



27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 7, 2018

Readings

This week:

Genesis 2:18–24

Hebrews 2:9–11

Mark 10:2–16

Next week:

Wisdom 7:7–11

Hebrews 4:12–13

Mark 10:17–30

Psalm

May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives. (*Psalm 128*)

Today

Today's presider is Fr. Kevin Ballard, S.J.

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

Sunday, October 7, 10:15 a.m.

Monday, October 8, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 11, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 14, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 14, 3:00 p.m.

CA Ballot issues, LWV, Thomas House Living Room

TMC Liturgy Committee, Thomas House Library

TMC Board, Thomas House Dining Room

Kenyan Craft Show, Memorial Garden (see page 2.)

Kate Hennessy talk on Dorothy Day (see page 2.)

From Thomas Merton

One of the great problems after this Council is certainly going to be the division between progressives and conservatives, and this may prove to be rather ugly in some cases, though it may also be a fruitful source of sacrifice for those who are determined to seek the will of God and not their own. I do not speak here of bishops, but of ordinary priests, theologians, lay people, and all who voice their opinions one way or another...

Conservatives and progressives in the Church are so concerned with total victory over each other that they are...closed to each other. If this is the case, one seriously wonders about the value and significance of the much touted "openness" to non-Catholics. An ecumenism that does not begin with charity *within* one's own Church remains questionable.

--*Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander (1966)*

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

CA ballot propositions today by LWV:

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA All are invited to a session on the CA ballot propositions

this morning, 10:15-11:15 am, in the Thomas House living room.

League of Women Voters representatives Jean Lythcott and David Springer will cover 11 state propositions, as well as 1 Santa Clara County, 2 City of Palo Alto and 2 Palo Alto School District measures. Some of these will be touched on very briefly when they are straightforward and not controversial. No San Mateo County measures will be considered.

So come over to the Thomas House after the 8:45 am Mass, grab coffee and a donut, and find a seat in the living room. Preparing for the November 6th Election Day is a duty for us as faithful Christians. This is a good time to start.

Kenya crafts show October 14:

On October 14, 10 - 12 noon, in the Memorial Garden adjacent to St. Thomas Aquinas church, enjoy viewing handcrafted items from Kenya. With a donation to support scholarships offered by Kenya Help to high school and college students in the Naivasha area of Kenya, you may select from a display of wooden bowls, shopping bags, jewelry, Nativity sets, carved wooden ornaments and other unique items selected by Margo McAuliffe during her summer months in Kenya--a good start for holiday gifts.

PRAY FOR US: Please remember in your prayers this week Denise Alongi, Rudy Bahr, George Bouche, Tom Carmody, George Chippendale, Mary Connors, Mike Cummings, Ken Dias, Pat Dietrich, Dick Freeman, Fr. Thierry Geris, Deonna Gill, Emily Gill, Joanne Hasegawa, Fr. John Hester, Dean Judd, Hunter Kubit, Dick Jackman, Alicia Kot, Fr. Bill Leininger, Andre and Alyssa Lippard, Deacon Ysidro and Dolores Madrigal, Mary Rose McGuire, Maureen Mooney, Hayden Pastorini, Paul Prochaska, Anne Rush, Priya Smith, Bernice Sullivan, Jean Vistica, Dolores Walsh, Kay Williams, and T. J. Wooten. [Add or subtract names by emailing editors: Michelle Hogan, Kay Williams. See below.]

Board: Gerard McGuire, gerardmc@aol.com, 650-814-2223

Bulletin: Kay Williams (October 7 & 14) kaywill@pacbell.net

Michelle Hogan (Oct. 21 & 28) myhogan@comcast.net

Finance: Helena Wee, 650-323-7987, shhwee@sbcglobal.net

Hospitality: Jim Davis, 328-2584

Liturgy: John Arnold, 325-1421, jsaoso@comcast.net

Sally Benson, 408-972-5843, sallymbenson@gmail.com

Membership: Kay Williams, 650-270-4188, kaywill@pacbell.net

Needs Net: Roberta Kehret, 650-494-1488, robkehr@yahoo.com

Adult Education: Jim Davis, 650-704-8002, Jim_Davis@pacbell.net

Mary Coady, 650-261-9155, coady_94025@yahoo.com

SpeakOut: Diana Diamond, 650-323-4787, dianaldiamond@gmail.com

Sunday, October 14, Kate Hennessy talks about her grandmother, Dorothy Day:



Kate Hennessy



Dorothy Day

Come to Menlo Park Civic Center's Arrillaga Recreation Center building at 700 Alma Street in Menlo Park on October 14 at 3:00 pm to hear from Kate Hennessy, Dorothy Day's ninth (of nine) grandchildren.

Kate's memoir is titled *Dorothy Day: The World Will Be Saved By Beauty*, and it is an intimate picture of the life and work of this iconic, celebrated and controversial Catholic (1897-1980), whom Pope Francis called a "great American." Dorothy had a close but complicated relationship with her daughter

and only child Tamar, as well as with her nine grandchildren. Dorothy Day's cause for canonization is in process, but she herself said not to call her "saint." Come and learn why.

Kate Hennessy's book will be available for purchase and she will autograph copies. Parking lots are adjacent to the Recreation Center.

More spiritual education events this fall:

Saturday, October 27: A morning talk with Fr. Daniel Kiriti at 10:00 am at Our Lady of the Rosary Church Hall, catching up with this long-time friend of TMC and STA parish about his current parish work and the challenges he faces. This is a chance to ask questions about the Church in Africa and Kenya specifically, how the clerical abuse issues are experienced there and how lay people are responding, what initiatives he wants to start or continue in his parish. Fr. Kiriti has always concentrated on the youth in his pastoral assignments, and he is articulate and candid in his assessment of the needs of youth and creative in addressing those needs. Coffee, tea, fruit and bagels provided.

Saturday, December 1, 9:00 a.m.-12 noon: Advent Morning of Reflection, led by Fr. Kevin Ballard, S.J., at Our Lady of the Rosary Church Hall, 3233 Cowper St., Palo Alto. Fr. Ballard will lead us into the Advent Scriptures to deepen our awareness of the call to holiness in the Advent season.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

CROP Hunger Walk today:

A STA Parish Team has been created to support the CROP Hunger Walk, on Sunday, October 7, at Nealon Park, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Walk with us, make a donation or both! Festivities begin at 1 pm; walks start at 2 pm. Walkers may choose a .6-mile, 2-mile or 5-mile walk and enjoy live bands, food, and games. Thanks to our parishioners who raised \$1,140 in 2016! In 2017, our parish raised \$1,150! So far, in 2018, \$560 has been pledged to the St. Thomas Aquinas Team.

An important note: One-quarter of funds raised by us will be contributed to the Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto for distribution to the needy in our local community.

Last minute information: **contact Terry of our parish Human Concerns Committee at 650-714-2131.**

Seton School Library needs volunteers:

Seton School turned its library into offices about a year ago, and the library books need to be catalogued before being installed in other classrooms.

Vicki Sullivan is looking for volunteers to help with this project on Mondays and Fridays from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Contact her at (650) 740-0124, or vickisullivan@comcast.net.

Peaceful Presence Prayer Service October 11:

Thursday, October 11, 7-7:30 pm, Trinity Church (Episcopal), 330 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park. Multifaith Voices for Peace & Justice hosts this monthly prayer service on the evening of the 11th of each month, offering a time of quiet multifaith prayers for peace and strength for the journey. All are welcome. Prayers will include elements from several religious traditions.

George Schultz at Seton School Nov. 8:

Join us for an evening with Secretary George Shultz in conversation with Prof. Philip Taubman at St. Elizabeth Seton School on Thursday, Nov. 8, 6:00-8:30 pm. Professor Taubman is working on the official biography of Secretary Shultz and will interview him on stage in the school's auditorium.



Support Seton School by purchasing tickets at: www.brownpapertickets.com (Search: "Shultz" or "Seton") or at www.setonpaloalto.org. Call Carmel at (650) 326-1258 for more information.

Bulletin submissions must be e-mailed by Thursday noon or phoned by Thursday, 9:00 pm, to:
Kay, kaywill@pacbell.net, (650) 270-4188,
and Michelle, myhogan@comcast.net, (650) 493-8452.

Francis again rejects women priests:

[By Joshua J. McElwee, *NCR Today*, 9/28/18]

Pope Francis has again forcefully rejected the possibility of female priests in the Catholic church, saying simply that his predecessor Pope John Paul II decided "that cannot be done."

In response to a question during a press conference on his flight back to Rome [two weeks ago] after an historic ten-day trip to Cuba and the U.S., Francis said that while women may "have the capacity" to be priests John Paul clearly made a negative decision in that regard.

"Women priests -- that cannot be done," the pontiff said bluntly. "Pope St. John Paul II -- after long, long discussions, long reflections -- said it clearly."

"Not because women do not have the capacity," said Francis.

"But, look, in the church, women are more important than men because the church is woman..The Church is the bride of Jesus Christ," said the pope. "And the Madonna is more important than popes and bishops and priests."

"I must recognize we are a bit late in an elaboration of the theology of women," he continued. "We have to move ahead with that theology. Yes, that's true."

Francis' answer on the papal plane is the latest in a series of somewhat controversial and frequently unclear remarks he has made about the role of women in the church.

The pope has previously said that the door to ordination for women was "closed" and has spoken of needing to develop a special theology of women.

But he has also said he has stayed away from appointing women to high-level positions in the Vatican bureaucracy for fear of promoting some sort of "functionalism" of women's roles.

One recent book of 43 essays by Catholic women said the pope's call for a theology of women "reduce[s] women to objects of study, a separate category of reflection."

"We resist ... any suggestion that the Church needs a theology of 'Woman' or 'womanhood,'" wrote the authors of *Catholic Women Speak: Bringing Our Gifts to the Table*.

"Rather than a deeper theology of women, we say that the Church needs a deeper theology of the human -- a theological anthropology that can be developed only by the full inclusion of women in the process of theological reflection informed by the experiential realities of daily life," they said.

In making the argument against women in Vatican roles during a trip to Turin, Italy in June, the pontiff also indicated an equality in ministry between men and women in the church, saying that all women have the "same work" the Virgin Mary had in receiving the Holy Spirit along with the twelve apostles at Pentecost.

The pope's mixture of apparently wanting to promote

(Women priests, continued on page 4.)

There's a baby in this bath water and we must save her:

[By Dani Clark, *National Catholic Reporter*, 10/2/18]

You gaze at your son's sleeping 10-year-old face all chubby and smooth, and you growl with anger over the clerics who conjured and conned heaven and hell to get their abominable gratification. You wonder how much soul-squashing agony could have been spared had these men and the ones who protected them not abused the power we bestowed on them as absolvers, as intercessors, as consecrators, as part of an exalted caste, when, in fact, they were capable of eating the apples just like everyone else.

It's woeful, because this Catholicism has filled you with so many good things, too many to enumerate. It has stuffed you with cobblestone piazzas in Rome's pink light and the memory scent of incense, with kneeling on cracked wood beams, your hands clasped, always, always in hope, and always trying, trying to be good. It has bequeathed to you the psychic inheritance of being the descendent of immigrants who drank their sorrows down and clung to beads and wept under saintly effigies.

Then there you are, next in line, a 7-year-old praying to Mary Queen of Heaven repeating Hail Mary after Hail Mary, and Sister Gaetana and Sister Filomena, immigrants themselves, and all the other silver-cross-wearing ladies are telling derring-do stories of levitating saints while you wonder what their hair looks like underneath the polyester white.

You are filled to the gills with this Catholicism; it is a mother and father you cannot renounce. Because you are not filled so much with creepy priests (there are some, yes, although none ever harmed you) but instead with weepy cathartic confessions before compassionate hearts, and of course, not to mention, this goateed desert-man God you can't quite imagine but don't really have to because he shapeshifts so easily into all the images made of him. That's the beauty of him, beaten, bloody, hanging there like you see happening to people all over the world; he is blond and blue-eyed or Arabic and dark — let the little ones come to him, all the little ones, and all ye who suffer and yearn for rest.

Then there are the peaceniks you have broken bread with, marched with and wanted to emulate, the Dorothy Days, the Helen Prejeans, the Jean Vaniers, the Francis of Assisi, the communities, the composters, the Catholic Worker friends who never have two coins to rub together but whom you secretly believe have more courage than anyone you know.

And right in the space where your heart beats are the mentally and physically disabled friends you helped get dressed each day in an L'Arche community for a year in the '90s and all the others who are weak in the way

of the desert man hanging on that wood beam, his rib cage popping out. The prisoners on death row. The old people in the nursing home. The homeless man named John who hangs out by the church hoping for a dollar and who says he's from Syria even though you're not sure that's a name they use there.

You are attracted to weakness and want to fix it, save it, stop it, but you hide your own these days behind 40-percent-off Ann Taylor suits and PowerPoint presentations, and that is how this human empathy works, and the desert guy's paradoxical response is spot on: The weakness is what binds us. The vulnerability is our strength.

So wherever it is, in whomever it is, stay with it, tend it, love it. You could go on and on and on. Catholicism is your marrow, the thread that connects; it is the gnarly tree root of what's inside you, and people pontificate (ha ha) on how bad and weird and creepy it all is, and you get it, you do, but you can't help being astonished and grateful for all this rainbowness in your life.

You are awed at this brightness inside you, a beam of light on a Caravaggio painting, real but not real, like everything else on the blue and green ball we all live on. And you know very well that someone else could tell an opposite story just like there's an opposite story for anything, but you won't say you're blessed because maybe it's just good luck. We know so little. We hope so much.

And so you cross yourself and say thank you to St. Patrick, patron saint of wobbly drunks and people like you who go around doubtful and faithful and hopeful all at the same time. And still Catholic. Because there's a baby in this dirty bath water, and we must save her. Because she is that desert man hanging on those wood beams showing us how to forgive. Now — at the most painful moment imaginable.

[Dani Clark is a member of the Community of Sant'Egidio and works in communications at an international development organization. She lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband and son.]

Women priests: (continued from page 3)

women's voices and roles while not giving women opportunity to take part in the church's governance structures strikes many as hard to understand.

In an interesting contrast, just before answering the question on women's ordination on the plane the pope very generously praised the work of U.S. Catholic women religious. "The sisters in the United States have done marvels in the field of education, in the field of health," said Francis. "The people of the United States love the sisters."

"I don't know how much they love the priests, but they love the sisters, they love them so much," he joked. "They are great, they are great, great, great women."

"An important person of the government of the United States told me in the last few days: 'The education I have, I owe above all to the sisters,'" the pope said. "The sisters have schools in all neighborhoods, rich and poor. They work with the poor and in the hospitals." #