



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 16, 2018

Readings

This week:

Isaiah 50:4c–9a

James 2:14–18

Mark 8:27–35

Next week:

Wisdom 2:12, 17–20

James 3:16–4:3

Mark 9:30–37

Psalm

I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living. (*Psalm 116*)

Today's presider is Fr. Kevin Ballard, S.J.

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, September 17, 7:00 pm TMC Spiritual Education Committee, Thomas House
Saturday, September 22, 10:00 am Sr. Irene Loina (see pg. 2) St. Albert Hospitality Ctr.

From Thomas Merton

Buber adds that people make the mistake of thinking that unification can be achieved by asceticism, and it cannot. Simply making a resolution to do something difficult and then doing it does not protect the soul from its own contradictions. There is something much deeper than that. There is something that God has to bring about, and we can't trust asceticism to do it. He adds another point: this unification is never final—it is always partial. There is always a little more unification to be achieved. Each time we do something with a united soul, we develop a little further. It is a sort of capital, money in the bank, so to speak, for the future. Next time we can do things better. Buber says that any work that I do with a united soul reacts upon my soul, acts in the direction of new and greater unification and leads me to a steadier unity. Thus man ultimately reaches a point where he can rely upon his soul, where he can trust, act with confidence.

--Thomas Merton in Alaska: The Alaskan Conferences, Journals and Letters

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

Sr. Irene Loina speaks today and Sept. 22:

In 2014 Sr. Irene Loina, a Kenyan sister of the Incarnate Word order, organized the first coming-of-age training for 134 Pokot girls that did not include “The Cut” (Female Genital Mutulation). This historic event was part of her ministry with women and girls in very traditional tribes. In that context she took infant-maternal care to the most remote areas of East Pokot in Kenya to provide pre-natal care, well-baby checks, immunizations, HIV/AIDS information and education of traditional midwives---including information from the Helping Babies Breathe program for premature infants. Since that time, Sr. Irene has earned a master’s degree in Project Planning and Management from Catholic University of Eastern Africa in order to expand her ministry to other remote areas of East Africa. Sr. Irene will share her insights, experiences, challenges and successes with us this week:

Sunday, September 16, 2:00 pm at Margo McAuliffe’s home, 179 East Creek Drive, Menlo Park. RSVP 650 322-0821--or just come!

Saturday, September 22, 10:00 a.m., at St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center, 1095 Channing Avenue, Palo Alto. Refreshments served.

Parish Picnic today, at OLR, 11:15 - 2:00 pm:

Come on over to OLR at 3233 Cowper St., PA, for great barbecue hot dogs & hamburgers, tasty sides, entertainment, a freecycle table (bring small items to trade), camaraderie parish-wide. See old friends, make new friends, nourishment all around!

PRAY FOR US: Please remember in your prayers this week Denise Alongi, Rudy Bahr, 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 below.]

Board: Gerard McGuire, gerardmc@aol.com, 650-814-2223
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Michelle Hogan (Sept. 30) myhogan@comcast.net
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More spiritual education events this fall:

Planning is underway for a series of events in September and October:

Sunday, October 7: *The League of Women Voters* will present the CA ballot propositions at an information session in the Thomas House living room, 10:15-11:15am. Election Day is November 6, so get prepared with the help of the LWV.

Sunday, October 14: *Kenyan Crafts Gallery*, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon in the Memorial Garden at STA. Make a donation to Kenya Help and get a jump on holiday shopping.

Sunday, October 14: *Kate Hennessy, Dorothy Day’s youngest-of-nine grandchildren* and author of a memoir about her grandmother, will speak on **Sunday, October 14, at 3:00 pm** at the Menlo Park Recreation Center. We will have her book, *Dorothy Day: The World Will Be Saved By Beauty*, available for purchase in advance of October 14. Save the date!

Saturday, October 27: *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 TMC 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, 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.

Saturday, December 1, 9:00 a.m.-12 noon: *Advent Morning of Reflection*, led by Fr. Kevin Ballard, S.J., at Our Lady of the Rosary Church Hall, 3233 Cowper St., Palo Alto. Fr. Ballard will lead us into the Advent Scriptures to deepen our awareness of the call to holiness in the Advent season.

Hospitality Committee for 8:45 needs your help:



Several long-time members of this committee have been temporarily sidelined. So coffee tenders and donut deliverers are seriously needed--for once-a-month duty involving early arrival for the 8:45 Mass or pre-Mass pickup of pre-paid donut order from Happy Donuts in south Palo Alto on El Camino. Contact Jim Davis at (650) 704-8002 or jim_davis@pacbell.net. This committee receives lots of appreciation, so getting started early is a small price to pay!

COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

Travel to Holy Land with Fr. George:

Fr. George Aranha, former pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, is hosting a trip to the Holy Land on March 27-April 5, 2019. He has a few more openings (perhaps 10) for people to join. The cost is \$3,799 which includes airfare, hotels, ground transportation, tours and all breakfasts and dinners. NAWAS International Travel Agency in Menlo Park arranges all the details, including local tour guides, but Fr. George will be with the group for the entire 10 days. If interested, contact Fr George at 408-629-777 or e-mail: revgaa@yahoo.com

A \$500 per person nonrefundable deposit to NAWAS Travel is required, along with registration form and a copy of your passport, in order to secure your place on this memorable trip. It is filling up fast!

TMAC members Marci and Ron Ariagno are going on this trip and would be happy to have a few more TMC folks join them. Other TMC folks attended 5 years ago when Fr. George last hosted this trip to the Holy Land and had wonderful things to say about it.

Homelessness addressed right here:

At last count in July 2017, there were 7,394 homeless people in Santa Clara County, of whom 276 were homeless in Palo Alto, a rise of 26% in two years. Most of these people were first-timers, including families and students.

I attended a discussion group on homelessness sponsored by BACAR (the Bay Area Conference of Associates and Religious), about actions that our neighbors are taking to combat homelessness and poverty in Santa Clara County. Penny Donovan, a Dominican Associate, says her group creates "Blessing Bags" for the homeless—one-gallon storage bags into which you can add soap, water, toiletries, etc. Creating these bags, she pointed out, is a good project for parishioners that will help keep visible the problem of homelessness. A similar project is to measure laundry soap in one-cup portions and put it in storage bags. **If you'd like to know more about this ministry, contact Penny Donovan at pdontrek@aol.com.**

Catholic Charities has "Showers to the People", a mobile shower van that moves to different locations. Homeless people have their dignity restored by being able to clean up, brush their teeth, shave, etc. It also is a good opportunity for parishioners to talk to homeless people—and to listen to them! This is one aspect of Casa de Clara, a Catholic Worker house of hospitality that also offers prayer and liturgy, door ministry, and food distribution. It is always looking for drivers, people to garden, help with child care or preparing meals, and office help.

If you'd like to know more, visit www.sjcw.org.

Hope Village is an encampment alternative that uses vacant lots on government property to set up communities of homeless—tents on platforms, with bathrooms, utilities, and trash pickup also provided. San Jose is currently setting up its first two villages, and TMC member Dick Placone has written our city council to suggest we build such a community in Palo Alto. As their website (sjhv.org) says, "In 2018 San Jose Hope Village was created out of first-hand experience of watching the homeless face inhumane treatment. . . . Our mission is to organize and develop successful tent communities for homeless individuals, to provide a safe, clean, protected space to live on a continuous basis and a path for personal development until permanent housing is available." This project, just getting started in San

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Jose, also operates through Casa de Clara.

Penny also spoke about IAF, the Industrial Areas Foundation, which is the nation's largest and longest-

standing network of local faith- and community-based organizations that partners with religious congregations and civic organizations at the local level to build broad-based organizing projects. **It is at www.industrialareasfoundation.org.**

Patrick O'Meara, from St. Martin of Tours in San Jose, spoke about Village House, a network of interfaith organizations working to provide shelter to medically fragile women in Santa Clara County. He also spoke of a Shared Housing program run by Catholic Charities. House Sharing, when two or more unrelated people live together in a home, could be a homeowner renting out vacant bedrooms, or two or more people renting a home together. Each resident typically has his or her own bedroom, but shares the home's kitchen, laundry and living areas (bathrooms may be private or shared, depending on the property). **(You can learn more about this at catholiccharitiesscc.org/house-sharing-home.)**

All of the above are in San Jose, but they provide suggestions for programs we could be talking about in Palo Alto. Closer to home, St. Francis Center in Redwood City is a nonprofit organization focused on helping low-income families, direct social services and skill-building courses. It addresses the need for affordable housing by owning and operating low-income apartments, and it provides an engaging after-school program at its Siena Youth Center. **The website for St. Francis Center is stfrancisrwc.org.**

--Michelle Hogan



Bishop Patrick J. McGrath Announces Diocesan Actions to Address Clergy Abuse

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Recent revelations of the horrific and heartbreaking crime of the sexual abuse of minors by priests – and the systematic cover-up by bishops – have fueled a crisis, unprecedented in modern times, in the Catholic Church. There is a need for reform; there is a need for transparency in the way the Church responds to allegations of the sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults, even as we continue our efforts of preventing abuse and fostering a safe environment for all.

I and the entire Diocese of San Jose stand with the victims, survivors, and their families. We cannot defend priest-perpetrators and those bishops and others who enable or protect them. The only way that we can address the failed leadership of so many in the Catholic Church in the United States and around the world is for the Diocese of San Jose to do what we know is right and just.

I have begun a process of consultation with lay and priest leaders of the Diocese. This past week, I met with members of our independent Diocesan Review Board, chaired by the Honorable Edward A. Panelli, a retired Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court. I have also met with the Diocesan Consultors, a group of priests who advise me.

Together, we will chart a path forward for the Diocese of San Jose to provide a public accounting of what has already happened and to review and strengthen our efforts to protect minors and vulnerable adults. Here are the initial steps we are undertaking:

Listening Sessions – Over the next six weeks, I will hold three Listening Sessions throughout the Diocese. These meetings will focus on seeking input from people in the pews on the pathway to reform, listening to those who have been victimized by clerical sexual abuse either directly or in their families, and praying for God's grace to be our only guide. I invite you to be part of this effort by your presence or your prayers.

Saturday, September 22, 10 a.m., at Our Lady of the Rosary Hall in Palo Alto

Tuesday, October 2, 7 p.m., at Most Holy Trinity Parish in San Jose

Wednesday, October 17, 3 p.m., at Santa Teresa Parish in San Jose

Release of Names – By mid-October, we will release a list of the names and the status of every priest who has already been found to be credibly accused of abusing minors within the Diocese of San Jose. I hope that releasing these names will help the innocent victims, survivors and their families to take the next step on their journey to wholeness and that it will give others who have not spoken out the strength and trust to come forward.

Independent Examination of Allegations of Abuse of Minors and Vulnerable Adults – The Diocese of San Jose has arranged for former FBI Executive Assistant Director, Dr. Kathleen McChesney, and her firm, Kinsale Management Consulting, to oversee an in-depth independent review of all records of the Diocese pertaining to the sexual abuse of minors or vulnerable adults committed by any cleric appointed by the Diocesan Bishop to serve in the Diocese. This review of files will also seek to determine how diocesan leadership handled allegations of sexual abuse when they were received. As a result of the examination, there may be additional offenders identified and their names will be released at the completion of this review. We have also asked McChesney to make recommendations as to how we can improve our processes for responding to survivors of abuse, preventing future abuse, and being accountable and more transparent for the actions of offenders and those who may have enabled or protected them.

The reforms that we must undertake at this moment must be based on the principles of the Dallas Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People that have produced positive change since 2002— an unswerving focus on protecting minors and vulnerable adults and a necessary voice for the laity in determining whether an allegation is true. Any genuine reform must forcefully integrate these principles in a framework of accountability that applies to bishops in their personal lives and administrative actions.

In this time of crisis in our Church, we must turn to the Lord in our prayer, and we must act justly. Without both, our efforts will not succeed. May God bless us all and lead us in this work.

With every best wish and kind regard, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Patrick J. McGrath
Bishop of San Jose

September 13, 2018