



Third Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2019

Readings

This week:

Acts of the Apostles 5:27–32

Revelation 5:11–14

John 21:1–19

Next week:

Acts of the Apostles 13:14, 43–52

Revelation 7:9, 14b–17

John 10:27–30

Psalm

I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me. (*Psalm 30*)

Today

Today's presider is Msgr. John Sandersfeld.

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.

Sunday, May 12, 8:45 a.m. Mass in Seton Auditorium, 1095 Channing Ave., PA

From Thomas Merton

Paradoxically, I have found peace because I have always been dissatisfied. My moments of depression and despair turn out to be renewals, new beginnings. If I were once to settle down and be satisfied with the surface of life, with its divisions and its clichés, it would be time to call in the undertaker... So, then, this dissatisfaction which sometimes used to worry me and has certainly, I know, worried others, has helped me in fact to move freely and even gaily with the stream of life. My unspoken (or spoken) protests have kept me from clinging to what was already done with. When a thought is done, let go of it. When something has been written, publish it, and go on to something else. You may say the same thing again someday, on a deeper level. No one needs to have a compulsion to be utterly and perfectly “original” in every word he writes. All that matters is that the old be recovered on a new plane and be, itself, a new reality. This, too, gets away from you. So let it get away.

--A Thomas Merton Reader

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 started on Monday, April 29.

It 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 today, 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.

New altar furniture at STA:

When we are again celebrating Mass at STA in July, we will be using the new altar furniture built by parishioner Jan Dedek. The pieces were installed in the church on April 25. The old altar, ambo and chair will be turned over to the Diocese of San Jose, for use someday in another church.



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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.

Jan Dedek designed the altar, ambo and presider's chair to reflect the architectural details of the original early 20th-century altar with its distinctive scalloped back wall, angel nooks and tabernacle housing.



Jan Dedek

The dark wood echoes the ceiling beams and matches the small credence tables around the sanctuary that hold water and wine cruets, the offertory gifts, and hymnals and bulletins as you enter the church—all built by Jan in his home workshop.

PRAY FOR US: Please remember in your prayers this week Denise Alongi, Rudy Bahr, George Bouchev, 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, Nancy Marty, Mary Rose McGuire, Maureen Mooney, Hayden Pastorini, Paul Prochaska, Anne Rush, Priya Smith, Bernice Sullivan, Jean Vistica, Dolores Walsh, Tom Williams and T. J. Wooten. [Add or subtract names by e-mailing editor Kay Williams, kaywill@pacbell.net.]

COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

TMC Board nominees:

The TMC Board members whose terms are expiring are Mary O'Connor and Helen Bunje. We thank them for their service and appreciate their contributions to keeping TMC strong and relevant.

Nominated to take their places for the 2019-2022 term are Diane-Marie (Mardi) Herte and Lawrence (Larry) Lopez. They will be confirmed at the Annual Meeting of the TMC, May 19.



Mardi Herte has been a member of St. Albert the Great, St. Ann's, and St. Thomas Aquinas parishes since birth. She attended St. Albert the Great Elementary School, followed by Sacred Heart and Gunn High Schools. Mardi received her BS of Business Administration, Summa

Cum Laude, with an award for outstanding scholastic achievement, highest GPA, from Notre Dame de Namur University. Additionally, she earned her MBA, concentrating in marketing and finance, from Notre Dame de Namur, graduating second in her class. She has donated her time helping deliver prosthetic devices to 3rd world countries. Mardi enjoys hiking with her dog and friends, as well as spending time with family celebrating milestones of continued health, anniversaries, birthdays, and reunions.



Larry Lopez was born and raised in Redwood City and attended Sequoia High School and then Skyline College in San Bruno. After he received an AS in Telecommunications, he completed an apprenticeship program for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW Local 617) and passed the

state test. Larry moved to Palo Alto in 2013 and has been coming to the 8:45am Mass here at STA for 5 years. He volunteers his time with troubled youth in high risk areas and is very involved with the Juvenile Detention Center in Belmont. Larry is also a member of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous and volunteers in that area as well by helping many men get sober and get their lives back in order. He celebrated 20 years of sobriety on April 12 and has had many blessings as a result. Larry is a single father of Maya, his beautiful 11-year old daughter. He says, "God has truly worked in my life."

Bishop Cantú takes over Diocese of San Jose:

[Catholic News Service, 5/1/19]

Bishop Oscar Cantú, coadjutor bishop of San Jose, CA, has assumed pastoral governance of the diocese with the resignation of Bishop Patrick McGrath. Cantú, 52, had been coadjutor bishop since July. McGrath, 73, had led the Diocese of San Jose since 1999.

The appointment was announced May 1 in Washington by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Cantú previously headed the Diocese of Las Cruces, NM. He is the former chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace. He currently is a member of the bishops' Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America and the Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs. He was one of two delegates chosen by the bishops to represent the conference during Pope Francis' visit to Mexico in 2016. Before he was named to head the Las Cruces Diocese, he was an auxiliary bishop of San Antonio for five years.

He was born in Houston Dec. 5, 1966, the son of Ramiro and Maria de Jesus Cantú, natives of small towns near Monterrey, Mexico. He is the fifth of eight children — five boys and three girls. He attended Holy Name Catholic School and St. Thomas High School in Houston, and he earned a BA degree from the University of Dallas in 1989. He has master's degrees in divinity and in theological studies (1994) from the University of St. Thomas in Houston. He was ordained a priest May 21, 1994, for what is now the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. In 2000, he earned his licentiate of sacred theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome; he also has a doctorate of sacred theology in dogmatic theology from the Gregorian.

He spent his priestly career working in parishes throughout the Houston metropolitan area. . . He also taught at the University of St. Thomas and at St. Mary's Seminary. He served as pastor at Holy Name Parish. He was involved in the Christian Family movement; conducted retreats and worked with the Engaged Encounter ministry. Cantú also was also involved in The Metropolitan Organization, or TMO, which addresses social issues in the community.

A coadjutor automatically becomes the head of the diocese upon the death or retirement of its bishop.

McGrath, a native of Ireland, was an auxiliary bishop of San Francisco from 1989 until 1998, when he was named coadjutor of San Jose. He became the head of the diocese after Bishop R. Pierre DuMaine retired. DuMaine was the first bishop of the San Jose Diocese, which was created in 1981.

The 1,300-square-mile diocese has a total population of just over 1.9 million people, of whom 620,000, or about 32.3 percent, are Catholic. #

The Beatitudes in the Age of Me First:

[By William O'Malley, *National Catholic Reporter*, 4/30/19]

In an Age of Me First, where instant gratification takes too long, the entire Sermon on the Mount is flagrant heresy. Imagine if some clandestine group posted the Beatitudes on the boardroom walls of every advertising agency and on the john doors of every legislature and politburo in the world. After a week or two of screaming protests, those subversive sentiments would become as effortlessly ignorable as a flight attendant's instructions about what to do when the plane plunges into the Atlantic.

Bertrand Russell once said, "Most people would die sooner than think — in fact, they do so." And if the economic and political hucksters say any prayers of thanksgiving, it's for that reluctance.

The fact that ads for the same prescription medicines keep being subsidized for big bucks proves nobody seems turned off by the upfront disclaimer that certain side effects might include congestive heart failure, terminal diarrhea and leprosy. And that a president can conflate the least among us at the southern border into gangsters and get away with it should invite widespread horror but doesn't. What's happened to us?

The stranger thing, though, is that even the best of us read Luke's Beatitudes with exactly the same literalist predisposition as the modern Me Firster who finds them ludicrous.

I have no doubt most good people restrict Jesus' blessings to the literal poor, the destitute, the literally starving, weeping, despised. And with single-minded ease, they restrict the woes that Jesus hurls to the Donald Trumps and the bubbleheaded who reach the acme of reality on "Fox and Friends."

It's as though that travesty of truth requires us to be envious of those who shiver and starve in cardboard boxes because they've found life's purpose, so happy they could bite their frozen toes in bliss.

But no need to herniate all you believe just to keep on what you think is the good side of Jesus. Matthew has a much more satisfactory take on the same qualifications for fulfillment than the usually mellower Luke. "Blessed are the poor in spirit," says Matthew. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness."

Jesus isn't suggesting we envy the literal starving and sneer at those whose hard work enables them to be generous! Jesus is lauding those who are lucky enough to realize how hollow the politicians' promises are, how disappointing the advertisers' lures, and how unfulfilling the school systems that offer only the tools to make a basic living without helping to help kids discover what living is for.

Blessed are those who mourn with the great Peggy Lee: "Is that all there is? Is that all there is? If that's all there is, my friends, then let's keep dancing! Let's break out the booze and have a ball if that's all there is."

There's only one unbending reality that judges true value, and that's death. If that's all there is, if me matters most, we're all on the deck of the Titanic, and we've only one direction to go. In a world without res-

urrection, we're all of us — puppets, paupers, pirates, poets, pawns and kings — just so much garbage waiting to be picked up.

But the answer that precedes and trails and surrounds Jesus in everything he said and did, is resurrection. That truth shows up momentary domination for the dead end that it really is, and makes a soul, unsatisfied and striving, whether swathed in mink or rags, hunger for good, and wish that good for all.

Soul seeing in the Age of Me First doesn't require much. It just asks us to look for our freedom in generosity instead of greed; to float on the grace of kindness instead of being weighed down by the albatross of avarice; to express gratitude rather than lack; to choose harmony over conflict; and, always, to see love instead of fear.

We may not have the temperament to be on the frontlines of change but we can change the way we see ourselves, our neighbor and the world and choose resurrection now. That soul change marks the beginning of Jesus' kingdom where all are number one, for that number — one — is truly all there is.

[Jesuit Fr. William J. O'Malley is the author of more than 40 books. He is now retired and living at the Jesuit home for old superheroes at Fordham University.]

Reclaiming the Catholic Church:

[By Alsy Acevedo, *NCRonline*, 5/3/19]

It is not easy being a Catholic in this day and age. It is a conscious, defiant decision to stay and practice this faith. ... I am alarmed, yes, heartbroken that Catholic institutions have been a place of abuse, of complicity, of criminality. But nothing will change if I leave. If I stay, as a Catholic laywoman, I can practice what I believe and be an agent of change.

My faith is rooted in the teachings of the Gospels, in the sacraments, and in the call to be the body of Christ in the world — His eyes, His mouth, His hands, His feet. ...

So, I have decided to stay and reclaim the Catholic Church. I attend Mass, I am journeying with young families in my parish through volunteer work and prayer, and I keep myself well-informed on what is going on in the church.

Full disclosure: I am a former journalist. Therefore, I consume a lot of news, but I'm very selective with what I believe. It matters to me to know that my sources of information have no hidden agendas. That puts the *National Catholic Reporter* at the top of my trusted media list.

Funded 55 years ago with a mission to "report on the life of the church," NCR is funded mostly by lay women and men, and competitive grants. This model allows editorial independence. Editors and writers pursue stories for their newsworthiness, without the need to respond to the hierarchical church. In fact, back in the '80s NCR was already reporting stories on sexual abuse by priests. Looking at the church through a layperson's lens, you can denounce what is wrong and support what is right. The secular media shines light in what is broken, and rightly so. But there are many good things happening in the Catholic Church...

I rely on NCR's reporting to get the best information on the issues that matter to me. ... I support NCR because it is an ally in my quest to reclaim my church... #