



2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 14, 2007

Readings

This week:

Isaiah 62:1-5
I Corinthians 12:4-11
John 2:1-12

Next week:

Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 8-10
I Corinthians 12:12-30
Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Psalm Today

Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations. *Psalm 96*

Today's presider is Fr. Michael Marini.

The Thomas Merton Center community worships and celebrates Sunday liturgy each week at the regularly scheduled 8:45 a.m. 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, January 15, 7:30 pm
Monday, January 15
Thursday, January 18
Saturday, January 20

Spiritual Education Com., Thomas House
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Chinese New Year
Islamic New Year

From Martin Luther King Jr.

A genuine revolution of values means in the final analysis that our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. Every nation must now develop an overriding loyalty to mankind as a whole in order to preserve the best in their individual societies.

This call for a worldwide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one's tribe, race, class, and nation is in reality a call for an all-embracing and unconditional love for all mankind. . . .When I speak of love I am not speaking of some sentimental and weak response. I am not speaking of that force which is just emotional bosh. I am speaking of that force which all of the great religions have seen as the supreme unifying principle of life. Love is somehow the key that unlocks the door which leads to ultimate reality. This Hindu-Muslim-Christian-Jewish-Buddhist belief about ultimate reality is beautifully summed up in the first epistle of Saint John: "Let us love one another, for love is God. And every one that loves is born of God and knows God. He that loves not knows not God, for God is love." "If we love one another, God dwells in us and his love is perfected in us." Let us hope that this spirit will become the order of the day.

4 April, 1967, Riverside Church, New York City, address to *Clergy and Laity Concerned*
—*Beyond Vietnam – A Time to Break Silence*

Community Notes

News Announcements Requests

Celebrating milestones:



Is this a milestone year for you? If in 2007 you will be celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary or birthday (15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 80 etc.) and would like to be included in a special blessing offered during this Mass on February 4, please let John Arnold or Sally Benson know. John (jsaoso@earthlink.net, 650-325-1421) Sally (red5@svpal.org, 408-972-5843)

Become a lector or Eucharistic minister:

You are invited to consider becoming a lector or Eucharistic minister for this 8:45 Sunday Mass. Training for both ministries will be happening in February: February 15 for lectors, TBD for Eucharistic ministers. The training is a pre-requisite for new lectors and Eucharistic ministers. Once trained, ministers are added to the schedule; usually a minister is scheduled no more than once a month. Please contact either Sally or John (see above) to express your interest.

CEO of Catholic Charities to speak locally:

The Gift of Time and Talent: Gospel Values in Action Tuesday, January 16 2007, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
2625 Zanker Road, San Jose.

An evening program with Rev. Larry Snyder, President of Catholic Charities USA in conversation with Greg Kepferle, CEO of Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County. The topic of conversation will center on ways that we can end poverty by our direct action and our influence on social policy. Rooted in gospel values, we work to create a more just and compassionate community in which people of all cultures and beliefs can participate.

Presented by Santa Clara County Council of Churches
Contact Elizabeth Lilly (408) 325-5262.

Support for hotel workers:

Come stand for "**Justice for Hotel Workers**" on Wednesday, January 17, 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM at the Cesar Chavez Plaza, 240 So. Market, San Jose, CA. Sponsored by The Interfaith Council. At 4:30 people are encouraged to gather in Cesar Chavez Plaza (in front of the Fairmont Hotel) for a short rally with speakers. Clergy will process in vestments. Then we will move indoors across the street at 240 So. Market to hear testimony by workers as to conditions, with a panel response from religious and community leaders. For more information call (408) 269-7872 x 577.

Interfaith roundtable on works of Dr. King:

Thursday, January 25, 7:30-9:00 pm, Stanford
Spirituality and Social Change:

An Interfaith Roundtable

To celebrate the publication of *Advocate of the Social Gospel*, volume VI of *The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr.* and to probe the meaning of Dr. King's preaching, we present an interfaith roundtable discussion that focuses on the relation of spiritual practice and social change. The roundtable is moderated by **Rabbi Patricia Karlin-Neumann** of Stanford's Office for Religious Life. It includes representatives from a range of faith traditions. Kresge Auditorium, Stanford University. Open to the public. No

Carry the vision:

Carry the Vision worship gathering today, Sunday, Jan. 14, 3 pm at the First United Methodist Church, Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto, will include special speaker LaDoris H. Cordell; a community choir led by the Rev. Dr. Isaiah Jones of Covenant Presbyterian Church; youth speakers from Costano School in East Palo Alto; and the Master of Ceremonies former columnist for the San Jose Mercury News, Loretta Green. Youth and adult singers are welcome to join the choir by attending the rehearsal from 1:45-3:00 today, Sunday, January 14 at First Church. (Please wear choir robes or white shirt/blouse and black pants/skirt.)

Don't forget to bring food:



During these cold months we are encouraged to bring more non-perishable food and drop it in the baskets in the vestibule of the church. Staple items are especially welcomed: cereals, canned soups, fruits and vegetables, pasta, rice, beans, canned meat and the like. Let's not forget our hungry neighbors!

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, Carol Locke, Maureen Mooney, Stephanie Mullinex, Joe Narewski, Dorothea Nudelman, Hank Okanski, Lynne Owens, Hayden Pastorini, George Peinado, Nora Peinata, Ramona Rocha, Anne Rush, Norm & Jane Shirle, Dolores Walsh, and T. J. Wooten.

Community Forum

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

Martin Luther King, Jr., minister of peace and justice:



Tomorrow, many will celebrate and reflect on the life of Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man of faith, devoted to peace and justice. His day of honor coincides with a time when the nation is uneasy with a federal government that is not in pursuit of these devotions.

Dr. King is known for his eloquence and evangelistic delivery. His words of challenge toward peace and justice have been replaced by a vocabulary that is quite antithetical. Appearing in this vocabulary are such expressions as preemptive strike, coalition of the willing, extraordinary rendition, regime change, rules of engagement, theatres of war, decapitation, lethality, military assets, to name a few.

These are clever words and phrases, synonyms of aggression and policies of mass destruction. This new vocabulary of aggression is carefully developed by wordsmiths to be seductive and deceptive, romanticizing maiming, death and destruction.

These tragedies and travesties are not in keeping with peace and justice, which are embodied in the man to be honored tomorrow.

— *Henry Organ, TMC Board member*

From Dorothea Nudelman:

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for all your prayers and support. I write to tell you that I am very much better than I was when I last saw you on the evening of December 11 when so many of you “laid on hands” for the healing prayers that sent me off for my lung surgery. Since then, I’ve been very well taken care of by everyone I know and love. There is nothing quite like feeling helpless and blessed simultaneously. It is humbling and uplifting and I am grateful for making it through and noticing the return of my strength. The surgery was very timely and successful. The tumor was removed, probably just in time. The surgeon took my entire lower left lung lobe, but found a few random cancer cells in that lung sac and so the best thing I can do now is go for the “cure,” that is have a round of chemo and radiation to halt the return of the cancer, we hope. I plan to do the follow-up treatment at UC Davis cancer center which has a cutting edge team working on lung cancer. I am anticipating a full recovery by summer.

Your prayers, cards, visits (the few I allowed!) were all wonderful. I continue to recover but am still feel-

Architecture goes green at Presentation Center, Los Gatos:

Straw bale walls, photovoltaic roofs and charging stations for electric cars -- **the retreat center of the Sisters of the Presentation in Los Gatos, Calif.**, has become a national example of innovative ecological architecture. After years of declining revenues and facing high costs of retrofitting the center’s buildings that had been damaged by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, the sisters called upon Sr. Patricia Marie Mulpeters to visit the Presentation Center to determine whether to shut it down. Rather than recommend its closure, Sr. Mulpeters assumed the office of executive director. During her seven-year tenure, she transformed the Presentation Center’s 67 rolling, forested acres into one of the most cutting-edge, environmentally friendly complexes in the country.

The center earned the coveted gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, gaining more than 50 points for measures from recycled plastic countertops to a “living” roof garden. Raising \$6 million, mostly through foundations and private donors, the sisters indeed got what they prayed for. They opened their new building in 2005, featuring a modern and elegant 10,000-square foot welcoming center and dining facility and a bookstore selling organic chocolate, fair-trade coffee beans and books on topics ranging from spirituality to environmental justice. The sisters also unveiled an organic garden and two all-electric sports utility vehicles donated by Toyota, complete with charging stations.

Their efforts paid off. They did well by doing good. The gold LEED certification attracted a \$250,000 bonus donation from the Kresge Foundation. Presentation Center is now booked solid most weekends. Every Catholic high school in nearby San Jose uses it for retreats, as do couples, interfaith organizations, local police officers and rug weavers, among others. “When we started, I never dreamed of something like this,” Sr. Mulpeters told me. She looked above us, smiling toward the architecturally integrated solar panels and temperature-adaptive automatic windows. She told me about the rooftop garden, meant to “reclaim the land below covered by the building’s

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ing enormous fatigue. After my full recovery, I anticipate a visit to the Merton’s to bless you all. I feel as if I never really left any of you and I will continue to hold you all in my heart. Life is good. Let us celebrate each breath together!

Love and Peace,
Dorothea

Architecture goes green at Presentation Cen-

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footprint.” She spoke of eco-theology, saying that the earth is a sign of God’s love, then quickly pointed to the courtyard beneath us. “It’s decompressed granite” -- she tapped her foot to draw my attention -- “less toxic than traditional asphalt, which is petroleum-based.”

Some of the real innovation of the complex lies in what can’t be seen. Insulating materials are composed of recycled blue jeans, newspapers and cardboard. A high-efficiency water boiling unit pumps radiant heat through the floor during the winter, and air flows in from underground in the summer to keep the building naturally cooled. Built-in solar tubes heat water for dish washing. Thick bales of hay lie behind the southwestern-style plaster walls. These straw bales are compressed so tightly, a staff member told me, that there is little oxygen left to fuel a fire, creating a natural flame retardant.

Presentation Center is part of a growing eco-friendly trend among religious communities -- particularly women’s communities -- to pioneer sustainable development. Although the Presentation Sisters’ dream project has been completed, Sr. Mulpeters sees her job as just beginning. “This place has a mission in addition to being a building that we needed.” Her plan is to spend a year developing a curriculum and presentations on environmental justice. Think of Al Gore, but shorter, Catholic and with a twinkle in her eye when she speaks about the need to curb what she calls the “destruction of the earth.” She plans to network with other religious groups seeking to adopt similar earth-friendly endeavors.

Such groups are already forming, making Presentation Center a new national model. Franciscan Fr. Barry Brunzman of the St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista, Calif. took his 15-member staff to visit Presentation Center in search of ideas after their main building, a Civil War-era ranch house, burned to the ground last June. “We learned what it all looks like, how attractive it can be.!”

Fr. Brunzman expects his costs to be even lower than Presentation Center’s were. Green architecture is quickly becoming more streamlined and less expensive. “We found that there are a lot of green architects coming onto the scene,” said Fr. Brunzman. Guests are leaving with new ideas about conservation. I overheard one local high school teacher comment on the countertops made of compressed sunflower seeds -- “one of those new environmental resource things,” he said, adding that he and his wife are considering using it for their remodel.

Berkeley-based architect Dan Smith, who designed the Presentation Center’s new facility says, “What impressed me most about this project was Sr. Pat

Marie [Mulpeters], her spiritual leadership in action.” Indeed, according to Mr. Smith, the lead contractor “would have quit long ago had it not been for her.” The contractors had never attempted “green” construction on such a large scale in a rural area. Neither had Mr. Smith. “This pushed me,” he said, “allowing me to see the bigger picture, its educational value.”

Guests at the center get a firsthand education in sustainable living. They learn about protecting the Earth by eating an organic tomato from the local garden or using a low-water toilet in a bathroom whose tiles are made from recycled glass bottles.

The Vatican has branded environmental degradation “a bigger global threat than terrorism,” and the Vatican’s envoy to the United Nations recently called for increasing use of sustainable energy resources. While Sr. Mulpeters is excited about what’s been said so far, she admits that words are not enough. “I think the Catholic church needs to do more,” she said. “There have been good documents out of Rome on the environment, but they haven’t had a lot of play. Environmental justice is the foundation of social justice.”

The Presentation Sisters are early adopters of green architecture. They see in environmental justice what Catholics have been seeing in social justice for the last 20 years. But the story of the sisters is as much about how concerned Catholics can think about the environment as how ordinary people, like Sr. Mulpeters, can accomplish extraordinary things through faith. “The foundation of all that I’m doing and thinking about with the environment comes out of my belief in God. If I define the term ‘activist’ as someone who sees a need and responds to it and encourages others to respond to it, then I’d say I’m an activist,” she tells me, then turns and opens the door to the zero-emission SUV, on her way to the next big project.

—Mark F. Massoud, National Catholic Reporter, 12/29/06

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Kay Williams (January 21)

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Newsletter submissions must be e-mailed by Friday noon or phoned by Thursday, 9:00 pm. For Michelle, myhogan@earthlink.net or (650) 493-8452. For Kay, kaywill@pacbell.net or (650) 328-2781. For Jane, bahrjunior@comcast.net or (650) 967-8246.