



Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 2, 2006

Readings

This week:

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15

Mark 5:21-43

Next week:

Ezekiel 2:2-5

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Mark 6:1-6

Psalm

Today

I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me. (*Psalm 30*)

Today's presider is Msgr. Eugene Boyle.

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

Tuesday, July 4

Happy Fourth of July!

From
Thomas
Merton

Though sustaining itself by a massive pseudologic of its own, war is, in fact, a complete suspension of reason. This is at once its danger and the source of its immense attraction. War is by its nature supposed to be the "last resort" when, all reasoning having failed, men must turn to force to decide their difference. The moral problem of war does not begin when men have finally resorted to force. The root problem of war is *the occult determination to resort to force in any case*, and the more or less conscious self-frustration of any show of "reason" in settling the problem that will eventually be decided by the ordeal of force. The awful danger of war is, then, not so much that force is used when reason has broken down but that reason unconsciously inhibits itself beforehand (in all the trivialities of political and military gamesmanship) *in order that it may break down, and in order that resort to force may become "inevitable."*...

The real problem of war is...not to be found in this or that special way in which force is grossly abused, but in the instinct for violence and for resort to force which has become inveterate in the human race. Is this something that man can learn to change? If so, how does he go about it? What should he do? Where should the study of this dreadful problem begin? Who can say?

Perhaps our first problem is to get rid of the illusion that we know the answer.

— "War" 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

Peninsula Peace & Justice book group July 6:

The book under discussion this month is *The Great War for Civilization: The Conquest of the Middle East*, by Robert Fisk. The meeting will take place at 457 Kingsley Ave., Palo Alto, in the PPJC Conference Rm. Each month, book club members read a book which is central to the concerns of peace and justice in our society and then get together to discuss what we've learned. The purpose of the book club is to educate ourselves, to cultivate public conversation on topics of peace and justice, and to create a community of informed and caring citizens who support the work of PPJC. We also discuss what related action we can take to create a more just society locally and nationally.

For more information, contact volunteer book club facilitator, Bob Niederman, at 650-857-0772 or bobniederman@comcast.net

Kepler's Community Donation Program:

Don't forget, for your summer reading, buy books 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 check-

out 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.

TMC Needs Net:

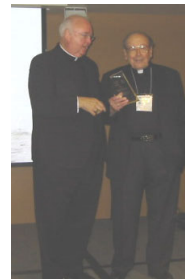
TMC member Roberta Kehret is establishing a network to link those who have a difficult or stressful situation in their lives with others who can help to alleviate that difficulty or stress. This TMC Needs Net will function almost on its own, with postings of needs being broadcast throughout the TMC and 8:45 am Mass community and responders coming forward as needed. Communicate your need to Roberta at 650-494-1488 or by email at robkehr@yahoo.com.



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).

Msgr. Boyle receives Lumen Christi award:

At the 2nd Annual Justice Symposium of the Diocese of San Jose on June 24 at Santa Clara University, Msgr. Boyle was presented with the Lumen Christi Award. The award reads: "The Lumen Christi Award is given by the Diocese of San Jose to honor an individual in our community who, by his life and witness, has exhibited outstanding lifetime achievement in social justice work, empowerment of the poor, and the furthering of a more just and equitable society.



Bishop McGrath & Msgr. Boyle on June 24.

The 2006 honoree is Monsignor Eugene Boyle.

During his sixty years as a priest, first in the Archdiocese of San Francisco, then in the Diocese of San Jose, he has served as pastor, seminary professor and educator, radio commentator, Vallombrosa Retreat Center Director, and civil rights activist, and always as a supporter of social justice and empowerment of the poor and disenfranchised.

In 1962 he was appointed Chaplain of the Catholic Interracial Council. From 1964 to 1972, he served as the founder and first chairperson of the Commission on Social Justice of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. In that capacity he was engaged heavily in the civil rights struggle in San Francisco and throughout the country. From 1964 to the present, he has been a mediator, advocate and organizer for the United Farm Workers. For the UFW, he worked side-by-side with Cesar Chavez in the fight for justice for workers in the fields.

He was pastor of Sacred Heart Church in the Fillmore district of San Francisco from 1968 to 1972. From 1958 to 1972, he was a radio commentator on the KCBS program *Underscore*, a weekly dialog on religion and modern life. He also had a bimonthly commentary on KPFA in Berkeley.

He was a founding member on the National Catholic Committee on Urban Ministry, and a board member of the National Catholic Conference on Interracial Justice. Locally, he was founding chair of the Community Technology Alliance and founding chair of the Interfaith Council on Religion, Race, and Economic Justice. He has been the recipient of many awards. In 1998, he was a recipient of the Harry A. Fagan Award from the Roundtable, the National Association of Diocesan Social Action Directors."

Msgr. Boyle celebrated 60 years as a priest with a gala celebration held in STA parish on June 17.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

In good company:

The world is aglow with the announcement that Warren Buffett would be gifting about 10 million shares (currently valued at a few dollars over \$3000--PER SHARE!) of Berkshire Hathaway stock to The Gates Foundation. Given the business acumen of Mr. Buffett, the value of the shares, now approximately \$31 billion, may grow significantly.

Of note, the gift is to be used in the general areas of education and global health. With such a focus, and with such resources, this cannot properly be defined as mere works of charity (though The Gates Foundation is a charitable institution), but as an investment. This is not a "feel good" exhibition, but a commitment to make a difference.

Also of note is that Mr. Buffett has placed these enormous resources in the hands of individuals, Melinda and Bill Gates, who have established themselves in global philanthropy for decades. This merger might be called fiscal and managerial synergy.

In the Spring 2006 issue of *Stanford Medicine Magazine* (<http://mednews.stanford.edu/stanmed/2006spring/africa.html>), Ruthann Richter wrote an excellent article on health in sub-Saharan Africa. The article featured the Reverend Daniel Kiriti of the Naivasha Parish, Kenya, who is well known to TMC and STA Parish. The article concluded with what has to be done to address some of the major health problems in the sub-Sahara. One of the initiatives proposed was on the global level, such as the U.N. Millennium Project. Jennifer Astone, Executive Director of the Firelight Foundation (far smaller in assets than Gates) in Santa Cruz, CA, notes, however, that the Millennium goals are "... not the whole answer..." She notes that her foundations and others "...argue for directing more resources to grassroots organizations that can mobilize people at the village level...."

TMC is privileged to have someone at the village level, as proposed by Astone: Fr. Kiriti. And, like the giants above, Fr. Kiriti, too, is working in the areas of education and health. So, TMC is in good company, and in the right fields of concern.

Indeed, the TMC community does not have the resources of Buffett; but it does have an experienced mobilizer in Naivasha. As Buffett and Gates have teamed together to match their strengths, so has the TMC community and the Naivasha Parish, represented by Fr. Kiriti. These activities are deserving of TMC's continued support.

—Henry Organ

Margo McAuliffe writes from Kenya:

TMC member Margo McAuliffe is living in Kenya this summer in Fr. Daniel Kiriti's St. Francis Xavier Parish, Naivasha, working with the math teachers at Archbishop Ndingi High School. Here are some excerpts from her almost daily e-mails:

June 14: The school (Archbishop Ndingi High School) is having a midterm break beginning tomorrow (Thursday to Tuesday), so there will be some down-time for me. In fact there is a lot of down-time, because the world soccer tournament is on and everyone here is nuts about soccer. The games are off and on from 4 pm to late in the evening, with the 4 priests in the house all glued to the screen which is very snowy and hard to watch...

This morning I went with Maina (the cook) to the open air produce market...He had to hire a young kid pushing a wheelbarrow to take [the produce] back to the rectory for us, as it was too much for even both of us to carry. The market consists of rows of vendors with their wares out on cloths on the ground, just like we've all seen on TV. There seems to be some negotiation and the prices seem low, but I'm not too sure, as Maina does all his transactions in Swahili. Most of the produce is imperfect--not like in the US. Only Americans have to have perfect mangos, bananas, etc. There is a huge selection of fruit, mangos, pineapples, bananas, passion fruit, papayas, apples, citrus, avocados and more. It was all very interesting and very African. Fun to see.

After that I walked up to the school in the warm sun. But later in the day it began to rain. This was welcome, as even this part of Kenya has had no rain for several weeks and Kiriti told me that if rain didn't come soon, the crops would fail. Up until now this area has not experienced drought like the most eastern and northern parts of east Africa have. There haven't been people and animals dying to the degree that we've read and

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Bulletin: Kay Williams (July 2 and 16)

Michelle Hogan (July 9 and 23)

Jane Bahr (July 30)

Community Builders: Barbara Kent, 323-0879

Michelle Hogan, 493-8452

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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

(cont. McAuliffe report from Kenya...)

heard about, but it's a big threat here now. I don't think the rain that came today will solve the problem, but it was welcome, nonetheless...

June 17: Yesterday (Friday) afternoon I went to the orphanage to see whether anyone wanted some home-work help. Mary, who is probably 2nd grade, needed help on her math. As I "fished" for the nature of her problem, I realized she doesn't know her X2 tables, so we worked on that. All the others gathered round and

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kept telling her the answers instead of letting her think about it. After many times, I finally got them to stop, telling them that she will never learn if they continue to tell her. She is darling, sweet and a bit shy. I stayed until our dinner time and then went back after to read another in-

stallment of "Winnie the Pooh", which they seem to enjoy. When I arrived there were maybe 2 kids in the main room, but soon the table was full and kids were pushing and shoving (but in a loving sort of way) to try to sit near me. I didn't finish the story, which was a long one, b/c the little ones were falling asleep. But before I leave, I always sing the Winnie the Pooh song with them. I wrote some of the words on a black board because it was hard for them to understand my "accent". They are learning and I hear them singing to themselves as I leave each night. Last night they asked me to sing a "going to sleep" song, so I sang "Baby's Boat", which has lulled my children, my grandchildren and many others off to sleep. Maybe I can teach that to them too. I love singing to them and with them and they are so needful of adult attention. Imagine having 33 children to listen to, teach, discipline, encourage, and love! That's the job the matron and her helper have to do.

June 18: Yesterday I was visited by Dominic, one of the students who is being sponsored by some of you. He is a very dear young man, now in Form 4, who hopes to go to the seminary after graduation. He wants to be a missionary priest and his face fairly glows when he talks about it. He came to express his thanks, over and over. He was about to be sent home for non payment of fees when I was here before (last September). He, like the others, had told me how difficult it was to study hard, knowing he might be sent home at any time. Now he has the assurance that he will be able to stay in school, so he feels he can improve his grades. This morning I went to the English mass at 8:45. While standing outside waiting for the previous mass to end I

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saw Paul, another of the sponsored students. We chatted and then sat together. I do like the African masses, because the singing is so beautiful. I think the children are taught very young to sing in that close harmony that we hear on documentaries. It's beautiful and very rhythmic---you can't help but move your body...

June 23: They're putting me through my paces here. I keep having to be at school for first period, which begins at 8:10. In an effort to be there by 8, I have to leave here shortly after 7:30, as it's about 25 minutes. The distance is 3 km, which is about 2 mi--- uphill. I go up and back twice, so I do about 8 miles a day...

The teaching style here is to say it and say it again and say it 20 more times---really boring. This morning I observed a teacher who is probably the worst of the 4 math teachers in this respect. So in the afternoon class with the same kids, I did it my way, by asking questions and waiting until they had thought it through enough to answer, or perhaps revising the question, or asking an intermediate question. I think he could see the difference. Afterwards we talked. He's very open, but it takes a long time to change one's teaching style. I speak from very personal experience. This is what I was asked to do, by both the principal and Fr Kiriti. It's called student centered teaching/learning and seems to be the way the official Kenyan Ed system is moving, as Regina (school principal) tells me the math teachers go for a week's workshop every August, during their holiday---paid for by the government!!! I think it's going to be a good summer in this respect. The math teachers like me and are open...

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Afterwards I walked down the hill with the math teacher I worked with this morning. He is such a nice man, who told me about his family of 4 children, who are moving into their high school years. Since secondary school in Kenya is not free, he will have major expenses shortly...the problems here are so enormous. He says his oldest, a girl, wants to be a surgeon and the next, a son, is very interested in computers. I feel he will want to support those ambitions, but teachers get paid poorly here. He also explained that when Kenya established free primary education it put a huge number of kids into the pipeline. In 3 years the first will be hitting secondary school, and of course this government...is totally unprepared. He says that secondary schools will have great pressure to take in MANY more students, thus upping class size...