



Second Sunday of Easter

April 8, 2018

Readings

This week:

Acts of the Apostles 4:32–35

1 John 5:1–6

John 20:19–31

Next week:

Acts of the Apostles 3:13–15, 17–19

1 John 2:1–5a

Luke 24:35–48

Psalm

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. (*Psalm 118*)

Today's presider is Fr. Larry Percell.

Today

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

Monday, April 9, 7:00 pm

TMC Liturgy Committee, Thomas House Library

Friday, April 13, 6:00 pm

STA Fish Fest, Thomas House living/dining rooms

From Thomas Merton

In the old days, on Easter night, the Russian peasants used to carry the blest fire home from church. The light would scatter and travel in all directions through the darkness, and the desolation of the night would be pierced and dispelled as lamps came on in the windows of the farmhouses one by one.

Even so, the glory of God sleeps everywhere, ready to blaze out unexpectedly in created things. Even so, his peace and his order lie hidden in the world, even the world of today, ready to reestablish themselves in his way, in his own good time: but never without the instrumentality of free options made by free men.

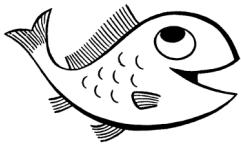
--*The New Man*

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

Fish Fest resumes Friday, April 13:



The STA Friday Fish Fest is back! After a two-month break, the STA Site Committee is hosting the popular Fish Fest again this Friday, April

13, at 6:00 pm in the Thomas House.

Remember how tasty those fish filets were--once we figured out how to use our big portable oven? And the ever-tangy Asian cole slaw? (Many thanks to people who generously also brought snacks and desserts to share occasionally.) And all this for only \$5 per person, plus \$2 for a beer or generous glass of wine. Other soft beverages are free with the meal.

Come to the Thomas House at 6 pm on Friday, April 13, and join fellow pew-mates and friends who take advantage of this satisfying meal, chat and laugh together, enjoying the liberation from deciding "what's for dinner?"

IMPORTANT TO RSVP: Helen Baumann, 650-327-9236, hbbaumann@aol.com, or Kay Williams, 650-270-4188, kaywill@pacbell.net.

Spirituality Tuesday talk on gratitude, Apr. 10:

Come on Tuesday evening, April 10, to hear from Nativity Parish Deacon Dominick Peloso for a "gratitude check." Deacon Peloso will address the topic: "Gratitude: The Most Necessary Prayer."

Those who are new or not very good at prayer rightly should start with giving thanks. That simple, yet powerful, prayer opens hearts of both God and man. It gives a right order to the greatness of this relationship. It melts the hardest heart in its humility.

Deacon Peloso will encourage us to live a life of being thankful, as we should be, for all the riches we enjoy, including the opportunities in crosses we carry. A grateful heart is a magnet for miracles.

The talk begins at 7:00 p.m. at St. Albert's Hospitality Center, 1095 Channing in Palo Alto. Light refreshments provided.

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

Film on Br. Roger of Taizé April 21:

Have you participated in a Taizé prayer service in our parish or elsewhere? All who are interested in the Taizé Community, or are just curious, are invited to attend a showing of the video on the life of Taizé's founder, "Moments in the Life of Brother Roger," on Saturday, April 21, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm here in the Thomas House basement hall. A discussion after the film will be accompanied by wine and cheese.

The film (in French with subtitles) presents sixteen "moments" in the life of Br. Roger Schutz, from his childhood in a Swiss mountain village, via his settling at Taizé near the beginning of the Second World War, to his tragic death during an evening prayer. Br. Roger was a compelling personality, who was always ready to take risks for the reconciliation of Christians, for the younger generations, and for the poor.

The discussion will be facilitated by Anna Fernandez, a long-time member of the Taizé Community, originally from Rome and now a Marriage and Family therapist practicing on the Peninsula. She has attended many Taizé international meetings and pilgrimages, since first becoming acquainted with Taizé in 1981 in parish youth groups in Rome.

Justice in El Salvador event April 22:

South Bay Sanctuary Covenant is presenting an event on Sunday, April 22, at 4:00 pm at First Baptist Church, 305 N. California (at Bryant) in Palo Alto: "Working for Justice in El Salvador and the U. S."

José Acosta of Voices on the Border in El Salvador will report on last November's delegation and plans for future cooperation. Also, a vulnerable person in our area will share a personal story.

Then enjoy a Salvadoran dinner and view Salvadoran crafts for sale. Suggested donation, including dinner, is \$20 adult and \$5 student. (No one turned away for lack of funds.)

Please RSVP to (650) 600-8122 or email elh109@sbcglobal.net.

The next delegation to El Salvador is August 18-26, 2018. Delegation orientation is Tuesday, April 24, 7 pm. Talk it over with Arlene Schaupp: (650) 600-8122.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

Send a kid to CYO Summer Camp:

For the 5th year, sisters Gwenn Connolly and Karen Vetter are raising funds to help send 30 kids from St. Elizabeth Seton School to CYO Summer Camp in Occidental, CA, this summer. These kids have big dreams and talents — but few resources.

Camp costs \$825 per kid for seven days. Each child's family pays a portion plus campership funds cover the remaining 65%. Gwen and Karen are raising \$300 per camper to cover the balance of expenses.

Last year, Gwenn and Karen raised \$7,400 from 24 donors (range was \$25-\$2,000). Donations enabled 30 kids from Seton to attend CYO Camp. Whatever you can contribute will make a huge difference and be tremendously appreciated. Your donation is tax deductible. CYO Summer Camp is a program of Catholic Charities, SF (501c3, tax ID #94-1498472).

Make checks payable to: CYO Camp Scholarships
Memo Line: St. Elizabeth Seton School students
Mail to: Gwenn Connolly
205 De Anza Blvd, #180
San Mateo, CA 94402

If you would like to help go to <http://catholiccharitiessf.org/donate/>

Step 1: Indicate the Donation Amount you would like to contribute. **Step 2:** On the line: How would you like us to use your gift? Please indicate Children and Youth Services. **Step 3:** On the line: Specify a Program, please indicate CYO Camp Scholarships, for St. Elizabeth Seton School students. **Please Note:** It's important to specify this information correctly to assure your donation is applied to this project. To learn more about the project please visit sendakidtocycocamp.com.

CYO Summer Camps are seven-day traditional camps, for participants entering 3rd-9th grades, which focus on cultivating friendships, personal values and outdoor skills. Campers and counselors stay busy from sun-up

Board: Vicki Sullivan, vickisullivan@comcast.net, (650) 327-5339
Bulletin: Kay Williams (April 8, 15, 22) kaywill@pacbell.net
Michelle Hogan (April 29 & May 6) myhogan@comcast.net
Finance: Helena Wee, 650-323-7987, shhwee@aol.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
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

to well beyond sun-down when they finally hit the pillow to recharge for the next day. Highlights of the week include special theme days, the ga-ga pit, dancing, campfires, sleeping under the stars and sing-a-longs. Wildwood campers also take an exciting field trip to Sonoma Coast State Park. A unique and exciting aspect of CYO Summer Camp is afternoon electives. During this time campers have the opportunity to select an activity of their choice from a variety of different programs offered by counselors. Selections include swimming, canoeing, arts and crafts, theater, dance, sports or nature activities.

For many kids at Seton, CYO Summer Camp is their first experience sleeping away from home. The parents have to be reassured that this opportunity is really good for their child. Students who have attended camp are the best spokespeople for how great camp is. Here is what one student had to say about her experience: "...at CYO Camp I feel like I can be myself instead of try to be someone else. Camp is a place where I learn more about God and nature and how to appreciate all of my surroundings both big and small."

Recycle correctly:

We have all seen the three types of bins with graphic instructions indicating what goes where. The correct sorting of waste is important for our stewardship of the environment. Placing waste where it belongs helps in reducing our carbon footprint. Another reason is for the stewardship of our parish funds, carefully collected each week.

Palo Alto audits our garbage to ensure it is properly sorted to proceed to the next step down the line. If not, there are fines to be paid, for example, a recent one for \$180. This amount could have gone to a worthier cause in our parish. With everyone's cooperation, we can avoid this unhappy event in the future.

--The Green Committee

PRAY FOR US: Please remember in your prayers this week Denise Alongi, George Bouchey, 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 e-mailing editors: Michelle Hogan, Kay Williams. See listing adjacent.]

Loyola's Final Four shows sports as model:

[By Michael P. Murphy, *America*, April 03, 2018]

While people have long loved gathering in arenas and around televisions to root for their favorite sports teams, events like the NCAA basketball tourney remain one of the few in a rapidly changing media landscape that still attracts a broad and diverse viewership. Because of this, March Madness... is one of the few spaces where we can all participate in a shared story unfolding in real time. The thrilling journeys of Villanova University (men's champions) and the University of Notre Dame (women's champions) to ultimate victory in the Final Four inspired many viewers, but another team might have brought more important insights to university communities. The unlikely journey of the Loyola Chicago Ramblers participates in something larger: a national conversation where, for three weeks anyway, we are all invited to consider what counts when it comes to personal, communal and institutional values in contemporary culture.

In this sense, the NCAA tournament showcases not only athletic excellence, but also moral and spiritual character... We see excellent young people in school colors competing in demanding moments. But who are these universities they are fighting for? What are their histories and missions? What do these places stand for and how might student-athletes be living out these values on the broader stage? Do these questions even make sense in 2018?

It is my distinct privilege to work at Loyola University Chicago, where I appreciate the school's integral approach to living and learning in the Jesuit/Ignatian tradition, including the emphasis on the dynamic relationship among faith, reason, and justice...

But what about the men's basketball team at Loyola? ...On the faith end, "Sister Jean" has become a household name. There could be no more worthy celebrity in times like ours. Sr. Jean (Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, BVM) has cultivated a sense of prayerfulness and spirituality in the men's team (and, with her congregation, well beyond) in ways that have become legendary. The Loyola campus ministry team also leads yearly retreats for all of our sports teams and for all of our students. ...Such retreats provide support and resources not only for those who have a developed faith life, but for those who are seeking, or who have never had an inkling to think about such things.

I have many student-athletes in my courses at Loyola Chicago and am impressed by their intelligence and effort...Eleven of Loyola's athletic programs have perfect graduation rates, there are scores of student-athletes on 4/3/2018 the honor roll, and the collective G.P.A. for Loyola student-athletes is in at an impressive B+. In the classroom, they have the chance to ponder and navigate through difficult questions, not only about faith and reason, but about the third element in the Catholic, Jesuit education trifecta: justice...

Educating students for justice can be slow going, and there are too many injuries to it in our nation and world for which to properly account. But Loyola's March Madness run amplified attention on national questions having to do precisely with dignity, hospitality and moral citizenship, three key components of social health. For example, Loyola's 1963 men's basketball national championship team connected with our 2018 squad—particularly under the category of social justice in the Catholic and Jesuit tradition. In 1963, the Ramblers acted courageously in the face of institutionalized racism, advancing the cause of the civil rights movement significantly in one fateful game. It is my hope that our 2018 team—and Loyola Chicago's place on the national stage...raises awareness about a related issue so important to the LUC community: justice for DACA students and their families...

Why, as a nation constituted largely of immigrants, do we repeat the errors of that era and enshrine them in unjust laws and policies? If the many ways American culture was on the wrong side of history in 1963 are crystal-clear to us today, our expressions of latent tribalism and the failure to tackle immigration issues with real-world insight and Christian humanism reveals a defect in our communal will, an intellectual and spiritual paralysis that ought not stand.

When thinking about big-time sports, many Americans don't want to make such leaps. They want to keep politics, religion and culture out of the games—even if they find themselves pausing reverently for prayer or cheering ardently when fighter jets pass over stadiums. Can we ask ourselves why a Bears-Colts game is an occasion for the military to flex its muscles, or why sport is the most popular liturgical experience in the world?

The answer, of course, derives from a shared sense of values. The spectacle of sport, like liturgy, discloses our explicit aspirations and implicit fears in dramatic fashion. But what if other values were also exalted and amplified—like solidarity, generosity and reconciliation? What if, like Sister Jean (who helped to establish the MAGIS scholarship for undocumented students at LUC), we saw collegiate athletics as but an extension of the classroom, another venue for helping young people to learn and grow? And what if we saw that extended classroom as a place where faith, reason and justice might be placed in creative conversation and fertile tension? ...

The success of the Loyola Ramblers this year can teach us many things. We will travel far when we spread the court, care for our teammates, respect our opponents, listen to our coaches, explore both the inside and the outside, pass with creativity and care, play good defense, never give up, and honor the wisdom of spiritually wise women religious who are half our size and who show us how to worship, work and win.

#