



## 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 6, 2019

### Readings

*This week:*

Habakkuk 1:2–3; 2:2–4

2 Timothy 1:6–8, 13–14

Luke 17:5–10

*Next week:*

2 Kings 5:14–17

2 Timothy 2:8–13

Luke 17:11–19

### Psalm

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (*Psalm 95*)

### Today

Today's presider is Rev. Daniel Kiriti.

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

Thursday, Oct. 10, 7:00 p.m.

TMC Board meeting, Thomas House Library

From  
Thomas  
Merton

Gandhi recognized...the necessity to be free from the pressures, the exorbitant and tyrannical demands of a society that is violent because it is essentially greedy, lustful, and cruel. Therefore, he fasted, observed days of silence, lived frequently in retreat, knew the value of solitude, as well as of the totally generous expenditure of his time and energy in listening to others and communicating with them. He recognized the impossibility of being a peaceful and nonviolent man, if one submits passively to the insatiable requirements of a society maddened by overstimulation and obsessed with the demons of noise, voyeurism, and speed.

Gandhi believed that the central problem of our time was the acceptance or the rejection of a basic law of love and truth which had been made known to the world in traditional religions and most clearly by Jesus Christ. Gandhi himself expressly and very clearly declared himself an adherent of this one law. His whole life, his political action, finally even his death, were nothing but a witness of this commitment: “If love is not the law of our being, the whole of my argument falls to pieces.”

--*Seeds of Destruction*

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

# COMMUNITY NOTES

News Announcements Requests

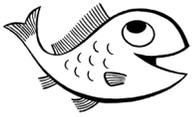
## **Planning a funeral: October 12 workshop:**

How do you go about planning a Catholic funeral or memorial Mass liturgy? Don't wait till the death has happened and you or your family are faced with the event, suddenly realizing you or they want to gather together at a proper funeral service but don't know where to start. The TMC Liturgy Committee, under the leadership of Maureen Locke, will offer a workshop on how you can think in advance about your own or a loved one's funeral/memorial Mass.

**Come Saturday, October 12, 10:00 a.m.  
to the Thomas House Living Room.**

Resource materials will be available (to-do lists, suggested Scripture readings and hymns), and guidance about including family members in the service. Identify what's most important to you and your family in this informal and intimate gathering of TMC members and friends.

## **Fish Fest Suppers resume October 18:**



The STA Site Committee will resume the Friday Fish Fest dinners on October 18th. After the summer break, we hope parishioners will be ready for tasty fish filets, chips, and tangy cole slaw.

Take a break from kitchen duty and come October 18 at 6:00 p.m. for this traditional fish supper in the Thomas House in the friendly company of others in our parish.

**Please, please RSVP to Helen Baumann, 650-327-9236, hbbaumann@aol.com** in advance. We need to be sure to have enough fish for all of you.

## **Rally against Death Penalty October 10:**

On the occasion of World Day Against the Death Penalty, a day celebrated across the nation to advocate for the abolition of the death penalty and to raise awareness of the conditions and the circumstances which affect prisoners with death sentences, come to a rally and witness to this imperative need:

- **Where:** Lytton Plaza, Emerson & University, Palo Alto.
- **Time & Date:** 2:00 p.m., Thursday, October 10th
- **Speaker:** Dr. Larry Sullivan
- **Music:** Chris Lundin & Bob DeMattei

For more information please contact Terry McCaffrey at: 408-515-0341, or terrymc0531@gmail.com

**PRAY FOR US:** Please remember in your prayers this week Denise Alongi, Rudy Bahr, George Bouchey, Tom Carmody, Kerry Carmody, George Chippendale, Mary Connors, Mike Cummings, Jim Davis, Ken Dias, Pat Dietrich, Dick Freeman, 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, Patricia Markee, Nancy Marty, Maureen Mooney, Hayden Pastorini, Alicia Placone-Combetta, Paul Prochaska, Anne Rush, Priya Smith, Bernice Sullivan, Jean Vistica, Dolores Walsh, and T. J. Wooten.  
[Add/subtract names by e-mailing Kay Williams, kaywill@pacbell.net.]

## **CROP Hunger Walk Oct. 20 in Menlo Park:**

A St. Thomas Aquinas Parish team has been created to support the CROP HUNGER WALK 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, 1, 3 or 5-mile walk and enjoy a live band, food, and personal testimonies. Thanks to our parishioners who contributed a total of \$1,085 in 2018 and several parishioners who walked.

CROP Hunger Walk helps 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 in partnership around the world.

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.

An important note: 25% of funds raised locally will be contributed to the Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto for distribution to the needy in our local community.

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

## **Fr. Daniel Kiriti celebrates Mass today, greets friends on October 13 in Menlo Park:**



Fr. Kiriti will speak at the home of Anita Dippery on Sunday, Oct 13 at 2 pm. Anita's address is 455 Santa Rita (just off Middle Road) in Menlo Park. RSVP to Anita at 650 325-9936. Fr. Kiriti's talks are always wide ranging, full of insights about Kenya, the church in Kenya, education in Kenya and his newest project. It's sure to be an interesting afternoon. Yummies provided as well.

**Kenya Help craft fairs**, benefitting a scholarship program for needy African girls and boys, will be held here in the Thomas House on October 20 and December 15. Mark your calendars for these events.

# COMMUNITY FORUM

*Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns*

## **Seton School literary fundraiser October 30:**

Award-winning author and educator Francisco Jiménez comes to Seton School, Wed., Oct. 30, 6:00-8:30 pm.

Professor Francisco Jiménez emigrated with his family from Tlaquepaque, Mexico to California and worked alongside his parents in the fields of California. With no English and a fear of being sent back to Mexico, his books beautifully unfold his inspiring and thought-provoking journey. He is currently a professor at Santa Clara University. His son Miguel Jiménez will interview him.

◆ 6:00P pm: wine reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres and a student-led tour of the school.

◆ 7:00 pm: a conversation on stage with Francisco Jimenez.

Purchase Your Tickets: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4332873> or [www.setonpaloalto.org](http://www.setonpaloalto.org). Please call Carmel if you have any questions: (650) 326-1258. OR: from TMC member Barbara Kent, after Mass today and next Sunday.

## **Jim Purcell on National Catholic Reporter:**



Jim & Bernie Purcell, Larry Purcell

A crowd of 60 people interested in the *National Catholic Reporter* and other Catholic media gathered at St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center on Saturday, Sept. 28, to hear from Jim Purcell, chairman of the board of the *National Catholic Reporter*.

Jim gave a brief overview of the state of Catholic print media, showing us that the vast majority of Catholics are reading websites, not magazines and newspapers. The conservative Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) is the most well funded and largest religious media network in the world at this time. Additional such conservative sites are LifeSite, which is very anti-Pope Francis, the Cardinal Newman Society, and ChurchMilitant.

The *National Catholic Reporter* was established during Vatican II (in 1964) to bring professional standards of secular reporting to the press that covers Catholic news and to report on the implementation of the reforms of Vatican II. It is independent of the Catholic Church and is governed by a lay board of directors. It has 35 employees, and a budget of about \$5,000,000. Jim highlighted what for him are the significant elements of NCR: good book reviews, a stable of outstanding

freelance reporters, the NCR website, Letters to the Editor, the Global Sisters Report (funded by the Hilton Foundation), and, launching in October 2019, a new initiative called "EarthBeat"--deep dive journalism into the demands for a compelling look at the Church and climate change.

The editorial staff of the NCR is completely independent of the Board of Directors. While the average age of the NCR readers is like that of the Merton Center members, the future of NCR is the website, which gets 1 million visits per month--50% of which are made from a smart phone. So the NCR is shifting resources to the web platform. Jim stated that building the NCR's endowment is of prime importance; the short term target is \$10,000,000, and long-term (3-5 years) they are aiming for \$25,000,000. They can maintain their editorial and journalistic excellence with that level in the endowment.

Jim encouraged support of the NCR with, of course, prayers. But further than that, he listed three actions for us: 1) read the NCR online and sign up for the free newsletters; 2) subscribe to the print/digital editions for \$52/yr; and 3) become a member of "NCR Forward" with a recurring donation of \$5/month or more. All of these options can be accessed through the website at [www.ncronline.org](http://www.ncronline.org).

Following Jim's formal remarks, questions were asked:

1) Has the NCR editorial leadership reached out to other progressive, intellectual Catholic journals (like *America*, *Commonweal*, *US Catholic*, etc.) to coordinate efforts to present a full picture of the issues facing Catholics today? Jim said that they talk to one another but have no formal alliances. He encouraged us to read the NCR and other Catholic outlets to become aware of the tensions in Catholic media. He said that NCR publisher Tom Fox feels it is NCR's mission to report on the conservative groups in depth. (NCR national correspondent Heidi Schlumpf has done just that in a recent 4-part series on EWTN.) TMC member Bob Busch said that the conservative Catholic media is targeted at the top 1% of wealthy Catholics, so that NCR should move into the new media space with energy and alacrity.

Responding to a question about outreach to the LGBTQ population, Jim mentioned that NCR books editor and columnist Jamie Manson is, to his knowledge, the only out gay Catholic reporter in the Catholic press.

Another TMC member asked if NCR had considered sending every pastor in the U.S. a copy of or subscription to the NCR. Jim said that, unfortunately, there is not enough money for that outreach. But there is the potential, through the NCR membership program, to gather action groups locally.

*(Notes by Kay Williams)*

## ***What investigative religion journalism can do:***

[By Bill Tammeus, *Bill's "Faith Matters" Blog*, 7/29/19]

One reason to have good religion journalism is to keep track of the various forces that seek to shape and then influence institutional religion.

So I'm glad that *The National Catholic Reporter* has done a four-part series on the Eternal Word Television Network, commonly referred to simply as EWTN. The first article in the series by writer Heidi Schlumpf can be found at <https://www.ncronline.org/news/media/rise-ewtn>. In a side note found with that story are links to the other parts of the series.

If you are Catholic you almost certainly have heard of EWTN and maybe been a consumer of its many offerings. EWTN will be much less familiar to non-Catholics, though the information NCR has turned up about EWTN's reach and influence is a cautionary tale for any community of faith.

Here's a quick summary of EWTN, in NCR's words: "EWTN's 11 networks — broadcasting 24/7 — claim a reach of more than a quarter of a billion people worldwide in more than 145 countries and territories. EWTN programming is available through more than 6,000 TV affiliates as well as on ROKU, Apple TV, Amazon Fire and YouTube. In addition to the Orange County studio, EWTN has studios in Washington, D.C., and at the company's headquarters outside Birmingham, Alabama.

"And that's just the television portion of the business.

"EWTN also provides free radio programming to more than 500 domestic and international affiliates and on SIRIUS/XM and iHeart Radio, as well as through its worldwide shortwave radio station. It also owns and operates the largest Catholic website in the United States, as well as the National Catholic Register newspaper, an English- and a Spanish-language online news wire service, a book publishing arm and a religious goods online catalog.

"It is truly a global media empire, one so diversified and complex it can be difficult to estimate its total budget or net worth."

What has EWTN been doing with that amazing reach and power?

What consumers are getting, NCR says, "is a very particular slice of Catholicism from EWTN and its affiliate organizations, one not necessarily representative of the U.S. church as a whole. Polling and ongoing studies of the Catholic population in the United States consistently finds a far greater diversity of views and tolerance for questions than is the case on EWTN broadcasts. EWTN has become the only regularly televised image of Catholicism in America."

Programs often mimic Fox News in supporting Republicans who would identify themselves as conservatives. But, the NCR piece notes, "In addition to its slanted political coverage, EWTN and its affiliate journalistic

enterprises also have connections to economic libertarian ideologues. . ."

Each media outlet, of course, must decide on its own editorial policy, as NCR does for itself. And in many ways NCR represents the voice of progressive Catholicism in the U.S., meaning its content often will be quite different in perspective and tone from EWTN's. But whereas NCR readers can be counted in the tens of thousands, EWTN consumer numbers dwarf such figures.

Which is another good reason to understand what EWTN is and how it approaches its work.

I wish there were more religion journalists at work doing the kinds of investigate reporting NCR has done in this series. One reason religion journalism isn't a larger national enterprise is that readers don't demand it. It's time to fix that.

[Bill Tammeus is the former Faith columnist for the *Kansas City Star*.]

## ***Simple service for homeless in San Jose:***

[By Erica Hellerstein, *CalMatters*, 7/31/19] To become stable, homeless people need to find housing, yet without an address, they can't get mail updating them about their spot on waiting lists for affordable housing.

To solve the simple act of securing a mailbox, the Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph and Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County created "The Window," a small room at Catholic Charities' John XXIII Multi Service Center at 195 E San Fernando St. where people can get mail. The decades-old program provides those moving in and out of homelessness with a free mailing address, something advocates say is a small but vital service.

Not having an address can mean missing out on welfare checks, Social Security payments, veteran's benefits, school communications, affordable housing updates and letters from friends and family. Patrons of The Window can stop by each day to check on their mail, get lunch, pick up supplies such as conditioner, shampoo, soap and deodorant, and other services.

The Window was established nearly three decades ago by the Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph after people working with the homeless community in San Jose realized that not having a place to get mail was a chronic and vexing problem. Over the years, the number of patrons has grown as the city's homeless population has soared, rising 42 percent in just the past two years. Today, about 1,000 people use The Window, a number that's doubled since 2008.

--[www.calmatters.org](http://www.calmatters.org)

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