



Second Sunday of Easter

April 15, 2007

Readings

This week:

Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16

Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

John 20:19-31

Next week:

Acts of the Apostles 5:27-32, 40b-41

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

Psalm

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. (*Psalm 118*)

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

Monday, April 16, 7:30 p.m.

TMC Spiritual Education Committee, Thomas House Basement

From Thomas Merton

If, at the moment of our death, death comes to us as an unwelcome stranger, it will be because Christ also has always been to us an unwelcome stranger. For when death comes, Christ comes also, bringing us the everlasting life which He has brought for us by His own death. Those who love true life, therefore, frequently think about their death. Their life is full of a silence that is an anticipated victory over death. Silence, indeed, makes death our servant and even our friend. Thoughts and prayers that grow up out of the silent thought of death are like trees growing where there is water. ... If I say that a whole lifetime of silence is ordered to a final utterance, I do not mean that we must all contrive to die with pious speeches on our lips. It is not necessary that our last words should have some special or dramatic significance worthy of being written down. Every good death, every death that hands us over from the uncertainties of this world to the unfailing peace and silence of the love of Christ, is itself an utterance and a conclusion. It says, either in words or without them, that it is good for life to come to its appointed end...the eloquence of death is the eloquence of human poverty coming face to face with the riches of divine mercy.

—*No Man Is An Island*

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

Nametags today:

Today refreshed nametags are ready! Name badges help us feel and act like a community of friends in Christ. Knowing one another by name is an immense help in creating a living, breathing community. In addition, Eucharistic ministers want to be able to offer you the bread and wine and call you by name. If you did not find your nametag on the board in the vestibule of the church, please sign up to get one.



And hang up your nametag as you leave the church today, so next week you can pick it up and be known to the community by name.

[Many thanks to Kathy Schniedwind for producing the nametags.]

Become a member of the Merton Center:

It is not too late to join the Thomas Merton Center community. All are welcome to join. Thanks to the many who have become members in 2007!

The impact of your support can not be measured. TMC supports the 8:45 STA Liturgy, St. Elizabeth Seton School, adult spiritual education, and Fr. Kiriti's school and orphanage in Naivasha, Kenya.

You can enroll by completing the enrollment form found at <http://www.thomasmerton.org/>; click on the link under "A Message on Membership" or by contacting the Membership Chair at 650-327-3915.

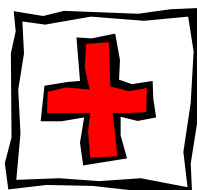
—Mary Washburn, Membership Chair

Seton School needs health volunteers:

Help with a new school health program at St. Elizabeth Seton School that will provide health education, safety awareness, and school health services for students.

A few RNs or other health professional volunteers are needed to work with the school nurse on a health committee which will plan, coordinate, and implement specific health projects. The commitment is small; the committee will meet once a month during the school

year (August through May) for one hour. Please contact Lisa Rauch, R.N., at Seton School, (650) 326-9004, or by e-mail at lrauch@stelizabethseton.com.



TMC Annual Meeting May 6:

All members of the Thomas Merton Center are invited and urged to attend the 2007 Annual Meeting of the membership, Sunday, May 6, 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m., at the home of Larry and Vicki Sullivan in Palo Alto. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. The annual meeting is required by our charter as a non-profit corporation. We take the opportunity to elect new Board members, review our work and accomplishments during the past year, and discuss topics of concern to the members. More information to follow.

TMC seeks Board members:

It is traditional wisdom in the world of volunteers that the best way to solicit participation at a deeper level is by personal invitation. Consider this announcement your personal invitation to think about becoming a member of the Thomas Merton Center Board of Directors.



The Board has 9 members who are elected by the membership. The term of office is three years (usually beginning in June); meetings are monthly (currently the second Thursday of the month) and run about two hours. Other duties may be assigned based on decisions made at the Board meetings. The board members work to keep TMC in alignment with its mission statement and bylaws, respond to members' concerns, lead the membership in new directions that seem appropriate, and support current committees and projects.

This year four 3-yr. Board positions and one vacated position with one year remaining are open. Current Board members Judy Creek and Henry Organ have agreed to stand for re-election. Some individuals have expressed interest in standing for election or re-election to the Board, but firm commitments have not been made to date. Therefore, it may be necessary to carry forward elections to the Board past the annual meeting. Separate notification will be mailed to all members for election of other candidates.

Board service is fulfilling, stimulating, enlightening, challenging, tedious, demanding, annoying, fun, rewarding—at least one of the above at any one time! If you are at all interested in service TMC on the Board, please contact current Board co-chairs for more information: Anna Jaklitsch, (650) 327-0978, annajak@accesscom.com, or Kay Williams, (650) 328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net.

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. The coffee and doughnuts are free; just come and enjoy. If you want to know more about the Merton Center, ask around at coffee, or contact one of the people listed on page 6.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

Remembering Barbara Mouton:

[Funeral services for The Honorable Barbara Mouton, the first Mayor of the incorporated City of East Palo Alto, were conducted on March 22nd/23rd. Mrs. Mouton was very active in the Mid-Peninsula Catholic Interracial Council in the 1960-70s, as were many current members of The Thomas Merton Center. One of the speakers at the services was Joan Abrams, and her statement follows.]

"When I moved to Palo Alto in 1965, I was fortunate to make the acquaintance of members of the Catholic Interracial Council and joined with them (through Fr. John Duryea and St. Ann's). Those things all together were of the best that have ever happened to me. It was in the CIC that I met Barbara Mouton.

Although I moved from the area in '89, Barbara and I had kept in touch, she waking me between 10 pm and midnight several times a year just to ask how I was. I'd reply with a mumbled "Oh, hi, Barb (she was Barb or Barbara, and I was Joanie or Girl), how are you?" Her answer was invariably: "I'm blessed."

I think such calls were reserved for the time of night when all services and meetings were over. Barb would also call to inform me of illness or death of mutual friends; these were daytime calls. If pressed, she'd talk about herself, but she always thanked God she was so blessed.

Several times over the years, Barb would decide that we, the remaining former members of the CIC, should get together to reminisce and catch up; we'd also commemorate those members of CIC who had died since our last get-together. But we always began with the oldest & ended with the most recent passings that we knew of: Chuck and Connie Gros, Annette and Frank Lattore, Preston Morris, Peggy Kinderman, Dave Mouton, Bob Maier, Mary Burns, Mollie Breen, Don Halvorson, Edda Ritson, Isaac Stevenson, Tom Connolly, Fr. John Duryea; and now, Barbara herself has joined that communion of saints."

—Joan Abrams

[Ed. note: CIC was the group that started the Catholic Interracial Scholarship Fund, which has morphed into the Mabel B. Wright Scholarship Fund.]

Social justice craft and information fair April 29:

A Social Justice Craft and Information Fair will be held on Sunday, April 29, 12:30-4pm, at the First Presbyterian Church, 1140 Cowper St., in Palo Alto. See informational exhibits, listen to great world music, and buy crafts and gift items from local organizations working on social justice and green causes. This event provides increased awareness about how we can faithfully use our consumer dollars to promote Fair Trade, environmentally responsible and socially responsible products and service. For more information contact Derrick Kikuchi at derrick@reachandteach.com.

Peninsula Interfaith Action Heroes Lunch April 27:

Peninsula Interfaith Action invites all to join them for their annual Community Heroes Awards Luncheon on April 27—taking the time to recognize and thank the “heroes” among us who make our community better. Awards will be presented to exceptional individuals who have demonstrated vision and heart in the community:

► Hon. Rose Jacobs Gibson, President, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

► Hon Richard S. Gordon, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

Gibson and Gordon will be honored for the creation and funding of the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust (HEART) of San Mateo County.

► Ms. Becky Morgan, President of the Morgan Family Foundation, will be honored for her work to create positive change and to encourage philanthropy.

In addition, Community Heroes from PIA congregations from Daly City to Sunnyvale will be honored, including one from TMC. The event will be on Friday, April 27th at the Computer History Museum, 1401 North Shoreline Blvd., Mt View, from 11:45 am to 1:30 pm. Information, call George Chippendale, 856-6350.

Lay Convocation June 2 in San Francisco:

Plan to attend a “first” on Saturday, June 2, 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m., at St. Mary’s Cathedral in San Francisco—an historic lay convocation, a gathering of the People of God to talk about issues of concern. It is hoped that this event is the start of a new way of communicating within the Church in Northern California. The convocation is organized for and by the laity of the Church. Only two other lay synods have been held in the U.S., and this is the first at a Catholic site, thanks to the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Register early as space is limited: go to www.NorCalLayConvocation.org to download a registration form. Cost is a suggested \$15 donation, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Presentations will include “Lay Leadership in the Third Millennium: Reviving an Ancient Tradition,” “Vatican II: Shared Baptism/Shared Leadership,” and “Creating Dialogue and Conversation in the Midst of Controversy.” Check the website for a list of recommended reading on lay issues and challenges.

TMC member Michelle Hogan is working with the Lay Convocation committee. Ask her for more details: (650) 493-8452, myhogan@earthlink.net.

Help Seton by playing golf May 21:



The twelfth annual charity golf tournament and auction, "Scramble for Kids", benefiting St. Elizabeth Seton School is scheduled for Monday, May 21, at the Stanford Golf Course. Golfers can help provide

challenging and effective education to a steadily increasing population of disadvantaged children in our area. St. Elizabeth Seton School is a Catholic Community school which offers a realistic private school choice for E. Palo Alto and E. Menlo Park families.

Seton's doors are open to all students regardless of ethnic, religious, & socioeconomic background. Proceeds benefit St. Elizabeth Seton School Scholarship Fund.

Entry fees include greens fee, golf cart, gifts, box lunch and supper in the evening: 1 player \$300, 2 players \$600, 3 players \$900, 4 players \$1,200. Senior rate (65+) \$225. Call (650) 326-1258.

Primer course on Islam April 23:

Title: Islam 101 - A brief Introduction to Islam

Description: A top-level, basic, and brief introduction to Islam. Presented by Fr. Jose Rubio and/or Don Jones from the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the Diocese of San Jose. This talk will address Islam's place among the world's religions, including information on the 5 Pillars of Islam and Islam's 5 basic beliefs. Catholics will be encouraged to seek further information and involvement. Also discussed will be the Islamic view on the major Judaic and Christian scriptures and prophets. Question and answer period.

Date: Monday 23rd April. **Time:** 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Location: Our Lady of the Rosary Church Hall, 3233 Cowper Street, Palo Alto, CA 94306

Sponsor: The St. Thomas Aquinas Adult Spiritual Development Committee (STA ASDC)

Contact: Gerard McGuire - Chair - STA ASDC
{phone: (650)814-2223} for further details.



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, Barbara Kent, Alicia Kot, Joan Kuhn, Kami Ladd, Andre Lippard, Ric Lippard, Carol Locke, Mercedes McCaffrey, Eileen McNevin, 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, George Schardt, Jean Vistica, Dolores Walsh, Sarah Washburn and T. J. Wooten. [Add or subtract names from this list by e-mailing the three Bulletin editors: Jane Bahr, Michelle Hogan, Kay Williams.]

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 Needs Net:

[Cut out this reminder and post it on your refrigerator]

Do you or someone you know need a helping hand—a last-minute ride, a cat-sitter, help with a computer problem, or the like? Perhaps you know of someone who is too shy to ask for help. That's the time to cast the TMC Needs Net and catch some help for that sudden problem: Roberta Kehret, 494-1488, robkehr@yahoo.com.

Day workers waiting to help you:

It's time to start your spring cleaning, as the days warm and the sun shines longer. A day worker can lighten the load and help you get it finished faster. Workers are available for painting, garage cleaning, window and gutter cleaning, landscaping, moving, janitorial work, housecleaning, and other jobs. Call Maria Marroquin at (650) 903-4102, or go to www.dayworkercenter.org.



Tell Maria what you need:

- Type of job and number of workers needed
- Time and date of work
- Work-site address
- What you will pay (usually \$10-\$15 per hour - more for special skills).

Pick up the workers from the Worker Center. Pay the workers at the end of the job and return them to the Worker Center. You will be provided with a worker with suitable language skills and assistance in translation as needed.

The Day Worker Center is located at 1880 California S. (at Escuela), Mountain View, in the back of Calvary Church. Hours are 7:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m., Mon.-Sat. Sunday hours can be arranged.

Support Fr. Kiriti's school in Kenya:

A set of note cards with original art by a young artist parishioner of Fr. Kiriti's St. Francis Xavier parish in Naivaisha, Kenya, is available for \$20 for a set of 10 cards from Margo McAuliffe, (650) 322-0821, margomca2@sbcglobal.net. A great gift, especially for the new graduate. See Kay Williams after Mass today.

Board: Anna Jaklitsch, 650-327-0978, annajak@accesscom.com
Kay Williams, 650-328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net

Bulletin: Kay Williams (April 15 and May 27)

Michelle Hogan (May 6)

Jane Bahr (April 22 and 29, May 13 and 20)

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

Needs Net: Robert Kehret, 650-494-1488, robkehr@yahoo.com

Spiritual Education:

Mary Coady, 650-261-9155, coady_94025@yahoo.com

Jim Davis, (650) 704-8002, Jim_Davis@pacbell.net

Can Men Be Ordained? by Rosemary Ruether

A synod of bishops from the four corners of the earth and a full panoply of Mother Superiors recently converged on the Holy See of Rome, to consider the vexed question of the ordination of men. The Holy See had received many heartfelt appeals from the cruder sex claiming to have a call to the priesthood from God Himself.

Her Holiness firmly replied to these appeals that the call must have been a wrong number. Our Holy Mother in heaven would never call to the ministry those so obviously disqualified by reason of gender.

But the men refused to take no for an answer. Throwing down their picks and shovels, they declared they would do no more maintenance to the church roof until they had equal rights with women. They sent petitions to the Holy See, filled with arguments in support of the ordination of men. Although they could find no example from Jesus Himself, the Incarnation of holy wisdom, since he had ordained no men to the priesthood (or women either ...)

Finally Her Holiness decided to gather the Holy Mothers of the Church together, with a number of the best-qualified scholars, who had spent a lifetime studying the odd characteristics of the male gender (from a safe distance, of course). They hoped to come up with a definitive argument, once and for all, against the ordination of men.

After long and careful study, a final decree was drawn up defining the reasons why men could not be ordained. The decree was proclaimed by Her Holiness and the Holy Mothers departed home to their respective seats of wisdom, feeling very pleased with themselves. The decree *Ad Hominem* stated to their satisfaction, and, they hoped, for all time, the weighty reasons for their gut prejudices.

The first part of the decree deduced a good many reasons from men's biological and psychological natures that disqualified them from the priesthood.

It was said, first of all, that men were too violent and emotional to be priests. Anyone who has watched groups of men at football or cricket matches, not to mention political conferences, has seen their trigger-happy tempers, their taste for solving conflicts with fisticuffs. To ordain such creatures would be to risk disgraceful brawls at the altar. The male proneness to violence surely disqualifies them from representing Christ, who incarnates graciousness and peace.

Secondly, the cruder, heavier frame of the male clearly marks him out for the physical tasks of society, digging ditches, mending roofs and the like. The finer, more spiritual tasks of society are intended by Our Mother in Heaven for the more refined spirits and bodies of

women. This separation of roles is clearly evident in scripture, where the males are said to have been created from dirt, while women were created last, clearly marking them out as the crown of God's Creation. It was even suggested by one Mother Superior that Adam was a rough draft, Eve being the more refined and complete version of human nature. The Mothers had a good many laughs at that one, and some decided to have it made into a bumper sticker.

On the practical level, it was felt that men were needed for military defense. A man's place is in the army, declared one wise scholar, and all the Holy Mothers nodded in agreement. Besides, men would look silly in red dresses and lace. The sacred garb is clearly intended for women.

Profound matters of a theological nature were also discussed. One scholar had prepared a long paper proving from the symbolic order that men could not be ordained. The division of humanity into male and female is a profound mystery that symbolizes the relationship of the transcendent and the immanent, the spiritual and the material. Women represent the spiritual realm, men the material. The material must be ruled by the spiritual, just as Holy Wisdom presides over the physical cosmos as her household.

Moreover, since the Church is female, those who represent Her should clearly be female as well. There should be a physical resemblance between the priest and the Church as Holy Mother. Obviously this means that all priests should be mature women. The Church is also said to be the Bride of Christ, and brides are female. The priest, as a representative of the Church in relation to Christ, represents Christ's bride. Therefore only women can be priests.

It was solemnly noted that men are sexually attractive to some women. To have a man on the altar may distract a woman from her prayers. For women to have to sit listening to men preach or watching them stomping about the sanctuary might lead their thoughts to descend from the higher to the lower realms.

Finally, it was noted that most of the people who come to church are women. Men tend to stand outside the doors of the church gossiping, or sneak off to the pub or football match.

It was hoped that with so many clear reasons, from both the natural and theological realms, against the ordination of men, this would settle the matter. Male impertinence would be silenced, and they would slink back into their proper sphere.

Roma locuta, causa finita.

[Published in 2006 on the website of Catholic Women's Ordination, a U.K.-based organization. Catholic Ruether is a pioneer Christian feminist theologian for 40 years. Submitted for publication here by Richard Placone.]

Sherry Cassidy's medical mission in Africa:

TMC member Sherry Cassidy has returned recently from Africa and is on a mission as a result of her experiences there. She writes:

"Since you have seen me last, I have been to Africa and back! I was in northern Tanzania for two weeks in late January and early February scouting possibilities for medical mission work. It was a wonderful trip and has inspired our little group to form a non-profit organization, **Tanzania Health and Education Mission, THE Mission**, to continue the work we were able to begin this year.

We are hosting a dinner and auction event on Friday, May 11, at the Elk's Club in Redwood City and I would love to see you there. (See following article.)...Thanks for your support: Sherry Cassidy, Threshold Resources, 417 Tasso Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301, (650) 853-0500, sherrycassedy@aol.com."

Sherry's THE Mission event May 11:

"Four women and a priest embarked on a medical mission trip to Tanzania in January 2007. It was two weeks that changed our lives. Our intent was to scout the needs of the people for ongoing health and education support. THE Mission group included Father Paulinus Mangesha, a native of the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania who is currently working in a local parish; Jehane Jones and Pam Sullivan, both RNs at Sequoia Hospital; Jehane's daughter Sarah, and myself, Sherry Cassidy.

We arrived with five suitcases packed with surplus medical supplies and a little over \$7,000. We distributed the supplies to three local clinics and purchased \$1,000 worth of medicines, a sterilizer, a solar/electric microscope, and a refrigeration unit. We also purchased and distributed 680 mosquito bed nets for malaria prevention to the local villages and parishes. We visited several schools where we also provided supplies.

The people of Tanzania were wonderfully welcoming and very much appreciated our contributions. There is much more to do. The local clinics have basic needs for medications, supplies and equipment as well as training. HIV/AIDS is a major problem. The sick are cared for primarily in the home but the impact is starkly visible in the huge numbers of orphans who are in need of financial support to continue their schooling. We are dedicated to bringing medical and education resources and supplies to Tanzania on a consistent and on-going basis and have formed a non-profit organization, THE Mission, Tanzania Health and Education Mission, to do so. We need your help.



On Friday, May 11, 2007, we are hosting an "Auction for Africa." Our silent auction includes gift certificates for spa treatments, restaurants, hotels, sports events, as well as crafts and photographs from Tanzania. Our live auction will include "Aloha Week" in a luxury ocean-view condominium on Kauai, a small airplane tour of the Monterey County coast, "Alpine Week" in west Lake Tahoe for either summer or winter season, a Yamaha motorcycle and Tanzanian artwork. The auction will be at the Elk's Club in Redwood City, including dinner and music as well as discussion and entertainment from Tanzania. I am hoping that you will be able to attend. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door. If you have any questions or would like to make a donation to THE Mission, please email or call THE Mission or contact me at sherrycassedy@aol.com or (650) 856-8638. *Asante* (thank you) for your support!

151 Stratford Street, Redwood City, CA 94062, (650) 215-8769.
Email: supportthemission@gmail.com, www.supportthemission.org."

John Allen: the face of Catholicism's future:

John L. Allen, Jr., columnist for the *National Catholic Reporter*, author, journalistic commentator on "all things Catholic," wrote about Nigeria in the March 30 issue of NCR. Here are some excerpts:

"...If youthfulness is one hallmark of African Catholicism, another is explosive growth. Catholicism in sub-Saharan Africa grew by 6,708 percent in the 20th century, from 1.9 million to 130 million. Christianity is still on the march in Nigeria, moving from just 4 percent of the population in 1900 to, by some counts, a slight majority today. In the historically Muslim city of Kaduna in northern Nigeria, for example, signs of the Christian presence are now ubiquitous; it's hard to travel more than 50 feet without seeing a banner announcing a revival, and even local businesses carry names such as the 'Jesus Saves Aluminum Company' or the 'Power of Holy Ghost Beauty Salon.' by 2050, Nigeria is expected to be the ninth largest Catholic country in the world, with 47 million faithful, more than traditional European Catholic powerhouses such as Spain and Poland.

These realities have convinced many observers that Africa is the future of Catholicism in the 21st century. If so, the \$64,000 question is: What kind of future?"

Read on for a fascinating article: http://ncronline.org/NCR_Online/archives2/2007a/033007/033007a.php. Another inspiring story of the Church in Malawi is detailed by Allen: <http://ncrcafe.org/node/1030>.

[Ed.note: The TMC relationship with Fr. Kiriti in Kenya is also noteworthy for providing an understanding of the African church to those of us in the first world.]