



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 24, 2006

Readings

This week:

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

James 3:16-4:3

Mark 9:30-37

Next week:

Numbers 11-16a, 17c, 25-29

James 5:1-6

Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Psalm

The Lord upholds my life. *Psalm 54*

Today

Today's presider is Fr. Tim Meier, S. J.

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 25, 7:30 pm

Liturgy Team at STA Hall

Wednesday, September 27, 7:30 pm

STA Site Committee at STA Hall

From Thomas Merton

There exists some point at which I can meet God in a real and experimental contact . . . God utters me like a word containing a partial thought of Himself.

A word will never be able to comprehend the voice that utters it.

But if I am true to the concept that God utters in me, if I am true to the thought of Him I was meant to embody, I shall be full of His actuality and find Him in myself, and find myself nowhere. I shall be lost in Him.

. . . Our discovery of God is, in a way, God's discovery of us. We cannot go to heaven to find Him because we have no way of knowing where heaven is or what it is. He comes down from heaven and finds us. . . God bridges the infinite distances between Himself and [us] by supernatural missions of His own Life. The Father, dwelling in the depths of all things and in my own depths, communicates to me His Word and His Spirit, and in these missions I am drawn into His own life and know God in His own Love. . . [In these missions] God Himself, bearing in Himself the secret of who I am, begins to live in me not only as my Creator but as my other and true self.

—*Seeds of Contemplation*

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

Impressive speakers coming in October:

Hershel Shanks on the Dead Sea Scrolls, Oct. 21



The TMC Spiritual Education program will present Hershel Shanks, editor of *Biblical Archaeology Review*, 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!

Kenan Osborne, OFM

The Adult Spirituality Ministry of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Palo Alto is sponsoring 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, currently 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. He has 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; and How to develop a conscience today.* Information: Susan Adams at (650) 321-5565 Deacon Carl Bunje at (650) 327-8727



John Duryea sermons:

Roberta Kehret suggests a John Duryea retrospective, based on his sermons of many years. How do these wonderful documents sound today? Do they continue to resonate with our thinking about church and God?

Roberta has saved copies of many of the sermons, but feels sure that her collection is not complete.

Let's start by gathering as many as possible. If you have kept some, let Roberta or Kay Williams know their dates. Roberta (650) 494-1488, rbkehr@yahoo.com, Kay, (650) 328-2781, [## **JustFaith 2006-2007:**](mailto:kay-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Participants in this program look at contemporary social issues through the lens of Catholic Social Teachings and Scriptures, as they work toward a spiritual life that looks upward and forward. There is still space for anybody who would like to join this wonderful program. It will be deanery-wide again this year, based at St. Joseph's in downtown Mountain View. The person to contact for more information or to enroll is Sylvia Villasenor (650) 941-9362 or sjvillasenor@sbcglobal.net.

Catholic campaign for immigration reform:

The Diocese of San José and People Acting in Community Together (PACT) invite you to Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform. Learn how to share and hear the good news about this difficult and important issue. Monday, October 2, 2006, 6-8 pm At Christ the King Church, 5284 Monterey Highway, San José

Spanish translation available. Refreshments served.

Contacts: Fr. Jon Pedigo jonpedigo@mac.com

Daniela Santos, (408) 835-6708 danielasantos@pactsj.org or c.com.

Justice Speakers Forum begins this week:

The first presentation of the 2006-2007 *Justice Speakers Forum* will be held at Ascension Parish, 12033 Miller Ave., Saratoga, this Monday evening, September 25, 7:15-9:00 pm. The speaker will be Rev. Carol Been, Lutheran Pastor and Director of the Santa Clara Valley Interfaith Council, talking on 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.

Envelope Sunday at TMC:

On this last Sunday of the month, a return envelope is enclosed in the bulletin. Your donation to the Thomas Merton Center provides the means for the liturgical and educational programs that identify TMC to the parish of St. Thomas Aquinas and to the spiritually seeking community in Palo Alto and beyond. In particular, donations subsidize our Sunday 8:45 Mass needs and our spiritual education programs. Many thanks for all your support!



Community Forum

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

Celebrating interfaith unity, September—October, 2006

“I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him.” (Acts 10:34-35)

At the moment of history when religious conflict, violence, terrorism, and war have re-emerged, bearing lethal dangers for our different communities and our shared planet, God has given our spiritual and religious traditions a gift of time. During September to October, 2006, a confluence of sacred moments in many different traditions invites us to pray with or alongside each other and to work together for peace, justice, human rights, and the healing of our wounded earth.

To begin with, two strands of time that are celebrated in communities now often at odds with one another are this fall woven together in a way not seen for decades. The sacred Muslim lunar month of Ramadan is September 24 to October 23 and it corresponds to the sacred Jewish lunar month of Tishrei, beginning with Rosh Hashana on September 23-24. The Jewish holy days of Yom Kippur (October 1-2) and Sukkot (October 6-13) will also be celebrated during this month. In the Christian tradition, Oct. 4 is the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. In addition, Oct. 2 is Gandhi’s birthday, and in mid-October, there are major Buddhist and Hindu festivals.

There is much Christians can do to heal the world and divisions among peoples during this sacred season of sacred times. We can begin by learning something of the meaning our sisters and brothers in other faiths attach to these festivals. Over the coming weeks we will present in these pages a brief description of each festival as it occurs.

September 23-24, 2006

Rosh Hashanah: the Jewish new year:

Rosh Hashanah, which literally means “the first of the year” in Hebrew, marks the Jewish New Year. Traditional Jews consider it to represent the day on which the world was created, and also the day on which God judges humans for their actions during the previous year. Jews are encouraged to spend the days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur repenting for sins and reflecting on their actions so they may live a more compassionate and committed life in the new year. The liturgy of the day includes the sounding of the *shofar*, considered a call to repentance. After liturgical celebrations, another popular observance during this holiday is eating apples dipped in honey, a symbol of the wish for a sweet new year. As Jews come together to celebrate community and their hope for sweetness in the year to come, we can join them in community, taste the sweet honey, and remember that others around the world are deprived of the full sweetness of life.

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September 23, 2006

Navrati: a Hindu holiday:

Navrati is a Hindu festival that takes place twice a year, the first in the Hindu months equivalent to April or May, and the second in September or October. It last nine nights and is a time during which Hindus celebrate the “Mother Goddess,” a female deity who takes on different forms and characteristics, such as Peace, Knowledge, Energy, etc. One of the celebrated forms of the Mother Goddess is Durga, who was given power in order to defeat an evil demon who was slaughtering innocent people. The victory of Durga over her opponent, who was waging great injustice on innocent lives, represents the struggle of good over evil. We can ask ourselves what societal evils we face in our world today—for example, poverty, inequality, trafficking, war, torture, etc. This Hindu holiday encourages us to make selfless social justice a priority, to stand up for those unjustly persecuted, and to celebrate signs of hope in our world when good has prevailed over evil.

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“The truth is that interreligious contacts, together with ecumenical dialogue, now seem to be obligatory paths in order to ensure that many painful wounds inflicted over the course of centuries will not be repeated, and indeed that any such wounds still remaining will soon be healed. Your work contributes to the fulfillment of what I have always considered a very important part of my ministry: **the fostering of more friendly relations with the followers of other religious traditions.**”

John Paul II, *Message to the Pontifical Commission for Interreligious Relations*, November 1992.

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 on page 4.

Rosh Hashana, continued:

Jewish Prayer

Grant us peace
Your most gracious gift, O Eternal Source of peace,
and give us the will to proclaim its message to all the
peoples on earth.
Bless our country, that it may always be a stronghold
of peace, and its advocate among the nations.
May contentment reign within its borders, health and
happiness within its homes.
Strengthen the bonds of friendship among the inhabi-
tants of all lands.
And may the love of Your name hallow every home
and every heart.
Blessed is the Eternal God, source of Peace.

March delegation to El Salvador:

On the 30th Anniversary of Martyrdom of Fr. Rutilio Grande South Bay Sanctuary Covenant (SBSC) & the Social Justice Ministry of First Presbyterian invite you on an inspiring experience! March 10 - 19, 2007 (with option of returning sooner if necessary)'

- Participate in commemoration of Fr. Rutilio Grande, friend of Archbishop Romero, who worked with and advocated for the poor.
- Receive wonderful hospitality --stay with families in our partner community.
- See self-development projects SBSC supports.
- Engage in dialogue with local and national leaders (based on interests of delegation).

First ORIENTATION:

Sunday, October 22, 12:45 - 3:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church lounge, 1140 Cowper Street, Palo Alto.

Bring a sack lunch if you wish.

We will meet with Tanya Snyder, Ex. Director of Voices on the Border. Our relationship with our partner community and the projects we support are done through Voices on the Border.

There is a possibility of scholarship help for youth and young adults.

Call (650) 494-8340, Arlene Schaupp, for more information, to RSVP for the orientation and to get orientation materials. Arlene will facilitate the orientations and will be on the delegation. This delegation is open to anyone who is interested. We are eager to have young people join us. One college student eagerly plans to come.

Navrati, continued:

Hindu Prayer

May the winds, the oceans, the herbs, the nights and days, the mother earth, the father heaven, all vegetation, the sun, be sweet to us.
Let us follow the path of goodness for all times, like the sun and the moon moving eternally in the sky.
Let us be charitable to one another.
Let us not kill or be violent with one another.
Let us know and appreciate the points of view of others.
And let us unite.
May the God who is friendly, benevolent, all-encompassing, measurer of everything, the sovereign, the lord of speech, may He shower His blessings on us. . .
Oh Lord, remove my indiscretion and arrogance; control my mind. Put an end to the snare of endless desires. Broaden the sphere of compassion and help me to cross the ocean of existence.

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 Lippart & family, Carol Locke, Maureen Mooney, Stephanie Mullinex, Joe Narewski, Lynne Owens, Hayden Pastorini, George Peinado, Nora Peinata, Ramona Rocha, Anne Rush, Norm & Jane Shirle, 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 below for email addresses.

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Michelle Hogan (October 15)

Kay Williams (October 1)

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