



Sunday of Divine Mercy

April 28, 2019

Readings

This week:

Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16

Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

John 20:19-31

Next week:

Acts of the Apostles 5:27-32

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

Psalm

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. (*Psalm 118*)

Today

Today's presider is Fr. José Antonio Rubio.

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

Wednesday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.

STA Site Committee, Thomas House

Saturday, May 4, 10 - 11:30 am

May Fete Parade Lemonade Stand, on sidewalk in front of Thomas House.

Sunday, May 5, 8:45 Mass

Seton School Auditorium, 1095 Channing Ave.

From Thomas Merton

Everything healthy, everything certain, everything holy: if we can find such things, they all need to be emphasized and articulated. For this it is necessary that there be a genuine and deep communication between the hearts and minds of men, communication and not the noise of slogans or the repetition of clichés. Genuine communication is becoming more and more difficult, and when speech is in danger of perishing or being perverted in the amplified noise of beasts, perhaps it becomes obligatory for a monk to try to speak. There is, therefore, it seems to me, every reason why we should attempt to cry out to one another and comfort one another, insofar as this may be possible, with the truth of Christ and also with the truth of humanity and reason.

--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 religious education and spiritual development.

COMMUNITY NOTES

News Announcements Requests

Move to Seton School Auditorium during reconstruction of church stairs:

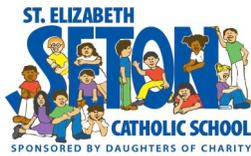
The reconstruction of the front steps at St. Thomas Aquinas Church will start on Monday, April 29.

It has turned out to be necessary to move all the STA Sunday Masses to St. Albert the Great site--and this TMC-sponsored Mass to the Seton School Auditorium. Construction will be done by July 3.

So, as of May 5, we will celebrate the 8:45 Mass at Seton Auditorium (1095 Channing Ave., Palo Alto), with our regular after-Mass hospitality in the St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center adjacent to the auditorium. We will share this hospitality time and space with those who attend the 9:00 am Sunday Mass at St. Albert's. There is parking around the school, which we will share with the 9:00 am Mass-goers.

Make a note of this change so you don't come here next Sunday!

Save the date for Seton Golf May 6:



Play golf on the renowned Stanford Golf Course and support Seton School students at the 24th Annual Seton Scramble for Students on Monday, May 6th.

Seton School empowers children of low-income families to reach their full potential --helped by the monies raised from the golf registration fees.

In addition to the golf, there is food: Coupa Café catering, food, wine, beverages. Awards and a Silent & Live Auction cap off the day's golfing exertions.

Proceeds will directly support St. Elizabeth Seton School students. For more information: email Carmel Caligaris at ccaligaris@setonpalalto.org.

Register at: www.setonpalalto.org.

24th Annual Seton Scramble May 6 at Stanford!



TMC donation envelope enclosed today:



Please use the envelope enclosed in this bulletin to make your monthly contribution to the support of the Thomas Merton Center. Your dollars make possible the sponsorship of the 8:45 Sunday Mass, monthly contributions to Seton School (\$1,000) and the Ecumenical Hunger Program (\$40), spiritual education talks, retreats, and the publication of this bulletin. Lay-led, self-sustaining, self-generating—this is TMC. Thanks to all who contribute.

TMC Annual Meeting May 19:

All TMC members are encouraged to attend the TMC Annual Meeting and Brunch, Sunday, May 19, 11 am - 1 pm, at the home of Vicki and Larry Sullivan, 1345 Webster St., Palo Alto. We will review activities and accomplishments of the past year, confirm newly elected Board members, thank retiring Board members, and discuss our visions for the coming year. Invitations have been sent to all registered TMC members. RSVP please!

Renew TMC membership today:



Thank you to those who have renewed your TMC membership for 2019. However, there are a good number of past members who have not yet returned their 2019 renewal form with a dues check.

Look around your desk for the renewal letter, note any contact information changes, and send it back with your check, or turn it in at Mass. An email reminder will be sent next week to those still lagging behind the wave. Save the Membership Chairperson the trouble of tracking you down personally!

Contact Kay Williams for a replacement renewal form or invitation to the Annual Meeting: kaywill@pacbell.net, (650) 270-4188.

PRAY FOR US: Please remember in your prayers this week Denise Alongi, Rudy Bahr, George Bouche, Tom Carmody, Kerry Carmody, George Chippendale, Mary Connors, Mike Cummings, Jim Davis, 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, and T. J. Wooten. **[Add or subtract names by e-mailing editor Kay Williams, kaywill@pacbell.net.]**

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COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

Seven tips for new (and old) Catholics:

[By Nathan Schneider, *America*, 4/22/19]

...On Easter morning, I woke up with a handful of aphorisms in mind that might be of use to someone new to this church, from one who has been there, too—not always easily but gratefully.

Pray constantly

...Prayer is the start of an honest Christian life.

Memorize prayers. People don't memorize much anymore—can you even remember a phone number?—but the effort here is worth it. Aim for 10. Some of those can be the same in multiple languages, even ones you cannot speak. Some obvious ones, some not; some short, some long; some joyful, some penitential. Add some hymns to that as well. Then recite them to God and yourself whenever you can, when you are walking or waiting or sitting on the toilet, with the kind of foolish devotion that is sanity in God's eyes.

Also, pray your own words. Catholics can be bad at this. We rely so much on official liturgies that we do not practice speaking with God ourselves. Do it alone, with friends and in public. Make sure that if someone needs you to pray with them for what they need in that moment, you know how....

The church is a creature of the Fall

I became a Catholic while the Boston Globe sex abuse revelations were coming out. If you are coming in now, you know what I'm talking about. You could only become a Catholic in this period of scandal if you understand the Fall already (or have your rosary over your eyes). You have probably seen painful disappointment among those who were raised to think the church is perfect. Many of them have left upon discovering, so viscerally, that it is not.

The church, as Pope Francis put it, is a "hospital for sinners." Being a Catholic, including a Catholic priest, does not make anyone good. You will see lots and lots of evidence of this. Christianity is a way of declaring we want to be more worthy of what we know we will never deserve in this life. It is a commitment to strive after holiness and to help others do the same. Have no illusions. Hospitals are full of sick people.

Still, there are living saints among us in this church. They are not perfect either, but they can be really good. Find them, accept their peccadilloes, learn from them, and walk away if you need to. You will probably find them in places you least expect.

There are many churches in one

What makes the Catholic Church catholic—that is, uni-

versal—is its ability to hold together diverse cultures and diverse ways of being Christian. This is a feature, not a bug. It is a beautiful variety: Explore it, across time and geography. Among them all, find the communities and charisms that call you, that suit your talents and challenge your shortcomings. You might find your calling in the church, for instance, through a particular religious order or through a lay movement or through a way of praying or a way of serving....

When you find your place and your people, do not forget about the rest. If you feel at home in a certain small group, go to Mass with people of many groups. If one church seems to speak your language, go from time to time to one where a different language is spoken.

Through our small-c catholicism, God teaches us about God. Sometimes God comes to us as familiar and tender, but God is also the truth that feels strange and foreign while being no less true.

Honor different paths, in the church and in yourself

As you find your place in the church, also be prepared to honor the ways of others. If you feel tempted to denounce some order or path within the church, consider what purposes it serves. Consider how it travels to people and places where your path does not go. Recognize that we are interdependent. Jesuits need Franciscans! Readers of the *National Catholic Reporter* could learn a thing or two from *First Things*.

One reason for this kind of forbearance is that you never know how your life will redirect your calling. During my early years as a Catholic, my place was among renouncers—Cistercians, first, and then radical war resisters. Those callings, however, have not fit well with the way I feel called to be a parent of small children more recently. I have had to find other saints, other ways of being. In years past, I might have looked at myself today and scoffed at my tepid moderation-in-most-things.

Get ready for that. Have mercy on yourself, and let yourself evolve among the many ways of being a Christian. This church holds them together as one.

Argue in charity

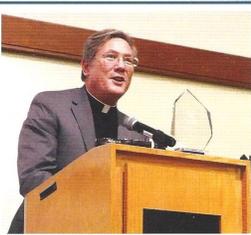
When some Christian communities encounter disagreement, they schism on a dime. Catholics don't do that. This means we have to create spaces where debate and argument can persist without tearing us apart. That is why, for instance, Catholics invented universities, at least in Europe. Perhaps it is also why the church did not invent the internet.

We are a family, and families need to argue so the truth

(Seven tips, continued on page 4.)

Accompaniment Ministry Pilot launches:

[by Fr. Jon Pedigo, Director, Advocacy & Community Engagement, Catholic Charities]



Fr. Jon Pedigo received a Beacon of Light Award earlier this year from Santa Clara County's Office of Immigrant Relations.

Take a moment and suspend your notion of "Church."

Do not think of Church as a building or an institution with rules and doctrines.

Think of Church as people walking together on a journey. When Christianity emerged from a renegade Jewish sect and evolved into a distinct religion, it was

known as "The Way." Christians saw themselves as being on a journey with other people; they understood that their faith was inextricably tied to being "in relationship with others:"

Pope Francis recalled this earliest notion of Church when he said, "[We] need a church capable of walking at people's side, of doing more than simply listening to them; a church that accompanies them on their journey..."

Catholic Charities is now piloting a volunteer program at Our Lady of Refuge parish built on Pope Francis' vision of accompaniment and service to others. The objective is to support individuals who come to the parish seeking help, who lack resources to build personal economic, social and emotional stability. Volunteers will be trained to connect those in need with vital service programs at Catholic Charities, county agencies and other informal support systems in the community. More importantly, volunteers will learn interpersonal skills - to provide peer support, to be good listeners and to provide witness to the challenges and successes experienced by each individual on their journey. Volunteers will walk alongside those they help until each individual becomes self-sufficient enough to access support themselves.

Through this very personalized "accompaniment" program, we hope to validate the self-dignity of all individuals and in doing so, help reweave and strengthen the torn fabric of our community, a long term goal of Catholic Charities and the Diocese of San Jose.

If your parish or organization would like to know more about this exciting new ministry, contact me at jpgedigo@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

--Submitted by John Arnold

(Seven tips, continued from page 3.)

can come through. Some of the greatest saints—people now portrayed as benign servants of Rome, were courageous reformers in their time, challenging received beliefs and entrenched power. But a family argument only turns out well when we remember we are a family. Remember, Catholics believe that we are going to be stuck together for eternity.

This is not a private faith

This is foreign to the Catholic outlook. If Jesus had kept to himself, there would have been no cross. He promised to be among us when we gather. He knew that we need each other. You will see. Your prayer life will deepen when your Christian community life is honest and vibrant. Sometimes our interior faith carries us more, and sometimes the community carries us more, but one cannot stand on one foot for too long without losing balance.

Be Catholic in public. Not just Catholic—God made you to be more than your piety. Present yourself, to yourself and the world, as a human being made more human by your faith....

Know the poor

At least since Constantine's conquest of Rome in the year 312, Catholicism has had a respectability problem. Religion needs to have a relationship with power to inhabit this fallen world, but that means people can use religion as a means to power as well. Doing so can even be for the good. Catholicism in the United States, for example, has been an important vehicle for helping immigrant communities into the middle class. A downside of that legacy, however, is how it can lead people to conflate Catholicism and classism.

Christ and the prophets speak with one voice: God dwells among the poor. We must know the poor because we are the poor. Even the most privileged among us have poverty in our souls, and we forget this when we blind ourselves to the crucifixions happening all around us. Some people hide from these in mansions and private jets. Some hide in addictions and endless therapies.

Some hide in social-justice proclamations, which can be as effective as riches in masking the lived reality of poverty.

I should get off my own soapbox at this point. I do not have a litmus test to offer or even a definition, but you should know it when you see it: Even while enjoying the splendors and wonders of this church, know the poor.

Finally, welcome! Christ is risen.

[Nathan Schneider, a contributing writer for *America*, is a reporter and professor of media studies at the University of Colorado Boulder.]