



Corpus Christi Sunday

May 25, 2008

Readings

This week:

Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

John 6:51-58

Next week:

Deuteronomy 11:18, 26-28, 32

Romans 3:21-25, 28

Matthew 7:21-27

Psalm

Praise the Lord, Jerusalem. (*Psalm 147*)

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

Monday, May 26, 7:30 pm

Liturgy Team, location TBA

From Thomas Merton

One of the paradoxes of the mystical life is this: that a [person] cannot enter into the deepest center of himself and pass through that center into God unless he is able to pass entirely out of himself and empty himself and give himself to other people in the purity of a selfless love.

And so one of the worst illusions in the life of contemplation would be to try to find God by barricading yourself inside your own soul, shutting out all external reality by sheer concentration and will-power, cutting yourself off from the world and others by stuffing yourself inside your own mind and closing the door like a turtle.

—*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

Bishop Robinson to speak in SF:

Geoffrey Robinson, retired Catholic bishop of Sydney, Australia, and author of *Confronting Power and Sex in the Catholic Church*, will be speaking at the University of San Francisco on June 13 at 7:00 pm. The event is sponsored by Voice of the Faithful San Francisco, and further information is available from Bob Rowden at robt.rowden@sbcglobal.net.

Bishop Robinson's book, published in the U.S. just ten days ago, has drawn the ire of his fellow bishops in Australia, although he was Chief Justice of the Archdiocesan Marriage Tribunal and president of the Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand, and has written on this subject before. Bishop Robinson's book explores the structural and doctrinal causes the bishop claims are at the heart of sexual and authoritarian abuse in the contemporary Catholic Church, including the culture of secrecy and cover-ups that allowed systemic clerical abuse to go unchecked within its ranks for decades. In his foreword to the book, Bishop Robinson revealed that he had been abused sexually as a teenager, a long-suppressed memory that he had to confront as coordinator of the Australian church's response to revelations of sexual abuse by priests and religious. He cochaired the panel on behalf of the Australian bishops from 1997 to 2003.



Blankets for Fr. Kiriti's orphanage:

Mary Washburn is collecting blankets for Fr. Kiriti's St. Francis Parish Orphanage. If you'd like to help, please bring a blanket next Sunday, June 1. Letters to the children are appreciated as well. And you can still make contributions to two other orphanage projects: (1) Jacinta needs a computer (about \$1,000) to keep track of the orphans, their families, issues, health data, etc.; (2) funds are needed for paint and other supplies to fix up the boys' section of the orphanage. If you want to contribute to either of these funds, please make a check out to the Thomas Merton Center, noting that this money is for either of the orphanage projects. For more info, contact Mary at (650) 327-3915 or marywashburn21@hotmail.com.

Hidden Villa summer camp:

Hidden Villa summer camp, located in Los Altos Hills, provides an extraordinary experience for students from East Palo Alto. For many, it is their first time on an authentic operating ranch. Besides regular camp activities, campers get to hike in the hills, work with farm animals, and dig in the garden. Each year we hear the testimony of how camp has transformed the lives of these children.

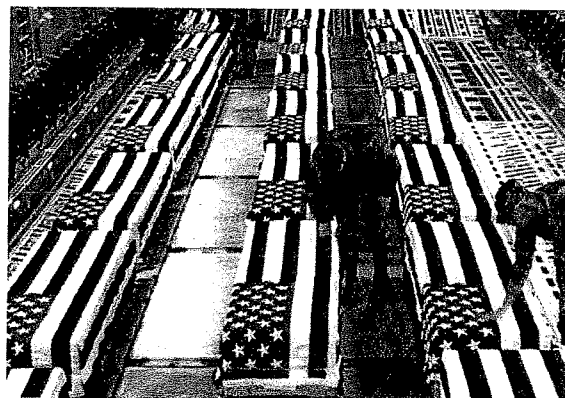


This summer scholarships have been provided for 85 children from East Palo Alto to attend camp during the

continued on page 3

On This Memorial Day

On this Memorial Day
Grant peace to the souls
of all those soldiers who died in war.
We remember the tears and grief of their families,
The pain of mothers, wives, husbands and children
Who lost precious loved ones.
To build a meaningful memorial to them,
We ask God to give us all the will
To work for peace around the world
So no more sons, daughters, husbands, wives, fathers, nor mothers
Are slaughtered by the guns and bombs of war.
We ask Mary, who held the lifeless body of her son
And was pierced by the sorrow of his suffering and death,
To grant us the compassion and wisdom to affirm life
And honor the dead through forgiveness and peacemaking.
May God have mercy on the souls of the departed.



Grant them peace, O Lord.
May we have mercy on the living.
Grant us peace, O Lord.
In Your name we pray.
Amen.

—From Education for Justice

Hidden Villa, continued:

Nine-week period from June 16 to August 11. However, these campers need transportation and we are calling upon you for HELP!! Please let us know if you can help with transportation. You will be given a map of where to pick up the children in East Palo Alto and where to return them.

Also, we are looking for a transportation coordinator for summer camp. This organized person will schedule drivers to take campers from East Palo Alto to Hidden Villa or back. This is a perfect job for someone who wants a short-term volunteer job—only nine weeks during the summer. Please consider this ministry, which is vital to making the summer camp program a success. Call Ann Idzik at 493-7350 or George Chippendale at 856-6350.

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 Elizabeth Seton School, 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!

Service trips to El Salvador:

Palo Alto Quakers are organizing two trips to El Salvador on July 6-13 (emphasis on language school) and July 20-27 (emphasis on the communities that Friends support) to which you and/or your teens are invited. Both weeks will include opportunities for service. The projects have two main focuses, to raise money for K-12 programs in four rural communities of El Salvador, and to raise money to provide university-level education for qualified students (about \$1,000 per student per year). Since 1999, when the university student loan program was started, 41 students have graduated as teachers, nurses, and technicians. More information on the El Salvador Projects can be found at <http://www.pafmelsalvadorprojects.org/index.htm> and there is also a link to the trip information under Teen Trips.

Remember to bring food:

Don't forget the food basket as part of our Offertory procession each Sunday. Please remember to bring at least one item of nonperishable food and place it in the basket in the vestibule before Mass. Staple items are always needed: cereals, canned soups, fruits and vegetables, pasta, rice, beans, canned meat.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

Sometimes the obvious is elusive:

Today's Gospel tells us everything we need to know, provided that we understand it: "Whoever eats this bread will live forever." But sometimes the obvious is elusive. Tonto and the Lone Ranger were camping in the desert. After they had been asleep for hours, Tonto woke the Lone Ranger and said, "Look toward the sky. What you see?" The Lone Ranger blinked and replied, "I see millions of stars." "What do the stars tell you?" asked Tonto. The Lone Ranger pondered for a minute, and then says, "Astronomically speaking, they tell me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, they tell me that Saturn is in Leo. Timewise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past 3 in the morning. And theologically, all of this assures me that the Lord is all-powerful and we are very small and insignificant indeed." The Lone Ranger then said, "What does it tell you, Tonto?" Tonto answered, "It tells me that someone has stolen our tent!"

—Sermon starters by Dick Folger, in Celebration Publications, May 25, 2008

Tending to returning soldiers:

Abridged from an article by Clarissa Pinkola Estés, May 19, 2008, on nercafe.org.

You know how sometimes we don't know what to say to people who've been terribly hurt, shocked or injured by an ongoing trauma? We don't want to, in any way, accidentally distress them further. So, we might say nothing, and just hope they know our good intentions, that our prayers are with them.

But, long ago, the how-to's about helping injured people were laid out in an ancient document. In the 8th century BC, an old man poet named Yeša-yáhu, was married to a woman called "The Prophetess," who no doubt influ-

continued on page 4

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

Offertory refrain for Sunday, May 25 (in English and Tongan):

**WE COME, WE COME, WE COME TO YOUR TABLE
O MAI, O MAI, 'OKU MAU O MAI KIATE KOE**

Tending to returning soldiers, continued:

enced him to the good, for he wrote a wildly compassionate list of how to proceed with people who were strong, but who had also been hurt by being at war, even though they'd finally made it home again [Isaiah 61: 1-7]. 'Right off, first thing,' the old poet said, 'Believe.' Believe the words, tone of voice, touches needed for helping and healing the wounded will be put into your heart. Believe. Then, proceed within your purview to leave no wounded person stranded. . . .

How to help those wounded in heart, mind and body by war? . . . You can help fill out paperwork, retrieve lost forms, drive people to doctors' appointments, and press the techs in charge of health appointments to see the patient as soon as possible. You can also visit and listen to the returning soldiers.

I have been told that even when a vet feels suicidal, it can take up to ten days before he or she is seen. . . . Those afflicted often give up when the multiple military ganglion of phone reps becomes too hard to navigate. You can help by volunteering to be, as my grandmother used to say, "a small-town Maria," an "act-where-I-live Mary," one who helps others from home; either a physical or virtual gathering place of those individuals or groups seeking help for vets and vets' families. Look into the model of "Peace Villages" in Vietnam, for inspiration about what can be done in small communities here. Also helpful: The military currently estimates over 300,000 returning soldiers have depression, PTSD or other brain injuries, not including other bodily injuries. You can help by supporting and befriending families of soldiers. Spouses, parents, grandparents and siblings worry so much about their loved ones.

You can call the military base or VA hospital nearest you. Hang in there, it's often a many-layered process to get through to the right people. Ask for Volunteer Services or its equivalent. Also, inquire at your local Quaker group or your parish or your church group to see if they have a veterans outreach program or mission/shelter outreach. Google, as always, in cases like these, is your good friend. . . .

Alienation is a big issue amongst many returning vets; self-alienation, and also feeling alienated by others who don't mean to, but who often don't know quite what to say, and think to leave well enough alone. Don't leave "well enough" alone. The person suffering is likely not "well enough" to be left alone yet. We have, after all, remember, the old poet's guidelines to follow.

79 religious groups oppose nuclear bomb plant:

Seventy-nine Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Muslim groups have joined together to reject administration plans to reactivate the U.S. nuclear weapons infrastructure and build new nuclear bomb plant facilities. In a formal letter to the Energy Department, religious organizations from across the country called instead for the U.S. to end new nuclear weapons production and commit to multilateral disarmament.

The letter was submitted to the Energy Department as part of a public comment period required to assess the environmental impact of Complex Transformation, the proposed plan to rebuild the U.S. nuclear weapons complex. The centerpiece of this proposal is a new nuclear weapons facility at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, located 25 miles northwest of Santa Fe, New Mexico. The new bomb plant facility would enable the mass production of plutonium pits, the primary detonators in modern nuclear weapons.

The statement's signers expressed concern that the new and upgraded facilities would be used in the development of a new generation of nuclear warheads, despite the moral and legal obligations of the United States to reduce its weapons arsenal.

"Recently there has been tremendous bipartisan momentum for making the world safer by pursuing the elimination of nuclear weapons once and for all," explained Jessica Wilbanks, Advocacy Director for Faithful Security. "Today's statement from faith groups demonstrates a moral consensus for disarmament—and a firm rejection of efforts to build new plutonium pits."

Faithful Security organized the coalition letter in cooperation with The Friends Committee on National Legislation. Read the full text (PDF) of the statement and see a list of signers at www.faithfulsecurity.org.

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

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

Bulletin: Michelle Hogan (May 25 and June 8); Kay Williams (June 15);
Jane Bahr (June 1)

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

Needs Net: Roberta Kehrret, 494-1488, robkehr@yahoo.com

Newsletter submissions must be e-mailed by Friday noon or phoned by Thursday, 9:00 pm. For Kay, e-mail kaywill@pacbell.net or phone 328-2781; for Michelle, myhogan@earthlink.net or 493-8452; for Jane, BahrJunior@comcast.net or 967-8246.