



31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 5, 2006

Readings

This week:

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 12:28b-34

Next week:

1 Kings 17:10-16

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

Psalm

I love you, Lord, my strength. (*Psalm 18*)

Today

Today's presider is Reverend José Rubio.

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, November 9, 7:30 p.m.

TMC Board meeting, Thomas House basement hall

Sunday, November 12, 7:00 p.m.

Fr. Daniel Kiriti speaks, St. Albert the Great
Hospitality Room

From Thomas Merton

How many people there are in the world of today who have "lost their faith" along with the vain hopes and illusions of their childhood. What they called "faith" was just one among all the other illusions. They placed all their hope in a certain sense of spiritual peace, of comfort, of interior equilibrium, of self-respect. Then when they began to struggle with the real difficulties and burdens of mature life, when they became aware of their own weakness, they lost their peace, they let go of their precious self-respect, and it became impossible for them to "believe." That is to say it became impossible for them to comfort themselves, to reassure themselves, with the images and concepts that they found reassuring in childhood.

Place no hope in the feeling of assurance, in spiritual comfort. You may well have to get along without this. Place no hope in the inspirational preachers of Christian sunshine, who are able to pick you up and set you back on your feet and make you feel good for three or four days—until you fold up and collapse into despair.

Self-confidence is a precious natural gift, a sign of health. But it is not the same thing as faith. Faith is much deeper, and it must be deep enough to subsist when we are weak...

—*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

Fr. Kiriti speaks November 12:

Fr. Daniel Kiriti will be visiting from Kenya in November. **Come for a conversation with him on Sunday, November 12, 7:00 p.m., at St. Albert the Great Hospitality Room.** Hear about his parish work, the orphanage—especially the littlest resident Toleo, who was left on the doorstep last summer in a brown paper bag—and the high school students, especially the girls, who are eagerly anticipating the opening of the first



Barbara Narewski & Fr. Kiriti in April

year of the new girls' high school. Fr. Kiriti hopes to see many friends, old and new, at this meeting. For more information, contact Margo McAuliffe, 650-322-0821, margomca2@sbcglobal.net.

Gift cards benefit Fr. Kiriti's girls' school:

For the person who doesn't need anything, in the way of material gifts for the coming holidays, consider purchasing a gift card that benefits the St. Francis Xavier Parish School for Girls, currently under construction. Gift cards are available for each donation of \$10 or more and include the story of the dream for the school and photos of the construction in progress. Contact Margo McAuliffe, 650-322-0821, margomca2@sbcglobal.net.

Kenya holiday gifts:

Bring your money (cash or check) next week to Mass and be prepared to start—and finish—your holiday shopping. Fr. Kiriti will be bringing purses and shopping bags and greeting cards and other gift items made by local Kenyans, and they will be for sale in the Memorial Garden, if it's not raining. Plan accordingly.

November remembers saints:

The cult of saints began in the early church when Christians were being persecuted and killed for their faith. Christians would recall their example of faith, often celebrating Eucharist on the anniversary of their death. Their burial places were holy sites where "heaven is joined to earth"—where death in Christ was wedded to eternal life in heaven. These sites were thought to be where one could receive some of the grace of the saint (sharing in the good things of God). Therefore, stone slabs were sometimes placed on top of the martyrs'

Food closets need your donated food:

During November we are encouraged to bring more non-perishable food and drop it in the baskets in the vestibule of the church. Staple items are especially welcomed: cereals, canned soups, fruits and vegetables, pasta, rice, beans, canned meat and the like. Let's make the Thanksgiving baskets for hungry neighbors plentiful.

Thanksgiving giving:

Thanksgiving is coming! Those of us blessed with abundance look forward to sharing at this time of year. Our partnership with East Palo Alto Saint Vincent de Paul provides an opportunity for us to share our fortune. Here are ways you can help: **Sorting and packing boxes** will take start on Friday, November 17th at 6:30 pm and continue on Saturday the 18th, at 9 am at Saint Francis Church Hall, 1425 Bay Road, East Palo Alto. The **boxes will be delivered** to the families starting at 12 pm on Saturday, November 18th. If you would like to make a contribution, checks can be sent to Saint Vincent de Paul, 1425 Bay Road, East Palo Alto, 94303 or placed in the collection basket at Sunday masses. For further information please call George Chippendale at 856-6350 or Ann Idzik 493-7350.

Age of Aquinas Thanksgiving plan:

Age of Aquinas, a Bay Area group for Christian singles 40+ is hosting *Thanksgiving Dining Out*, Thursday, November 23, 2006, at David's Restaurant, 5151 Stars and Stripes Ave, Santa Clara, CA 95054. Any of you who are on your own for the holiday, join together for your own Thanksgiving at David's Restaurant in Santa Clara. If you're interested, RSVP to age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org or by phone to 408.739.2881 before Wed. Nov. 22. No host. More information: Randy Jones, age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org, 408.739.2881.



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, Joseph Kehret, Alicia Kot, Joan Kuhn, Kami Ladd, Carol Locke, Mercedes McCaffrey, Maureen Mooney, Stephanie Mullenix, Joe Narewski, Hank Okonski, Lynne Owens, George Peinado, Nora Peniata, Ramona Rocha, Anne Rush, Norm and Jane Schirle, 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.]

COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

Rabbi Lerner at First Pres Nov. 10-12:

Taking America Back: Spirit, Faith, and Politics: Spend a weekend with provocative, best-selling author Rabbi Michael Lerner, November 10-12, at First Presbyterian Church Palo Alto, 1140 Kinglsey, Palo Alto. Themes to be covered include "After the November elections: how can spiritual progressives reshape American politics? how can we heal Israel / Palestine / Lebanon?" Perhaps you saw Rabbi Lerner on *Meet the*



Press in April discussing the role of religion in American politics, or on Larry King in July providing a spiritual perspective on the war in Lebanon. Bay Area readers helped make his 2006 book *The Left Hand of God: Taking Back our Country from the Religious*

Right into a national best-seller. He is editor of *Tikkun Magazine* (www.tikkun.org), co-founder of the Network of Spiritual Progressives (www.spiritualprogressives.org) and rabbi of Beyt Tikkun synagogue in San Francisco (www.beyttikkun.org). All events are free of charge. Child care will be provided. Meals are vegetarian pot-lucks! Please bring something yummy to share if you can, but even if you can't, come anyway..... there will be plenty of food. You are invited to attend any or all parts of the weekend, as much time or as little as you'd like!

Friday Evening November 10th

- 6:00 pm: Jewish Renewal Shabbat Service and Vegetarian Potluck
- 8:00 pm: Rabbi Lerner on the election and how spiritual progressives can reshape American politics (followed by a reception)

Saturday (Day/Evening) November 11th

- 10:00 am Jewish Renewal Shabbat Service, Torah Study (no previous knowledge needed)
- 1 pm: Vegetarian Potluck
- 3:00 pm: Interactive Workshop on the Spiritual Covenant with America
- 5:00 pm: Interactive Workshop on Building the Network of Spiritual Progressives, plus a Vegetarian Potluck
- 7:30 pm: Havdalah Ceremony (ending Sabbath)

Sunday November 12th

- 9:30 am: Lecture – Healing Israel / Palestine / Lebanon and the Urgency for Peace
- 11:00 am: Interfaith Worship Service

Perspective on death penalty and the vote:

Terry McCaffrey, TMC member and longtime activist with Amnesty International and Californians of Faith United Against the Death Penalty, suggests that the following statements by candidates for the Santa Clara County District Attorney's office be known:

Judge Dolores Carr' Statement on the Death Penalty 5/30/06: "I will personally review each case where the death penalty may be imposed to determine whether, given all available information about the case, the defendant, and the victim, justice demands that we seek it. I do not currently support a moratorium on the carrying out of the death penalty in Santa Clara County. The DA's Office has established an internal Innocence Project to review cases where there is a serious question about the guilt of someone convicted of a crime, including capital murder, and I will vigorously support and maintain this project, if elected."

Karen Sinunu's Statement on the Death Penalty:

"The death penalty system is broken and I am in favor of a time out on executions". Candidates Forum in Cupertino, May 15th, 2006

Newspaper Endorsements for Karen Sinunu

San Jose Mercury News May 21, 2006
Palo Alto Weekly October 4, 2006

Election Day November 7:

Jesus' encounter with the scribe in Mark 12:28-34 gives God's priorities for us in no uncertain terms: Love God above all, and love your neighbor as yourself. ...This week we will go to the polls and cast our vote for leaders and policies that will affect our communities and nation. What are three values - as opposed to partisan issues - that will influence how you vote? Who do you represent with your vote - yourself and your family only? Or do you also vote based on the needs of the poor and disadvantaged in your community? In what ways can we hold our political leaders accountable to work for justice and peace and to serve on behalf of the poorest?
—*Sojourners*

Thank you, dear friends, for your prayers and warm wishes. No doubt they had a great influence on the favorable outcome of my surgery. God bless you all.

Much love, Mercedes [McCaffrey]

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.

Celebrate military veterans and peace Nov. 11:

Veterans Day gives Americans the opportunity to celebrate the bravery and sacrifice of all U.S. veterans. Formerly known as Armistice Day, Veterans Day was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918. In legislation that was passed in 1938, November 11 was "**dedicated to the cause of world peace** and to be hereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day.'" As such, this new legal holiday honored World War I veterans.

In 1954, after having been through both World War II and the Korean War, the 83rd U.S. Congress -- at the urging of the veterans service organizations -- amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, Nov. 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

United States Senate Resolution 143, which was passed on Aug. 4, 2001, designated the week of Nov. 11 through Nov. 17, 2001, as "National Veterans Awareness Week." The resolution calls for educational efforts directed at elementary and secondary school students concerning the contributions and sacrifices of veterans. The difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day is important to remember. Memorial Day honors service members who died in service to their country or as a result of injuries incurred during battle. Deceased veterans are also remembered on Veterans Day but the day is set aside to thank and honor living veterans who served honorably in the military—in wartime or peacetime.

(Remembering saints, continued from page 2.)

graves so the pilgrims could celebrate Mass there. These graves eventually became pilgrimage destinations around which monasteries, chapels, and religious houses were built. (Ever wondered why relics are embedded in the altar?)

Saints model for us how to live because saints show us how to die—die to selfishness and self-preservation; to worrying that you won't have enough and to worrying that you aren't good enough; to harboring grudges and withholding forgiveness; to apathy and to waiting until tomorrow to do what needs to be done today—saying "I love you," "I'm sorry," "I forgive you."

They are called saints because in some way they stood apart from the rest of world and showed us how to be counter to what was expected, especially in times of trial...The saints stand apart, yet they do not stand alone. All the holy ones of God—you and me and the saints—stand together, dying to ourselves and rising to holiness, sharing in the good things of God.

—Diana Macalintal, DSJ Liturgy Coordinator

Hunger in Palo Alto:

There are many ways to assist Urban Ministry in its mission to provide food, clothing, shelter and counseling for the homeless and very poor in our area. All the UM programs are free, so it is the help of volunteers that makes possible what UM does.

The downtown **Food Closet** distributes bags of groceries to clients Monday through Friday and needs assistance between 9 am and 4 pm. Volunteers usually work 2-hour shifts one time each week, preparing donations, greeting clients and assisting clients as they choose groceries.

Urban Ministry volunteers prepare seven meals every week as part of the **Breaking Bread Hot Meals Program**. There is currently a need for substitutes and for people willing to fill vacant spots. Most teams cook on the same day of the week once every 5 weeks..

Help out at the **Clothes Closet!** Volunteers are needed to sort clothing donations and distribute them to clients on Wednesday afternoons between noon and 4 pm.

Urban Ministry is greatly expanding its relationship with area grocery stores, restaurants and specialty shops to benefit from donations of excess inventory and dated products. Volunteers willing to go to the same store on the same day at the same time once each week are needed to **pick up donations** and deliver them to the downtown Palo Alto Food Closet. This takes less than an hour and is a huge help to Urban Ministry.

Become a member of the Urban Ministry email hotline. Occasionally UM needs extra help for mailings, meals and events and people are contacted who have indicated an interest through the UM email network. You might also be contacted if UM has a special need. Interested? Please Urban Ministry's Volunteer Coordinator, Trina Lovercheck at 650-853-7076 or email her at tlovercheck@innvision.org.

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

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

Bulletin: Kay Williams (November 5 and 26)

Michelle Hogan (November 19)

Jane Bahr (November 12)

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

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.