the reasons why love seems dangerous: the lover finds in himself too many new powers, too many new insights. Life looks completely different to him, and all his values change. What seemed worthwhile before has become trivial: what seemed impossible has become easy. When a person is undergoing that kind of inner cataclysm, anything might happen. And thank God, it does happen. The world would not be worth much if it didn't!

The power of genuine love is so deep and so strong that it cannot be deflected from its true aim even by the silliest of wrong ideas. When love is alive and mature in a person, it does not matter if he has a false idea of himself and of life: love will guide him according to its own inner truth and will correct his ideas in spite of him....

—"Love and Need" in *Love and Living*

The Thomas Merton Center for Catholic Spiritual Development, P.O. Box 60061, Palo Alto, California 94306, was founded by a group of Roman Catholic lay persons in 1995, and incorporated in 1996, to offer Catholic liturgy, to augment, support and lead the development of ecumenical spirituality, and to foster new ways for Catholics and other Christians to develop a deeper spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ and, through him, with God. From its Catholic roots, it seeks to join with members of other faiths, Christian and non-Christian, to support religious education and spiritual development.

COMMUNITY NOTES

News Announcements Requests

Dead Sea Scrolls speaker October 21:



Hershel Shanks, editor of *Biblical Archaeology Review*, will be speaking on the Dead Sea Scrolls in Palo Alto on **Saturday, October 21, 7:30 p.m., at Lucie Stern Community Center Hall, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.** Get a head start on preparing for this engaging and erudite amateur

Biblical archaeologist by reading his most popular book, *The Mystery and Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Mr. Shanks has made it his life's work to bring the complete Dead Sea Scrolls to the world through his magazines, books, and conferences.

Mark your calendars so you don't miss this rare opportunity to be in discussion with Mr. Shanks.

Catholic Worker House in Redwood City:

Larry Purcell writes: "The Catholic Worker House for troubled teens in jammed with four young adults. Their stories are heartbreaking and full of hope—just like the rest of life. Two of our young women were in foster care for 10 years and then each one was sent adrift by our bankrupt system. They were declared independent because they turned 18. Unfortunately for them, they system has only so much money. These days war is our #1 priority. Our other two teens arrived from a residential drug treatment program..."

1. Household needs: food in any amount, 60-watt light bulbs, waste paper baskets, laundry baskets, toilet paper, and computers for two college students.
2. Teachers and tutors for English Language School. A special need for tutors with math skills for junior high and high school age students. Call Sr. Mary Jane Floyd @ 366-8315. The commitment is once a week for an hour and a half.
3. Professional volunteers: doctors, lawyers, electricians, plumbers, dentists, counselors, etc. Call Larry @ 366-4415.
4. Full time live-in volunteers who want to be with teens in need. You must be a strong lover, a healthy person and preferably young. Call Larry @ 366-4415.
5. Cars: In the past month we were given four cars. They went either to working students or the working poor. There are still 3 families on the list that would love to have reliable transportation to to

Age of Aquinas "Star Party" September 30:

Bring telescope or binoculars, and a picnic dinner. Join the Peninsula Astronomical Society (<http://www.foothill.fhda.edu/ast/pas.htm>) for their September star party. Dress warmly in layers. No charge. Meet at the Park 'n Ride at I-280 and Page Mill Rd west of Palo Alto at 6:30 pm. for carpooling to Foothill Park. Tell them at the gate that you are an amateur astronomer participating in the public star party.

More information: <http://paloaltocatholic.org/aofa.html> or contact Randy Jones, 408-739-2881, age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org.

Kenan Osborne, OFM, in Palo Alto in October:

The Adult Spirituality Ministry of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Palo Alto is pleased to announce a three- evening Parish Mission, October 9 – 10 – 11, at St. Albert the Great Church. 7-9 pm. It will be presented by Fr. Kenan Osborne, OFM, an internationally known



teacher, educator and theologian. Currently he is a Professor Emeritus from the Graduate School of Theology in Berkeley. A spirited and animated teacher, students at the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley have been crowding into his popular classes since 1967. In recent years he has traveled and taught in mainland China, learning the language in order to unite the Christian ways of thinking with Asian ways of thought. Having served in every conceivable capacity from local chaplain to international lecturer, Fr. Kenan Osborne has in the truest sense been the bridge between the old, pre-Vatican II world and the contemporary global village we now inhabit.

Topics: "Becoming Christ bearers in today's culture"; "How to grow in Christian spirituality for a healthy life"; "How to develop a conscience today".

Information: Susan Adams at (650) 321-5565, Deacon Carl Bunje at (650) 327-8727.

work. Call Larry @ 366-4415.

6. A home or money to buy a home for a new Catholic Worker House.
7. One of the teens lost her gold cross necklace. If you have one, she would love it. Call Larry @ 366-4415.
8. Your ongoing love and support.

[The CW House is located at 545 Cassia St., Redwood City.]

COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

Mass offered today for John Duryea:

In memory of Rev. John Duryea, who died on July 22, and for whom today's Mass is being offered, this excerpt from John Muir's *The Mountains of California* is being included here. John's real spiritual cathedral was the Sierra Nevada; many of those who hiked with him count those experiences in the mountains as among the most profoundly moving of their lives.

Chapter I: The Sierra Nevada.

"...When I first enjoyed this superb view, one glowing April day, from the summit of the Pacheco Pass, the Central Valley, but little trampled or plowed as yet, was one furred, rich sheet of golden compositae, and the luminous wall of the mountains shone in all its glory. Then it seemed to me the Sierra should be called not the Nevada, or Snowy Range, but the Range of Light. And after ten years spent in the heart of it, rejoicing and wondering, bathing in its glorious floods of light, seeing the sunbursts of morning among the icy peaks, the noonday radiance on the trees and rocks and snow, the flush of the alpenglow, and a thousand dashing waterfalls with their marvelous abundance of irised spray, it still seems to me above all others the Range of Light, the most divinely beautiful of all the mountain-chains I have ever seen...."

[And later in that same chapter:]

"I chose a camping ground on the brink of one of the lakes where a thicket of Hemlock Spruce sheltered me from the night wind. Then, after making a tin-cupful of tea, I sat by my camp-fire reflecting on the grandeur and significance of the glacial records I had seen. As the night advanced the mighty rock walls of my mountain mansion seemed to come nearer, while the starry sky in glorious brightness stretched across like a ceiling from wall to wall, and fitted closely down into all the spiky irregularities of the summits. Then, after a long fire-side rest and a glance at my note-book, I cut a few leafy branches for a bed, and fell into the clear, death-like sleep of the tired mountaineer.

Early next morning I set out to trace the grand old glacier that had done so much for the beauty of the Yosemite region back to its farthest fountains, enjoying the charm that every explorer feels in Nature's untrodden wildernesses..."

John is now in his beloved mountains forever.

Does your vote count? Find out Sept. 19:

Come to a film and discussion presented by the League of Women Voters, Sept 19th, 7:00 pm at the Adobe Building, 157 Moffett Boulevard, Mountain View, CA. Free admission and refreshments provided.

The event will pre-screen "**Who Counts? The Quest for Fair Elections**", a film by Dorothy Fadiman, which contains stories from the Presidential election of November 2, 2004. Interviewees include inner city voters and poll workers, computer experts and nationally recognized journalists. This work in progress discusses discrepancies between exit polls and final official tallies, the silence of the media following the election and the impact of technological glitches such as vote flipping. The film stresses that election reform is not a partisan issue: it is the responsibility of all parties to work to address these issues. The film is one hour and will be followed by a discussion.

In addition, Steve Chessin of **Californians for Electoral Reform** will speak briefly about what Santa Clara County is doing to protect our vote and possible reforms to the electoral system to ensure better representation.

For information: Jane Bahr, (650) 967-8246



Please remember in your prayers this week Elaine, Msgr. Gene Boyle, Chloe Chang, Joanne Claus, Mary Connors, Ken Dias, Joanne Hasegawa, François Jamati, Joseph Kehret, Alicia Kot, Joan Kuhn, Kami Ladd, Chris Lippard & family, Carol Locke, Maureen Mooney, Stephanie Mullenix, Joe Narewski, Lynne Owens, Hayden Pastorini, George Peinado, Nora Peniata, Ramona Rocha, Anne Rush, Norm and Jane Schirle, Dolores Walsh, and T. J. Wooten.

[Add or subtract names from this list by e-mailing the three Bulletin editors: Jane Bahr, Michelle Hogan, Kay Williams. See page 3 for email addresses.]

Contact TMC:

Board: Anna Jaklitsch, 650-327-0978, annajak@accesscom.com
Kay Williams, 650-328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net

Bulletin: Kay Williams (September 17 and October 1)
Michelle Hogan (October 15 and 29)
Jane Bahr (September 24 and October 8)

Community Builders: Barbara Kent, 323-0879
Michelle Hogan, 493-8452

Finance: Ed Hannibal, 321-0203, Judy Creek, 493-5371
Hospitality: Jim Davis, 328-2584, George Locke, 854-1539
Liturgy: John Arnold, 325-1421, jsaoso@earthlink.net
Sally Benson, 408-972-5843, red5@svpal.org

Membership: Mary Washburn, 650-327-3915
Spiritual Education:

Mary Coady, 650-261-9155, coady_94025@yahoo.com
Jim Davis, (650) 704-8002, Jim_Davis@pacbell.net

Please join us for coffee, juice and pastries after Mass in the Memorial Garden next to the church. If this is your first time at this Mass, or you are visiting today, you are especially encouraged to stop by the garden; we'd like to get to know you. If you want to know more about the Merton Center, ask around at coffee, or contact one of the people listed just above this invitation.

Hymn:

"In Praise," by Steve Cannon.

The wind in the trees
whispers His serenity,
the seed of green grass
is called forth from the sod;
the mountains and oceans
echo His majesty,
the world was created
to give glory to God!
O, the fountains of His love
forever are flowing
with life from the dark earth
to meet the new sun.
The birds of the air
in their way are showing
their thanks as they gladly
burst forth in bright song!
And somewhere deep inside me,
I can feel that life too.
O Lord, let me live my life
in love and praise for you;

Refrain:

Praise you, Lord!
Praise you, Jesus,
Praise you Lord!
And Holy Spirit,
Praise you, Lord (hmmmm...)
Praise you, Lord!

Each one of us
was made in His likeness;
it was in our image
the Son of Man came;
He touched us
and loved us
and led us from darkness,
He died and He rose—
over death He does reign!
O, you want, Lord, to live
inside us forever,
to fulfill the promise that
you told us of.
How long you have waited
for us to receive you;
to make us the signs
of your infinite love!
And when I flee
from your sight;
when I don't want to pray,
O, you want to show
your light to lead me
to your way;

Go to *Refrain*...

Oh, thank you dear Father
when in my deep sorrow
you give me your comfort
and your peace impart;
and thank you, as well, Lord,
for those precious moments—
when I feel
your life stir
all the joy in my heart!
There are times
when the world
seems so full of wonder,
of goodness and light—
that only you bring.
I can't help but feel
your love growing stronger
and to you
I lift up my heart
as I sing!
Come, let me open my life.
Come now make me whole,
and let ev'ry song in my heart,
ev'ry fiber of my soul—

Go to *Refrain*...

International Day of Peace September 21:

In 2001, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution (A/RES/55/282) designating September 21st of each year as an International Day of Peace. The intention of the resolution is to have the entire world observe a day of peace and nonviolence. All peoples and organizations are invited to commemorate the day in an appropriate manner. Gather a group and say a prayer for peace.

"... Move beyond any attachment to names." Every war and every conflict between human beings has happened because of some disagreement about *names*. It's such an unnecessary foolishness, because just beyond the arguing there's a long table of companionship, set and waiting for us to sit down. What is praised is one, so the praise is one too, many jugs being poured into a huge basin. All religions, all this singing, one song. The differences are just illusion and vanity. Sunlight looks slightly different on this wall than it does on that wall and a lot different on this other one, but it is still one light. We have borrowed these clothes, these time-and-space personalities, from a light, and when we praise, we pour them back in. —Rumi

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the infinite peace to you.
—adapted from - ancient Gaelic runes

When I despair,
I remember that all through history
the ways of truth and love have always won.
There have been tyrants, and murderers,
and for a time they can seem invincible,
but in the end they always fall.
Think of it - always.
—Mahatma Gandhi - early 20th century