



# 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 23, 2018

## Readings

*This week:*

Wisdom 2:12, 17–20

James 3:16–4:3

Mark 9:30–37

*Next week:*

Numbers 11:25–29

James 5:1–6

Mark 9:38–43, 45, 47–48

## Psalm

The Lord upholds my life. (*Psalm 54*)

Today's presider is Fr. José Rubio.

## 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 ought to be an act of homage to the God of all truth.

Books can speak to us like God can, like men, or like the noise of the city we live in. They speak to us like God when they bring us light and peace and fill us with silence. They speak to us like God when we desire never to leave them. They speak to us like men when we desire to hear them again. They speak to us like the noise of the city when they hold us captive by a weariness that tells us nothing, gives us no peace, and no support, nothing to remember, and yet will not let us escape.

Books that speak like God speak with too much authority to entertain us. Those that speak like good men hold us by their human charm; we grow by finding ourselves in them. They teach us to know ourselves better by recognizing ourselves in one another.

Books that speak like the noise of multitudes reduce us to despair by the sheer weight of their emptiness. They entertain us like the lights of the city streets at night, by hopes they cannot fill.

*--Thoughts in Solitude*

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

## CA ballot propositions Oct. 7 by LWV:

 **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA** All are invited to a session on the CA ballot propositions on Sunday, October 7, 10:15-11:15 am, in the Thomas House living room.

League of Women Voters representatives Jean Lythcott and David Springer will cover 11 state propositions, as well as 1 Santa Clara County, 2 City of Palo Alto and 2 Palo Alto School District measures. Some of these will be touched on very briefly when they are straightforward and not controversial. No San Mateo County measures will be considered.

So come over to the Thomas House after the 8:45 am Mass, grab coffee and a donut, and find a seat in the living room. Preparing for the November 6th Election Day is a duty for us as faithful Christians. This is a good time to start.

## Kenya crafts show October 14:

On October 14, 10 - 12 noon, in the Memorial Garden adjacent to St. Thomas Aquinas church, enjoy viewing handcrafted items from Kenya. With a donation to support scholarships offered by Kenya Help to high school and college students in the Naivasha area of Kenya, you may select from a display of wooden bowls, shopping bags, jewelry, Nativity sets, carved wooden ornaments and other unique items selected by Margo McAuliffe during her summer months in Kenya--a good start for holiday gifts.

**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 emailing editors: Michelle Hogan, Kay Williams. See below.]

**Board:** Gerard McGuire, gerardmc@aol.com, 650-814-2223  
**Bulletin:** Kay Williams (October 7 & 14 ) kaywill@pacbell.net  
Michelle Hogan (Sept. 30, Oct. 21 & 28) myhogan@comcast.net  
**Finance:** Helena Wee, 650-323-7987, shhwee@sbcglobal.net  
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**Liturgy:** John Arnold, 325-1421, jsaoso@comcast.net  
Sally Benson, 408-972-5843, sallymbenson@gmail.com  
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Mary Coady, 650-261-9155, coady\_94025@yahoo.com  
**SpeakOut:** Diana Diamond, 650-323-4787, dianaldiamond@gmail.com

## More spiritual education events this fall:

**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 at the 8:45 Mass. 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.

## More listening sessions on clergy abuse:

If you missed Bishop McGrath's listening session on Sept. 22 here at OLR, there are more opportunities. These meetings 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. All are invited to be part of this effort by your presence or your prayers.

- Tuesday, October 2, 7 p.m., at Most Holy Trinity Parish at 2040 Nassau Drive in San Jose.
- Wednesday, October 17, 3 p.m., at Santa Teresa Parish at 794 Calero Avenue in San Jose.

In addition, the Catholic Community at Stanford will hold its own community discussions for the Stanford Catholic community this Sunday, September 23rd and next Sunday, September 30th, immediately following 10:30 and 4:30 Masses, to discuss the current situation and structure possible solutions.

# COMMUNITY FORUM

*Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns*

## ***CROP Hunger Walk October 7:***

A STA Parish Team has been created to support the CROP Hunger Walk, on Sunday, October 7, at Nealon Park, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Walk with us, make a donation or both! Festivities begin at 1 pm; walks start at 2 pm. Walkers may choose a .6-mile, 2-mile or 5-mile walk and enjoy live bands, food, and games. Thanks to our parishioners who raised \$1,140 in 2016! In 2017, our parish raised \$1,150! So far, in 2018, \$560 has been pledged to St. Thomas Aquinas Team.

CROP Hunger Walk is sponsored by Church World Service, a cooperative ministry of 37 Christian denominations. Over 5 million walkers have participated in more than 36,000 CROP Hunger Walks in the last two decades alone. This ecumenical effort helps children and families in need to have food for today, while building for a better tomorrow. CROP Hunger Walkers, volunteers, and sponsors put their caring into action, raising funds to help end hunger and poverty at home in the US and around the world.

CROP Hunger Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools, to wells and water systems, to technical training and micro-enterprise loans, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths and their needs something CWS has learned through some 70 years of working in partnership around the world.

An important note: One-quarter of funds raised by us will be contributed to the Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto for distribution to the needy in our local community.

For information, please check the Crop Hunger Walk at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/menloparkca> or contact Terry of our parish Human Concerns Committee at 650-714-2131. The website to register for walk and donate is <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/menloparkca>.

## ***George Schultz at Seton School Nov. 8:***

Join us for an evening with Secretary George Shultz in conversation with Prof. Philip Taubman at St. Elizabeth Seton School on Thursday, Nov. 8, 6:00-8:30 pm. Professor Taubman is working on the official biography of Secretary Shultz and will interview him on stage in the school's auditorium.



Support Seton School by purchasing tickets at: [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) (Search: "Shultz" or "Seton") or at [www.setonpaloalto.org](http://www.setonpaloalto.org). Call Carmel at (650) 326-1258 for more information.

## ***Jean Vistica reflects on Nagasaki bombing:***

The August 5, 2018, TMC Sunday bulletin held an article about the bombing of Nagasaki. It brought many memories and questions to mind.



Jean Vistica

Are the children also taught the circumstances leading up to the bombing? Are they given the whole unvarnished story? Are they given the numbers of American lives lost in the bombing of Pearl Harbor? Almost double the lives lost in Nagasaki were lost on the *Arizona* ship alone. Are they taught what their leaders planned to do, knowing full well there would be a backlash, putting these children's ancestors lives in jeopardy?

Actually, there are never really any winners in a war. Everyone loses someone or something. Wars have existed for eons. Just read the Bible. It appears nothing has been learned from all of them.

Peace is not just a word, or a feeling, or a desire. It doesn't come from just praying. It comes from the genuine caring of our fellow human beings, their welfare, by every other human being.

All this begs the question...Do people really want to do what it takes to make peace a reality?

--Submitted by Jean Vistica, TMC member and former STA parishioner, now residing in Truckee, CA.

## ***Help SpeakOut on clergy sex abuse:***



Diana Diamond, chair of our own TMC SpeakOut Committee, is planning to write to the Catholic Conference of Bishops urging each one to conduct an investigation of the clerical sexual abuses in the diocese, similar to the one that Bishop P.J. McGrath of the Diocese of San Jose is proposing. He will release the names of all sexual offenders and will continue to report them to police authorities.

"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," McGrath wrote.

Diana is looking for other TMC members to help in writing this letter to the bishops and conduct follow-up measures (telephone calls, more letters, etc.). If you are willing to help, please contact her at 650-321-4787 or write her at [DianaLDiamond@gmail.com](mailto:DianaLDiamond@gmail.com).

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

## ***Women's leadership & abuse crisis in Church:***

[By Lisa Fullam, Jesuit School of Theology Professor of Moral Theology, at Santa Clara University, 9/10/18]

Among the responses to the PA grand jury report detailing—again—widespread sexual abuse of minors are suggestions that women should have greater voice in the institution... because women often bring up the voice of those who are the most vulnerable in our society.

Others say that an adequate response to the crisis requires women's ordination, or that ordination together with abolishing mandatory celibacy is in order...

And certainly Pope Francis has called for a greater role for women in the Church, even as he rejects the possibility of ordination: he launched a commission to study the restoration of women to the diaconate, and he named an unprecedented number of women to the influential International Theological Commission (though he referred to women as “the strawberry on the cake.”) James Keenan has suggested that women could be named cardinals, so they could serve in the Roman Curia, the Church's governing administration.

So—would having more women in leadership help with the sex abuse crisis?

First, let's be clear. Women are already overrepresented in the US Church. Women attend services weekly at a rate that is 8% higher than men, and the number of Catholic women who pray at least daily is 18% higher than men. Lay ministers (about 80% of whom are women) now outnumber priests in the US, and laypeople in formation VASTLY outnumber ordination candidates. In short, the Church and its ministry skew female, and will do so increasingly in the future.

But authority? Even positions of diocesan leadership that are open to the non-ordained are rarely filled by women. ...

And let's face it—the ordinary route to leadership in the Church is ordination. The Church, as Church, hinges on the leadership of the ordained. Here's the 1997 Vatican Instruction On Certain Questions Regarding the Collaboration of the Non-Ordained Faithful in the Sacred Ministry of Priest [sic]:

“Indeed, were a community to lack a priest, it would be deprived of the exercise and sacramental action of Christ, the Head and Pastor, which are essential for the very life of every ecclesial community. Thus the ordained priesthood is absolutely irreplaceable.”

The code of canon law is shot through with juridical limitations constraining the rights of laypeople *vis a vis* clerics, (and only the pope can discipline bishops,) and laypeople are admonished to recognize the special status of those who exercise priestly ministries:

“These ministries express and realize a participation in the priesthood of Jesus Christ that is different, not

simply in degree but in essence, from the participation given to all the lay faithful through Baptism and Confirmation.”

So, absent a fundamental revision of our theology of ordination, it seems unlikely that laypeople (men or women) would be able to exercise meaningful oversight within the Church. Indeed, the somewhat plaintive calls for lay participation in “investigations” within the Church seem to ignore the reality of the Church's legal structures, its theology of ordination, and the history of Church leadership behaving like “La Cosa Nostra” with the lay review board established after the Boston revelations in the early 00's.

So would ordaining women help with sex abuse? While I believe there are a number of better reasons to consider ordaining women to the priesthood, (women's equal dignity and the Church's pastoral needs, to start with,) there would be at least one happy side effect: the rate of sex abuse by priests would decrease. Why? Not because women are better or holier than men, certainly. But here are some simple reasons:

First, while some women do commit sexual abuse, it is a kind of crime committed overwhelmingly by men. Simple math—fewer men in authority will mean fewer cases of sexual abuse.

Second, women might have special gifts as whistleblowers. According to Judy Rosener, a professor emerita at the University of California Irvine, women are less tolerant of the kind of risk-taking that hiding sexual abuse represents to the Church. “Women tend to see the downside of risk while men tend to see the upside, which means women tend to take less risk.”

Third, whether it is a matter of nature (as Pope Francis asserts) or nurture, women are (at least) socialized to be care-takers, thus perhaps more likely to hear and respond to the reports of abuse.... Parenthood may also play a role in being alert to risks to children...

Fourth, while women are by no means immune to clericalism, at present they are absent from the clerical club that supports the silencing of victims and their advocates and the protection of abusers. Any disruption of an in-group culture can lead to reexamination of previously unquestioned practices, attitudes, and ideas, as we see when organizations (small or large) increase diversity. While diversity is not an unalloyed good, a shakeup of the all-male, insular, clerical culture is likely to reduce clerical abuses of several sorts, at least in the short term.

“Add women and stir” will not solve the problem of clerical sex abuse on its own. Other more fundamental issues like the theological foundations of clericalism and ecclesial hierarchy need to be addressed. But the institutional exclusion of women from positions of meaningful authority is also a culprit in the toxic brew of sex abuse in the Church. #

[Check the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics website for 9 additional excellent articles on clergy abuse: [www.scu.edu/ethics/focus-areas/religion-and-ethics/resources/clergy-sexual-abuse/](http://www.scu.edu/ethics/focus-areas/religion-and-ethics/resources/clergy-sexual-abuse/)]