



Second Sunday of Lent

March 4, 2007

Readings

This week:

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 9:28b-36

Next week:

Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Luke 13:1-9

Psalm

The Lord is my light and my salvation. (*Psalm 27*)

Today

Today's presider is Rev. 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

Thursday, March 8, 7:30 p.m.

TMC Board Meeting, Thomas House basement

From Thomas Merton

...Gandhi recognized, as no other world leader of our time has done, the necessity to be free from the pressures, the exorbitant and tyrannical demands of a society that is violent because it is essentially greedy, lustful and cruel. Therefore he fasted, observed days of silence, lived frequently in retreat, knew the value of solitude, as well as of the totally generous expenditure of his time and energy in listening to others and communicating with them. He recognized the impossibility of being a peaceful and nonviolent man if one submits passively to the insatiable requirements of a society maddened by over stimulation and obsessed with the demons of noise, voyeurism and speed. "Jesus died in vain," said Gandhi, "if he did not teach us to regulate the whole of life by the eternal law of love." Strange that he should use this expression. It seems to imply at once concern and accusation....Gandhi did not hesitate to confront Christendom with the principles of Christ....

Gandhi believed that the central problem of our time was the acceptance or the rejection of a basic law of love and truth which had been made known to the world in traditional religions and most clearly by Jesus Christ.

—*Seeds of Destruction*

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

Eucharistic Minister training March 15:

Training for Eucharistic ministers, current and potential, will be held Thursday, March 15, in the church at 7:30 p.m. If you would like to become a Eucharistic minister, please attend. If you are currently serving as a Eucharistic minister, you are fervently invited to attend to “tune” yourself. A presentation on the meaning and spiritual values of this ministry will be given by Sr. Rebecca Shinas, O.P. first at 7:30, followed by a review of the logistics of distributing Communion—always a good refresher. Take this opportunity for reflection and practice as Eucharistic minister. Contact Sally Benson if you cannot come: 408-972-5843, red5@svpal.org.

Dan Berrigan on March 6:

On Tuesday, March 6, 2007, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Daniel Berrigan will be speaking on the topic “Christians, Peacemaking and the War-making State,” at Mercy Center, 2300 Adeline Drive, Burlingame. This is a wonderful and rare opportunity to hear one of our country’s foremost peacemakers. Admission: \$25 in advance. Pre-registration required: call 650.340.7454 or go on-line at www.mercy-center.org.

Rosemary Radford Ruether on March 18:

Don’t miss this talk on “Healing Ourselves, Healing the Earth: Justice and Third World Women,” Sunday, March 18, 4:00 p.m., at Our Lady of the Rosary Church Hall, 3233 Cowper Street, Palo Alto. Dr. Ruether’s talk on ecofeminism discusses the interconnections between the oppression of women and the impoverishment of the earth. She shows that third world women are more likely to make the connection on a practical, socio-economic level, while western women focus more on the symbolic connection. Come and see what this is all about and how it connects to your life.



Please remember in your prayers this week Elaine, Msgr. Gene Boyle, Chloe Chang, Joanne Claus, Mary Connors, Ken Dias, Joanne Hasegawa, Dick Jackman, François Jamati, Tom Jaworowski, Joseph Kehret, Alicia Kot, Joan Kuhn, Kami Ladd, Carol Locke, Mercedes McCaffrey, Maureen Mooney, Stephanie Mullenix, Joe Narewski, Dorothea Nudelman, Hank Okonski, Lynne Owens, Hayden Pastorini, George Peinado, Pauline (Fr. Marini’s cousin), George Peinado, Kay Pulskamp, Ramona Rocha, Anne Rush, Norm and Jane Schirle, Jean Vistica, Dolores Walsh, and T. J. Wooten.

[Add or subtract names from this list by e-mailing the three Bulletin editors: Jane Bahr, Michelle Hogan, Kay Williams.]

Operation Rice Bowl: second week of Lent

Every now and then we get a glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven, as the apostles did when they saw Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah, the lawgiver and the prophet. We finally understand what scripture and the Church have been telling us about God’s desire, God’s way. This glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven can happen when we place our feet in the shoes of our brothers and sisters who struggle with hunger and poverty, and see life from their perspectives. Catholic Relief Services has been helping the people of Pakistan through education programs that focus on improving the social and economic situation of the most vulnerable members of the community, often women, as a key to addressing malnutrition and high mortality rates. Please support CRS’ education projects with your prayers, fasting, learning, and giving with Operation Rice Bowl this week. (At the end of Lent, please put your Rice Bowl savings into one check, made out to CRS, and turn in on Palm Sunday, April 1.)



Redwood City Catholic Worker House needs:

1. Food: school lunch items, frozen meats, milk, etc.
2. PC computer system, to be used by teens in high school and junior colleges.
3. Household needs: storage shed, tickets to events, pressure cooker, laundry detergent, garbage bags, 12-cup coffee pot.
4. Contact Day Laborer Program in Redwood City for gardening or hauling or small fix-it jobs: (650) 339-2794.
5. Teachers and tutors for CW English Language School. Call Sr. Mary Jane at (650) 366-8315.
6. A house, or money to buy a house, to begin another CW house. Call Larry for a cup of coffee, (650) 366-4415.

The Redwood City Catholic Worker is not a formal 501 (c)3 tax-exempt organization. It is not for profit and refuses to apply for or accept tax exempt status from the State. If you wish to receive a write-off on your taxes, you can contribute to the RCCW via Philanthropic Ventures Foundation, ear-marking the check for “Catholic Worker Building Fund.” Their phone is (510) 645-1890.

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.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

“God’s Speech” at Stanford, March 11:

A conversation with Stanford Department of Religious Studies professors, Charlotte Fonrobert, Robert Gregg, and Behnam Sadeki, on “God’s Speech: Its Character and Authority in Judaism, Christianity & Islam,” 12:30 till 2:30 p.m., Sunday, March 11, Arrillaga Alumni Center, 326 Galvez Street, on campus. Free with Stanford student ID, or \$15 at the door. Light lunch included. RSVP asap to lgmiller@stanford.edu, 650-723-1762.

Jews, Christians, and Muslims are monotheists. Each faith community worships a God whose will is revealed through communication. Each religion lives by a scripture and by a history of interpreting its holy writings. How do Judaism, Christianity and Islam think and talk about God’s self-communication in words? Are there significant differences in their understanding of God’s speech and purposes as they are “contained” and “preserved” in the Hebrew Bible, the Christian Bible, and the Qur’an? Come explore these questions and more!

Charlotte Fonrobert, Associate Professor and Graduate Director, specializes in Judaism—talmudic literature and culture—with special interests in gender in Jewish culture, the relationship between Judaism and Christianity in Late Antiquity, and the discourses of orthodoxy versus heresy.

Robert Gregg, Teresa Hihn Moore Professor, Emeritus, focuses on the history of Christianity to the year 700, and is especially interested in the interactions between Jews, “pagans,” Christians and Muslims in the late antique and early Byzantine periods.

Behman Sadeki, Assistant Professor, specializes in the first two centuries of Islamic religion, especially the early history of the Qur’an, the hadith literature, and the early legal discussions about women in the public space.

Co-sponsored by Stanford’s Office for Religious Life and Dept. of Religious Studies, and the Center for Anglican Learning and Leadership (CALL) at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

March 11 Daylight Savings time begins:

Next Sunday, March 11, heralds an earlier switch to Daylight Savings Time. Make a note to set your clock ahead one hour next Saturday night—so you’ll find yourself on time at the 8:45 a.m. Mass on March 11.



Northern California Lay Convocation June 2:

All lay Catholics are invited to participate in a convocation on Saturday, June 2, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at St. Mary’s Cathedral in San Francisco, to learn our history, express to each other and our Church leaders our joys and frustrations, so to fully and inclusively realize in the Church and in the world the grace, beauty and wisdom of Catholic teaching as promulgated by the documents of the Second Vatican Council.

What is a Lay Convocation?

A “calling together” that has its roots in the laity, in contrast to a convocation conceived and called by Church hierarchy.

The Northern California Lay Convocation has its roots in the Lay Synod Movement, which started twelve years ago in Illinois.



How does the Northern California Lay Convocation (NCLC) differ from past gatherings?

1. Though other gatherings of laity have been called and led by clergy and hierarchy, this convocation has been convened and led by laity.
2. This convocation, though completely lay-convened and lay-led, is being welcomed into the Cathedral of St. Mary, the seat of the Archbishop of San Francisco.

What is a Synod?

A synod is a “council convened to discuss ecclesiastical business.” The NCLC is, in its intention, a synod, but canon law defines a synod as a council called by a bishop. This gathering is not called by a bishop, so the steering committee has chosen the term “convocation.” In an ecclesial synod, the bishop sets the agenda. For the NLCL, the laity and clergy who attend will set the agenda.

What is the Lay Synod Movement?

The Lay Synod Movement was begun twelve years ago in Illinois when a group of active Catholics gathered to discuss ecclesiastical business in their diocese. The group, the Fellowship of Southern Illinois Laity (FOSIL) developed the Lay Synod model and for 12 years the paradigm they conceived has produced six highly successful Lay Synod meetings that have guided ongoing dialog with the bishops of the area.

TMC member Michelle Hogan is one of 16 NCLC steering committee members. Stay tuned for registration information, coming soon.

Lent as divine therapy:

[From an interview with Fr. Thomas Keating, a Trappist monk at St. Benedict's monastery in Snowmass, Colorado, and co-founder of the centering prayer movement, conducted by Anne Simpkinson for *Beliefnet.com*.]

Lent is meant to be a communal retreat for all Christians... The liturgy is an instruction in the mystical meaning of Lent as preparation for the Holy Week celebration of the mystery of redemption.

Redemption basically is about holistic health, if you want to translate it into modern parlance. What I suggest--based on the Christian tradition but not often preached--is that you can't enter into the fullness of the Pascal mystery of the redemption unless there is a radical transformation of motivation within you. So, on the first Sunday of Lent, you have Christ going into the desert and experiencing basic human instincts--security needs, power-control needs, and affection-esteem needs. The three temptations ..address each one of those issues.

If you accept the belief that baptism incorporates us in the mystical body of Christ, into the divine DNA, then you might say that the Holy Spirit is present in each of us, and thus we have the capacity for the fullness of redemption, of transformation.

Lent is a time to renew wherever we are in that process ... the divine therapy. It's a time to look at what our instinctual needs are, look at what the dynamics of our unconscious are. The church is hinting in the first Sunday of Lent that Lent is about temptation, or what we think is temptation. It's about the raw experience of human instincts, and how they unconsciously influence our conduct and decisions all our life long unless we keep working with them.

Lent is the time to expect temptation and [experience] afflictive emotions such as shame, humiliation, anger, greed, the time to look at how those instincts, which are developed in early childhood are frustrated--or gratified. See there's a hazard in self-exaltation if we get what we want, or depression if we don't get what we want. To work on those [emotions] during Lent, I think, is more effective than fasting or rituals.

With regard to prayers, I would suggest doing a little more meditation, add another half-hour period [of prayer], if that's possible. If it's not possible, be more alert to the false self and its [emotional] programs as they manifest in everyday life. This is a form of practicing the presence of God....

Lent is...a 40-day retreat that the church invites everybody to go through every year... It would have a transforming effect each time you did it.

Bulletin submissions must be e-mailed by Thursday noon or phoned by Thursday, 9:00 pm. For Kay, e-mail kaywill@pacbell.net or (650) 328-2781. For Michelle, e-mail myhogan@earthlink.net or (650) 493-8452. For Jane, e-mail bahrjunior@comcast.net, or (650) 967-8246.

TMC Board finds renewal:



TMC Board members:

Back: Barbara Kent, Henry Organ, Helen Baumann

Front: Kay Williams, Anna Jaklitsch, Judy Creek, Mary Coady

On February 10 at the Palo Alto Art Center, the TMC Board “retreated” for a half-day of prayer, discussion, and planning. The meeting began with a period of reflection on Mark’s Gospel on the feeding of the four thousand, led by local spiritual mentor Nancy McGarahan. Co-presidents Anna Jaklitsch and Kay Williams each shared her personal vision for the future of TMC. (Kay was inspired by an article in the *National Catholic Reporter* of Feb. 7 by John Allen on the aging population of Catholics worldwide as a template for the future work of TMC.) Board members then reflected on and shared their views of serving on the TMC Board and of being Catholic in this day and time. Following lunch, a practical discussion of the TMC operational calendar, including issues and concerns to take to Bishop P. J. McGrath, completed the day’s work.

Two quotes, spontaneously contributed by Board members, cry out to be shared:

“If you don’t know where you are going, any road will take you there.” (African proverb)

“Be aware of where you are going, because if you don’t change direction, you will get there.” (Chinese saying)

Board: Anna Jaklitsch, 650-327-0978, annajak@accesscom.com

Kay Williams, 650-328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net

Bulletin: Kay Williams (March 4)

Michelle Hogan (March 11)

Jane Bahr (March 18)

Community Builders: Barbara Kent, 323-0879

Michelle Hogan, 493-8452

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, 650-327-3915

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