



Pentecost Sunday

June 4, 2017

Readings

This week:

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

John 20:19-23

Next week:

Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

John 3:16-18

Psalm

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (*Psalm 104*)

Today

Today's presider is Msgr. John Sandersfeld.

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. Members of the Thomas Merton community plan 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 by check or cash, every Sunday there is a donation basket in the back of church or by the coffeepot after Mass—or you can use the envelope in the bulletin the last Sunday of every month to mail your donation. Please do not put your TMC donation in the collection baskets passed during Mass (these are for parish contributions only).

Calendar

Thursday, June 8, 7:30 pm

TMC Board, Thomas House

From Thomas Merton

[God] is closer to us than we are to our selves, although we do not see Him. Whoever seeks to catch Him and hold Him loses Him. He is like the wind that blows where it pleases. You who love Him must love Him as arriving from where you do not know and as going where you do not know. Your spirit must seek to be as clean and as free as His own Spirit, in order to follow Him wherever He goes. Who are we to call ourselves either clean or free, unless He makes us so?

If He should teach us how to follow Him into the wilderness of His own freedom, we will no longer know where we are, because we are with Him Who is everywhere and nowhere at the same time.

. . . Only those people are never separated from the Lord who never question His right to separate Himself from them. They never lose Him because they always realize they. . . have already found Him. For He has first found them, and will not let them go.

—*No Man Is an Island*

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

Rapid response team opportunity:

Rapid Response Teams are groups of people who can travel quickly to a place where ICE is trying to arrest someone and monitor the interactions (not take action). They are coordinated by Sacred Heart Community Service and many other partners in Santa Clara County. More volunteer responders are needed in Sunnyvale and Mountain View in particular. Volunteers are being trained in Mountain View on June 10 and June 28. If you'd like to know more, see Patricia Markee.

Temporary housing needed:

Gideon Obonyo is a very nice young Kenyan man who needs a place to sleep three nights a week (Tuesday-Thursday) until August 23, while Margo is away in Kenya. He doesn't need kitchen access, just a bed and a bathroom. He works as a tech in a San Jose firm, but lives in Folsom. He will pay, of course, and has been making monthly \$500 donations to Kenya Help in exchange for a bedroom at Margo's. He has also solved several tech problems for Margo—an added bonus! Please contact Margo at (650) 322-0821 if you can help.

Join us on the altar for Pentecost 2018:

All of you sitting in the pews today are invited to join those who filled the sanctuary this morning in one of the various ministries that support our weekly liturgy. Community is an important part of what we do here. We believe it is an important part of our faith experience—giving of some part of our time and care by helping and supporting each other. Most assignments are usually only once a month. We urgently need two more greeters and one more person to arrange the flowers for the altars. If you are interested in baking communion bread, being a sacristan, a Eucharistic minister or a lector, or just want to take the collected food donations to the food closet once a month, we will welcome you and we will train you. Please let John or Sally know of your interest. Their contact info is on page 4 of this bulletin.

STA “fluff up the garden” on June 20:

There will be a “fluff up the garden” party here at St. Thomas Aquinas on Saturday, June 10, beginning at 10:00 am. Many hands would make light work, so if you can spare an hour (or two), please come help us with new planting and weeding.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

NCR editorial: Reject Trump's cruel budget:

By the NCR Editorial Staff, May. 26, 2017, at National Catholic Reporter (ncronline.org).

The annual budget proposal the president sends to Congress is more of a message document than a working blueprint, and the message that the Trump administration sent with its priorities on May 23 is frighteningly clear. It spells out in stark terms the Trump administration's vision for America: It would create a crueler, more selfish society. It gives safe harbor to the richest and most comfortable among us and pits the poor and working class, families and children against the elderly to fight for scraps and leftovers. President Trump would leave Social Security retirement benefits untouched, but would cut Social Security disability payments. Meals on Wheels are safe, but school lunches and food stamps are not. This document should dispel any notion that Trump is a fighter for “the forgotten Americans.” The proposed budget would gut programs and benefits specifically designed to support working- and middle-class Americans,

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Immigration, religious liberty and synod on agenda for bishops' meeting:

Abridged from an article by Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service, May. 19, 2017, at ncronline.org.

The proverbial plate is full of issues for U.S. bishops to tackle at their upcoming spring assembly June 14-15 in Indianapolis. They will discuss issues ranging from im-



migration to religious freedom. . . . "We're certainly going to talk about the upcoming convocation in Orlando, some of the specific plans," said Bishop Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, New

Mexico, referring to the "Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America" July 1-4 in Orlando, Florida. "Other topics of interest for all of the bishops have been the fifth Encuentro, coming up in 2018, how things are developing in that."

Cantu, chairman of the Committee on International Jus-

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NCR editorial, continued:

such as earned income tax credits and child tax credits. It divests from America's future by cutting or eliminating education programs, grants for higher education and student loans.

Robert Greenstein of the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities . . . called it "the most radical, Robin-Hood-in-reverse budget that any modern President has ever proposed." The plan betrays the promise Trump made with his campaign slogan. It won't make America great again; it weakens America by hollowing out its core.

Like so much of what we have seen from the Trump administration, this plan is built on a fantasy.

The budget assumptions of economic growth—sustained 3% increases—have been called highly implausible by most serious economists and laughable by quite a few.

Furthermore, the budget architects seemingly have no understanding of real-world circumstances. . . . According to a January report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, "Nearly two-thirds of SNAP

[Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly called food stamps] participants were children, elderly, or had disabilities. Forty-four percent of participants were under age 18, 11% were age 60 or older, and 10% were disabled nonelderly adults."

. . . If this budget is more a vision statement than a working document, we must do all we can to reject this vision for America. The hard work of creating an actual budget will be slugged out in the House and Senate over the next months. Now is the time to raise our voices in support of a budget that protects people with disabilities, supports the working and middle classes, and invests in our future by making education and children our top priorities.

Joining our religious leaders in fasting on the 21st of every month is one outward sign that we can support. We also must bring the full lobbying strength of faith communities to bear on this process by sending witnesses to congressional hearings and showing up at representatives' offices and town hall meetings. Now more than ever we must be heard.

Please remember in your prayers this week: Denise Alongi, George Bouchey, Tom Carmody, George Chippendale, Sr. Fran Ciluaga, Mary Connors, Mike Cummings, Ken Dias, Fr. Thierry Geris, Deonna Gill, Emily Gill, Joanne Hasegawa, Dick Jackman, François Jamati, Michael Kiriti, Hunter Kubit, Fr. Lavagetto's mother, 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.

The U.S. helped cause the refugee crisis.

Now we must respond:

Abridged from an article by Kevin Clarke, May 18, 2017, at www.uscatholic.org and in the May 2017 issue of U.S. Catholic.

The president has promised a vast reinforced wall on the border to keep migrating people out. Immigration enforcement officers stalk homeless people without documentation outside church-run shelters. Refugee freezes, outright bans, and walls of paperwork keep those attempting to escape from the violent and unstable Middle East from safety.

What of it? many of us ask. Folks in the United States can't be responsible for all of the world's problems. Why should America run the risk of accepting the world's people on the move, whether escaping ISIS in Iraq or criminal gangs in Central America? It's not our fault. In truth, contemporary migration is directly attributable to policies that emerged out of



Washington. After over a decade of disintegrating regional conditions, it is hard to argue that the decision to invade Iraq in 2003 was not criminally wrong-headed. Follow-up policies contributed to the spread of disorder and violence throughout the region.

Closer to home, high demand in the United States for outlawed drugs like methamphetamine and cocaine helps propel disorder in Central America. Since the 1980s the region has also been liberally seeded by the United States with criminal gang members after a deportation policy here had the unintended effects of destabilizing communities and governments and unprecedented levels of street violence and homicide in Central America.

As a matter of geopolitical ethics, the United States must accept some responsibility for the collateral damage policies like these created. There are also powerful biblical and moral demands to care for the sojourners and migrants among us. Leviticus instructs, "The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt" (19:34). It's a reminder to all contemporary Americans of their forebears who fled their own pharaohs.

The church indeed teaches that nations have a right to regulate their borders but adds that the right is not absolute; it must bow to mercy and justice. People have a right to migrate—and not just when their personal safety is threatened, as when the Holy Family fled the cruelty of Herod. Flight is justified and refuge required by host

...Bishops' meeting, continued:

tice and Peace of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, will address the persecution of Christians abroad. . . . After making his annual trip to the Holy Land in January, Cantu said he traveled to Iraq and Kurdistan. He witnessed some of the work by church members, which included the building of schools, churches and universities for displaced communities of Christians forced to leave their homelands. . . . Cantu also met with church members in dangerous zones to talk about what Americans have been advocating, particularly for establishing safe zones for Christians in Syria and Iraq, on their behalf. . . . The bishops also will discuss the 2018 Synod of Bishops, in which the pope wants discussion about "young people, faith and vocational discernment," as the theme of the gathering. The bishops also will discuss and vote on whether to establish the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty as a permanent USCCB committee. They also will consider for discussion and votes revised Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities; a collection of blessings in Spanish; and a new translation of the Order of Blessing the Oil of Catechumens and of the Sick and of Consecrating the Chrism. . . . The bishops also may receive an update on President Donald Trump's executive orders dealing with his travel ban, which is tied up in the courts, yet is affecting refugees coming into the country. The bishops have issued statements opposing the original order and its revision.

Holy Ghost:

by June Robertson Beisch from Fatherless Women. © Cape Cod Literary Press, 2004. Reprinted with permission. Submitted by Roberta Kehret.

The congregation sang off key.
The priest was rambling.
The paint was peeling in the Sacristy.
A wayward pigeon, trapped in the church,
flew wildly around for a while and then
flew toward a stained glass window,
but it didn't look like reality.
The ushers yawned, the dollar bills
drifted lazily out of the collection baskets
and a child in the front row began to cry.
Suddenly, the pigeon flew down low,
swooping over the heads of the faithful
like the Holy ghost descending at Pentecost
Everyone took it to be a sign,
Everyone wants so badly to believe.
You can survive anything if you know
that someone is looking out for you,
but the sky outside the stained glass window,
doesn't it look like home ?

Blessing of Liturgical Ministers

Lord God, in your loving kindness
You sent your Spirit to call us to be the eyes and hands
of Christ. Continue to be with us and our community.
Bless our brothers and sisters,
who have responded to the needs of our community
and who have committed themselves to your service.
Grant that their ministries may be fruitful
and our worship pleasing in your sight.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

...Refugee crisis, continued:

states even when it is compelled "only" by the need to put bread on the family table.
The church further teaches that people have the right not to migrate. Many people making the perilous journeys out of the Middle East or Central America would likely prefer to stay in their homelands if conditions were improved. A commitment to help achieve that happy state should be balanced against efforts to keep migrants out or deport them after they have arrived.
We are willing to take risks and make vast investments for war-making and law enforcement in our society; we should be as willing to do the same for mercy and peace. U.S. citizens are being asked to swallow hard to finance our great southern barrier, estimated to cost anywhere between \$12 and \$25 billion. But in 2016 U.S. economic and development aid that helps stabilize and create opportunity in Central America was a paltry \$135 million. Undocumented residents in the United States are surely breaking U.S. law. Keeping the spirit of the law in mind and the higher morality we are called to embrace as Christians, is it merciful or compassionate to pursue them? Is it wise as a practical and spiritual matter to create a social infrastructure that inspires fear in millions of people, one that threatens to entangle undocumented and native residents alike?
A blind, brutal adherence to the letter of the law has both fiscal and spiritual costs. How many broken families will be left behind? How many U.S. citizens of deported parents will be bereft of a mother or father? How many holy families will we be turning away from sanctuary?

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