



# 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 3, 2006

## Readings

*This week:*

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8  
James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27  
Mark 7:1-8,14-15, 21-23

*Next week:*

Isaiah 35:4-7a  
James 2:1-5  
Mark 7:31-37

## Psalm

The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord. *Psalm 15*

## Today

Today's presider is Msgr. Gene Boyle.

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, September 3  
No meetings this week.

Labor Day, national holiday

## From Thomas Merton

We are called to an . . .exalted task: that of creating our own lives. In doing this, we act as co-workers with God. We take our place in the great work of mankind, since in effect the creation of our own destiny, in God, is impossible in pure isolation. . . .We share with one another the creative work of living in the world. And it is through our struggle with material reality, with nature, that we help one another create at the same time our own destiny and a new world for our descendants.

. . . .One of the most formal obligations of the Christian is to struggle against evil, whether it be moral or physical. . . .Hence, it is an utterly false Christianity which preaches the supine acceptance of social injustice, ignorance, impossible working conditions, and war as though it were virtue to "take" all this and "offer it up" without even attempting to change anything.

. . . .[Teilhard de Chardin points out that man's] work is a communion with God his Creator, in which he not only unites himself to God but also "saves" and transforms the material world "in Christ."

—"Creativity" 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*.

Mary Coody, co-chairperson of the TMC Spiritual Education Committee, calls this book “a real page-turner.” 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. And mark your calendars so you don’t miss this rare opportunity to be in discussion with Mr. Shanks. Contrary to prior notice, the book is not available from Kepler’s but can be obtained through Amazon. Some copies of the book will be available for sale after Mass next Sunday.

## TMC annual meeting September 14:



The Thomas Merton Center (TMC) will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, September 14, 7:30 p.m., in the basement hall of the Thomas House, 745 Waverley St., Palo Alto.

The Annual Report and Member Directory will be distributed, and new board members will be elected. For more information, contact TMC Board Co-president Anna Jaklitsch or Kay Williams (see pg.3).

Please remember in your prayers this week Elaine, Msgr. Gene Boyle, Maureen Carleton, Chloe Chang, Joanne



Claus, Mary Connors, Ken Dias, Joanne Hasegawa, Frank Hayes, François Jamati, Joseph Kehret, Alicia Kot, Joan Kuhn, Kami Ladd, Chris Lippart and family, Carol Locke, Maureen Mooney, Stephanie Mullinex, Joe Narewski, Lynne Owens, Hayden Pastorini, George Peinado, Nora Peinata, Ramona Rocha, Anne Rush, Dolores Walsh, and Virginia Worthington.

[Add or subtract names from this list by e-mailing the three Bulletin editors: Jane Bahr, Michelle Hogan, Kay Williams]

## Memorial service for Fr. John Duryea today:

In celebration of the life of Fr. John Duryea who died in Oaxaca, Mexico, on July 22, 2006, a memorial service will be held today, September 3, 4:00 p.m., in the garden of the home of Kathryn and Kirk Hanson, 186 University Ave., Los Altos (between Main and Edith Streets). Please bring a sit-upon or stool for your personal comfort, as seating may be limited. Finger food to share will be welcome. Favorite photos also.

## Responding to Bigotry, September 9:

The Martin Luther King Jr. Association Network for a Hate Free Community and Silicon Valley Conference for Community and Justice are proud to sponsor a [free](#) day long workshop on:

*Responding to everyday Bigotry; Speak Up!  
Learn How to Interrupt Prejudice*

September 9, 2006, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Office of Human Relations, 1880 Pruneridge Avenue  
Santa Clara, CA 95050. Registration is limited. To register, contact NFHFC (408) 792-2316 by 9/7/06. Lunch and materials provided.

## Justice speakers forum resumes:

Fr. Charlie Dougherty announces the start of the Second Season of The Justice Speakers Forum at Ascension Parish. The Forum will again be held on the last Monday of the month, beginning at 7:15 pm and continuing until 9:00 pm. The first presentation of the 2006-2007 Series will be held on Monday evening, September 25, and the speaker will be Rev. Carol Been, Lutheran Pastor and Director of the Santa Clara Valley Interfaith Council.

Rev. Been will speak about the Crisis of Justice in our society which has created such economic divides between the rich and the poor and how this crisis impacts our Church and our Faith Communities.

## Jim Wallis in Berkeley, September 11:

Christian leader Jim Wallis, author of *God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It*, will speak about faith and politics at the First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, on Monday, September 11 at 6:00 pm. Wallis brings a progressive message that links personal values with public issues. Doors will open at 5:15 p.m. Contact David Myers at 510/649-2420 or [dmyers@gtu.edu](mailto:dmyers@gtu.edu).

# Community Forum

*Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns*

## **USCCB on health care for all:**

In May of 2006 the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops co-sponsored, along with their ecumenical and interfaith partners, *Cover the Uninsured Week*, to educate the public and policymakers about the need for affordable and accessible health care for all.

### **Who Needs Care?**

- Today, nearly 46 million Americans are living without health care coverage, including more than 8 million children; America's uninsured need care.
- Most of the uninsured—eight out of 10—are in working families; America's uninsured workers and their families need care.
- The financial security, health, jobs, families and lives of the uninsured are in constant jeopardy. These children, women and men live sicker and die younger simply because they do not have health insurance; those at risk, sick and dying need care.
- Individuals and families without health care coverage are forced to gamble every day that they won't get sick or injured. One serious illness or injury could wipe out an uninsured family's bank account; those with financial problems need care.

**...nearly 46 million Americans are living without health care coverage**

This past week, on August 30, the California Legislature passed and sent to the Governor's desk Senate Bill 840, titled "The California Health Insurance Reliability Act", authored by Senator Sheila Kuehl.

*(Continued on page 4)*

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## **Labor in the Pulpit, 2006:**

Last year the *Labor in the Pulpit* program, sponsored by the South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council and the Interfaith Council went into 120 religious services, reaching over 60,000 people. Rev. Carol Been, Lutheran Pastor and Director of the Santa Clara Valley Interfaith Council (*see pg. 2, "Justice speakers forum resumes"*) is one of the organizers of this program.

This year's focus is on workers in the hotel industry. Socorro McCord, local peace and justice advocate, writes of their situation:

A while ago I attended the evening round table sponsored by The Interfaith Council on Religion, Race, Economic and Social Justice (TIC). The topic for the round table was the plight of hotel workers in SAN JOSE. Several housekeeping employees attended and described their working conditions. The hotel workers asked for the support of the community in trying to get Hotel management to treat them with respect, pay a living wage, and provide affordable medical coverage. A TIC member (of African American descent) compared the courage reflected by the hotel workers in providing testimony with the action taken by Rosa Parks when she refused to give up her seat on the bus.

The issues which most touched me, heart, mind and soul are:

• Housekeepers assigned to clean 15 rooms for which they are paid \$7.25 per hour = \$58.00 per day.

• If assigned more rooms they are paid only \$5.00 per hour.

Thicker mattresses, heavier bedding and more pillows make the job more labor intensive and time consuming so the housekeepers are under

**If assigned more rooms they are paid only \$5.00 per hour.**

constant scrutiny and stress.

• If a room is rented for \$300.00 a night; the 15 rooms cleaned by one housekeeper generate \$4,500.00 of income.

• \$4,500.00 of income less \$58.00 for the housekeeper's wages = \$4,442.00.

In this connection, Socorro McCord refers us to some of the US Catholic Bishops Conference positions with regard to the poor. *See page 4.*

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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.

## ***USCCB on health care for all, continued:***

*(Continued from page 3)*

The bill creates a single-payer health-care system to provide health insurance coverage to all California residents. It would establish one plan and one public trust fund to pay all health care bills by gathering all the monies now being spent on health care by the state and on insurance plans in the form of premiums, deductibles and co-payments now paid by employers, employees and individuals. It is anticipated that big savings would come in the form of greatly reduced paper-work! People would be free to choose their own doctors. The governor has until October 1 to sign the bill.

You can send him a message about this bill by going to <http://www.govmail.ca.gov>, or by phone at (916) 445-2841

### **Why Do the Interfaith Communities Proclaim the Call to Care for Americans Living Without Health Insurance?**

Because faith communities have a long tradition of caring for people who suffer in mind, body and spirit, today we proclaim the call to care for our nation's nearly 46 million uninsured people.

Because faith communities have prayed for the sick, visited the hospitalized, comforted the dying and their loved ones, and founded hospitals, today we proclaim the call to care for our nation's nearly 46 million uninsured people.

Because faith communities have led the way in seeking just and compassionate public policies, today we proclaim the call to care for our nation's nearly 46 million uninsured people.

Because Jewish teaching holds that "if you save one life it is as if you have saved the world;" because Muslim teaching instructs us to "help one another in righteousness and piety;" because in Christian teaching we read, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me," today we proclaim the call to care for our nation's nearly 46 million uninsured people.

Because all of our faith traditions, despite encompassing a wide spectrum of beliefs, hold central a conviction that life is a gift from God to be cherished and that God's people are called to care for one another, provide healing and prevent suffering with compassion and a commitment to justice, today we proclaim the call to care for our nation's nearly 46 million uninsured people.

**"Truly I tell you, just as you did it for one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it for me."**

## ***The preferential option for the poor:***

The following excerpts from documents of the Catholic Church reflect some of the *U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops'* position with regard to the poor:

There are certainly situations whose injustice cries to heaven. When whole populations destitute of necessities live in a state of dependence barring them from all initiative and responsibility, and all opportunity to advance culturally and share in social and political life, recourse to violence, as a means to right these wrongs to human dignity, is a grave temptation. *On the Development of Peoples, #30.* ...

Let each one examine his conscience, a conscience that conveys a new message for our times. Is he prepared to support out of his own

**Is he prepared to pay higher taxes so that the public authorities can intensify their efforts in favor of development?**

pocket works and understanding organized in favor of the most destitute? Is he ready to pay higher taxes so that the public authorities can intensify their efforts in favor of development? Is he ready to pay a higher price for imported goods so that the producer may be more justly rewarded? *On the*

*Development of Peoples, #48.*

A Church that teaches an option for the poor must reflect that option in our service to those in need. Parish efforts to meet human needs also provide valuable experience, expertise, and credibility in advocating for public policy to address the forces that leave people in need to our charity. *Communities of Salt and Light, 8.*

"The needs of the poor take priority over the desires of the rich; the rights of workers over the maximization of profits; the preservation of the environment over uncontrolled industrial expansion; the production to meet social needs over production for military purposes." (*Address on Christian Unity in a Technological Age [Toronto, Sept. 14, 1984] in Origins 14:16 [Oct. 4, 1984]. Economic Justice for All, #94.*)

The obligation to provide justice for all means that the poor have the single most urgent economic claim on the conscience of the nation. *Economic Justice for All, #86.*"