



# Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 22, 2008

## Readings

*This week:*

Jeremiah 20:10-13

Romans 5:12-15

Matthew 10:26-33

*Next week:*

Acts 12:1-11

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

Matthew 16:13-19

## Psalm

Lord, in your great love, answer me. (*Psalm 69*)

## 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 am 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; happy summer!

### From Thomas Merton

Perhaps. . . the first real step toward peace would be a realistic acceptance of the fact that our political ideals are perhaps to a great extent illusions and fictions to which we cling out of motives that are not always perfectly honest: that because of this we prevent ourselves from seeing any good or any practicability in the political ideals of our enemies—which may, of course, be in many ways even more illusory and dishonest than our own. We will never get anywhere unless we can accept the fact that politics is an inextricable tangle of good and evil motives in which, perhaps, the evil predominate but where one must continue to hope doggedly in what little good can still be found.

. . . I believe the basis for valid political action can only be the recognition that the true solution to our problems is not accessible to any one isolated party or nation but that all must arrive at it by working together.

—*New 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

### **Margo's Kenya updates:**

Margo McAuliffe is returning today to Kenya for two months in Fr. Daniel Kiriti's St. Francis Xavier Parish. If you would like to be on the e-mail list to receive her colorful reports, let Kay Williams know at [kaywill@pacbell.net](mailto:kaywill@pacbell.net).

### **Gateley retreat and talk cancelled:**

Edwina Gateley had been scheduled to give a retreat on July 20-26 at Vallombrosa Center, with a talk here on Sunday, July 27, sponsored by the Thomas Merton Center. However, Vallombrosa has had to cancel the retreat because of low registration, so the TMC talk will regretfully also be cancelled.

### **Age of Aquinas hikes:**

Age of Aquinas, a Bay Area group for Christian singles 40+, sponsors a hike every Saturday at 9:00 am at Mtn. View's Shoreline Park. Meet at the Lakeside Cafe. The hike is followed by coffee and/or brunch about 10:00 or 10:15 am. For more info, visit <http://paloaltocatholic.org/aofa.html>, call Randy at (408) 739-2881, or e-mail [age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org](mailto:age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org).

### **TMC Board meeting June 12:**

Below is a summary of the June meeting of the TMC board (thanks to Barbara Kent's notes). The board:

- Reviewed the annual meeting, the reports and discussion, and the immigration exercise.
- Will continue its search for a new board member and deferred the officer election until July.
- Will invite the principal of Seton School to a near future board meeting to establish direct communication.
- Will contact Fathers Castle and LaBelle regarding their interest in contact with TMC.
- Will pursue issuing an invitation to Bishop McGrath to say 8:45 Mass with TMC in 2009.
- Is seeking comments and volunteers for an offsite service led by a female presider.
- Discussed providing more opportunities for visiting homilists at the 8:45 Mass.
- Discussed an opportunity, "Adopt a Chaplain," to support Father Tim Meier as he leaves to serve in Iraq. We will invite a contact to give us more information at the July meeting.

After brief committee reports, the meeting was closed with a prayer.

### **Jack Jezreel workshop on August 2:**

Catholics in the diocese of San Jose, together with Presbyterians and Methodists, are hosting Jack Jezreel, Director of JustFaith Ministries, on Saturday, August 2, in a workshop at Los Altos United Methodist Church. The host partners of the workshop will also be facilitating three ecumenical JustFaith groups that will begin in September. The groups of 10-15 participants will meet on different days of the week. Each group is open to members of any church so participants can select the most convenient location and time.

To learn more about JustFaith, go to [www.justfaithministries.org](http://www.justfaithministries.org). For more information about local JustFaith programs or the workshop contact Elizabeth Lilly at Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County at (408) 325-5262 or [elilly@ccsj.org](mailto:elilly@ccsj.org). For registration information check the Presbytery of San Jose web site [www.sanjosepby.org](http://www.sanjosepby.org).

### **USCCB debate cliffhanger:**

*Abridged from an article by John L. Allen Jr. created June 13, 2008, and published on the National Catholic Conversation Cafe website (<http://ncccafe.org>).*

Perhaps it's only fitting that a meeting held in Florida, the state that made the hanging chad famous, should feature a dramatic cliffhanger vote, which, as election day ended, remained inconclusive.

Heading into the U.S. bishops' spring meeting in Orlando [last week,] it didn't seem likely that a proposed new translation of the Proper of Seasons, part of the prayers and other texts for the Catholic Mass, would stir up much dust. Following a decade and a half of impassioned argument over such texts known colloquially as the "liturgy wars," many bishops privately expressed fatigue and a desire to move on—suggesting to most observers that

continued on page 3

Please remember in your prayers this week Cecilia Aranha, Helen Bunje, Chloe Chang, Joanne Claus, Mary Connors, Lydia Cooper, Mike Cummings, Ken Dias, Joanne Hasegawa, Dick Jackman, Edna and François Jamati, Alicia Kot, Joan Kuhn, Allyssa Lippard, Andre Lippard, Ric Lippard, Carol Locke, Mercedes McCaffrey, Stephanie Mullinex, Joe Narewski, Dorothea Nudelman, the family of Hank Okonski, Lynne Owens, Sr. Anne Awour, Hayden Pastorini, George Peinado, Matthew Rausch, Ramona Rocha, Anne Rush, George Schardt, Molly Sessions, Mary Stratton, Jean Vistica, Dolores Walsh, and T.J. Wooten.

# COMMUNITY FORUM

*Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns*

## **Is torture losing its shock value?:**

*Our government's use of torture puts being both American and Catholic in serious conflict, says theologian William Cavanaugh, Associate Professor of Theology at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul and author of Torture and Eucharist (Blackwell, 1998) and Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire (Eerdmans, 2008). This article is abridged from an*

## **USCCB debate cliffhanger, continued:**

approval of this text ought to be more or less a given. . . . All that changed this morning, however, when Bishop Victor Galeone of Saint Augustine, Florida, rose to oppose the proposed text—despite, he said, fear that doing so may be “in vain.” A former Latin teacher who still reads Thomas Aquinas in the original language, Galeone made a forceful argument that the new translation is simply too unclear and awkward to be effectively used in American parishes. . . . “I challenge anyone to proclaim what’s given here at Mass,” he said. “It’s very difficult.” “A good translator has to understand not just the original language, but also one’s own into which these texts are being put,” Galeone said. Despite assurances to the contrary, he said, the new texts are “slavish” with respect to the Latin originals. . . .

Galeone’s speech seemed to open the floodgates, as other bishops rose to voice reservations about the new translations. . . .

Other bishops, however, argued that admitted imperfections in the text don’t justify further delays in the process. “It’s an imperfect sacramentary for an imperfect people, to be prayed by a celebrant who is also imperfect,” said Archbishop Niederauer of San Francisco. “I respect those who say let’s move forward and get a new sacramentary, before they all fall apart in the sacristy.” . . .

After all that the bishops were unable to reach a decision, largely because of the electoral math. . . . This morning’s ballot failed to get enough “yes” votes to approve the text, or enough “no” votes to block it. As a result, Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, president of the conference, announced that bishops who were not present will receive ballots in the mail in order to settle things one way or the other.

*Since the bishops are still divided about the liturgy vote, Call to Action reminds us that there is still a chance to make your views known. Call Bishop McGrath Monday at (408) 983-0100 or e-mail him at [www.dsj.org](http://www.dsj.org) and tell him you oppose the liturgical changes on which the bishops are voting and that you support the current use of the vernacular language ushered in by Vatican II.*

*interview by the editors of U.S. Catholic on their web site.*

*Editors:* There’s been a lot of debate lately about what acts count as torture. What qualifies?

*Cavanaugh:* The 1975 U.N. Convention on Torture defines torture as any pain or suffering, physical or mental, inflicted by public officials for various reasons, including punishment, interrogation, and intimidation. . . .

*Editors:* What other forms of torture [besides waterboarding] does the U.S. government permit?

*Cavanaugh:* One common technique is stress positions, in which somebody’s hands and feet are handcuffed together in something like a fetal position for hours. . . . There’s also sleep deprivation, exposing people to freezing temperatures for long periods, bombarding them with rock music for hours, head slapping, sexual humiliation, and sensory deprivation such as blindfolding. . . .

*Editors:* What is the effect of torture on its victims?

*Cavanaugh:* Torture is a deliberate, sustained assault on the integrity of the human person, and the effect of torture is the mental and physical disintegration of that person. The person’s world is reduced to the body in pain. There is nothing else. Time doesn’t exist. Emotional links are broken. People who have been tortured talk about this all the time. . . . Their basic sense of trust and personal integrity have been violated. They often find it difficult even to speak. . . .

*Editors:* For a Catholic, why is torture immoral?

*Cavanaugh:* Catholic teaching describes torture as an affront to basic human dignity. It is unquestionably immoral to take apart a person’s physical and mental integrity by inflicting pain. Some try to justify torture by acknowledging that, while it’s an evil, it averts a greater evil. This has been ruled out in Catholic moral thinking. Pope John Paul II’s 1993 encyclical *Veritatis Splendor* makes it quite clear that you cannot commit an act that is intrinsically evil for a greater good, and he lists torture as an intrinsic evil. . . .

*Editors:* What is the purpose of torture?

*Cavanaugh:* The biggest misconception about torture is that it has to do with information gathering. . . . I have interviewed torturers, people who were tortured, and psychologists in Chile and elsewhere, and they emphasize that information is seldom really at stake. . . .

*Editors:* Then why do people do it?

*Cavanaugh:* There’s a way in which torture creates the kind of enemies we need to imagine. In the Abu Ghraib photos, you see people dragged around on leashes, attacked by dogs, put in sexually humiliating positions, and

# COMMUNITY NOTES

## News Announcements Requests

### **Margo's Kenya updates:**

Margo McAuliffe is returning today to Kenya for two months in Fr. Daniel Kiriti's St. Francis Xavier Parish. If you would like to be on the e-mail list to receive her colorful reports, let Kay Williams know at [kaywill@pacbell.net](mailto:kaywill@pacbell.net).

### **Gateley retreat and talk cancelled:**

Edwina Gateley had been scheduled to give a retreat on July 20-26 at Vallombrosa Center, with a talk here on Sunday, July 27, sponsored by the Thomas Merton Center. However, Vallombrosa has had to cancel the retreat because of low registration, so the TMC talk will regretfully also be cancelled.

### **Age of Aquinas hikes:**

Age of Aquinas, a Bay Area group for Christian singles 40+, sponsors a hike every Saturday at 9:00 am at Mtn. View's Shoreline Park. Meet at the Lakeside Cafe. The hike is followed by coffee and/or brunch about 10:00 or 10:15 am. For more info, visit <http://paloaltocatholic.org/aofa.html>, call Randy at (408) 739-2881, or e-mail [age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org](mailto:age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org).

### **TMC Board meeting June 12:**

Below is a summary of the June meeting of the TMC board (thanks to Barbara Kent's notes). The board:

- Reviewed the annual meeting, the reports and discussion, and the immigration exercise.
- Will continue its search for a new board member and deferred the officer election until July.
- Will invite the principal of Seton School to a near future board meeting to establish direct communication.
- Will contact Fathers Castle and LaBelle regarding their interest in contact with TMC.
- Will pursue issuing an invitation to Bishop McGrath to say 8:45 Mass with TMC in 2009.
- Is seeking comments and volunteers for an offsite service led by a female presider.
- Discussed providing more opportunities for visiting homilists at the 8:45 Mass.
- Discussed an opportunity, "Adopt a Chaplain," to support Father Tim Meier as he leaves to serve in Iraq. We will invite a contact to give us more information at the July meeting.

After brief committee reports, the meeting was closed with a prayer.

### **Jack Jezreel workshop on August 2:**

Catholics in the diocese of San Jose, together with Presbyterians and Methodists, are hosting Jack Jezreel, Director of JustFaith Ministries, on Saturday, August 2, in a workshop at Los Altos United Methodist Church. The host partners of the workshop will also be facilitating three ecumenical JustFaith groups that will begin in September. The groups of 10-15 participants will meet on different days of the week. Each group is open to members of any church so participants can select the most convenient location and time.

To learn more about JustFaith, go to [www.justfaithministries.org](http://www.justfaithministries.org). For more information about local JustFaith programs or the workshop contact Elizabeth Lilly at Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County at (408) 325-5262 or [elilly@ccsj.org](mailto:elilly@ccsj.org). For registration information check the Presbytery of San Jose web site [www.sanjosepby.org](http://www.sanjosepby.org).

### **USCCB debate cliffhanger:**

*Abridged from an article by John L. Allen Jr. created June 13, 2008, and published on the National Catholic Conversation Cafe website (<http://ncrcafe.org>).*

Perhaps it's only fitting that a meeting held in Florida, the state that made the hanging chad famous, should feature a dramatic cliffhanger vote, which, as election day ended, remained inconclusive.

Heading into the U.S. bishops' spring meeting in Orlando [last week,] it didn't seem likely that a proposed new translation of the Proper of Seasons, part of the prayers and other texts for the Catholic Mass, would stir up much dust. Following a decade and a half of impassioned argument over such texts known colloquially as the "liturgy wars," many bishops privately expressed fatigue and a desire to move on—suggesting to most observers that

continued on page 3

Please remember in your prayers this week Cecilia Aranha, Helen Bunje, Chloe Chang, Joanne Claus, Mary Connors, Lydia Cooper, Mike Cummings, Ken Dias, Joanne Hasegawa, Dick Jackman, Edna and François Jarmati, Alicia Kot, Joan Kuhn, Allyssa Lippard, Andre Lippard, Ric Lippard, Carol Locke, Mercedes McCaffrey, Stephanie Mullinex, Joe Narewski, Dorothea Nudelman, the family of Hank Okonski, Lynne Owens, Sr. Anne Awour, Hayden Pastorini, George Peinado, Matthew Rausch, Ramona Rocha, Anne Rush, George Schardt, Molly Sessions, Mary Stratton, Jean Vistica, Dolores Walsh, and T.J. Wooten.