



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 17, 2019

Readings

This week:

Malachi 3:19–20a

2 Thessalonians 3:7–12

Luke 21:5–19

Next week:

2 Samuel 5:1–3

2 Colossians 1:12–20

Luke 23:35–43

Psalm

The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice. (*Psalm 98*)

Today

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

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, November 18, 7:00 pm TMC Spiritual Education Committee, Thomas House

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. Visit: www.thomasmerton.org.

COMMUNITY NOTES

News Announcements Requests

Donate bath towels to Clara House:

Volunteers at Casa de Clara in downtown San Jose offer showers through its "Showers to the People!"

Since Hope Village was closed, the mobile shower trailer goes to several sites, such as church parking lots. The Thomas Merton Center of Palo Alto members donated about a dozen bath towels & a local physical therapy business donated about 35-hand-towels that will be washed every week, ready for the next guests.



Other "Showers to the People!" needs are gallons of vinegar, super-size liquid bath soap & shampoo. Casa de Clara in downtown San Jose is a small Catholic Worker House that offers hospitality for women and children experiencing homelessness.

If you are willing to volunteer call 408.297.8330 or email info@sjcw.org Casa de Clara is located at 318 N 6th St. San Jose CA 95112.

Rosana Madrigal de Beattie is willing to collect items for Casa de Clara's "Showers to the People!" Bring them to Mass or call Rosana to arrange a pickup: (650) 969-3844.

November Food Drive continues:

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Confirmants and Youth Groups and the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Conference are seeking non-perishable foods for the annual November Food Drive.

Some people in our parish and in our neighborhoods face emergencies or adversity. Your gift of non-perishable food is an ideal opportunity to provide them the strength to overcome these challenges. The foods will be packaged up for distribution by St. Vincent de Paul volunteers.

For homeless clientele:

Vienna sausage/any flip-top canned meat, chicken, fish
Hearty soups with meat (flip-top)
Ready-to-eat meals (flip-top, e.g. chili)
High-protein snack bars
8-12 oz bottled water
Crackers (in sleeves)

For housed clientele:

Hearty soups (with meat or beans)
Chili & other ready-to-eat meals
Canned tomatoes, pasta sauce, salsa
Canned meat, chicken, tuna
Mayonnaise, condiments
Cooking oil
Cereal--hot & cold
Peanut butter & jelly
Crackers & Pasta

Please join us after Mass in the Thomas House for coffee and donuts. We especially encourage newcomers or those passing through town to stop by for food and fellowship.

Save Dec. 7: Advent Morning with Fr. Percell:

Advent: A time for peace, a time for hope, a time for sanity.

Please join us for a morning of prayer, reflections, and discussion as we explore the graces we need this Advent during these troubling times

in our Church, our country and our world. Our guide **ADVENT—hope** will be Father Larry Percell, a retired priest of the Diocese of San Jose, former pastor of St. Nicholas Parish in Los Altos, and former spiritual director at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos.

The retreat will be on Saturday, December 7th, at St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center, 1095 Channing Avenue, Palo Alto. It begins at 9:00 am and finishes by noon. Refreshments will be available. All are welcome. No fee, but donations gratefully accepted.

Adopt-a-Family begins today:

Before and after the 8:45 Mass on Nov. 17 and 24, information and gift tags for students and families chosen from St. Elizabeth Seton School will be available. You may choose to purchase a child's or family's specific gift request or purchase a gift certificate from Target or similar store for a child to purchase a second gift. We are suggesting approximately a \$40 value per gift this year. [This is a separate initiative from the tags on The Giving Tree displayed at the back of church each year.] All gifts are to be wrapped, tagged and returned to the TMC table at church by Sunday, Dec. 8 or 15. Contact Barbara Kent 650- 323-0879 with questions. Please stop by our table to sign up for a tag.



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**]

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COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

Catholic Worker Redwood City news:

Dear Friends, Thanksgiving 2019

Quite a few of you, our supporters, have asked about Susan [Crane] and my trial for non-violently protesting nuclear weapons at Lockheed Corp. in Sunnyvale last spring. Lockheed is the largest military contractor in the world and builds nuclear missiles for the Trident Submarines. Eleven of us were arrested there for trespassing.

Happily, I can report to you that all charges against us were “dropped in the interest of justice.” We can now continue to feed, clothe, shelter and educate the very poor in the name of Christ; and we will certainly find ways to condemn nuclear weapons and war. My hunch is that when we asked “Who owns the road?” upon which we were arrested for trespassing that Lockheed wanted to “drop the charges in the interest of Lockheed!”

Why, you might ask. The answer might be to follow the money. In the 1970s Lockheed owned all of that land (including the road leading into Lockheed) and sold it to the Navy (at great profit for their shareholders). Shortly thereafter (we believe) Lockheed turned around and leased the same land back from the Navy for perhaps \$1 a year to avoid property taxes. This information is what we were requesting so we could verify our suspicions. If the people and schools of Sunnyvale are being robbed of property tax money because of such an arrangement, then Lockheed should be on trial not only for manufacturing inhuman weapons of mass destruction, but also for theft and conspiracy with the Navy.

Our dear friend, Father Steve Kelly S.J., has not been so fortunate. He and 7 other protestors entered a Trident Nuclear Submarine Naval base in Georgia; and he’s been in jail for the past 18 months. He goes to trial in about a week and is facing decades in prison.

Steve recently wrote: “I am among the wilderness of the incarcerated – two and a quarter million folks comprising the human warehouses in the empire. It is resistance jailed, a price extracted by the empire. And I echo the words of Martin Luther King Jr: An empire in its death throes as it clings to and mouths obscene threats with its lethal arsenal, a fire that is a direct theft of trillions from the poor...”

Recently Jeremy Scahill challenged all of us by saying: “The greatest danger that we’re facing in this society right now is not Donald Trump’s corruption. It’s not

something involving Ukraine or servers or the DNC. We have one of the most unstable individuals in this country with his finger on the nuclear button.... That is the crisis in the country right now..

Dorothy Day’s first arrest as a young woman was to promote a woman’s right to vote. After she got the right to vote, Dorothy didn’t vote because she didn’t like her choices. It is not unusual for Catholic Workers to NOT vote. I agree with Dorothy that neither the Republicans nor the Democrats represent fundamental Christian values of love, non-violence, and peace. But we can surely do better than what we’ve got. In today’s world, all of us need to vote since our very lives depend on it. After voting, we cannot trust the politicians. Therefore, before, during, and after voting, we need to live lives dedicated to the ending of nuclear weapons and global warming.

It is time that the words, “BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS” described each of us. Love and gratitude, Larry [Purcell] for all of us.

P.S. Remember! If our Earth is shattered by nuclear weapons or climate change it will all be “legal.

NEEDS at 545 Cassia St., Redwood City, 650-366-4415

- Food in any amount.
- Showers for the homeless: wash cloths, detergent, deodorant, tents, sleeping bags, tarps, underwear, T shirts, warm clothing, bikes, etc. Call Susan (650) 366-4415.
- Workers: If you need men or women to do work (painting, gardening, skilled labor, house cleaning, etc.) call Cesar at (650) 339-2794. We love to get tools for the Day Laborers.
- Christmas gifts and Thanksgiving baskets. We try to give out Safeway and Target gift cards at both holidays.
- We need vehicles (cars, trucks and RV’s) for the working poor.
- A house or money to buy a house. Call Larry for free coffee (650) 366-4415. We need your ongoing love and support.
- Our English Language School continues to empower many, many sisters and brothers. To learn more, call Pam (650) 365-6019.
- A person who can help at our shower program by doing foot care. Call Susan for more information. 650-649-8690 or 650-366-4415.

Sister concerned about loss of shareholder power:

[By Gail DeGeorge, *NCR Global Sisters Report*, 11/14/19]

New York — Social impact investing is growing as a tool to effect change among corporations, although new Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) proposed rules could hamper the ability of smaller investors to make their voices heard in shareholder meetings. Those were some of the key messages that Sr. Pat Daly, a leader in social impact investing for more than 40 years and the corporate responsibility representative for her community of the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell, New Jersey, delivered Nov. 12 as a panelist at the Society of Advancing Business Editing and Writing fall conference in New York.

"Very often we're told by companies that we're kind of the canary in the coal mine," she told the audience of about 150 journalists and other participants. "It's really important for them to hear about an issue because they know it's going to be front and center in five years and they'd better get ahead of it now."

Yet the ability of smaller shareholders to push for change is at risk with proposed rule changes introduced Nov. 5 by the SEC, she said. The rules would require investors proposing shareholder resolutions to have continuous ownership of at least \$2,000 worth of the company's securities for at least three years; \$15,000 of the securities for at least two years; or \$25,000 of the securities for at least one year. Currently, investors must own at least \$2,000 worth of shares for a year. The new rules would also make it more difficult to resubmit proposals.

"The new rules that are proposed would really wipe out the small investor and leave only the big investors to participate in any advocacy or engagement with the company," Daly said at the panel.

Daly plans to write to the SEC to ask that the comment period be extended to 120 days from 60 days. There's been very little media coverage on an issue that is critical to the ability of shareholders to effect change, she said.

Daly was one of three speakers on the panel, which also featured Jed Emerson, founder of Blended Value Group, co-author of seven books about social entrepreneurship and impact investing and an advisor to families, foundations and wealth management firms, and Rina Kupferschmid-Rojas, head of sustainable finance for UBS in society's client strategy worldwide and an adjunct professor at Columbia University on sustainable and impact investing.

Catholic sisters have long been in the vanguard of social impact investing. Congregations individually or in groups led the way in divesting investments such as de-

fense, gunmaker, tobacco or fossil fuel corporations whose products or processes didn't align with their values. The strategy evolved to still hold some shares and meet with corporate officers and directors about issues, and when that didn't work, to introduce and champion shareholder resolutions to effect change.

Each panelist reflected on how the field of social impact investing has grown exponentially in recent years. While divestment and exclusion of certain investments are still tactics, Kupferschmid-Rojas said, investors can also choose funds that integrate social and corporate governance indicators, and the next tier of impact investing that focuses on social and environmental change.

There's been a shift in the view of the purpose of capital from just amassing more capital to using that capital to create positive change, Emerson said. Investors want to not only steer clear of investments that don't align with their values, but "also look for opportunities to invest in climate solutions, sustainable oceans and sustainable agriculture," he said....

There will be even more demand for such investments as wealth transitions from baby boomers to their children and more millennials have money to invest, Kupferschmid-Rojas said. While 20 years ago there might have been a few socially responsible investing funds, there are now hundreds...

Much more information is available to investors now than 15 or 20 years ago to gauge how companies are doing regarding environmental, social and governance indicators, Kupferschmid-Rojas said. "Twenty years ago the reporting was 8 to 10 pages – now it's hundreds of pages," she said. There are 200 performance indicators that companies can report on for environmental issues and 150 on corporate governance issues, she said.

One area that still needs more development is in gauging social issues — how companies address relationships with employees, suppliers, customers and the communities in which they operate, she said....

Asked in the interview about new areas of concern, Daly cited the use of facial recognition technology by Northrop Grumman at the border directed at immigrants. She and members of other religious congregations were planning to meet with Northrop Grumman executives this week about the use of the technology.

Overall, she said, investors are making headway in effecting change, she said. "I've seen so much progress in every single sector over the years," she said. "In terms of corporations making commitments on their greenhouse gas emissions goals and all kinds of other related water use and integration of the sustainable development goals – that's incredible to me." #