



# 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 29, 2006

## Readings

*This week:*

Jeremiah 31:7-9  
Hebrews 5:1-6  
Mark 10:46-52

*Next week:*

Deuteronomy 6:2-6  
Hebrews 7:23-28  
Mark 12:28b-34

## Psalm

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy. (*Psalm 126*)

## 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 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, October 30, 7:30 pm  
Wednesday, November 1  
Thursday, November 2

Liturgy Team, location TBA  
All Saints Day (holy day)  
All Souls Day

## From Thomas Merton

This then is what it means to seek God perfectly: to withdraw from illusion and pleasure, from worldly anxieties and desires, from the works that God does not want, from a glory that is only human display; to keep my mind free from confusion in order that my liberty may be always at the disposal of His will; to entertain silence in my heart and listen for the voice of God; . . . to love all [people] as myself; to rest in humility and to find peace in withdrawal from conflict and competition with other [s]; to turn aside from controversy and put away heavy loads of judgment and censorship and criticism and the whole burden of opinions that I have no obligation to carry; . . . to gather all that I am. . . and abandon them all to God in the resignation of a perfect love and blind faith and pure trust in God, to do His will.

And then to wait in peace and emptiness and oblivion of all things.

—*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

### **Catholic voters and politicians:**

Tomorrow, October 30, at 7:15 pm, Church of the Ascension at Miller and Prospect in Saratoga, invites us to a monthly Social Justice Forum—*Catholic Voters and Catholic Politicians: Navigating the Waters of Present Day Politics in the Upcoming Midterm Elections of 2006*. David De-Cosse, Director of Campus Ethics Programs, Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, Santa Clara University, will speak with a brief example of applications by Tim Hellmann, Social Policy Specialist, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County.

### **Women's spirituality:**

St. Simon's in Los Altos (1860 Grant Road) is sponsoring a series on *Women's Spirituality* in the Simon Room on Friday nights, 7:00-9:00 pm with a 15-minute wine and cheese social. A \$10 donation is requested, and you can RSVP to Josie Melo, (650) 868-1212 or [josiemelo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:josiemelo@sbcglobal.net), or Sr. Rebecca Shinas, OP, at (650) 967-8311 or [rebecca@stsimon.org](mailto:rebecca@stsimon.org)

The next program on November 20 is *Personal Transformation in the Midst of Everyday Life* with Pamela Bjorklund, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist and spiritual director in private practice in San Jose for over 25 years. She was also an adjunct lecturer in the Pastoral Ministries Program at Santa Clara University for 15 years. (The presenters are all associated with the Pastoral Ministries program at Santa Clara University.)

### **The business of God:**

Sojourner is sponsoring a mini-conference for business people and church leaders to explore emerging thinking on the role of business in the Kingdom of God. It is called *The Business of God*, and date is November 13, 7:30 am to 11:00 am at the First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame. Main speakers are Brian McLaren (a leading author on the emerging church and author of *The Secret Message of Jesus*), David Batstone, (author of *Saving the Corporate Soul* and editor-at-large of *Sojourner*), and Nathan George (founder of Ambata, a business focused on using consumer spending to create jobs for people freed from human trafficking and poverty). For more information and to register, go to <http://go.sojo.net/ct/q1qaem911XEe/>.

Mary Connors' home phone number in the Thomas Merton directory is incorrect. Please correct it to (650) 321-6778.

### **Rooted in faith:**

The Archdiocese of San Francisco and the Dioceses of San Jose, Monterey, Oakland, and Stockton are sponsoring a Faith Formation Conference—*Rooted in Faith: Embracing Our Future*—on November 10-11 at the Santa Clara Convention Center. The Conference will celebrate our 25th anniversary as a diocese and will feature several noted speakers from across the country. Information including a downloadable brochure is available at <http://www.sitecreator.com/faithformation>.



### **Movies that matter:**

The Fall 2006 Palo Alto Film Series—*Movies That Matter*—continues on November 3 with *Street Fight*, which chronicles the bare-knuckles race for mayor of Newark, New Jersey between Cory Booker, a 32-year old Rhodes Scholar/Yale Law School grad, and Sharpe James, the four-term incumbent and undisputed champion of New Jersey politics. The battle sheds light on important American questions about democracy, power grasping and the underbelly of democracy where elections are not about spin-doctors, media consultants, or photo ops. This film was a 2006 Academy Award nominee, and is 82 minutes long.

Movies are at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 505 E. Charleston, at 7:30 pm. Suggested donation: \$5 to \$10 (no one turned away). This series is a joint production of [www.worldcentric.org](http://www.worldcentric.org) and [www.uucpa.org](http://www.uucpa.org).

### **Age of Aquinas—November:**

Saturdays in November, 9:00 am: Age of Aquinas Hike & Coffee. Contact Randy Jones, (408) 739-2881 or [age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org](mailto:age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org).

Wednesday, November 8, 7:00 pm: Astronomy Lecture at Foothill College: Pluto. Contact Carrie Karnos at [ckarnos@yahoo.com](mailto:ckarnos@yahoo.com).

Wednesdays in November, 7:30 pm: Transitions Support Group. Contact Randy Jones.

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 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!

# COMMUNITY FORUM

*Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns*

## **Halloween, All Saints, and All Souls:**

When you think of Halloween, what comes to mind? For a lot of people, Halloween has become synonymous with candy, costumes, scary stuff, witches, ghosts and pumpkins. But do you know the Christian connection to the holiday?

The true origins of Halloween lie with the ancient Celtic tribes who lived in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Brit-



tany. For the Celts, November 1 marked the beginning of a new year and the coming of winter. The night before the new year, they celebrated the festival of Samhain, Lord of the Dead. During this festival, Celts believed the

souls of the dead—including ghosts, goblins and witches—returned to mingle with the living.

When the Romans conquered the Celts, they added their own touches to the Samhain festival, such as making centerpieces out of apples and nuts for Pomona, the Roman goddess of the orchards. The Romans also bobbed for apples and drank cider—traditions which may sound familiar to you. But where does the Christian aspect of the holiday come into play? In 835, Pope Gregory IV moved the celebration for all the martyrs (later all saints) from May 13 to November 1. The night before became known as All Hallows' Even or "holy evening." Eventually the name was shortened to the current Halloween. On November 2, the Church celebrates All Souls Day.

The purpose of these feasts is to remember those who have died, whether they are officially recognized by the Church as saints or not. It is a celebration of the "communion of saints," which reminds us that the Church is not bound by space or time.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that through the communion of saints "a perennial link of charity exists between the faithful who have already reached their heavenly home. . . and those who are still pilgrims on earth. Between them there is, too, an abundant exchange of all good things" (#1475).

Many of the customs we now associate with Halloween are also derived from ancient celebrations. For example, the current custom of going door-to-door to collect treats actually started in Ireland hundreds of years ago.

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## **A Prayer of the Saints**

We give thanks for  
All the saints,  
Signs of hope for us  
In a time when hope is  
Often difficult to discern.

We give thanks for  
The communion of saints,  
Our communities of faith  
That support us  
When we lag behind,  
When we struggle to be present  
To those who suffer,  
When we let go  
Of our neighbors' hand.

We give thanks for  
Our own call to sainthood,  
That challenge of baptism,  
That creative, disruptive grace,  
That instinctive turning toward the human family.

We are images of each other,  
We are a ruckus chorus  
Announcing the kingdom of God:  
Hear it and know  
It calls us home.

—By Jane Deren, *Education for Justice*. This prayer can be used to celebrate All Saints' Day on November 1.

## **Professor wants bishops to talk about controversial issues:**

An act of undefeatable hope. That's how Daniel Maguire said his recent attempt to encourage dialogue between U.S. Catholic bishops and theologians about some controversial issues could be described. In June, Maguire, a professor of theology and ethics at Milwaukee's Marquette University, sent a letter to all 270 U.S. Catholic bishops asking them to help close what he termed the "great divide" that exists between bishops and theologians in the contemporary church by engaging them in communication about the "basic biblical concerns of poverty, justice and peace on an imperilled

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Please remember in your prayers this week Elaine, Msgr. Gene Boyle, Tom Carmody, Chloe Chang, Joanne Claus, Mary Connors, Ken Dias, Joanne Hasegawa, Dick Jackman, François Jamati, Joseph Kehret, Alicia Kot, Joan Kuhn, Kami Ladd, Carol Locke, Judy Mendelsohn, Maureen Mooney, Stephanie Mullinex, Joe Narewski, Hank Okonski, Lynne Owens, George Peinado, Nora Peniata, Ramona Rocha, Anne Rush, Norm and Jane Schirle, Dolores Walsh, and T.J. Wooten.

## ***Halloween, continued:***

Groups of farmers would go door-to-door collecting food and materials for a village feast and bonfire. Those who gave were promised prosperity; those who did not received threats of bad luck. When an influx of Irish Catholic immigrants came to the United States in the 1800s, the custom of trick-or-treating came with them. Does your family carve a pumpkin to place on your porch for Halloween? If so, then you can once again thank the Irish for the tradition. Actually, the custom began with a turnip. People would hollow out the turnips and place a lighted candle inside to scare off evil spirits. When the Irish came to America, they discovered the pumpkin as a larger substitute for the turnip. And so, we now carve pumpkins instead of turnips for Halloween.

## ***Professor wants bishops to talk. . . , continued:***

earth. . . I think that communication, even if it leads to little agreement, is a human good,” read a line from Maguire’s June 19 letter. In that spirit, Maguire included two short pamphlets with his letter—one about abortion and one about same-sex marriage—both of which he said are topics on which the hierarchical teaching has become impaled. The intent of the pamphlets was to show the variety of theological opinion on these issues so that, hopefully, the bishops could see beyond them and instead focus attention on “the needs of the increasing militarism of our nation, our neglect of the poor of the world, racism, sexism and the wrecking of the earth’s ecology through greed.” Beyond a doubt, the bishops could be among the most influential religious leaders in the nation if only they could get off what he calls the “pelvic issues” and address the wider view, Maguire said in later writings. Maguire’s letter did not have the effect he had ultimately hoped for. Only three of the 270 bishops responded, and the most resounding response—which came from Archbishop Timothy Dolan—left little room for discussion. . . . For more information, visit <http://www.ctawi.org>. While Maguire’s original letter may not have sparked much discussion between bishops and theologians, it did prompt talk among the Catholic laity. . . and that is something, at least, says Maguire. . . . Complete versions of Maguire’s letter can be read on the Religious Consultation web site at <http://www.religiousconsultation.org>.

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

## ***Congress is not working: it’s time for a change:***

*But ultimately, only a credible threat that the public is prepared to throw the rascals out will change the ways in which politicians in Washington operate.*

So says Norman Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute, quoted in an October 11 *Washington Post* article entitled “Congress as ‘The Broken Branch.’” On November 7, voters can make a change. And we must make a change. NETWORK [the Catholic social justice lobby in Washington,] encourages all citizens to be informed voters in this most critical election—[to] take some time now to reflect on what you believe about the direction of our nation, the issues that concern you, and your role as a citizen. . . . In our first Election 2006 e-mail on October 5, we recommended the guide from Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good: <http://thecatholicalliance.org/new/voting-guide/guide.html>. Here are some other online resources that can help you to organize and educate yourself and your community for the election: On our web site, NETWORK has questions for candidates, which include brief background information on social and economic justice issues. . . : [www.networklobby.org/election2006.html](http://www.networklobby.org/election2006.html). NETWORK’s “Election 2006 Candidates & Information” web site has a plethora of information about all state and federal elections, including information on how current federal legislators voted on NETWORK’s key issues in 2005 and 2006: <http://capwiz.com/networklobby/e4/>. *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*, is the document from the U.S. Catholic Bishops: <http://www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship/>. Maryknoll’s election guide [is] *Becoming a Global Good Neighbor* with comments and questions about four important foreign policy issues—peace and national security; immigration; fair trade; and global warming: <http://www.maryknollogc.org/resources/electionguide2006.htm>. The Friends Committee on National Legislation *Questions to ask the Candidates* about Iraq, government spying, the environment, torture, immigration, and budget priorities is at <http://www.fcnl.org/pubs/candidatequestions.htm>. For non-profit advocacy resources from the Alliance for Justice that explain permissible election activities for non-profit organizations: [http://thewww.afj.org/nonprofit/technical\\_resources/resources/index.html](http://thewww.afj.org/nonprofit/technical_resources/resources/index.html).

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