



# Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 10, 2006

## Readings

*This week:*

Isaiah 35:4-7a

James 2:1-5

Mark 7:31-37

*Next week:*

Isaiah 50:5-9a

James 2:14-18

Mark 8:27-35

## Psalm

Praise the Lord, my soul! (*Psalm 146*)

## 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, September 11, 7:30 pm

Liturgy Team, location TBA

### From Thomas Merton

Although God lives in the souls of those who are unconscious of Him, how can I say that I have found Him and found myself in Him if I never know Him or think of Him, never take any interest in Him or seek Him or desire His presence in my soul? What good does it do to say a few formal prayers to Him and then turn away and give all my mind and all my will to created things, desiring only ends that fall far short of Him? Even though my soul may be justified, yet if my mind does not belong to Him then I do not belong to Him either. If my love does not reach out toward Him but scatters itself in His creation, it is because I have reduced His life in me to the level of a formality, forbidding it to move me with a truly vital influence. Justify my soul, O God, but also from Your fountains fill my will with fire. . . . Let my eyes see nothing in the world but Your glory, and let my hands touch nothing that is not for Your service.

—*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*

### ***TMC annual meeting this week:***

The Thomas Merton Center will hold its annual meeting this coming Thursday, September 14, at 7:30 pm in the basement of the Thomas House, 745 Waverley. The annual report and member directory will be distributed and new board members will be elected. Nominees for the board are Barbara Kent, a lector and commentator for the 8:45 Mass active in TMC since its formation, and Anna Jaklitsch, current board member and copresident, also a Eucharistic Minister. There will also be a discussion about the role of TMC members and the laity in the future of the Church. Don't miss it!

### ***Jim Wallis in Bay Area:***

Christian leader Jim Wallis, author of *God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It*, will speak about faith and politics at the First Congregational Church of Berkeley (2345 Channing Way) tomorrow at 6:00 pm in an event cosponsored by the GTU, Sojourners, and the Beatitudes Society. The executive director and editor-in-chief of Sojourners, Wallis brings a progressive message that links personal values with public issues. Following his talk, books will be available for purchase and signing. For more information, contact David Myers at (510) 649-2420 or [dmyers@gtu.edu](mailto:dmyers@gtu.edu).

### ***Job search support group restarts:***

The job search support group has restarted, and meetings are Tuesday, 5:30-7:30 pm, at St Cyprian's Hall, 195 Leota in Sunnyvale. This is a wonderful resource for those who are looking for a job or seeking to change jobs or careers. Meetings are every Tuesday night, and the group is free, and open to all. Leader Jim Gibson says "This 2006-2007 session will be an exciting year with some new resources and good speakers—as a matter of fact, we already have excellent guest speakers lined up from September through April. If you are still in the hunt, join us and remember you're always welcome to bring a friend."

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

### ***Mass for Fr. John Duryea:***

Next Sunday, September 17, the 8:45 Mass will be offered for Fr. John Duryea, who died in Oaxaca on July 22 at the age of 88.

Born in 1918, he was raised in Palo Alto and ordained in 1943 after studying at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. He served in San Mateo, Oakland and as San Jose State chaplain before coming to St. Ann's Chapel in 1961. Fr. Duryea served as Newman Chaplain at St. Ann's until he left to marry in 1976.



Many of us were introduced to hiking and backpacking by "Fr. D." He was an inveterate hiker and outdoorsman who had an ongoing love affair with the Sierra Nevada mountains, and shared his love of nature with all of us.

### ***Cindy Sheehan and Amy Goodman speak in PA:***

Cindy Sheehan and Amy Goodman will be speaking on Saturday, October 7, at Spangenberg Theatre, Palo Alto. Exact time is yet to be announced; but the program will start at either 7:00 or 7:30 pm. Cindy and Amy will both be selling and signing copies of their new books. Tickets already purchased for the Amy Goodman event at First Presbyterian are still good for this combined event. You can purchase advance tickets at [www.reachandteach.com/ppjstore](http://www.reachandteach.com/ppjstore). The event is sponsored by Kepler's Books.

### ***Thanks for your help:***

Ruth Chippendale wishes to thank all the generous people who brought food to the homeless guests at Hotel de Zink in August. She says that all those staying at the church were extremely appreciative of the delicious, nourishing food that you brought.

And George wishes to thank all the drivers of children to Hidden Villa Camp this summer. It gave these children a wonderful experience of swimming, hiking, and "fun on the farm."

### ***Transitions meets:***

September 13, at 7:30 pm, Transitions—a support group for those undergoing the transition from couplehood to singlehood—will meet at St. Thomas Aquinas Pastoral Center, 3290 Middlefield. There is no charge for programs. For more information, visit the parish web site or call Randy Jones at (408) 739-2881.

### ***Breaking bread together: Interfaith reunion:***

On Thursday, September 21, 6:00-7:00 pm, at the Circle of Palms in downtown San Jose, people from many of the religious communities of the South Bay will gather to meet one another, break bread together, and affirm our respect for the diversity of religious commitment in our area. The event is sponsored by South Bay Interfaith; for info go to [www.southbayinterfaith.org](http://www.southbayinterfaith.org). Last year, over 250 people gathered to mark the convergence of significant holidays for Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions. This year the invitation includes non-Abrahamic religious groups as well.

### ***PP&J film series:***

The PPJC film series continues on Tuesday, September 12, at 7:30 pm, with *Refuseniks*, which “uses stunning archival footage, still photos and interviews to document the stories of Israeli men and women who refuse to serve in the military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.” Films will be at the Fellowship Hall, First Baptist Church, 305 N. California. Suggested donation is \$5-10. Screening will be followed by a discussion. Go to [www.peaceandjustice.org](http://www.peaceandjustice.org) for more info.

### ***Talk on Dead Sea scrolls:***

Hershel Shanks, editor of *Biblical Archaeology Review*, will speak on the *Dead Sea Scrolls* on Saturday, October 21, 7:30 pm, at Lucie Stern Community Center. If you would like to prepare by reading his book—*The Mystery and Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls*—please order it through Amazon (it is not available at Kepler’s). There will also be some copies available for purchase after Mass in the next month.

### ***Justice speakers forum recommences:***

Fr. Charlie Dougherty has announced the start of the second season of the Justice Speakers Forum at Ascension Parish. The Forum will again be held on the last Monday of the month, beginning at 7:15 pm and continuing until 9:00 pm. The first presentation of the 2006-2007 series will be on Monday evening, September 25, and speaker will be Rev. Carol Been, Lutheran Pastor and Director of the Santa Clara Valley Interfaith Council. She will speak about 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.

## COMMUNITY FORUM

*I d e a s   O p i n i o n s   R e f l e c t i o n s   C o n c e r n s*

### ***Nonviolence and the strategy against terrorism: Keeping our minds supple:***

*Abridged from an article by David Cortright at [www.sojomail.com](http://www.sojomail.com) for August 28, 2006. Cortright is the author of Gandhi and Beyond: Nonviolence for an Age of Terrorism (Paradigm Publishers, 2006) and cofounder of the Center on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation.*

After 9/11, Jim Wallis challenged peace advocates to address the threat of terrorism. “If nonviolence is to have any credibility,” he wrote, “it must answer the questions violence purports to answer, but in a better way.” Gandhian principles of nonviolence provide a solid foundation for crafting an effective strategy against terrorism. Nonviolence is fundamentally a means of achieving justice and combating oppression. Gandhi demonstrated its effectiveness in resisting racial injustice in South Africa and winning independence for India. People-power movements have since spread throughout the world, helping to bring down communism in Eastern Europe and advancing democracy in Serbia, Ukraine, and beyond. The same principles—fighting injustice while avoiding harm—can be applied in the struggle against violent extremism. Bush administration officials and many political leaders in Washington view terrorism primarily through the

A lot of people feel threatened if they feel they are being asked to question their cherished beliefs or their perception of reality. Yet questioning is what keeps our minds supple and strong. Simply settling on one way of seeing things and refusing to be open to other possibilities makes the mind rigid and generally creates a restrictive and uncomfortable atmosphere. We all know someone who refuses to budge on one or more issues, and we may have our own sacred cows that could use a little prodding. Being open-minded means that we are willing to question everything, including those things we take for granted.

A willingness to question everything, even things we are sure we are right about, can shake us out of complacency and reinvigorate our minds, opening us up to understanding people and perspectives that were alien to us before. This alone is good reason to remain inquisitive, no matter how much experience we have or how old we get. In the Zen tradition, this willingness to question is known as beginner’s mind, and it has a way of generating possibilities we couldn’t have seen from the point of view of knowing something with certainty. The willingness to question everything doesn’t neces-

## ***Nonviolence, continued:***

prism of war. Kill enough militants, they believe, and the threat will go away. The opposite approach is more effective and less costly in lives. Some limited use of force to apprehend militants and destroy training camps is legitimate, but unilateral war is not. In the three years since the invasion of Iraq, the number of major terrorist incidents in the world has increased sharply. War itself is a form of terrorism. Using military force to counter terrorism is like pouring gasoline on a fire. It ignites hatred and vengeance and creates a cycle of violence that can spin out of control. A better strategy is to take away the fuel that sustains the fire. Only nonviolent methods can do that, by attempting to resolve the underlying political and social factors that give rise to armed violence.

The most urgent priority for countering terrorism, experts agree, is multilateral law enforcement to apprehend perpetrators and prevent future attacks. Cooperative law enforcement and intelligence sharing among governments have proven effective in reducing the operational capacity of terrorist networks. Governments are also cooperating to block financing for terrorist networks and deny safe haven, travel, and arms for terrorist militants. These efforts are fully compatible with the principles of nonviolence. . . .

A nonviolent approach should not be confused with appeasement or a defeatist justification of terrorist crimes. The point is not to excuse criminal acts but to learn why they occur and use this knowledge to prevent future attacks. A nonviolent strategy seeks to reduce the appeal of militants' extremist methods by addressing legitimate grievances and providing channels of political engagement for those who sympathize with the declared political aims. . . .

Gandhi's political genius was in understanding the power of third party opinion. He did not try to challenge the British militarily but instead organized mass resistance to weaken the political legitimacy of the Raj. The nonviolent method, Reinhold Niebuhr wrote, undermines the authority and "moral unction" of the adversary. Gandhi realized that political struggles are ultimately a battle for hearts and minds. In all his campaigns, he assiduously cultivated the support of third parties by avoiding harm to the innocent and addressing legitimate grievances. These are essential insights for the struggle against terrorism. . . .

I love my church, and I'm a Catholic who was raised by intellectuals who were very devout. I was raised to believe that you could question the church and still be a Catholic. What is worthy of satire is the misuse of religion for destructive or political gains. . . .

—Stephen Colbert, of *The Daily Show* and *The Colbert Report*, in *TimeOut* New York

## **Remembering 9/11**

Five years have passed, O Lord,  
five years of mourning and of tears,  
of struggling to make sense and to go on.  
Five years since crashing planes, collapsing building,  
rivers of smoke and ash and fear brought death and fear.

Give us the courage to hope again, Father.  
To pray even for our enemies, and for ourselves.  
Give us the grace to be freed from hate  
and unbound from the paralysis of fear.  
Give us the freedom of the children of God:

Awaken in our hearts a firm resolve  
"to reject the ways of violence,  
to combat everything that sows hatred and division  
within the human family,  
and to work for the dawn of a new era  
of solidarity, justice and peace."

We ask this through the Prince of Peace,  
our Way, our Truth, and our Life,  
Christ the Lord. Amen.

## ***Keeping our minds supple, continued:***

sarily mean we don't believe in anything at all, and it doesn't mean we have to question every single thing in the world every minute of the day. It just means that we are humble enough to acknowledge how little we actually know about the mysterious universe we call home.

Nearly every revolutionary change in the history of human progress came about because someone questioned some time-honored belief or tradition and in doing so revealed a new truth, a new way of doing things, or a new standard for ethical and moral behavior. Just so, a commitment to staying open and inquisitive in our own individual lives can lead us to new personal revolutions and truths, truths that we will hopefully, for the sake of our growth, remain open to questioning.

—from [www.dailyom.com](http://www.dailyom.com)

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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.

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