



# Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 29, 2007

## Readings

*This week:*

Acts 13:14, 43-52

Revelation 7:9, 14b-17

John 10:27-30

*Next week:*

Acts 14:21b-27

Revelations 21:1-5a

John 13:1, 31-33a, 34-35

## Psalm

We are his people, the sheep of his flock. *Psalm 100*

## 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 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

No meetings this week. Relax and enjoy!

## From Thomas Merton

Real spring weather—these are the precise days when everything changes. All the trees are fast beginning to be in leaf, and the first green freshness of a new summer is all over the hills. Irreplaceable purity of these days chosen by God as His sign!

[I experience a] mixture of heavenliness and anguish. Seeing "heavenliness" suddenly, for instance, in the pure white of mature dogwood blossoms against the dark evergreens in the cloudy garden. "Heavenliness" too of the song of the unknown bird that is perhaps here only for these days, passing through, a lovely, deep, simple song. [I am] seized by this "heavenliness" as if I were a child—a child's mind I have never done anything to deserve to have and which is my own part in the heavenly spring. [I have the] sense that the "heavenliness" is the real nature of things. . .they are a gift of love and of freedom.

*A Year With Thomas Merton—Journal Entry for April 23, 1964*

# Community Notes

*News Announcements Requests*

## ***TMC Annual Meeting May 6:***



The annual meeting is required by our charter as a non-profit corporation. We take the opportunity to elect new Board members, review our work and accomplishments during the past year, and discuss topics of concern.

All members of the Thomas Merton Center are urged to attend the 2007 Annual Meeting of the membership, Sunday, May 6, **11:00 am—1:00 pm**, at the home of Larry and Vicki Sullivan, 1345 Webster Street in Palo Alto. Come let your voice be heard!!

## ***Please wear your nametag:***

Many thanks to Kathy Schniedwind for producing our fresh new nametags! Did you pick yours up last Sunday? Name badges are important. They help us feel and act like a community of friends in Christ. Knowing one another by name is an immense help in creating a living, breathing community. In addition Eucharistic ministers want to be able to offer you the bread and wine and call you by name. And don't forget to hang your nametag back up as you leave church today, so you can find it there again next week.

## ***Become a member of the Merton Center:***

It is not too late to join the Thomas Merton Center community. All are welcome! Join now and come to the Annual Meeting next Sunday with your ideas and priorities.

Thanks to the many who have become members in 2007! See the item just below for a description of all the things we do as a community.

Contact the Membership Chair, Mary Washburn, at (650) 327-3915

## ***Envelope Sunday at TMC:***



Today is the last Sunday of the month, so this bulletin includes an envelope for your donation to the Thomas Merton Center. Because of your generous support, TMC makes a monthly donation to Seton

School, supports Fr. Kiriti's school in Naivasha, Kenya, puts on programs and lectures, publishes this weekly bulletin and other printed items, buys liturgical supplies, and provides hospitality (coffee, donuts, cookies, fruit, etc.) after Sunday Mass and at other meetings. We depend on your support to keep TMC going!

## ***Mass for world peace Thursday, May 3:***

The 6 Catholic Parishes of Mountain View, Los Altos, and Palo Alto invite you to a special "Mass for World Peace" on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm at St. Joseph Church. The church is located at 582 Hope St. in Mountain View (At the corner of Hope and Church Streets, 1 block off Castro). During the Mass, a special reflection will be given by Deacon Steve Herrera: Social Justice Immersion Coordinator for the Diocese of San Jose and teacher at Archbishop Mitty High School. People of all faiths and traditions are also welcomed to attend. A free will offering will be taken up during the Mass for Catholic Relief Services. A reception will follow in Doyle Hall. For more information, call Mike Cavera (650) 967-7939.



## ***Elizabeth Zitrin to speak on death penalty:***

**Elizabeth Zitrin**, a noted speaker on capital punishment will talk about the death penalty at All Saints Episcopal Church, Waverley and Hamilton in Palo Alto on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM She will address recent developments and the status of the death penalty in California and elsewhere in the country. She will discuss important arguments in support of abolition, and effective abolition advocacy. Her talk will be preceded by a showing of the documentary "Interview With an Executioner".

**Elizabeth Zitrin** is California Death Penalty Abolition Coordinator for Amnesty International. She is a lawyer and serves on the Boards of Directors of Death Penalty Focus and the ACLU of Northern California.

Light refreshments will be served.

For more information please contact Terry McCaffrey at 408-257-4611 or email: terrymc@igc.org

## ***Day Worker Center ready to help you:***

It's time to begin you've been planning Assistance is available at the worker center.



Workers can help you with projects both inside and outside. A day worker can lighten the load and help you get it finished faster. Workers are available for painting, garage, cleaning, window and gutter cleaning, landscaping, moving, janitorial assistance, housecleaning, and other skillful jobs **Contact Maria at (650) 903-4102, The Day Worker Center, 1880 California St. at Escuela, MV**

those projects during all winter. able at the Workers can help you with projects both inside and outside.

# Community Forum

*Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns*

## **Coming to St. Mary's Cathedral June 2:**

*Reprinted from Catholic San Francisco, March 30, 2007.*

SAN FRANCISCO - A gathering focused on challenging the Church to reinvigorate both its ancient tradition and its Second Vatican Council call to authentic lay leadership has been scheduled for June 2 at St. Marys Cathedral in San Francisco.

Titled Coming of Age: The First Annual Northern California Lay Convocation, the day long meeting will encourage Catholics of all spectrums to participate in increasing the voice and the presence of the laity in Church decision making, states a Web site established for the event:

[www.NorCalLayConvocation.org](http://www.NorCalLayConvocation.org) .

Although the convocation does not carry sponsorship by any official Church entities, Archbishop George H. Niederauer said he plans to attend. It is good for me to have an opportunity to be able to hear what Catholic laity have to say, he told Catholic San Francisco.

We want to offer a venue where Catholics of a progressive or traditional bent, both clerical and lay, can have the opportunity to talk with one another, share their vision of Church in a reconciliatory, non confrontational way, said Rob Grant, a member at large of the steering committee organizing the event.

The group includes Catholics from the Archdiocese as well as the dioceses of Oakland, Santa Rosa, San Jose, Monterey and Sacramento.

Two morning addresses are scheduled. Burlingame Sister of Mercy Eloise Rosenblatt, who holds doctorate and law degrees, will present a talk titled Lay Leadership in the Third Millennium: Reviving An Ancient Tradition.

Father Brian Joyce, pastor of Christ the King Parish, Pleasant Hill, and a prolific author, will follow with a lecture titled Vatican II: Shared Baptism/Shared Leadership.

Afternoon break out sessions will center on lay concerns and practical suggestions for improving dialogue and lay participation, according to the Web site which also includes a mission statement and registration information.

Cost is a suggested \$15, but no one will be turned away. TMC member Michelle Hogan is working with the Lay Convocation committee. Ask her for more details: (650) 493-8452, myhogan@earthlink.net.

**It is good for me to have an opportunity to be able to hear what Catholic laity have to say.**

## **A success for social justice advocates:**

*An e-mail message from Rev. Carol Been, Deputy Director, Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, California, dated April 23, 2007.*

**V**ictory! You were the key!

Double Tree workers win their first contract! After seven months, negotiations with the Double Tree hotel had broken down. A couple of weeks ago, people of faith gathered outside the Double Tree to pray, sing and this time to symbolically tear down a "Jericho Wall of Profits." Over a hundred workers and religious leaders entered the hotel asking that the General Manager build a new foundation for contract negotiations based on just wages and benefits and to settle the contract as quickly as possible.

**The next day, every single request for economic justice was agreed to by the General Manager.**

Your prayers, delegations, letters and pledges of support, and your willingness to be present made the difference. Through sacred ritual we inspired workers and reminded management that there's a moral standard when it comes to treating their workers.

We waited to share this news until the Hilton Corporation agreed to successorship (which guarantees that if the hotel is sold, the workers jobs are retained and their union contract goes along with the sale.) The news of this contract brought lots of tears of joy from the workers. Some of the biggest wins were:

- 1) Reduced workloads for hotel housekeepers**
- 2) Affordable health care: families used to pay \$300 a month now they will pay \$70**
- 3) Banquet servers will get 13% tips (they used to get nothing.)**

On Tuesday, the workers will be voting (all day) to accept the contract. You can stop by to experience the win. We are also planning a **victory party, date TBD**. You can take pride in the fact that you have given families security and hope and a chance for a better future. Thank you so much!

In my enthusiasm to celebrate the hard won victory of workers who often have so little power over their economic lives, I forgot to celebrate the broader implications of this win. This victory is not just for the workers or for congregations who stood by them, the victory is for the Double Tree, the General Manager, the Hilton corporation, other hotels and their workers in the area and around the country, and the community at large. During this process the religious community built a relationship with Michael Dunn, the

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Success for social justice advocates:**

*(Continued from page 3)*

General Manager. He was a decent man who cared about his workers, but we discovered that he too is stuck in a system that measures success by profit margins and nothing else.

Through our customer power and our moral witness we helped him make a case to those above him that investment in these workers is an investment in his business and in the community. Together we reminded Hilton Corporation of the broader standard that makes for a successful business, the humane treatment of people who work for them. We cannot measure the depth of impact this will have but we know lives already have been change, people have more hope and perhaps next time we will be more empowered to stand up for justice and the common good (management and workers alike).

This was a win for us all.

Si se puede!

Rev. Carol Been, Deputy Director, Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, California

**Social justice craft and info fair today, 4/29:**

A Social Justice Craft and Information Fair will be held today, April 29, 12:30-4 pm, at the First Presbyterian Church, 1140 Cowper St., in Palo Alto. See informational exhibits, listen to great world music, and buy crafts and gift items from local organizations working on social justice and green causes. This event provides increased awareness about how we can faithfully use our consumer dollars to promote Fair Trade, environmentally responsible and socially responsible products and service. Go taste and see!



**New website for Kenya girls high school:**

In these pages we have frequently brought you news from Fr. Kiriti's parish in Naivasha, Kenya. Now you can make your own virtual visit to the new girls high school in the parish.



Please go to the website <http://web.mac.com/kenyagirlshighschool> and see what is happening in St. Francis Xavier parish, Kenya.

Margo McAuliffe writes that the website is the work of Rachel Goldeen, a "Website Angel," and all concerned are most grateful for her patience and long hours. Hers was a gift of time and love. Thank you, Angel.

**Global water crisis-fast facts:**

- 1.1 billion people have no clean water; that means 1/6 of the world's population lacks access to safe water.
- In 2006, 700 million people lived in "water stressed" countries (countries that have problems with drought, with access to sufficient water supplies, etc.); by 2025, 3 billion people will live in water stressed countries.
- 2.6 billion people do not have access to adequate sanitation; that is 1/3 of the world population.
- Water-borne disease kills 1.8 million children in developing countries each year, or 1 child every 3 minutes.
- Disease caused by bacteria and viruses in polluted water kills more people than HIV/AIDS or malaria.
- The poor are paying more for water as supplying it becomes a business; slum dwellers in Manila pay

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Please remember in your prayers this week Elaine, Msgr. Gene Boyle, Chloe Chang, Joanne Claus, Mary Connors, Ken Dias, Tom Jaworowski, Joanne Hasegawa, François Jamati, Joseph Kehret, Alicia Kot, Joan Kuhn, Kami Ladd, Andre Lippard, Ric Lippard, Carol Locke, Mercedes McCaffrey, Eileen McNevin, Maureen Mooney, Stephanie Mullinex, Joe Narewski, Dorothea Nudelman, Hank Okanski, Lynne Owens, Hayden Pastorini, George Peinado, Nora Peinata, Ramona Rocha, Anne Rush, George Schardt, Jean Vistica, Dolores Walsh, and T. J. Wooten.

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

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. The coffee and doughnuts are free; just come and enjoy. If you want to know more about the Merton Center, ask around at coffee, or contact one of the people listed in the masthead above.