



Easter Sunday: Resurrection of the Lord

April 16, 2006

Readings

This week:

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-9

Next week:

Acts 4:32-35

1 John 5:1-6

John 20:19-31

Psalm

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. (*Psalm 118*)

Today

Today's presider is Fr. George Aranha.

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).

From
Thomas
Merton



Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia

Life is on our side.
The silence and the Cross of which we know
are forces that cannot be defeated.
In silence and suffering,
in the heartbreaking effort to be honest
in the midst of dishonesty (most of all our *own* dishonesty),
in all these is victory.
It is Christ in us who drives us through darkness
to a light of which we have no conception
and which can only be found
by passing through apparent despair.
Everything has to be tested.
All relationships have to be tried.
All loyalties have to pass through the fire.
Much has to be lost.
Much in us has to be killed,
even much that is best in us.
But Victory is certain.
The Resurrection is the only light,
and with that light there is no error.

—*Letter to Czeslaw Milosz, 2/28/59*

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

Thomas Merton community tenth anniversary party is April 30:

The Thomas Merton community is ten years old this year. To celebrate, there will be a dinner at the Stanford Faculty Club on Sunday, April 30, at 6:00 pm, followed by a program and dancing to the live music of Jazz Therapy. There will be a no-host bar at 5:00 pm. TMC membership is not required, and you are cordially invited to come celebrate with us. Tickets (\$35 per person) will be on sale after Mass today and next Sunday. For information, call Laverne at 321-7883. Or you can purchase tickets by mail from Judy Creek, TMC, 490 Ferne Avenue, Palo Alto 94306.

Fr. Daniel Kiriti to visit this week:

Fr. Daniel Kiriti will be here this week from Kenya to tell us about his work in St. Francis Xavier parish in Naivasha, Kenya. All are invited to Our Lady of the Rosary Hall on Friday, April 21, at 7:30 pm to welcome him back, learn about his ministry in his homeland, and hear about the children in the parish orphanage, the students in the boys' high school, the plans for a girls' high school, and his dreams for establishing a youth education program that will foster the growth of health and holiness among his parishioners. Fr. Kiriti will be in Palo Alto only until May 2; don't miss this opportunity to spend time with him and hear him talk. (We first got to know Fr. Kiriti as a Mass celebrant here while he was a student at Santa Clara University several years ago. The Thomas Merton Center has established the Kiriti Grant Fund to make it possible for us to contribute to the projects that he has initiated in his parish.)

Day of conscience for Darfur:

Where will you be on April 30th? That Sunday will be a national Day of Conscience for Darfur. A broad-based coalition of Bay Area groups—including Human Rights Watch, American Jewish World Service, and Multifaith Voices for Peace & Justice, to which our parish belongs—is organizing a vigil at the Golden Gate Bridge and a rally at the Presidio in order to raise awareness about the ongoing genocide in Darfur, Sudan and encourage our leaders to do more to help Darfur's over 2.5 million displaced victims. If you'd like to be part of the chain holding hands across the Golden Gate Bridge at 11:15 am, you need to register in advance. Public transportation, car pools, and buses are being arranged from all over the Bay Area. Go to www.ourpledge.org/april30.ht for info on the schedule and how to sign up.

If you can't walk this day, you can still let the administration know how you feel about the Darfur genocide and the need for multinational protection of the victims by signing up at www.democracyinaction.org.

Fr. Richard McBrien on Catholicism today:

On May 6 at 7:30 pm, Fr. Richard P. McBrien, theology professor at the University of Notre Dame, will be here to speak on *Catholicism in 2006 and*



Beyond: The Role of the Laity in the Present and Future Church at the Mitchell Park Community Hall, 3800 Middlefield. A prominent theologian and writer, Fr. McBrien is a long-time observer of the Catholic scene in the U.S. and worldwide. He will

examine the array of issues that affect today's Church. Fr. McBrien has authored many books including *Do We Need the Church?* and he writes a weekly column that appears in many diocesan newspapers and occasionally in *National Catholic Reporter*. A former president of the Catholic Theological Society of America, he is a priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut. Suggested donation for his talk is \$30, although no one will be turned away. For more info call (650) 261-9155 or e-mail information@thomasmerton.org.

Rice bowls collect \$2,423 for CRS:

Our Lenten Operation Rice Bowl journey has ended. Jesus Christ is risen! And we will be sending a check for \$2,422.83 to Catholic Relief Services—what we collected last Sunday from the 8:45



CRS client in Darfur

Mass community when we turned in our rice bowls! Three-quarters of this money will support CRS's worldwide programs, and 25% stays in the U.S. to assist diocesan hunger and poverty alleviation programs.

You can still donate, if you missed last Sunday. Write your check to Thomas Merton Center and note on the "for" line that it is for Operation Rice Bowl. Please deposit your check in the Thomas Merton basket in the back of church. All donations are tax-deductible.

Fr. Thomas Reese on conscience:

Fr. Thomas Reese, SJ, former editor of *America* magazine, will speak on *A Survival Guide for Thinking*



Catholics: Conscience and the Roman Catholic Life on Wednesday, April 26, at 6:00 pm at the Mayer Theatre, Santa Clara University. His talk is sponsored by The Markkula Center for Applied Ethics. The program is free, but register on-line at www.scu.edu/events or call (408)

554-5319. Fr. Reese was seen on international TV during the papal funeral and election last year. He is the author of three books on the politics and organization of the church and was editor of *America* from 1998 to 2005. He is a visiting scholar at Santa Clara University.

Why is the faith community concerned about global climate change?

It is a matter of justice. Justice for poor people who will be most severely impacted by changing weather and rising seas and who have the least capacity to adapt. Justice for future generations who will inherit an unstable climate. . . .Justice for all of creation.

—Interfaith Climate Change Network

Diocese sponsors second justice symposium:

Save Saturday, June 24, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, for the second Justice Symposium sponsored by the Diocese of San Jose. The theme this year is *Catholic Social*

Teaching: Good News in a Broken World, and keynote speaker is John Carr, Secretary of the Department of Social Development and World Peace of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). There will be workshops and exhibits, and the conference will be held at Benson Center, Santa Clara University. Watch for more information in the bulletin, or call Linda Batton at (408) 983-0158.



RC Catholic Worker House needs tutors:

Larry Purcell of the Catholic Worker House in Redwood City writes about the English Language School there, which currently has 40 students and needs teachers and tutors, especially with math skills, and help with its annual budget of \$12,500. And an after-school tutoring program has 20 children enrolled currently. Larry says “the house and all that happens in it could not exist if it were not for the 9 teachers and 24 tutors (all volunteers) who share their hearts and talents with our students.” If you can help call Sr. Mary Jane at 366-8315 or Larry at 366-4415. The house also needs other professional volunteers—doctors, dentists, counselors, painters, plumbers, and car mechanics.

Iraq through the eyes of soldiers:

Tuesday, April 18, at 7:30 pm, the Peace and Justice Center sponsors *Back from Iraq: A U.S. Soldier Speaks*. This documentary is a candid look at the war in Iraq through the eyes of the people fighting it. Four veterans tell how the war is being waged and help you understand the costs being borne by both soldiers and civilians. The film is at the Fellowship Hall, First Presbyterian Church, 1140 Cowper. Admission is \$7-15, sliding scale. A guest speaker and audience discussion will follow the screening.

Saturday, April 22, is Earth Day:

The most profound and serious indication of the moral implications underlying the ecological problem is the lack of respect for life evident in many of the patterns of environmental pollution. Often, the interests of production prevail over concern for the dignity of workers, while economic interests take priority over the good of individuals and even entire peoples.

—Pope John Paul II, January 1, 1990

The Environmental Justice Program (EJP) of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), begun in the fall of 1993, seeks to educate and motivate Catholics to a deeper reverence and respect for God’s creation.

At its core, global climate change is not about economic theory or political platforms. It is about the future of God’s creation and the one human family. It is about protecting both “the human environment” and the natural environment. The issue of global climate change raises two central religious and moral concerns: “How are we to fulfill God’s call to be stewards of creation?” and “How can we as a ‘family of nations’ exercise stewardship in a way that respects and protects the integrity of God’s creation and provides for the common good, as well as for economic and social progress based on justice?”

In their June 2001 statement, the U.S. bishops called for a less polarized public debate and more focus on the global common good. The bishops’ primary concern is that the needs of poor people and developing nations be addressed. Poorer countries cannot be made to bear an undue burden of the global adjustments needed to address climate change. USCCB supports legislation to assist the poor in mitigating the effects of global warming. The bishops ask us to contact our representatives to urge greater U.S. leadership to address climate change and to provide economic and technical support to developing countries. The bishops also strongly urge us to send a cover letter and a copy of the bishops’ statement, *Global Climate Change: A Plea for . . .the Common Good*, to our representatives. For further info, call Walt Grazer at (202) 541-3182 or e-mail www.usccb.org/sdwp/ejp/publicpolicy/index.htm.

Parenti on the culture struggle:

Michael Parenti, one of America's most astute and engaging political analysts, will present his new book, *The Culture Struggle*, on Thursday, April 27, 7:30 pm, at First Presbyterian Church, 1140 Cowper. Parenti shows us that culture is the product of a dynamic interplay between a wide range of social and political interests. He demonstrates that beliefs and practices are readily subjected to political manipulation, and that cultures are instruments of social power. Cost is \$10-20, sliding scale, and there is info at <http://peaceandjustice.org>.

David Link on peace in the Middle East:

The Notre Dame Club of San Jose/Silicon Valley presents the 2006 Hesburgh Lecture—Dean David T. Link '58, '61 JD, of the University of Notre Dame speaking on *Peace in the Middle East*. A question and answer period will follow the lecture and light refreshments will be served. The lecture will be Friday, April 28, at 7:30 pm in the Little Theater at St. Francis High School, 1885 Miramonte, Mountain View. It is free and open to the public. Call (408) 345-0105 with any questions.

Gandhi's grandson on nonviolence:

On Saturday, April 22, Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mohandas Gandhi, will be keynote speaker at a conference on nonviolence at Evergreen Valley College, San Jose. Its theme is *Carry the Vision: Building a Culture of Peace in Our Families, Our Community and Our World Community*. Arun Gandhi's mission is to foster an understanding of nonviolence as taught by his grandfather. He is the founder of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence. There will be interesting workshops and other speakers, too. General admission is \$30 at the door. See www.carrythevision.net for more info.

Film series continues:

The Friday night film series continues April 28 at 7:30 pm with *The Next Industrial Revolution* (55 min., 2001), an award-winning documentary in which architect Bill McDonough and chemist Michael Baungart bring together ecology and human design, taking nature itself as the guide for reinventing technical enterprises to be as safe and ever-renewing as natural processes. They work with Fortune 500 companies like Ford and Nike to redesign buildings, processes, and products to work according to nature's rules. Speakers (for some films), discussion, socializing, and drinks/snacks follow the screening. Films are at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 E. Charleston, Palo Alto. Suggested donation is \$5-10.

Fr. Sands on justice in the Americas:

Ascension Parish in Saratoga continues its Justice Speakers Forum on April 24 with Fr. Joseph Sands, SJ, speaking on *Justice in the Americas: The Continuing Disparity of Wealth*. Registration begins at 7:15 and the program is from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Admission is free, though a \$5 free-will donation is suggested (refreshments will be served). Call Fr. Charlie at (408) 725-3939 for more info.

Justice for immigrants:

("Justice for Immigrants" is part of the USCCB's Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform.)

On Friday, April 7, the U.S. Senate failed to invoke cloture on debate to move to consideration of S. 2454, the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006 (CIRA). Because of a disagreement between the Republican and Democratic leadership on how to proceed on amendments to the compromise proposal, senators of both parties voted against closing off debate



and proceeding to consideration of the bill.

Congress is currently on a two-week Easter recess and is scheduled to return

to Washington on April

27. It is likely that they will immediately return to consideration of immigration reform.

The "compromise" proposal agreed to by the Republican and Democratic leadership includes many of the elements advocated for by the U.S. bishops, but also includes harsh enforcement provisions. Moreover, there is legitimate concern that, even if the compromise proposal passes the Senate, it will be severely weakened or gutted in the conference committee with the House, as the Senate bill and HR 4437 are reconciled. It is important that we contact senators over the next two weeks and communicate to them that they are making progress in fashioning a comprehensive solution to the immigration crisis but that more work is required. Go to www.justiceforimmigrants.org to learn more about the compromise.

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Bulletin: Michelle Hogan (April 16); Kay Williams (April 23)
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Newsletter submissions must be e-mailed by Friday noon or phoned by Thursday, 9:00 pm. For Kay, e-mail kaywill@pacbell.net or phone 328-2781; for Michelle, myhogan@earthlink.net or 493-8452; for Jane, BahrJunior@comcast.net or 967-8246.