



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 19, 2006

Readings

This week:

Isaiah 43:18-19, 20-22, 24-25

2 Corinthians 1:18-22

Mark 2:1-12

Next week:

Hosea 2:14, 15, 19-20

2 Corinthians 3:1-6

Mark 2:18-22

Psalm

Lord, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you. *Psalm 41*

Today

Today's presider is Father José Rubio.

The Thomas Merton Center community worships and celebrates Sunday liturgy each week at the regularly scheduled 8:45 a.m. 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, February 20

Spiritual Education meeting

Thursday, February 23, 7:30 pm

Eucharistic Minister Training, STA Church

From Thomas Merton

The true Christian view of the universe obviously does not postulate the existence of an anthropomorphic "watchmaker" existing spatially "outside" and "above" a universe contained within rigidly fixed limits. This would be a childish notion of divine transcendence which is a metaphysical note of the God Who is at the same time infinitely "other than" all that we know as being, and yet immanent in everything that exists, so that He is, in fact, the "center" of every being and of all reality, including material reality. The divine center, to which all things point, toward which they all aspire, is at the same time a "divine milieu" which surrounds, sustains, and embraces them all together in harmony and in unity. . man's vocation is incomprehensible unless it is seen precisely in relation to the world of matter into which he is born and in which he must work out "his salvation." For man is "in the world" not, as Plato believed, as a spirit fallen from the immaterial into the prison of matter but as a son of God called to cooperate with his Father in the work of ruling and of redeeming the material universe along with himself.

—"The Universe as Epiphany" 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

TMC membership:

The 2006 Thomas Merton Membership drive is currently in progress. If you are a current TMC member or friend, you should have received information in the mail about continuing or becoming a member. Please consider joining TMC. The cost is minimal, \$10 individual or \$20 family annual membership rates. 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 you can pick up a form after Mass. All are welcome to join!

Anthropologist Peter C. Reynolds:

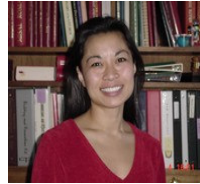
Peter C. Reynolds, a member of this community when he is in town, will be speaking at Santa Clara University on the Creationism/Darwinism debate and how it relates to politics and racism. The date is Thursday, February 23, 7:00 pm, and the place is Kennedy Commons, located behind Benson Student Center, Santa Clara University. Peter has been working on various aspects of human evolution throughout his professional life. He received a doctorate in anthropology from Yale University where he applied linguistic methods to the description of primate social interactions. At Stanford Medical Center he did postdoctoral work in neuroscience and primate cognition. His first book, *On the Evolution of Human Behavior*, published by UC Press, explores the theoretical relationship between human ethology and cultural anthropology. For further information contact the Campus Information line at (408) 554-4000.

Local events—Death Penalty vigil and march:

In the event that the execution of Michael Morales proceeds there will be a vigil at Embarcadero and El Camino in Palo Alto from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. There will also be a march from the Mission Church in Santa Clara University starting at 4:00 pm and going to St. Joseph's Cathedral, 80 Market St., San Jose. At the Cathedral there will be a Prayer Vigil starting at 6:00 pm. Public transportation is available. Cal Train has a station opposite the main entrance to Santa Clara University., or take #21 Bus from Santa Clara street in downtown San Jose.

Eucharistic minister training February 23:

The annual opportunity for Eucharistic minister training for the 8:45 mass will be this Thursday, February 23, 7:30 – 9:00 pm in St. Thomas Aquinas Church. Diana Macalintal, Associate for Liturgy for the Diocese of San Jose, will lead us. Lectors who



heard her this past week can tell you how much she has to offer with her twenty years of experience in liturgy and music direction. She is an inspired speaker with much practice in giving talks and presenting workshops on her subjects. This is an opportunity to refresh your understanding and renew your spirit in the exercise of your ministry. *If you have questions, contact John Arnold* jsaoso@earthlink.net, or (650) 325-1421.

Sr. Helen Prejean talk, Friday, February 24:

Sr. Helen Prejean will give a talk on the Death Penalty on Friday, February 24, at 7:00 PM in Grace Cathedral located at 1100 California/Taylor, San Francisco.

A Killing in Choctaw, Saturday, March 4 :

Cubberley Auditorium
4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, 7:30 pm.
This event is the first in the TMC 2006 Speaker Series. Admission of \$30 benefits Mr. Ray's educational programs for Black youth. (*No one turned away for lack of funds.*)



"A Killing in Choctaw." a one-man, two-act play written and performed by **Carl Ray**, is a biography that chronicles the incredible struggle to success of a young Black man from Alabama after witnessing the brutal murder of his father in 1962, and how forgiveness changed his life. This is a play that demonstrates the essence of African American theatre. It's a horrendous family tragedy, an abject lesson on racism in America, and it is sprinkled with the topical down-home humor for which Carl Ray is well know.

The play deals with the years following the tragedy of Carl's father's murder. Ultimately Carl graduated from Tuskegee in electrical engineering and worked for thirteen years in the aerospace industry before pursuing a career as a stand-up comedian. In 1984, Carl met a man who talked to him about the power of forgiveness. Carl attributes the act of forgiving the man who killed his father as saving his life.

Thomas Merton Center 10th Anniversary Celebration, Sunday April 30, 2006:



Mark your calendar! Save the day!

We will honor and recognize founders of TMC, celebrate all that we have accomplished as a lay led community within the Roman Catholic Church, enjoy a no host cocktail bar, dine sumptuously, and dance to the live music of *Jazz Therapy* in the gracious surroundings of the Stanford Faculty Club.

Make your reservations now! Dinner \$35 per person. Information: LaVerne Sheehan (650) 321-7883.

Age of Aquinas Shoreline/Baylands hikes:

Age of Aquinas is a ministry of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish to singles 40+. Join us for our weekly hikes during February and March. Meet at the end of San Antonio Road, where it intersects Terminal Avenue, between the Palo Alto Baylands and Mountain View's shoreline Park. These are mostly level paths, some are paved. You can walk at your own pace. The energetic ones will meet the leisurely ones on their way back. There's plenty of parking. Afterwards gather for coffee, etc. at Peet's Coffee & Tea in the Charleston Plaza at Charleston and Middlefield, Palo Alto at about 10:15 or 10:30 am. If it's rainy or muddy, we'll stay on the paved trails, but, rain or shine, there IS A HIKE.

Contact age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org, Randy Jones, or by phone (408)739-2881.

Transitions support group:

Transitions meets Thursdays in February and March at St. Thomas Aquinas Pastoral Center, 3290 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. We are a support group for those undergoing the transition from couple-hood to single-hood. As we listen and share, we help each other through difficult times. This is not a place to find a new relationship, but a balm to heal the pain of the loss of the old one. We have a small *lending library* of helpful books and a DVD. Borrow one or bring one. Keep it or bring it back.

Cost: Free

For more information contact Randy Jones, (408) 739-2881, or e-mail transitions@paloaltocatholic.org.

Community Forum

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

Evangelical climate initiative:

Published as a full page ad in the New York Times, February 9, 2006.

Our commitment to Jesus Christ compels us to solve the global warming crisis.

"For by Him (Christ) all things were created; things in heaven and on earth." Colossians 1:16

As evangelical Christians, we believe we're called to be stewards of God's creation, and after considerable study, reflection, and prayer we are now convinced it's time for our country to help solve the problem of global warming. We are compelled by our deep commitment to Jesus Christ and our study of God's Word. Working together and with God's help we are convinced that global warming can and must be solved.

It is no small problem. Pollution from vehicles, power plants, and industry is having a dramatic ef-

(Continued on page 4)

Justice for the earth is justice for us all:

From Network, a Catholic lobbying organization in Washington, D.C. November/December 2005 www.networklobby.org

It is common to think of "social justice" only in terms of human beings and their socio-economic relationships. However, Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that mindfulness of the needs of Planet Earth is essential to a proper understanding of what it means to live justly.

We cannot afford to see ourselves as separate beings in competition with creation and each other. Instead, God calls us to exist in harmony with all around us. To live justly means working for all creation, including the environment in which we live.

Here are some key themes of Catholic Social Teaching to keep in mind as our nation continues to engage environmental issues at the local, state and federal levels. When analyzing legislation or policies, con-

(Continued on page 4)

Evangelical climate initiative, continued:

(Continued from page 3)

fect on the earth's climate. Left unchecked, global warming will lead to dryer droughts, more intense hurricanes, and more devastating floods, resulting in millions of deaths in this century.

Therefore, with the same love of God and neighbor that compels us to preach salvation through Jesus Christ, protect unborn life, preserve the family and the sanctity of marriage, defend religious freedom and human dignity, and take the whole gospel to a hurting world, we the undersigned evangelical leaders resolve to come together with others of like mind to pray and to work to stop global warming.

We call upon our leaders in government and business to act boldly and set the course. Let's solve global warming in a way that creates jobs, cleans up our environment, and enhances national security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil, thereby creating a safe and healthy future for our children.

Our sacred commitment to act to solve this crisis is detailed in our Evangelical Call to Action available online at www.christiansandclimate.org. We urge you to join us today.

See above website for list of more than 85 respected evangelical leaders who have signed the statement.

Justice speakers forum:

Rev. Paul Fitzgerald, SJ will speak on *Our Ecological vocation: A Catholic Response to the Environmental Crisis* on Monday, February 27, as part of the Justice Speakers Forum arranged by Fr. Charlie Dougherty at Ascension Parish in Saratoga. Fr. Fitzgerald is a professor in the Department of Environmental Studies at Santa Clara University, and has interesting things to report on green building initiatives undertaken at Santa Clara University. Registration begins at 7:15 and the program is from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Admission is free, though a \$5 free-will donation is suggested. (refreshments will be served). Call Fr. Charlie at (408) 725-3939 for more information.



Please remember in your prayers this week Elaine, Msgr. Gene Boyle, Tom Carmody, Chloe Chang, Joanne Claus, Mary Connors, Ken Dias, Joanne Hasegawa, François Jamati, Joseph Kehret, Alicia Kot, Joan Kuhn, Kami Ladd, Carol Locke, Judy Mendelsohn, Stephanie Mullinex, Barbara Narewski,

Joe Narewski, Lynne Owens, George Peinado, Nora Peinata, Ramona Rocha, Anne Rush, Dolores Walsh, Fr. Tenny Wright, and Rosamond, Chris, and Janie, friends of Jean Gill.

Justice for the earth is justice for us all:

(Continued from page 3)

sider:

1. The dignity of the human person.

Does this legislation disrespect the humanity of others by robbing them of clean air, clean water or other essentials?

2. The common good /The Universal purpose of material goods.

Does this policy ensure that Earth's resources are put to their best use in order to enhance the quality of life for all our planet's inhabitants without harming the Earth? Or does it instead damage creation in order to advance the economic agenda of a small group?

3. Solidarity.

We are connected to other human beings and to the natural world. Are we listening to their needs?

4. Subsidiarity.

Catholic Social Teaching values local and personal participation. Are we wasting resources by importing goods which our neighbors can produce? Do we treat the needs and the environment of those distant from us as we would our own?

Oh God,
Open our eyes
to your resplendent world,
that we may care for the earth
as our companion
in creation.
May the pure song
of air, water, and
trees
broaden our minds,
lift up our hearts, and guide us to you.
—Fr. Thomas Berry



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

Bulletin: Kay Williams (Feb 26 and March 26)
Michelle Hogan (Mar 5 and 19)
Jane Bahr (Feb 19, March 12)

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, 327-3915
Spiritual Education: Mary Coady, 261-9155, Jim Davis, 328-2548

Newsletter submissions must be e-mailed by Friday noon or phoned by Thursday, 9:00 pm. For Michelle, myhogan@earthlink.net or (650) 493-8452. For Kay, kaywill@pacbell.net or (650) 328-2781. For Jane, bahrjunior@comcast.net or (650) 967-8246.