



# 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 8, 2006

## Readings

*This week:*

Genesis 2:7ab, 8b, 18-24  
Hebrews 2:9-11  
Mark 10:2-16

*Next week:*

Wisdom 7:7-11  
Hebrews 4:12-13  
Mark 10:17-30

## Psalm

May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives. *Psalm 128*

## Today

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, October 9, 7:30 pm  
Thursday, October 12, 7:30 pm

Liturgy Team at STA Hall  
TMC Board at STA Hall

## From Thomas Merton

When we "know" (in the dark certitude of faith illumined by spiritual understanding) that we are sons of God in the one Son of God, then we experience something of the great mystery of our being in God and God in us. For we grasp, without knowing how, the awe inspiring and admirable truth that God, bending over the abyss of His own inexhaustible being, has drawn us forth from Himself, and has clothed us in the light of His truth, and purified us in the fires of His love, and made us one, by the power of the Cross, with His only begotten Son. "Let us make man in our own image and likeness. (*Genesis 1:26*) "From the womb before the daystar have I begotten thee." (*Psalm 109:3*)

O great God, Father of all things, Whose infinite light is darkness to me, Whose immensity is to me as the void, You have called me forth out of yourself because You love me in yourself, and I am a transient expression of Your inexhaustible and eternal reality. I could not know You, I would be lost in this darkness, I would fall away from You into this void, if you did not hold me to Yourself in the Heart of Your only begotten Son.

—*Thoughts in Solitude*

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

## ***Kenan Osborne, OFM, October 9,10,11:***



This is the week of the **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.

Students at the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley have been crowding into his popular classes since 1967. This is your opportunity!

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

## ***Hershel Shanks coming October 21:***



Buy the book, *The Mystery and Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls*, and get ready for the TMC Spiritual Education program presenting its author, Hershel Shanks, editor of *Biblical Archaeology Review*. He will be speaking in Palo Alto on **Saturday, October 21, 7:30 p.m., at Lucie Stern Community Center Hall, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.**

## ***California ballot measures:***



The **League of Women Voters** will present the Pros & Cons of the ballot measures in the 2006 election on **Tuesday, October 17, 7:00 pm** at Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero

Rd., Los Altos Hills The meeting is free and open to the public.

## ***Ramadan Iftar Oct. 14:***

Islamic Networks Group's Annual **Ramadan Iftar and Interfaith Dinner** Saturday, October 14, 2006, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, Fremont. Program includes reflections on "A Typical Day in the Life of Muslim During Ramadan" Breaking the Ramadan fast and sunset Muslim prayer, followed by dinner and comments by ING director Maha Elgenaidi, Imam Alauddin Al-Bakri, **Fr. José Rubio**, and Rabbi Dana Magat. *Registration begins at 5:00 PM, Chandni Restaurant, 5748 Mowry School Road, Newark, CA. Cost: \$25/adults; \$10/children under 10. RSVP: Yasmine@ing.org or 408-296-7312 Tickets available online.*

## ***An invitation from the Day Worker Center:***

Come one, come all!

You are invited to a community fiesta with games, Latin food, booths for Latin American consulates, a soccer tournament, the Raging Grannies, music by the "Grupo Germinal," folkloric dancing, and public dancing to "Los Jornaleros del Norte," on Sunday, October 22, 2-10 pm at St. Joseph School, 1120 Miramonte Ave., MV (Sponsored by the Day Worker Center of MV).

## ***Catholic campaign for immigration reform:***

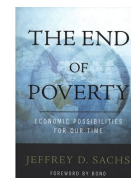
The Diocese of San José and People Acting in Community Together (PACT) invite you to Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform. Our first event was a success. There are two more opportunities to reflect about the immigrants in our midst and how we can create a dialogue about the issue in our Diocese: Wednesday, October 11th, 6 to 8 pm St Clare Parish 941 Lexington Street (corner of Lafayette St/behind Santa Clara University) or Tuesday, Oct. 17, 7 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Hall, 3233 Cowper St. (just south of Loma Verde and Cowper)

*For more information, please contact Daniela Santos, CCIR/PACT Organizer, 408-835-6708 or Fr. Jon Pedigo, CCIR Director, jonpedigo@mac.com*

## ***At St. Mary's Cathedral, October 27-28:***

**A historic gathering of the American Catholic Church** to join forces in the fight against extreme global poverty.

To educate and mobilize American Catholics to join the fight against extreme global poverty through support of the [Millennium Development Plan](#).



To launch the Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty, a multi-year advocacy initiative led by the U.S. Bishops Conference and Catholic Relief Services.

To bring together scholars, students, health professionals, church and business leaders to discuss the practical inroads to fighting poverty and disease through increased foreign aid, debt forgiveness and fair trade policies.

Featuring keynote address by **Jeffrey Sachs**, author of *The End of Poverty*.

For information: [www.usfca.edu/point/7now](http://www.usfca.edu/point/7now)

# 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)***

As we continue through the sacred moments of many different traditions which September and October 2006 bring together, we are invited to pray with or alongside each other and to work together for peace, justice, human rights, and the healing of our wounded earth. During this past week we observed the birthdays of two remarkable and saintly men, two Voices for Peace.

***October 4, feast day of St. Francis of Assisi: October 2, birthday of Mohandas Gandhi:***



**St. Francis**, Giovanni Bernardone, was born in Assisi, Italy in the year 1181. Born into a rich family, he loved wealth, fine things, and pleasure as a young man. When he was about twenty years old, he joined other young men from his town in battle against a neighboring village, was captured, and became very sick. While ill, he experienced

a spiritual transformation and returned with a changed heart. He was moved by compassion for the poor and began to give away his father's wealth. Francis spent the remainder of his life in voluntary poverty, begging, helping the poor and vulnerable, and preaching. He founded the Franciscan Order and became well-known for his simplicity, passionate faith, prayer, and respect for animals and all of creation.

Francis has become a model for people of many faiths, residents of a shared earth, working for nature's preservation and toward solutions to our common environmental problems.

He is also a model for interfaith understanding. One well-known story is that of his visit to Sultan Al-Kamil, of Egypt. Although the Sultan did not respond to Francis's preaching about Jesus by converting, he was inspired by St. Francis's lifestyle of simplicity, courage, and peace. The two leaders—one a political leader and the other a spiritual leader—continued their peaceful relationship for many years, which was based on mutual respect. This relationship exemplified a peace and understanding between faiths that was unheard of in a time when others believed in the use of violent crusades to spread their faith.



The birthday of Mohandas “**Mahatma**” **Ghandi** is remembered by many across the world who celebrate his dedication to non-violence, religious unity, political freedom and the rights of the marginalized. He was born into a middle class family who lived in a tiny town in western India. When he was eighteen, he went abroad to study law in London and later became a legal adviser in

South Africa. During these experiences, he was deeply impacted by the racism he experienced because of the darkness of his skin and by racism he observed toward others. As a result, he became interested in political activism. In 1914, he returned to India in order to work for greater rights for Indians and was successful in increasing public awareness and support for the issue. However, he was not popular with the government and was jailed many times for civil disobedience. In the 1920s, he led campaigns of peaceful non co-operation with the British, which included boycotts of British goods and institutions. Thousands of followers engaged in massive civil disobedience as a result of his leadership. By 1947, the collective action had resulted not only in greater rights for Indians, but in independence for India from Britain.

Gandhi played a major role in developing the concept of nonviolence, believing that “non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of humanity. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man. . . Even a little non-violence acts in a silent, subtle, unseen way, and leavens the whole society.” Gandhi termed his method of nonviolence as *Satyagraha*, or breaking

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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 on page 4.

*John Dear is a Jesuit priest and the author of "Living Peace," and "The Sacrament of Civil Disobedience." He writes a weekly column for "The National Catholic Reporter.*

"We're here to collect Senator Pete Domenici's signature on our Declaration of Peace," we said to the security official in the lobby of the Santa Fe Federal Building. "We're here to collect his promise that from now on, he will work to end the U.S. war on Iraq and bring the troops home, and pursue reparations and nonviolent solutions for the Middle East. Until we get his signature, we're not leaving." The guards stared in disbelief. They knew that New Mexico's senator is one of the Administration's biggest supporters, one of the greatest defenders of nuclear weapons in history. We knew it, too. When some of our group wrote asking him to oppose the Iraq war, he wrote a letter in return—a letter brimming with braggadocio and punctuated by boasts of his support for the war. We responded in turn by deciding to take a stand for peace, or more specifically, a sit in for peace.

It was part of a nationwide pattern. Last week, some three hundred seventy five actions took place against the Bush Administration's war on Iraq. Over 250 people were arrested in acts of civil disobedience from the White House to the Los Angeles Federal Building. Our own action was modest, but beautiful. Nine of us entered the Federal building and made our request. We were promptly denied entrance, kept walking anyway, and got as far as the elevator before the police stopped us. They pulled the plug on the elevator, with the doors still open, and there we conducted our protest. Earlier that week, I had printed out from several websites the name of every U.S. soldier killed in Iraq over the last few years, plus some ten thousand names of innocent Iraqi civilians. And there in the elevator we started reading those names aloud, first from the list of Americans, then from the list of Iraqis, alternating back and forth. Our voices carried to everyone in the lobby, until eventually the police forced the lobby closed.

Among us the litany of the dead hit home. It was sobering. Some began to weep. All of us bowed our heads in silent prayer as the names poured forth—the precious names of the squandered and brutalized from an immoral, illegal and unnecessary war. Here was a lamentation, a prayer of intercession, a cold hard look at the consequences of our pursuit of Iraq's

**.standing  
up for peace  
goes all the  
way back to  
Jesus.**

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unjust laws and accepting the punishment peacefully in order to bring light to unjust social laws and practices.

Amidst the Muslim-Hindu tension which often prevailed in India, Gandhi was a symbol of interfaith unity. He studied comparative religion, promoted religious tolerance, challenged Muslim-Hindu hostility, and asked religions to work together to peacefully transform society.

He also spoke out for the rights and dignity of the Untouchables, the lowest class in India's caste system. He called them *harijans*, or children of God. He often fasted in protest of their treatment and even went on a nine-month tour of the country to break down class barriers. Today he is called *Mahatma*, meaning Great Soul.

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oil. The reading went on for six hours. Amazing. The nine of us, cramped on the elevator floor, came from all walks of life—a fifteen-year-old student, a retired librarian, several radical feminists, a disabled elderly man, all of us trying to take a stand for peace and life.

Congregating close was a large contingent of the Santa Fe police force, the FBI, a SWAT team, the Federal Marshals, and Homeland Security, waiting and observing, hearing our litany. We read on and on and held our ground. Outside, scores kept vigil, the media hovered about, and frustrated politicians passed by. Finally, around five o'clock, Homeland Security officials moved in and escorted us from the building and issued citations.

We refuse to pay the fine; we intend later this fall to appear in court and there put the war itself on trial. Sitting in and standing up for peace goes all the way back to Jesus. He committed dozens of acts of non-violent civil disobedience. His final one, turning over the tables of injustice in the Temple and calling for contemplative prayer, stands as his culminating instance of dramatic, symbolic nonviolent action. . . [and it cost him his life.]

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Board: Anna Jaklitsch, 327-0978, annajak@accesscom.com

Kay Williams, 328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net

Bulletin: Jane Bahr (October 8 and October 22)

Michelle Hogan (October 15 )

Kay Williams

Finance: Ed Hannibal, 321-0203, Judy Creek, 493-5371

Hospitality: Jim Davis, 328-2584, George Locke, 854-1539

Liturgy: John Arnold, 325-1421, jsaoso@earthlink.net

Sally Benson, (408) 972-5843, red5@svpal.org

Membership: Mary Washburn, 327-3915

Spiritual Edu.. Mary Coady, 261-9155, coady\_94025@yahoo.com