



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2006

Readings

This week:

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

1 John 4:7-10

John 15:9-17

Next week:

Acts 1:1-11

Ephesians 4:1-13

Mark 16:15-20

Psalm

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. (Ps. 98)

Today

Today's presider is Father 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 22, 7:30 p.m.

STA Liturgy Committee, location TBD.

Wednesday, May 24, 7:30 p.m.

STA Site Committee, STA Basement Hall

From Thomas Merton

What is serious to men is often very trivial in the sight of God. What in God might appear to us as "play" is perhaps what He Himself takes most seriously. At any rate the Lord plays and diverts Himself in the garden of His creation, and if we could let go of our own obsession with what we think is the meaning of it all, we might be able to hear His call and follow Him in His mysterious, cosmic dance. We do not have to go very far to catch echoes of that game, and of that dancing. When we are alone on a starlit night; when by chance we see the migrating birds in autumn descending on a grove of junipers to rest and eat; when we see children in a moment when they are really children; when we know love in our own hearts; or when, like the Japanese poet Basho we hear an old frog land in a quiet pond with a solitary splash—at such times the awakening, the turning inside out of all values, the "newness," the emptiness and the purity of vision that make themselves evident, provide a glimpse of the cosmic dance.

—*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

Robert Blair Kaiser speaks June 4:



Robert Blair Kaiser

“A Church in Search of Itself” is the title and topic for a discussion by ex-Jesuit journalist Robert Blair Kaiser on Sunday, June 4, at 7:00 p.m., in Our Lady of the Rosary Church Hall, 3233 Cowper St., Palo Alto. Kaiser’s latest book, of the same title, is available at Kepler’s Books in Menlo Park, and will prep you well to engage fully in the exchange with this engaging observer of the Catholic Church. R. Scott Appleby, University of Notre Dame historian, says of the book: “The highlights of the longtime Vatican-watcher Robert Blair Kaiser’s account of the state of the Roman Catholic Church are his vividly drawn profiles of Catholics who perform quietly dramatic acts of compassion, creativity and resistance. These agents of enculturation -- that is, adapting Christian belief and practice to local cultures -- resist not only fundamentalists and secular despots, Kaiser observes, but also Vatican enforcers who attempt to stifle ‘homegrown’ forms of Christianity.” Admission free; donations accepted.

Fr. Kiriti’s nephew has died:

Fr. Daniel Kiriti’s 9-year-old nephew, also named Kiriti, died on May 6 of TB complicated by malaria. Fr. Daniel arrived home from his visit here and was greeted with this sad news. Please remember Fr. Kiriti and his family in your prayers in this time of mourning.

Kepler’s Community Donation Program:



The Community Donation Program sponsored by Kepler’s is working—and TMC can benefit from your book purchases at Kepler’s. This means that 5% of every purchase at Kepler’s by a person who mentions TMC at the time of checkout will be donated to TMC. So buy your books, calendars, magazines, cookbooks, children’s books at Kepler’s in Menlo Park, and, **before** you hand over your cash, check or credit card in payment, tell them TMC sent you.



Please remember in your prayers this week Elaine, Msgr. Gene Boyle, Maureen Carleton, Chloe Chang, Joanne Claus, Mary Connors, Ken Dias, Joanne Hasegawa, Frank Hayes, François Jamati, Joseph Kehret, Alicia Kot, Joan Kuhn, Kami Ladd, Chris Lippard & family, Carol Locke, Maureen Mooney, Stephanie Mullenix, Joe Narewski, Lynne Owens, Hayden Pastorini, George Peinado, Nora Peniata, Ramona Rocha, Anne Rush, Dolores Walsh, T. J. Wooten, Virginia Worthington, and Rosamond, Chris, and Janie (friends of Jean Gill).

STA Site Committee May 24:



Plans are afoot for the use of the houses which flank St. Thomas Aquinas Church—the Homer House and the Thomas House. The STA Site Committee, of which you can be a part, will meet **Wednesday, May 24, at 7:30 p.m., in the Thomas House**

basement hall. Renovations for the Homer House apartments are underway. A vision statement for the uses of the Thomas House has been drafted by the committee. The goal of the Site Committee is to provide good stewardship of the Thomas House, making it a suitable location for hospitality, spiritual education, community support, and income to the parish. To realize the vision, many levels of involvement from those who attend Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church will be vital. Each of us can contribute to the project—from wielding a broom to working with contractors, scheduling events, advertising and communicating. Every talent that you all harbor can blossom for the benefit of all. Even if you think you have no time, no talent, no interest, **COME** this Wednesday night and learn more. Your idea may spark the group—and that will be the fire that is needed to fuel the movement of the train. Contact Helen Baumann: hbaumann@aol.com, 327-9236.

Fair Trade coffee for sale today:



Fair Trade coffee from El Salvador will be for sale after Mass on the patio. This time Ray Razzo will have enough coffee! He will also be selling tickets for the June 3 South Bay Sanctuary Covenant fundraiser at \$20 and \$15 for children.

Tom Jaworowski honored by PIA:

TMC member and congregant at the 8:45 Sunday Mass Tom Jaworowski was honored recently as a Community Hero by the Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA) branch at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. Because Tom was not able to be present at the PIA luncheon at the end of April when the presentations were made, he is receiving them today from TMC Board co-presidents, Kay Williams and Anna Jaklitsch. Tom’s work with PIA, especially in bringing attention to the need for health care in our counties, is to be praised and celebrated today in our community.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

Celebration of Msgr. Boyle's anniversary:

Monsignor Eugene Boyle celebrates the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on June 15. A celebration of this big day will be held on Saturday, June 17, following the 5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Albert the Great Church, in the Seton School auditorium. All are invited to attend—and to help beforehand! Eleanor Kraft is working on this party with the Community Life Committee of the parish. She may tap you on the shoulder soon and request assistance—just smile and say “of course, Eleanor, whatever you need...”

Anyone who has pictures or memorabilia relating to Gene and his various activities, e.g., St. Ann Chapel, farm workers, civil rights, etc., please communicate with Helen Bunje at 327-8727 or hvcbunje@aol.com, or Eleanor Kraft at 408-738-4004 or meaker44@sbcglobal.net. This will be a great party for a priest who has served so many of us for so long and so well. TMC is especially indebted to Gene for his unwavering support of its development over the past ten years. Don't miss this party!

Vitale & the Peace Declaration June 5:

The Network of Spiritual Progressives-San Mateo County, Pax Christi Burlingame, and Pace e Bene Non-violence Service present “The Declaration of Peace,” an evening with Fr. Louis Vitale, O.F.M., non-violent action advocate, Monday, June 5, 7:30 pm, Transfiguration Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 3900 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo.

The Declaration of Peace is a commitment to take non-violent steps for a comprehensive, concrete, and rapid end to the war in Iraq. With nearly 70% of the people of the United States supporting an end to the war, there is a growing call to bring the troops home now. Together, people of faith and people of conscience have the power to declare a new era of peace and justice.

Join Fr. Louis Vitale to learn more about this proposal for bold, powerful and peaceful steps to help establish a comprehensive withdrawal plan. A longtime social activist, Louie co-founded the Nevada Desert Experience, a movement to end nuclear testing. He served 13 years as pastor of St. Boniface Catholic Church in the Tenderloin and recently completed a six-month sentence for nonviolent action to close the School of the Americas/WHINSEC at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

Freewill offerings to support the Declaration of Peace will be gratefully received. Contact: Anne Carey, 415-238-0704, www.declarationofpeace.org

South Bay Sanctuary Covenant dinner June 3:

The South Bay Sanctuary Covenant is holding a celebratory dinner on Saturday, June 3, beginning at 4:00 p.m. with music, Fair Trade organic coffee and Salvadoran crafts sale, followed by a program and Salvadoran pupusas and an enchilada dinner, at Palo Alto First Presbyterian Church – Fellowship Hall, 1140 Cowper at Lincoln in Palo Alto – plenty of parking behind church. A suggested donation is \$20/adult and \$15/student for program or program and dinner (no one turned away for lack of funds).

The gathering celebrates two events:

- 1) The victory in November 2005 of Irma Yolanda Calderon de Najarro, a witness in the trial against Salvadoran Army Col. Nicolas Carranza, who commanded the death squads that murdered her father, a leader in the Teachers' Association. The jury found Carranza responsible for crimes against humanity; and
- 2) The members of the 2006 delegation to Comunidad Octavio Ortiz in El Salvador will share special highlights from their journey, especially how we make a difference. The delegation was John Bayer, Derrick Kikuchi, Martha Maris, Ray Raza, Arlene Schaupp, Emily and Karen Skold, and Ann Teegardin.

Please RSVP to 650-494-8340.

Sponsored by South Bay Sanctuary Covenant.

www.southbaysanctuarycovenant.org

Co-sponsored by Church & Society Committee, First Presbyterian Church.

Hotel de Zink report:

Thank you so much to all the generous parishioners who brought food to Hotel de Zink for the homeless guests at the Church of Christ during April.

Everyone, guests and church members, were most grateful for your help.

—Ruth Chippendale, Human Concerns Commission

Hidden Villa Camp Fund report:

Many, many thanks to all the parishioners who donated to the Hidden Villa Camp Fund. Because of your generosity it looks like 36 children from East Palo Alto and East Menlo park will be able to enjoy a week of fun with fields, forests, farms, swimming and animals this summer.

Thank you so much.

St. Vincent de Paul of St. Francis Church

From the Catholic News Service:

Vatican rules on Legionaries' founder:

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- In a decision approved by Pope Benedict XVI, the Vatican has said the founder of the Legionaries of Christ, accused of sexually abusing minors, should not exercise his priestly ministry publicly. The Vatican also said May 19 it would not begin a canonical process against the founder, 86-year-old Father Marcial Maciel Degollado, because of his advanced age and poor health. The Vatican statement did not get into details about the allegations against Father Maciel, but Vatican sources said the wording of the statement and its call to penance signaled it had found there was substance to the accusations. In the statement, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the Vatican had investigated the claims made by former Legionary seminarians against Father Maciel, who founded the Legionaries in his native Mexico in 1941. "After having submitted the results of the investigation to attentive study, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, under the guidance of the new prefect, His Eminence Cardinal William Levada, has decided -- taking into account both the advanced age of Rev. Maciel and his delicate health -- to forgo a canonical process and to call the priest to a life reserved to prayer and penance, renouncing any public ministry," the statement said.

Orthodox official sees quicker resolution of tensions under this pope

ROME (CNS) -- The head of ecumenical relations for the Russian Orthodox Church said he expects the resolution of Catholic-Orthodox tensions to speed up under Pope Benedict XVI. Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad met May 18 with Pope Benedict, then presided over the May 19 blessing of the new Russian Orthodox church in Rome, St. Catherine the Martyr. He told reporters later that he had "a deep and important conversation" with Pope Benedict "about possibilities for our churches working together," particularly in Europe. "The Catholic Church and the Russian Orthodox Church must work together to bring to light again the Christian roots of Europe," Metropolitan Kirill said. While the centuries-old theological differences separating Catholics and Orthodox must be overcome, he said, "people today want answers to the questions that are closest to them, and they want one answer. They want the churches to speak with one voice." He said the pope agreed that promoting moral values in Europe -- especially the value of human life and the importance of the traditional family -- should be a priority for the two churches.

Thank you from Fr. Kiriti (from Kenya):

This may sound out of time but not out of space. If given an opportunity, I would act out my feel[ings] to you all but since this media has no room for that I will say, Thank you for the reception you all accorded me during my visit.

I came back full of joy plus jet lag. I arrived Nairobi 5th May and came down home the following day. All those I met in our town were happy to see me. Sunday came and I had three masses... There was a meeting of the church committee after masses which I attended and told them my experience in California. They were all happy to hear that there are other people who think and care about them.

At around 5 pm while relaxing in my room, a phone call came and it was Peter, my brother, telling me of the death of Kiriti junior. Kiriti is my sister's son. That broke me down and I could not help asking God many questions. Why should a nine year boy die when he is just starting to experience what life is? As usual God was silent. I am used to His silen[ce] and at that point I always go silent. At that point we understand each other.

My family has history of asthma and for a long time the boy complained of chest pain. That was dismissed as asthma. This time it was serious and he was taken to a mission hospital only to find he had TB plus malaria. TB was at [an] advanced stage and that brought him down. One thing I know, Kiriti is with his uncle Clement. May both rest in peace. The funeral was sad but faith kept us together.

I am writing this to say to all of you, thank you for all what you have been to me. I was strong knowing you were all behind me in prayers. Thank you for all the sharing and treats you gave me. Be blessed.

I am now getting the plans of the girls school signed by the municipality so that I can start [to] build. Thank you for making this possible. I have learned to ask the right questions— not why did God create me, but rather why does God keep me in existence in the ongoing present? I exist today because God wants me to make a difference in the life of others. Thank you for joining me in achieving that. Thanks once again. *Asante sana*.

—Kiriti, May 19, 2006

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

Bulletin: Kay Williams (May 21 and June 18)
Michelle Hogan (May 28, June 1 and 25)
Jane Bahr (June 4)

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
Spiritual Education:

Mary Coady, 650-261-9155, coady_94025@yahoo.com
Jim Davis, (650) 704-8002, Jim_Davis@pacbell.net