



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 20, 2006

Readings

This week:

Proverbs 9:1-6

Ephesians 5:15-20

John 6:51-58

Next week:

Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

Ephesians 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32

John 6:60-69

Psalm

Today

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. (*Psalm 34*)

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, August 21, 7:30 pm

Spiritual Education Committee, STA basement hall

Wednesday, August 23, 7:30 p.m.

STA Site Committee, STA basement hall

From Thomas Merton

The West has lived for thousands of years under the sign of the Titan, Prometheus, the fire stealer, the man of power who defies heaven in order to get what he himself desires. The West has lived under the sign of will, the love of power, action, and domination. Hence, Western Christianity has often been associated with a spiritual will-to-power and an instinct for organization and authority. This has taken good forms, in devotion to works of education, healing the sick, building schools, order and organization in religion itself. But even the good side of activism has tended toward an over-emphasis on will, on action, on conquest, on "getting things done" and this in turn has resulted in a sort of religious restlessness, pragmatism, and the worship of visible results.

There is another essential aspect of Christianity: the interior, the silent, the contemplative, in which hidden wisdom is more important than practical organizational science, and in which love replaces the will to get visible results. The New Man must not be a one-sided and aggressive activist: he must also have depth, he must be able to be silent, to listen to the secret voice of the Spirit. He must renounce his own will to dominate and let the Spirit act secretly in and through him...

— "Rebirth and the New Man in Christianity," in *Love and Living*

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

Memorial service for Fr. John Duryea:

In celebration of the life of Fr. John Duryea who died in Oaxaca, Mexico, on July 22, 2006, a memorial service will be held Sunday, September 3, at 4:00 p.m., in the garden of the home of Kathryn and Kirk Hanson, 186 University Ave., Los Altos (between Main and Edith Streets). Please bring a sit-upon or stool for your personal comfort, as seating may be limited. Also, if you could bring finger food to share, that will add to the beverages and cookies that host Kirk Hanson is providing. If you have a favorite photo of John Duryea, or something else which you wish to share, please bring it to hang on a memorial wall during the service.

The 8:45 a.m. Mass here at St. Thomas Aquinas Church on Sunday, September 17, will be offered in memory of Fr. Duryea.

TMC Annual Meeting September 14:



The Thomas Merton Center (TMC) will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, September 14, at 7:30 p.m., in the basement hall of the Thomas House, 745 Waverley St., Palo Alto. All members of the Merton Center, and any interested persons, are invited to attend.

Nominees for two open positions on the Board of Directors of the Merton Center will be elected. The nominees are Anna Jaklitsch and Barbara Kent. Retiring Board member Vicki Sullivan will be honored at the meeting.

The Annual Report and Member Directory will be distributed. And members will take time to have a discussion on the role of TMC members and the laity in general in the future of the Catholic Church in the U.S.

Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact TMC Board Co-president Anna Jaklitsch or Kay Williams (see page 3).



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, and Virginia Worthington.

[Add or subtract names from this list by e-mailing the three Bulletin editors: Jane Bahr, Michelle Hogan, Kay Williams. See page3 for email addresses.]

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*. 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.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults this fall:

This rite is the process by which interested persons gradually become members of the Catholic Church. It begins with the Pre-Catechumenate, an inquiry group for any one seeking Baptism, Confirmation, or reception into the Catholic Church. Interested? Contact Jim Davis or email him at jim_davis@pacbell.net. The next gathering is Monday, August 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the Pastoral Center, 3290 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto.

Age of Aquinas "Star Party" August 26:

Bring telescope or binoculars, and a picnic dinner. Join the Peninsula Astronomical Society (<http://www.foothill.fhda.edu/ast/pas.htm>) for their August star party. Dress warmly in layers. No charge. Meet at the Park 'n Ride at I-280 and Page Mill Rd west of Palo Alto at 6:30 pm. for carpooling to Foothill Park. Tell them at the gate that you are an amateur astronomer participating in the public star party.

More information: <http://paloaltocatholic.org/aofa.html> or contact Randy Jones, 408-739-2881, age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org.

Flower power grows:



Have you noticed the sprightly and colorful flowers adorning the altar here at St. Thomas Aquinas Church these past two weeks? The arrangements were the work of two new volunteers, Bonnie Shirley and Mary Washburn, who have each agreed to help once a month with the floral aspect of creating our worship environment. We need two more of you to step up and handle another week of each month during the non-Advent, non-Lent, non-Easter season Sundays. You will be reimbursed for anything you spend on flowers and will earn the heartfelt gratitude of those who worship here. Contact Sally Benson at (408) 972-5843 or red5@svpal.org.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

Margo's Kenyan journal continues:

[TMC member Margo McAuliffe has been living and teaching this summer in Fr. Daniel Kiriti's St. Francis Xavier Parish in Naivasha, Kenya. She returns to Menlo Park Sept. 2.]

This morning [August 11] Fr Kiriti and I left at 5:30 am to go to Nairobi to meet Judy Murphy, my friend of longest standing, but not my oldest friend. We met when I was a freshman in high school and she was a sophomore. We were good friends from the very beginning, but what cemented it is that we share our birthdays on March 13. She has come to help out in areas for which I am ill-suited (teaching catechism). She brought wonderful gifts, soccer balls and beach balls for the orphans and for the high school students, kids books, more TJ cloth bags for those to whom I had promised them, but then didn't have enough, religious materials, Frisbees, and best of all, a huge chocolate bar of 70% cacao from TJ's. I had brought some when I came, but it's been long gone. The chocolate here is good, but way too sweet...

For those of you who were wondering, yes, she was at Heathrow when all hell broke loose. Flights were cancelled to Europe and the US, but...not to Africa! Her plane was delayed 30 minutes in departure, b/c some of the passengers were in a huge line. It arrived only 15 minutes late. She said the only things passengers were allowed to take on board were medications, money and passports. No toothbrushes, no deodorant, no books, no crosswords, no water, no chocolate...

On the way back from Nairobi we stopped to see the new school, where more progress is being made. They are almost

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(Continued on page 4)

Contact TMC:

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

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

Bulletin: Kay Williams (August 20 and September 17)

Michelle Hogan (September 10)

Jane Bahr (August 27 and September 3)

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

Lutherans, Catholics, Methodists in accord:

A top Lutheran leader has hailed a decision by the world's Methodist churches to sign on to an agreement that brought Catholics and Lutherans closer together on a key issue that rent them apart at the time of the Protestant Reformation.

"We have overcome a theological difference which has divided Western Christianity since the time of the Reformation," Ishmael Noko, general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation told the world Methodist conference in Seoul, South Korea.

The Lutheran official spoke July 23 at an event at which the World Methodist Council, an umbrella body for churches in 132 nations, endorsed the joint declaration on the doctrine of justification, signed by the Geneva-based LWF and the Roman Catholic Church in 1999.

"The act of endorsement we are celebrating today will be an encouragement for new and broader forms of ecumenical cooperation among our respective communions," said Noko. John Wesley, the 18th-century founder of Methodism, was influenced by the writings of Martin Luther.

"Today is one of the most significant dates in the history of our churches," Cardinal Walter Kasper, the Vatican's top official for promoting Christian unity, said in Seoul before the signing event.

The doctrine of justification, or how human beings reach salvation, was one of the reasons for the breach between Luther and the papacy in the 16th century. Luther's followers called unbiblical what they believed to be the Catholic teaching about the role of good works in winning salvation. According to Lutherans, human beings are justified through faith by the grace of God, and not because of good works. **The joint declaration states that salvation is achieved through God's grace, which then encourages Christians to undertake good works.**

"It is our deep hope that in the near future we shall also be able to enter into closer relationships with Lutherans and the Roman Catholic Church," the Methodist group representing nearly 70 million said in a statement. Earlier, World Council of Churches general secretary Samuel Kobia, a Kenyan Methodist, praised the Methodist tradition of linking a commitment to social justice with prayer and spirituality. "They were not only interested in welfare, they were concerned to remedy social injustice," Kobia said. "The Methodist movement changed the ecclesial and the social landscape of the time." *-Ecumenical News International*

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 just above this invitation.

(Kenya journal, continued...)

ready to begin constructing the roof. As we approached we saw 8 -10 cows grazing away on the property. Kiriti gets really irate about it, b/c he fears they will eat my tree or the hundreds of seedlings he had planted to eventually be a thorn-bush hedge around the property. We didn't see any damage today, but he spotted the neighbor lady who has not only been grazing her own cows, but evidently was making a bit on the side by providing kids to watch the cows of other neighbors. These kids couldn't have been more than 5--
-looked like 4 to me and they were sort of afraid of the cows, which can be intimidating to adults, although these seemed placid enough. In any event Kiriti let go with his best harangue and announced to us that she would not be grazing her cow in the school yard again.

Judy is resting, and then we will walk down to the town and to the supermarket. It feels odd to be the hostess, the person to show her around, but in fact, I am pretty comfortable meandering around. People don't pay as much attention to me as they did, which is nice. I have felt like I was on display everywhere except in the parish house and to some degree at school. It's fun to see the sights anew from the eyes of someone who is seeing for the first time. She notices things that thrilled me once, but which I now take pretty much for granted. As we drove nearer Naivasha there was a zebra by the side of the road. I hardly notice them, any more than I do a cow or a donkey, but of course she was thrilled, as was I the first few times I saw them. Dear me, I'm getting jaded already.

Yesterday afternoon I went with Fr Kiriti to what I thought was to be a rural mass. I had misunderstood. This one was in the home of one of the prison guards who live on the grounds.... The living rooms of those houses are minute, particularly b/c furniture here is mostly LARGE overstuffed sofas and chairs. IKEA would make a fortune here with their scaled down furniture, if anyone would just consider how much space the furniture takes up in their tiny rooms. This room couldn't have been more than 10 by 10 and probably smaller. There were at least 25 people crowded in there, with another 5-10 outside the door. It wasn't just a mass, but also a baptism for 2 infants, 4 months and maybe 3 months. They pour the water over the head, dousing the whole child. These 2 were definitely not pleased with the treatment and made their displeasure known. It's not just once either, first Fr K, then the

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Peace and justice opportunities coming up:

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me. Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:35-36, 40)



What is the responsibility of Catholics toward the poor and the oppressed? How do we become people who really care for and act on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Christ who are vulnerable? For the sixth year, the program JustFaith will be offered in the northern deanery of the Diocese of San Jose at St. Joseph Parish in Mountain View. The program is designed to empower and transform participants so that they can become voices for the voiceless and agents of God's good news to the poor.

Beginning October 10, all who are interested in the social justice ministry of the Church are invited to meet weekly and read, discuss, view videos, hear speakers, and experience the Jubilee Kingdom of God as foretold in Scriptures and modeled by Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

An introductory workshop will be held on Tuesday, August 29, 7:00—9:00 p.m., in St. Joseph Rectory, 582 Hope Street, Mountain View, or Saturday, September 9, 9:30—noon, at Our Lady of the Rosary Church Hall, 3233 Cowper Street, Palo Alto. Information: Sylvia Villaseñor, 650-941-9362, sjvillaseñor@sbcglobal.net.

mother, then the father poured a goodly amount of water over the head, while someone held a bowl to catch the drippings. At least they had warmed the water, so the assault wasn't quite so bad as being doused with cold water! As soon as the baptism was over the babies were whisked away to a back room, dried and nursed. The fuss lasted a very short time.

...African babies cry very little...

I've noticed that in general, African babies cry very little and I think it must be b/c they are almost never put down. They sleep with the parents, or the mother for a long time. They begin life carried in front and when they get to a certain age, probably old enough to hold up the head and hang on a bit, they are moved to the back, where they spend the rest of about 18 months to 2 years, being carried around. They fuss to announce hunger, they're fed and that's it. A stroller or pram is a very rare sight.... #