



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 21, 2018

Readings

This week:

Isaiah 53:10-11

Hebrews 4:14-16

Mark 10:35-45

Next week:

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Hebrews 5:1-6

Mark 10:46-52

Psalm

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. (*Psalm 33*)

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

No meetings this week.

From Thomas Merton

If I insist on giving you my truth, and never stop to receive your truth in return, then there can be no truth between us. Christ is present "where two or three are gathered in my name." But to be gathered in the name of Christ is to be gathered in the name of the Word made flesh, of God made man. It is therefore to be gathered in the faith that God has become man and can be seen in man, that he can speak in man and that he can enlighten and inspire love in and through any [person] I meet. It is true that the visible Church alone has the official mission to sanctify and teach all nations, but no [person] knows that the stranger he meets coming out of the forest in a new country is not already an invisible member of Christ and perhaps one who has some providential or prophetic message to utter.

—*The Waters of Siloe*

COMMUNITY NOTES

News Announcements Requests

Today is World Mission Sunday:

The theme of this year's observance, "Together with young people, let us bring the Gospel to all," echoes the synod of bishops, taking place in Rome until October 28. In the message addressed to all Christians, but especially to young people, the Pope reminds all that "we are not in this world by our own choice," and hence there is "an initiative that precedes us and makes us exist."

Each one of us, he says, is called to reflect on the fact that "I am a mission on this Earth," which is why we are here in this world. In



fact, the Pope says, "every man and woman is a mission."

... There is a lot happening in mission today and short-term mission trips, especially among young adults, are cultivating the missionary impulse. The stark reality, however, is that our "missio ad gentes" is not truly

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Hennessy books still available:

There are still 4 **autographed** copies of *Dorothy Day: The World Will Be Saved by Beauty* by Kate Hennessy available for purchase for \$12. See Jim Davis after Mass in the Thomas House if you'd like a copy.

Seton School library needs volunteers:

Seton School turned its library into offices about a year ago, and the library books still need to be cataloged before being installed in other classrooms. Vicki Sullivan is looking for volunteers to help with this project on Mondays and Fridays, 9:30-11:30. You can contact her at (650) 740-0124, or e-mail vickisullivan@comcast.net.

Blankets? Sleeping bags?:

Do you have any blankets or sleeping bags that need a new home? Our parish, through the Human Concerns Committee, will be collecting them for reuse by homeless people who come to St. Francis of Assisi church in East Palo Alto, to our parish St. Vincent de Paul, and to the Opportunity Center in Palo Alto.

Throughout the month of October, boxes will be in the vestibules of our three churches. What you are not using will be given to others who need a warm wrap at night during the coming winter months.

Thanks from the parish Human Concerns Committee (also endorsed by the Green Committee as a reuse event).

Fr. Kiriti talk this Saturday:

On Saturday, October 27, come to 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 the Merton Center 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, and 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.

Altar of Remembrance will be back in November:

On November 7 when you come to Mass, you'll see that our annual Altar of Remembrance is up, in front of the Mary altar. It is themed on the Mexican tradition of the Day of the Dead, when our deceased loved ones are remembered and honored. At St. Thomas Aquinas, we are invited to bring photos of our loved ones whom we want to remember during November and place them on the altar. If you bring pictures, be sure to label them on the back with your name and phone number, so they can be returned to you if you forget to pick them up. The altar will be up through November, and will be taken down after the 25th, before Advent begins on December 2.

A fundraising event poster for St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic School. The poster features the school's logo at the top. The main text reads: "Save the Date: Thursday, November 8th", "The Honorable George Shultz", "in conversation with Professor Philip Taubman (who is currently working on the official biography of Secretary Shultz)", "Wine Reception @ 6:00pm & Conversation @ 7:15pm", "St. Elizabeth Seton School", "1085 Channing Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301", "A Fundraising Event to Support Seton School". At the bottom, it says "Tickets: www.Brownpapertickets.com or call (650) 326-1258". The poster includes several photographs: a young George Shultz in a military uniform, a portrait of George Shultz, a photo of him receiving an award, and a photo of him with a young girl holding a "2018" award.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

Pope canonizes Paul VI and Oscar Romero:

Abridged from an article by Jesuit Fr. Thomas Reese, a columnist for Religion News Service and author of Inside the Vatican: The Politics and Organization of the Catholic Church, at ncronline.org, October 16, 2018.

Pope Francis canonized two of his favorite people, Pope Paul VI and Salvadoran Archbishop Óscar Romero, who was murdered in 1980 because of his defense of human rights and the poor. The canonization took place outside in a packed St. Peter's Square on October 14. Their canonizations did not occur without controversy. Paul VI (1963-1978), a Vatican insider who spent most of his priestly life working in the Roman Curia, became the pope who brought to a successful conclusion the



Second Vatican Council, which attempted to update Catholicism to the needs of the modern world.

... He also was the pope who oversaw the translation of the liturgy into the vernacular as well as the elimination of many of the monarchical trappings of the papacy. He wrote a number of documents, including *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (Evangelization in the Modern World), which said that evangelization was not complete without working for justice, peace and human liberation. ... But Paul is mostly remembered for his encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (Of Human Life), which included a ban on any use of artificial contraceptives. The overwhelmingly negative response to this teaching by theologians and the faithful overshadowed his papacy.

... I find this rush to canonize recent popes unseemly at a time when the church needs to showcase lay examples of holiness to inspire ordinary Catholics in their lives. ... The canonization of Archbishop Romero was even more controversial. In life he got little support from his fellow bishops in opposing the brutal military regime governing El Salvador. He was labeled a Communist by his opponents simply because he sided with the poor and told soldiers not to kill their brothers and sisters. He also had

World Mission Sunday, continued:

“Catholic” because we are not reaching out to everyone, everywhere. The Church has entrusted world mission to the Pontifical Mission Societies that works on behalf of the 1,111 mission dioceses—caring for the Churches in need and supporting the proclamation of the Gospel. Is time for us to assume more responsibility for World Mission Sunday? There are many benefits to the missionary community of the United States. ... World Mission Sunday provides an opportunity for us to tell our missionary story. It also provides a golden opportunity to cultivate the missionary spirit among the faithful and provide some mission education. It is a way of thanking the local church for their generosity, and... it is a tangible expression of solidarity to our brothers and sisters who are taking the Gospel to the “ends of the earth.” and honors the mandate given to the Pontifical Mission Societies.

... The challenge, of course, is how to support World Mission Sunday. I offer the following suggestions:

1. Stay rooted in your experience and your story. What missionary dioceses have you served in and what “corporal and spiritual works of mercy” needed financial support?
2. Share your story with the local Church. Perhaps you could write an article for the local Catholic newspaper or the diocesan newsletter?
3. Network. Introduce yourself to the mission office in your diocese.
4. Donate. Perhaps your organization—as a parish, a campus ministry, or a religious community—could make a donation to World Mission Sunday as an expression of solidarity to world mission. Personal donations can be made through the diocese or directly through the Pontifical Mission Societies website—www.propfaith.net.

—United States Catholic Mission Association

opponents in the Vatican Curia who thought he was too liberal. After he was killed, many did not want to call him a martyr, saying he was killed because of politics, not because of the faith. ... This debate over martyrdom held up Romero's canonization because regular saints need two miracles to be canonized, whereas martyrs need only one. Also contributing to the delay was the reluctance of the Vatican to canonize Romero while the Arena Party was still in power in El Salvador. The party was founded by Roberto D'Aubuisson, who orchestrated the killing of Romero.

Dangerous saints for desperate times:

Abridged from an editorial by the NCR Editorial Staff, October 12, 2018, at ncronline.org.

The significance of the canonization of Archbishop Óscar Romero cannot be underestimated as the bridge Pope Francis needs to convey a universal church trapped in the past toward a future that will purify it and align it with the global poor. And the joining of Romero and Pope Paul VI is no mistake or public relations ploy to balance a radical with a traditionalist. Remarkably, these two saints shared a martyrdom that built the bridge that supports a single trajectory, inspired by the Holy Spirit, that will renew the church and reveal again the mystery of Jesus as the engine of history. It is a thrilling story, and some key figures helped it happen.

When Romero was murdered in 1980, American Jesuit Fr. James Brockman saw the urgent need for an accurate biography of the slain archbishop of El Salvador. Brockman, former editor of America magazine, knew that Romero had been the focus of intense controversy during his brief time as archbishop. He also knew that despite the near-unanimous acclamation throughout Latin America that Romero was a saint, revisionists were already at work to contain his impact. His critics argued that this pious, conservative prelate had been duped by left-wing radicals during a dangerous drift toward Marxism sweeping Latin America. His assassination had been the tragic but predictable result of his meddling in politics, and the abdication of his primary spiritual role as a bishop.

... In 1982, Fr. Brockman published the first version of a definitive biography documenting Romero's three years as archbishop. ... Updated in 1989, the book was supplemented by personal diaries in which Romero anguished over the growing violence in El Salvador by state security forces, death squads and opposition groups that claimed hundreds of innocent lives in the lead-up to the country's brutal 12-year civil war (1980-92).

Romero endured constant vilification in the media and subversion by four of the country's bishops aligned with the government and the country's wealthy elites. The papal nuncio sent a steady flow of negative reports to his superiors in Rome, accusing Romero of promoting so-called "liberation theology" and supporting violent revolution.

Romero defended his pastoral leadership by citing the Second Vatican Council. Latin American bishops had met with Pope Paul VI at Medellín, Colombia, in 1968, where they proclaimed "God's option for the poor" and challenged the entrenched structural injustices that were causing widespread poverty and violence in the region. Romero found further support from Paul VI's 1975 exhortation on evangelization, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, which strongly affirmed liberation from oppression as integral to

Loving kindness: antidote in a time of fear:

Abridged from an article by Alex Mikulich, October 9, 2018, at ncronline.org. Mikulich is a Catholic social ethicist.

We live in a time of grotesque political toxicity. This toxicity thrives in an authoritarian political culture where the president of the United States exploits people's fears to publicly shame people who legitimately cry out for justice. Like many others who yearn for a return to truth-telling, fairness and justice, I find myself so disgusted and enraged by the violence of the president and his party that I feel like I could easily burn up or explode. Our fury, however justified, may only consume us if it is not grounded in loving kindness within both ourselves and all of our institutions.

The president mocking Christine Blasey Ford's testimony about her experience of sexual assault is only the latest instance in a long series where the president sounds more like a bully dictator than the leader of a democracy. . . . More than anything, I believe, we need the balm of loving kindness. Loving kindness for ourselves and others heals wounds and creates the condition of the possibility of truth-telling, fairness and justice. . . . A call for loving kindness may sound naive in the context of a time in which the U.S. President mocks survivors of sexual abuse. . . . We can live in loving kindness within ourselves and in our institutions. The change we seek for a world of love and justice begins in our daily practice of loving kindness. That is how we may yet make God's kingdom of love a reality "on earth as it is in heaven."

Board: Gerard McGuire, gerardmc@aol.com, 814-2223
Bulletin: Michelle Hogan (October 21 and 28), 468-3386
Kay Williams (November 4 and 11), 679-9015
Finance: Helena Wee, 520-7556, shwee@sbcglobal.net
Hospitality: Jim Davis, 328-2584
Liturgy: John Arnold, 325-1421, jsaoso@comcast.net;
Sally Benson, (408) 972-5843, red5@svpal.org
Needs Net: Roberta Kehret, 494-1488, robkehr@yahoo.com
Spiritual Education: Mary Coady, 261-9155, Jim Davis, 328- 2584

the church's mission.

... Brockman did not live to see our Latin American pope [canonized]. But in the first hours after his election, Francis invoked Pope John XXIII's dream of a "church of the poor," saying he would like "a church that is poor and that is for the poor."

... Canonization holds up heroes of faith who confront us with what theologian Johann Baptist Metz called the "dangerous memory" of the crucified and risen Christ, who interrupts history in every generation to summon disciples to hear God's Word and keep it. Sts. Oscar and Paul did it in their time. Their witness is not just that they crossed the bridge of the paschal mystery to a different and necessary future, but that they are inviting us all to follow.