



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

April 9, 2017

Readings

This week:

Isaiah 50:4–7

Phillipians 2:6–11

Matthew 26:14–27:66

Next week:

Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37–43

Colossians 3:1–4

John 20:1–9

Psalm

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? (*Psalm 22*)

Today

Today's presider is Fr. Michael Marini.

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, April 20, 7:30 p.m. TMC Board, Thomas House (rescheduled from 4/13)
Sunday, April 16, 8:45 a.m. Easter Sunday (regular Sunday schedule)

From Thomas Merton

[The] rebirth of which Christ speaks is not a single event but a continuous dynamic of inner renewal. Certainly, sacramental baptism, the “birth by water,” can be given only once. But birth in the Spirit happens many times in a man’s life, as he passes through successive stages of spiritual development... True Christianity is growth in the life of the Spirit, a deepening of the new life, a continuous rebirth, in which the exterior and superficial life of the ego-self is discarded like an old snake skin and the mysterious, invisible self of the Spirit becomes more present and more active. The true Christian rebirth is a renewed transformation, a “passover” in which man is progressively liberated from selfishness and not only grows in love but in some sense “becomes love.” The perfection of the new birth is reached where there is no more selfishness, there is only love. In the language of the mystics, there is no more ego-self, there is only Christ; self no longer acts, only the Spirit acts in pure love. The perfect illumination is, then, the illumination of Love shining by itself. To become completely transparent and allow Love to shine by itself is the maturity of the “New Man.”

— “Rebirth and the New Man in Christianity,” *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

22nd Annual Seton Scramble for Students:



You're invited! Please join us for our annual fundraising event at the exclusive Stanford Golf Course on **Monday, May 8th, 2017**. A full day of golf that includes Hobee's breakfast, boxed-lunch, a Coupa

Cafe catered reception with wine, beer and beverages throughout the day! Your day of golf will be followed by a fun reception and lively auction.

Come and support St. Elizabeth Seton School students and get the opportunity to play golf at Stanford too! *Be sure to take advantage of the Early Bird Pricing before 4/10/17.*

Registration at www.setonpaloalto.org
Questions? Contact Carmel Caligaris:
Development@setonpaloalto.org, 650-326-1258.

Easter altar decorating party April 15:

Spend an hour among the Easter lilies on Saturday, April 15, 9:00-11:00 a.m., when the Liturgy Team will be decorating the altar for Easter. If you are moved to donate a potted pastel flower, bring it along and add it to the mix of lilies and hydrangeas that transforms the altar into the exuberance of Easter. Many hands make the work fun. Even if you are not a lily-lover, the company of decorators makes the hour fly by. No one is turned away!

Gratitude from STA's St. Vincent de Paul Conference:

Thank you to our wonderful St. Thomas Aquinas parishioners for your generous donations to the 2nd collection for our St. Vincent de Paul Conference two weekends ago.

We already have 2 rent requests and 2 hotel stays that we will be able to assist with thanks to your donation. We are also purchasing food supplies running short for our food bags and grocery cards.

During the last month, we paid 2 rents and made 2 utility payments. In addition we helped people with transportation and necessary car repairs. You make a difference.

April 18: the science of climate change:

Everyone is invited to a talk by scientist Andrew Gunther at the Our Lady of the Rosary Hall on April 18 from 7:30 to 9 PM. The presentation focuses on the science of climate change and why immediate action is required.

Our speaker, Andrew Gunther, PhD serves on the Advisory Board of Interfaith Power & Light.

—Sponsored by the STA Parish Green Committee

TMC Annual Meeting May 7:

All TMC members are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the **Thomas Merton Center** and brunch on **Sunday, May 7, 2016, 11:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m.**, at the home of Bob and Judy Foley, 1927 Emerson Street, Palo Alto.

We will share our vision for our TMC community as we move forward. We will also continue to seek guidance from the membership on issues for action by TMC in 2017-2018.

We will be paying attention in particular to reports and recognition of the past year's accomplishments in the TMC community and give a grand thank -you to Judy Creek for more than 20 years of service to TMC as bookkeeper.

Please mark your calendar. Members will receive an invitation and ballot by mail or email and are requested to return the R.S.V.P. form before May 7.

Not a TMC member yet? Look for membership forms in St. Catherine's Corner (the nook outside the church restroom), or contact Kay Williams, Membership, at kaywill@pacbell.net, or call 650-270-4188.

Holy Week services in the parish:

This week summons us to put aside all other activities to observe wholeheartedly the Paschal Feast. No other solemnity may be celebrated during these next two weeks.

Parish services are as follows:

Wednesday, April 12: Tenebrae Service, St. Ann Chapel, 8:00 pm, with the St. Ann Gregorian Choir.

Thursday, April 13: Holy Thursday

8:30 AM: Morning Prayer, Our Lady of the Rosary
7:30 PM: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, Our Lady of the Rosary (Bilingual). Chapel stays open until 10:00 PM for quiet personal prayer.

Friday, April 14: Good Friday

8:30

8:30 AM: Morning Prayer, Our Lady of the Rosary
12:00 PM: Celebration of the Lord's Passion, Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross & Holy Communion, St. Thomas Aquinas
3:00 PM Seven Last Words, Our Lady of the Rosary
4:00 PM: Living Stations of the Cross, St. Albert's
5:30 PM: St. Thomas Aquinas (Gregorian)
7:30 PM: Our Lady of the Rosary (Spanish)

Saturday, April 15: Holy Saturday

8:30 AM: Morning Prayer, Our Lady of the Rosary
8:30 PM: The Easter Vigil, St. Albert the Great; Reception follows in St. Albert Hospitality Center.
11:00 PM: The Easter Vigil - St. Thomas Aquinas Church (Gregorian)



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COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

From the Place of His Dying:

[By Ronald Rolheiser, OMI, president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. His books are popular throughout the English-speaking world, and his weekly column is carried by more than 70 newspapers worldwide.]

When we think of the passion of Jesus, we spontaneously think of it as the intense suffering he endured during his scourging and crucifixion. But that, true as it is, misses the real meaning. The English word *passion* takes its root in the Latin word *passio*, meaning passivity, and that is its real connotation here. The passion narratives describe what Jesus gave to us through his *passivity*, just as the earlier parts of the Gospels describe what Jesus gave to us through his *activity*.

Notice that the English word *patient* also comes from the Latin word *passio*. After Jesus is arrested he is, in effect, entering hospice, palliative care. And from there, from the place of his dying, he is able to give us something that he could not give through all of his previous activities. This is a mystery, a gift inside passivity, which many of us have experienced as intangible grace flowing from the beds of our loved ones as they lay dying. Passivity and dying can potentially contain a great gift to others.

Sadly this is a wisdom we are in danger of losing. Today, within a culture that tends to identify value only with utility, action, and work, it is no secret that more and more people are beginning to speak of euthanasia as death with dignity. What is the value, they ask, of people continuing to live on in hospice when there is no chance of recovery or improvement and they have already slipped away from us consciously? The answer lies in the mystery of passivity, as seen most clearly in Jesus' passion. In his passivity and dying he was able to give us something deeper than what he gave through his strength and activity. This is *death with dignity*. #

Redwood City Catholic Worker news:

"I was a stranger and you made me welcome"

Dear Friends,

My wife, Ronnie, has taught in Redwood City's public elementary schools for the past 20 years. This January, children in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades came to school

crying because they were terrified that their mommy and dad might get deported. Many parents draft wills and trusts designating an uncle, aunt or close friend to care for their small children in case both parents suddenly die. Imagine being undocumented parents with small or high school age children who are U.S. citizens. Imagine worrying about an immigration raid (ICE) that quickly leads to losing your mother and father. Your children are at pre-school and no one comes to pick them up or your teenage child comes home to an empty house – these are very very real fears today for many of our neighbors. One family (Ronnie taught their 3rd grader nine years ago) has filled out the papers designating Ronnie and I as the guardian of their three children if they are deported. What a worry!!!!

Two other families who lived at the Catholic Worker for free for 2 years and 1 year respectively saved \$23,000 and \$14,000 each. These two very poor families used all of the money they saved to purchase homes in Mexico in case they lose everything here by being deported. This is their plan "B".

Susan Crane has been a live-in Catholic Worker with us for 5 years. Her compassion is legendary. She has been going to meetings of [Faith in Action](#) to help develop a network of volunteers who would agree to arrive at nearby locations as ICE conducts a raid. "[RAPID RESPONSE](#)" hopes to get volunteer supporters (citizens) to help undocumented sisters and brothers by arriving within 7 minutes of an immigration raid. Packets of information have been developed to help [immigrants respond safely](#) and legally to a knock at their door from ICE. These same packets contain forms for parents to designate who will care for their little ones in case of an emergency as well as a page of "Know Your Rights." If you wish to be part of "Rapid Response" or if you know someone who needs a packet of information, call Susan or Larry (650) 366-4415.

Holy Easter,

Larry Purcell, Ronnie Georges, Sr. Mary Jane Floyd, Jan Johanson, Aida Figueroa, J Arthur White, Susan Crane and Doug Herbek

[The Catholic Worker House is at 545 Cassia St., Redwood City.]

PRAY FOR US: Please remember in your prayers this week Denise Alongi, George Bouchev, Tom Carmody, George Chippendale, Sr. Fran Ciluaga, Mary Connors, Mike Cummings, Ken Dias, Pat Dietrich, Fr. Thierry Geris, Deonna Gill, Emily Gill, Joanne Hasegawa, Fr. John Hester, Dean Judd, Hunter Kubit, Dick Jackman, Edna and François Jamati, 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 e-mailing Bulletin editors: Michelle Hogan, Kay Williams. See listings in adjacent column.]

Board: Vicki Sullivan, vickisullivan@comcast.net, (650) 327-5339
Bulletin: Kay Williams (April 9 & 16) kaywill@pacbell.net
Michelle Hogan (April 23 & 30) myhogan@comcast.net
Finance: Judy Creek, 493-5371, grannyjam2@gmail.com
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
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Adult Education: Jim Davis, 650-704-8002, Jim_Davis@pacbell.net
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SpeakOut: Diana Diamond, 650-323-4787, dianaldiamond@gmail.com

Refugees:

[by Brian Bilston, quoted in the Redwood City Catholic Worker April newsletter]

(READ FROM TOP TO BOTTOM AND THEN FROM BOTTOM TO TOP)

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way.

(NOW READ BOTTOM TO TOP)

Redwood City Catholic Worker needs:

1. FOOD in any amount.
2. Household needs: laptop computers and electronic stuff for teens, firewood (split), a vacuum cleaner for Aida, carts and re-useable bags for the elderly who line up for food every Friday at the Catholic Worker, musical instruments, tools, paper towels, an electric fan, hand soap, Comet, etc.
3. Transportation: After housing and jobs the next priority is "getting there." We need bikes, cars, trucks and R.V's. By the way, San Bruno Catholic Worker is building a second "Tiny House" on wheels and we need a church, business, or home to park it with a sewer hook up.
4. Teacher Assistants for our English Language School—one night a week, Spanish is not necessary. Our School is growing and now has 120 plus students. Call Pam (650-365-6019).
5. A House or money to buy a house for a new Catholic Worker center. Call Larry for a free cup of coffee.
6. Work for day laborers. Call Cesar at (650) 339-2794.

Your ongoing love and support.

<http://www.rwdcw.wordpress.com>

Women persist:

[America Magazine, March 29, 2017, by Valerie Schultz, freelance writer and a columnist for The Bakersfield Californian and the author of Closer: Musings on Intimacy, Marriage, and God. She and her husband Randy have four daughters.]

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell inadvertently started something. I imagine Mr. McConnell wishes he had chosen less quotable words to make Senator Elizabeth Warren stop talking during a confirmation hearing for Attorney General Jeff Sessions. "She was warned. She was given an explanation," intoned Mr. McConnell in his most monotonous voice. "Nevertheless, she persisted."

And that is how a catchphrase is born. Also a slogan, a meme, a tattoo, a chant, a protest sign, a rallying cry...It is a phrase we women embrace because persistence is what we do.

I am reminded of the time one of my daughters, when she was a teenager, used a biblical image to strengthen an argument she was making. I cannot remember what she wanted at the time—a later curfew or a raise in allowance—but she kept after me about it, bringing up the topic repeatedly. Finally, she said, "I'm the persistent widow, Mom." I realized she was alluding to the previous Sunday's Gospel reading. She had actually been listening to something in church! I was amazed and impressed. Of course, I rewarded her persistence and her tactics.

The widow my daughter was referring to appears in the Gospel of Luke. Jesus prefaces the parable with our "need to pray always and not to lose heart." The widow does not give up on asking for justice from a corrupt judge....The powerless overcomes the powerful.

Stories of persistent women abound in the Gospels. There is the woman in the Gospel of Mark who suffers from excessive bleeding or a hemorrhage....

There is the Canaanite woman in the Gospel of Matthew, a foreigner, who persists in believing that Jesus can help her daughter. ... Because of her faith, Jesus heals her daughter. Her persistence validates Jesus' redemptive role for those who are not Jews.

There is the nameless woman in the Gospel of Luke, weeping and wordless, who washes Jesus' feet with her tears and dries them with her hair....Jesus forgives her sins, saying, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

There are the women in the Gospel of John who persist in following Jesus all the way to the foot of the cross when most of his other followers have abandoned him.... Throughout the Gospels, Jesus blesses the persistence of women when he equates it with faith, with prayer, with not losing heart. ...He acknowledges the worth of women. He understands that persistence is deeply tied to faith. Indeed, to this day, persistence in the cause of love and mercy requires a lot of faith and prayer and heart.

We women persist.... Throughout history, we have persisted in our quest for respect, for justice, for equal rights, for suffrage, for education, for enfranchisement, for recognition, for making our voices heard... We may suffer dissuasion and discouragement and defeat. We will be warned and given explanations. Nevertheless, we persist. #