



Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 30, 2006

Readings

This week:

2 Kings 4:42-44

Ephesians 4:1-6

John 6:1-15

Next week:

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

2 Peter 1:16-19

Mark 9:2-10

Psalm Today

The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs. (*Psalm 145*)

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, July 31, 7:30 pm Liturgy Committee, location TBD

From Thomas Merton

The most obvious fact about war today is that while everyone claims to hate it, and all are unanimously agreed that it is our greatest single evil, there is little significant resistance to it except on the part of small minorities who, by the very fact of their protest, are dismissed as eccentric. The awful fact is that though mankind fears war and seeks to avoid it, the fear is irrational and inefficacious. It can do nothing against a profound *unconscious proclivity to violence* which seems, in fact, to be one of the most mysterious characteristics of man, not only in his individuality, but in his collective and social life. War represents a vice that mankind would like to get rid of but which it cannot do without. Man is like an alcoholic who knows that drink will destroy him but who always has a reason for drinking. So with war. And the best, most obvious, most incontrovertible reason for war is of course "peace." The motive for which men are led to fight today is that war is necessary to destroy those who threaten our peace! It should be clear from this that war is, in fact, totally irrational, and that it proceeds to its violent ritual with the chanting of perfect nonsense. Yet men not only accept this, they even go so far as to sacrifice their lives and their human dignity and to commit the most hideous atrocities, convinced that in so doing they are being noble, honest, self-sacrificing, and just.

—"War" in *Love and Living*

COMMUNITY NOTES

News Announcements Requests

Dead Sea Scrolls speaker in October:

Hershel Shanks, editor of *Biblical Archaeology Review*, will be speaking on the Dead Sea Scrolls in Palo Alto on Saturday, October 21, 7:30 p.m., at Lucie Stern Community Center Hall, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Get a head start on preparing for this engaging and erudite amateur Biblical archaeologist by reading his most popular book, *The Mystery and Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls*.

Mary Coady, co-chairperson the TMC Spiritual Education Committee, calls this book "a real page-turner." Mr. Shanks has made it his life's work to bring the complete Dead Sea Scrolls to the world through his magazines, books, and conferences.

And mark your calendars so you don't miss this rare opportunity to be in discussion with Mr. Shanks.

TMC Needs Net:

Don't forget that TMC is launching a Needs Net to help you with that unexpected, hence stressful need—the car going on the fritz, the sudden trip that means you need coverage for the cat, the doctor's appointment for which you need a companion. Communicate your need to Roberta at 650-494-1488 or by email at robkehr@yahoo.com. She and her team will rustle up the help you need—quickly and confidentially.

It's Envelope Sunday for TMC:

On this last Sunday of the month, a return envelope is enclosed in the bulletin. Your donation to the Thomas Merton Center provides the means for the liturgical and educational programs that identify TMC to the parish of St. Thomas Aquinas and to the spiritually seeking community in Palo Alto and beyond. In particular, donations subsidize our Sunday 8:45 a.m. Mass needs and our spiritual education programs. Many thanks for all your support!



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).

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

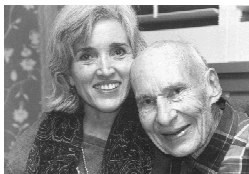
Kepler's Community Donation Program:

To prepare for the talk by Hershel Shanks, buy *The Mystery and Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls* from Kepler's in Menlo Park. The Community Donation Program sponsored by Kepler's is working—and TMC can benefit from your book purchases. 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 Shanks' book at Kepler's in Menlo Park, and, **before you hand over your cash, check or credit card in payment**, tell them TMC sent you.



Fr. John Duryea: 1918—2006

Word was received this week from Oaxaca, Mexico, that Fr. John Duryea died on July 22, 2006, after a period of failing health. Many will remember that Fr. Duryea served as chaplain of the Stanford Newman Center from 1961 until 1976, when he announced that



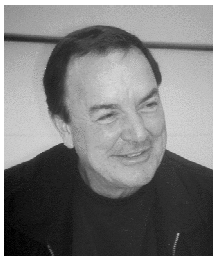
Eve DeBona & John Duryea

he had fallen in love and was going to marry Eve DeBona. He continued his ministry locally as the spiritual leader of the Angelo Roncalli Community until he and Eve moved to Mexico five years

ago. For more information and messages from Eve and her daughters, go to <http://www.duryea.tifring.com/>.

Fasting for peace:

The Declaration of Peace is a nationwide campaign to establish a concrete and rapid plan for peace in Iraq, including a timetable for prompt withdrawal of troops. Supporters of the Declaration of Peace in San Mateo County will be "Fasting for Peace on Thursdays" in August and September. To learn more about the spiritual aspects of fasting, come to a gathering on Monday, July 31, at



Larry Purcell

7:30 PM at Transfiguration Episcopal Church, 3900 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo. Larry Purcell of the Catholic Worker house in Redwood City will speak on "Fasting for Peace: What and Why" and will respond to questions.

For more information, contact 415-238-0704, or npsmc@hotmail.com.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

Margo in Kenya: helping women

[TMC member Margo McAuliffe is spending the summer in Naivasha, Kenya, in the parish of Fr. Daniel Kiriti, working with high school students and their teachers in math classes.]

July 5, 2006

I came back at lunch time to meet with Katherine, of Life Bloom, the organization of commercial sex workers whose meeting I attended last week. I wanted to find out whether any of the women did crafts that I might buy to bring back to sell. We discussed bead work, baskets, earrings, girls' skirts in bright African fabrics She said some of them are learning tailoring and she hopes to expand that skill and find outlets for it. We agreed that she would consult with the women and I would come to her office on Tuesday afternoon. After we discussed a little about what I'm doing here, she told me about Beth, a 21-year old CSW, who has completed form 2 and wants very much to go back to school and find a way to support herself and her child. She will go to the school tomorrow where Regina will evaluate where she stands and help her get books and get started. I told her I would love to help Beth however I could.

I then walked down to the town with her so she could show me where the office is... I went off to the "supermarket" to see whether they sold sunscreen, as I can't find mine and it's pretty vital here. Sure enough, I was able to get some spf 30. Who would suspect there were enough *mzungus** here to warrant its being stocked. I hardly ever see any, but I understand there are a lot who own/manage the flower farms here. As I was walking back up, carrying my Trader Joe's shopping bag, it suddenly occurred to me that maybe there would be a market here for cloth shopping bags... you may recall I've written about the plastic bags that are EVERYWHERE here. It is so terrible, looks awful and is so bad for the environment. So, I stopped by her office to show her my bag. She immediately loved the idea. She took me into the room where 2 women were using ancient Singer machines. One of the women examined my bag very carefully, said that yes, they could get that grade of fabric and yes, she thought it was a good idea. Katherine suggested that they could dye them in African colors and designs to make them more interesting. Is it a coincidence that Katherine has

...carrying my Trader Joe's shopping bag... maybe there would be a market here for cloth shopping bags...

planned to teach them about how to dye fabrics in a class beginning next week? Coincidence or synergy? I have to wonder. Maybe I can even bring some back--- anybody willing to buy (and use them?). They were pretty excited about this prospect. With proper care and feeding, this could be a big deal here. We could start a revolution!!! And it's a win-win if it is a go. Good for these women to help them out of the "job" they hate so much and good for the environment. We should get Wangari Maathai behind it. If anyone has ideas of what I can easily transport and what might sell, please let me know. I love getting emails, so just sit down and type away.

[**mzungu*=white person]

July 15, 2006 [A long account of making bread with the women of Life Bloom ends with the following:]

I wish I had the words to describe how excited these great women were to be baking their own bread. It got a bit too brown on top and the bottom didn't get done--- we had to keep putting it back, but eventually I was baked and they couldn't have been prouder. They couldn't wait to taste, but they only tasted the scraps that clung to the baking sheet, as they wanted to take it home to show their children. I wish I could also tell you how great I felt. We forged bonds as women that we'll all remember for a very long time. At one point Julia asked me whether I was saved.

I always cringe when I'm asked that b/c I'm pretty sure the asker has something in mind to which I couldn't say yes. I asked her what she meant. This was her reply. "You know, have you given your life to Jesus." I said, "probably not the way you have in mind, but I try to live my life in accord with what he taught. But why did you ask me this?" "Usually people who are religious don't want anything to do with people like us, so I wanted to know." This was after a lot of bonding, laughter, bawdy comments, which I enjoyed as much as they did. But Julia just wanted to be sure I knew who they were and I was OK with it. I said what I've said in other LB situations. I don't judge what they may have done. I know they have to feed their children in whatever way they can. It was a good exchange and I know they appreciated that this *mzungu* lady was comfortable being with them. Actually I loved being with them. They were fun!

At one point, Julia asked me whether I was saved.

[You can e-mail to Margo at Fr. Kiriti's email address: kiriti@wananchi.com. Put "For Margo" in subject line.]

Humanitarian crisis in Lebanon:

July 27, 2006, Baltimore, MD - Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and its local partner, Caritas Lebanon, warn of a major humanitarian crisis in the hardest hit areas of Lebanon if life-saving relief supplies do not reach those in need by the end of this week. The organizations continue to urge the immediate cessation of hostilities, the lifting of the siege on the Lebanese people, and the establishment of a humanitarian corridor that would provide unfettered, safe access for the delivery of vitally needed assistance.

CRS and Caritas Lebanon have nearly 100 staff on the ground in Beirut, as well as 7,000 Lebanese volunteers working throughout the country to provide aid from 36 field offices.

The stocks of basic food and relief items such as medicines are rapidly dwindling. What remains available can only be found at greatly inflated prices. The supply of fuel is also becoming more and more of a problem... Two weeks of intensive bombing of roads and bridges further complicates the delivery of assistance to those who need it.

"Right now, this man-made humanitarian crisis is spiraling out of control," says Mark Schnellbaecher, CRS Regional Director for the Middle East, who has lived in Beirut for the last two years. "...Almost one quarter of Lebanon's four million people are now directly and personally affected by this conflict, either driven from their homes or trapped in them."

The situation is particularly acute in Lebanon's third largest city of Saida (Sidon), where CRS is providing displaced families with food staples, diapers, medicine, as well as cleaning supplies and blankets. Residents and the many internally displaced people who fled from the south are cut off from supplies and escape routes because access roads have been destroyed by Israeli bombing. Approximately 1,117 families have been displaced to public buildings in Saida, joining the already besieged population there, while another 400 families are being hosted in the homes of Saida residents. The internally displaced population in Saida recently jumped from 25,000 to 42,000.

Caritas Lebanon ...reported that the number of people it is helping in temporary shelters throughout the country has tripled to 70,000...

More than one Caritas team has indicated problems with water distribution, as the supply of water in certain centers is not sufficient for the increased need. Sanitary conditions are rapidly deteriorating at these centers. There is also a simple lack of space to house the hundreds of thousands who have been displaced by the bombing of their

cities and towns ...

CRS and its partners are participating in two emergency appeals totaling \$8 million. This will be used to support displaced families in southern Lebanon and also Gaza. CRS has already committed \$1 million in private emergency funds to this appeal to meet the increasing humanitarian needs arising from the upsurge of violence in Lebanon and the occupied territories.

HOW TO HELP:

Donate online: www.crs.org

Donate via phone: 1-877-HELP-CRS

Mail a check: Catholic Relief Services

P.O. Box 17090

Baltimore, MD 21203-7090

Memo Line: Middle East Crisis Response

Peacemaking in Israel:

An opportunity to hear from an Israeli peacemaker is available Sunday, August 6, 6:30 p.m., when Eliyahu McLean, director of the Jerusalem Peacemakers Organization speaks on "Healing Abraham's Family: Perspectives of a Grassroots Peacebuilder on the Crisis in the Holy Land" at Temple Beth El, 3055 Porter Gulch Road, Aptos, CA.

Eliyahu will speak about the response of the Israeli and Palestinian community of peacebuilders in the Holy Land. We will learn about Israeli-Palestinian bridge building efforts that are not making the news.

Eliyahu McLean is the director of Jerusalem Peacemakers, a network of religious and grassroots peacebuilders in the Holy Land. Some of their projects include: The Abrahamic Reunion—Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Druze religious leaders re-claiming the voice of peace within religious communities, and the Rodef Shalom Training Institute—training Jewish educators and community leaders in the art and practice of peace-building. Hear about religious leaders working behind the scenes to resolve the present Mid-East crisis through principles found in Islam and Judaism.

Tel. 831 479 3444 — <http://www.tbaptos.org>.

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Michelle Hogan (August 6)

Jane Bahr (August 13 and 27)

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