



16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 22, 2018

Readings

This week:

Jeremiah 23:1–6

Ephesians 2:13–18

Mark 6:30–34

Next week:

2 Kings 4:42–44

Ephesians 4:1–6

John 6:1–15

Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (*Psalm 23*)

Today's presider is Rev. Franklin Epie.

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

No TMC meetings this week.

From Thomas Merton

Reading Chuang Tzu, I wonder seriously if the wisest answer (on the human level, apart from the answer of faith) is not beyond ethics and politics. It is a hidden answer, it defies analysis and cannot be embodied in a program. Ethics and politics, of course, but only in passing, only as a night's lodging.

There is a time for action, a time for commitment, but never for total involvement in the intricacies of the movement. There is a moment of innocence and *kairos*, when action makes a great deal of sense. But who can recognize such moments? Not he who is debauched by a sense of programs. And when all action has become absurd, shall one continue to act simply because once, a long time ago, it made a great deal of sense? As if one were always getting somewhere?

There is a time to listen, in the active life as everywhere else, and the better part of action is waiting, not knowing what next, and not having a glib answer.

--Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander

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

Backpacks for Seton School students:

Dear Friends of St. Elizabeth Seton School,

This year, we are again taking on a project to purchase backpacks and school supplies for the children at Seton School. Our goal is to purchase 50 backpacks (35 for elementary and 25 for middle school)-- in any color except red and blue (NO red or blue please, although designs are OK) from Costco, Target, etc.

There are two ways you can contribute:

Make a financial contribution and let us do the shopping. Checks to be made out to Saint Elizabeth Seton School, with "backpacks" on the memo line.

Donate backpacks and school supplies. If you choose this option, please indicate the grade level on the backpack, or school supplies.

Bring all items to St. Thomas Aquinas Church by Sunday, August 12. If you have additional questions, John Arnold is our coordinator and can be reached at jsaoso@comcast.net, or by phone at (650) 269-2950.

(People could "club together" to make a purchase. Backpacks can be pricey! Check with John Arnold for specific school supplies needed.)

These are our children, our future, and we can help to make a difference. Thank you for your support.

Ecumenical Hunger Project needs helpers:

Every Wednesday at St. Francis of Assisi Parish at 1425 Bay Road in East Palo Alto, volunteers assist the Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP) offering dinner to hungry people and families. They could use some help with specific tasks and volunteers gain the opportunity to engage with this special community.

1) On Wednesdays at 2:30 pm help is needed to set up and wash tables, put out forks and napkins, help prep food, begin the cooking.

2) About 4:00 pm, help is needed to serve food onto plates then wrap with Saran wrap about 30 dinners for people to take home after their sit-down meal. During school year additional wrapped meals are also provided to students exiting the homework club at St. Francis.

3) About 6:00-7:00 pm, help is needed to clean and organize the kitchen and dining hall. Unfortunately, traffic into EPA is difficult at that time.

For more information on how you can help with any task on a regular schedule or when you can, please contact the EHP volunteer coordinator at volunteers@ehpcare.org or call them at (650) 323-7781 or Terry at 650-714-2131.

Help Honduran refugees:

Looking for a way to directly assist an immigrant family now here seeking asylum?

The First Congregational Church (Louis Road and Embarcadero) and First Lutheran Church in Palo Alto are accompanying a young family from Honduras which is seeking asylum. Our church is now aware of ways we can help them in their efforts as the family becomes settled in EPA and goes through the legal process represented by a qualified immigration attorney. Current needs include:

1). Monetary contributions can be sent to First Congregational, 1985 Louis Road, Palo Alto 94303, with Immigrant Family on the memo line.

2). Drivers are also needed sometimes to ICE appointments in city and more locally to Target, food stores, doctor appointments, etc. If you are able to help at all, please call First Congregational Church at 650-856-6662.

Any efforts to help this family during these immigration challenges will be most appreciated.

Home Communion ministers needed:

We are in need of ministers to bring communion to individuals at home and in nursing care facilities. Many of our ministers have retired due to age and health issues. Please consider joining this fulfilling ministry. If interested, please contact Mary Fong at 650-494-1660 or fongmt@hotmail.com.

Update on Seton kids and CYO Camp:

I am very happy with this year's fundraising. The additional support from the parish made a huge difference. In total, 28 Seton kids will be able to attend CYO Summer Camp because of our combined effort. Thank you so much for your support.

So far, six kids have attended camp and three are there this week. 18 Seton kids will be leaving for camp on Thursday, August 2 from St. Mathew's in San Mateo.

--Gwenn Connolly

<p>Board: Gerard McGuire, gerardmc@aol.com, 650-814-2223 Bulletin: Kay Williams (July 22 & 29) kaywill@pacbell.net Michelle Hogan (Aug. 5 & 12) 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</p>

COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

Death penalty & the Catholic Catechism:

If Judge Brett Kavanaugh's nomination is confirmed by the US Senate, there will be 5.5 Catholics on a 9-member US Supreme Court. The last confirmed Associate Justice, Neil Gorsuch, reportedly raised Catholic, now attends the Episcopal Church; thus, the 0.5. Recall, that Neil Gorsuch's appointment is forever stained by the refusal of the US Senate to extend Merrick Garland, former President Obama's appointment, the courtesy of a hearing. Kavanaugh's confirmation would move the Supreme Court significantly and more predictably toward the political right more than with Associate Justice Kennedy, the "swing vote," on the the Court. In reality, this has been a "Kennedy Court," and not a "Roberts Court," for decades. Kennedy will be missed.

Kavanaugh's confirmation will have troublesome implications for those who support a moderate and more progressive Catholic agenda. Among the agenda items is the constitutional abolition of the death penalty. The judicial horizon on the death penalty is hazy, due to the failure of the Catechism to oppose the death penalty—absolutely. This failure allows many Catholics to support the death penalty by exploiting the Catechism. Associate Justice Antonin Scalia, a highly vocal and influential Catholic on the US Supreme Court, left this Earth believing that Church doctrine did not absolutely oppose the death penalty. The dominance and impact of Catholics on the US Supreme Court should be a cause of interest to all Faithful Citizens. Although support of the death penalty is on a gradual decline, still far too many Catholics support the death penalty, or are undecided.

It is hoped prayerfully that Pope Francis will hasten his efforts to correct this fallacy through changes in the interpretation of the Catechism on the Commandment, Thou Shalt Not Kill, which he has exhorted. Individuals are free to form their own consciences and decisions on this Commandment, but it should not be based on ambiguity and lack of modernity in the Catechism

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-TMC member, Henry Organ

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.]

Update from TMC Board:

The Board of Directors of the Thomas Merton Center, at its meeting on June 14, accepted Eleanor Hansen's resignation from the TMC Board and unanimously voted to elect Mike McMahon as the new replacement Director on the Board. Furthermore, Mike was also elected to continue to serve as Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer for the coming year (June 2018 - May 2019). Gerard McGuire was elected President and Ann Akey was elected the new Secretary.

The Board now consists of the following members:



Gerard McGuire, President (June 2018-May 2019) (Term expires 2020)

Ann Akey, Secretary (June 2018-May 2019) (Term expires 2021)



Mike McMahon, CFO/Treasurer (June 2018-May 2010) (Term expires 2019?)

Helen Bunje (Term expires 2019)



Mary O'Connor (Term expires 2019)

Judi Swope (Term expires 2020)



Mary Seabury (Term expires 2021)

AND Helena Wee, Bookkeeper (non-member of Board, no term limit)



Considering impact of new SJ bishop:

[By Rocco Palma, *Whispers in the Loggia*, 7/11/18]



...[G]iven the shifts of the last two decades, it can be argued that no place has a greater impact on modern American life than Santa Clara County, California, a state

of affairs that begins with the three behemoths all based there – Google, Facebook, and Apple.

With the rise of the local tech empires fueling a growth that's extended to their local church, the spurt has underscored a premium on youth and smarts...and now – a full two years ahead of schedule – the Vatican has responded in kind.

In a surprisingly early move, at Roman Noon [on July 11] the Pope named Bishop Oscar Cantú of Las Cruces – at 51, already a well-experienced hand on the national, and even global stage – as coadjutor of San Jose: now the US' tenth-largest city, and the seat of a county-wide fold now numbering upwards of 700,000 Catholics, a doubling in size within a quarter-century. Ordained an auxiliary of San Antonio at 41 in 2008, then head of New Mexico's border diocese since 2013, the Houston-born Cantú becomes heir apparent to Bishop Patrick McGrath, who reaches the retirement age of 75 in June 2020. Known as "PJ" among the locals, the Irish-born prelate – the last San Francisco auxiliary of John Raphael Quinn – has overseen the bulk of San Jose's transformation; 20 years ago this summer, as Netscape and Oracle led the first wave of the tech boom and Apple began its resurgence with the return of Steve Jobs, McGrath arrived as coadjutor to Bishop Pierre DuMaine, succeeding to the chair within 18 months....

As for the turf itself, even for Silicon Valley's reputation of a white, wealthy enclave, the church that encompasses it is a markedly different story. Together with the growth of the diocese, Hispanics have claimed a solid majority of its membership – comprising close to 60 percent – while its contingent of Anglos has shrunk by nearly a fifth. Notably, however – especially in the context of California – the diocese's statistical report for the coming *V Encuentro* (slated for September in the North Texas Metroplex) states that the bulk of its Latino population is US-born as opposed to immigrants. In that light, the choice of a native-born Hispanic with crossover appeal strikingly mirrors the profile of the people he'll inherit; that Cantú was “imported” from outside California – a rarity among the state's bishops – indicates the degree to which the

particular background and skill-set was a priority in the search.

Meanwhile, one of the church's key challenges is likewise hidden from the headlines – at least, most of the time. Together with the tech boom's infusion of people and capital, the resulting spike in housing prices that's made Santa Clara County one of the nation's richest (and with it, home to the US' most expensive costs of living) has birthed a homeless population recently estimated as the country's largest... Especially in the age of Francis – who has famously received each of the Valley's "Big Three" tech chiefs in private audiences – the sense of responsibility to "the least" in the midst of an opulence almost without peer anywhere else stands out as a glaring Job One.

All that said, ...the incoming bishop's experience belies his years. Having come to the bench with the backing of past and future USCCB presidents – Houston's founding Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza and his successor, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo – his formation as a bishop in San Antonio took place under the conference's next head, Archbishop José Gomez...[O]n the wider scene, all of it has ostensibly rubbed off: in 2013, Cantú was elected chair of the bishops' foreign policy arm – one of the US hierarchy's most intensive portfolios – becoming, at 46, the youngest head of a major committee in recent times. Given the global clout of the multinational corporations on his new turf – led by what's now the world's largest company by revenue – Cantú's specialized experience brings an added, almost unique match to this particular assignment.

As a coadjutor assumes the governance of a diocese immediately upon the death or resignation of his predecessor without a ritual act, the substitute for an understudy's installation – the Mass of Welcome – has been slated for 28 September in the picturesque Cathedral-Basilica of St Joseph, which was both restored and realigned to an "in the round" style in 1990.

With today's move creating an opening in Las Cruces, three Stateside Latin dioceses would've been vacant, but at 6.30 am local time July 11, the death at 71 of Bishop Richard Garcia of Monterey after a three-month battle with Alzheimer's disease has made for a fourth.

Led in terms of size by Southern California's 1.1 million-member outpost in Fresno, another four US dioceses are led by (arch)bishops serving past the retirement age. As previously noted, however, even as the docket winds down for the Curia's summer hiatus, its top line remains the flood of auxiliaries gradually recasting the leadership of the nation's largest religious body for a generation and beyond.

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