



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 21, 2019

Readings

This week:

Genesis 18:1–10a

Colossians 1:24–28,

Luke 10: 38–42

Next week:

Genesis 18:20–32

Colossians 2:12–14

Luke 11: 1–13

Psalm

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord. (*Psalm 15*)

Today

Today's presider is Fr. Xavier Lavagetto, OP.

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, July 22, 7:00 pm TMC Spiritual Education Committee, Thomas House (re-scheduled)

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.

COMMUNITY NOTES

News Announcements Requests

Help migrants on the southern border:

STA Human Concerns Committee representatives have made direct contact with two groups in El Paso, TX, working directly to support immigrants and refugees.

If you are looking for a safe way to help people on our southern border, you may send your check to:

El Paso Diocese at DMRS

2400 E. Yandel Dr.

El Paso, Texas 79903

or via <http://www.elpasodiocese.org/diocesan-migrant--refugee-services-inc.htm>, etc.

Diocesan Migrant & Refugee Services, Inc. (DMRS) is the only full-service immigration legal aid clinic serving low-income immigrants and refugees residing in the southwestern United States.

Or you may choose to send your donation to Annunciation House, El Paso, Texas. This group is leasing two large buildings to house their extra guests and the lease is more than \$38,000/month, plus they have to pay for insurance and for utilities, garbage pickup, maintenance. They also must feed their guests and all the other things that anyone living at home needs--medicine, bed linens, clean clothes, provide transportation, etc.

Contact Terry Baldwin, volunteer bookkeeper

Annunciation House,

815 Myrtle Ave.

El Paso, TX 79901

Tel: (915) 533-4675)

Or you may know other worthwhile channels. It is always recommended that interested parishioners do their own additional research to find ways their donations are used wisely.

--The Human Concerns Committee

Raise your hand, please:

The 8:45 Liturgy team is putting out the call for additional volunteers for a few ministries: Commentators--reading the introductory remarks before Mass begins and the announcements after Mass; persons who monitor the weekly collection money and see it secured in the safe in the sacristy; finally, the donated cans and boxes of food need to be taken over to St. Francis of Assisi Church in East Palo Alto after Mass.

These duties are required of each volunteer just once a month.

Please contact Sally Benson and John Arnold (their emails are below.) You will be enriched by such service, so don't be shy. Raise your hand!

Perspective on ICE raids:

This week President Trump once again threatened the immigrant community that he will be targeting undocumented persons for deportation. ...While the scope of this administration's mass removal proceedings is rather narrow, the public announcements of the ICE action make it seem as if the action would be a broad action.

...Immigrant activists, community organizers, civil rights advocates, legal service providers, religious leaders, students and members in the community are now standing up to this hateful rhetoric because they see how Trump's words affect the immigrant community. Even though the ICE action will be very focused on persons who have deportation orders or criminal histories, many people are left feeling anxious and fearful that they too might be caught up in some kind of deportation action.

Leaders are going out into the community to give assurance by giving people a simple message: Focus on POWER, not PANIC. They offer workshops on Constitutional rights which includes awareness of due process and detention procedures; how to prepare your families, and what to do if ICE were to show up at your home, on the street or at work. When the community has knowledge, they have POWER. When the community has POWER, they can make CHANGE. As Blessed Cesar Chavez once said, "You cannot un-educate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore."

-Fr. Jon Pedigo, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara Co.

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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 or subtract names by e-mailing editor Kay Williams, kaywill@pacbell.net.]**

COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

Calling Pope Francis Catholics to witness on July 25 in Napa:

Background:

The Napa Institute was formed in 2010 to “help Catholic leaders face the challenges posed in the ‘next America’ — to continue the work of the Apostles and their successors, the Bishops, heeding Christ’s call for ongoing evangelization.”

It is a conservative-leaning organization, attracting bishops and business leaders to its annual summer conference in Napa, California. Among these are Cardinal Raymond Burke, Patron of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia, business leader Timothy Busch, CEO of Focus on the Family Jim Daly, George Weigel of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, and this year, as keynote speakers, former governor Scott Walker of Wisconsin and Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina. The conference is being held at the Meritage Resort in Napa from July 24 - 28, 2019: <http://napa-institute.org/conference/2019-summer-conference/>

Action on July 25:

Join with fellow TMC members and parishioners as we make our voices heard in support of Pope Francis and his leadership of the Church when the media is present at this annual meeting of the Napa Institute this Thursday morning, July 25th.

We'll have cars departing from St Thomas Aquinas church in Palo Alto at 7:30 am for Napa, or just meet us after 10 am in the lobby of the Meritage Resort hotel (875 Bordeaux Way, Napa). Media will be present for the keynote addresses that start at 10:45am, so this will be the time for those of us who are Catholic following Pope Francis' path to also make our voices heard. We expect to be able to have informal conversations with the media present--not a press conference. Come add your voice!

We'll depart the hotel lobby before the start of Cardinal Burke's noon lunch talk.

Education:

Once again, the Napa Institute will only feature theological and political conservatives, which is their right to do. But it's not their right to maintain to the media that only conservative Catholics are the "true" Catholics. Please join us, so the media also hears our alternate viewpoints.

The overriding theme of the presentations scheduled is the theology of fear, across religion and politics, coupled with political and clerical authoritarianism, and societal elitism. Here's a small sampling of the viewpoints held by a few of the keynote speakers.

- Bishop Chaput says any Catholic who votes for a Democrat should confess it as a sin.
- Cardinal Burke says families should refuse to spend Christmas with gay relatives.
- Bishop Daly refuses communion to politicians who are pro abortion, but not those who are pro death penalty.
- Bishop Paprocki says he not only won't marry gays, he won't even bury gays, and he's also against all labor unions, because he feels some take anti-Christian stances, but he won't hold corporations to the same standard.
- Perhaps the saddest measure of this group's total lack of moral standing is their sheltering of the credibly-accused abuser, ex-Bishop Nienstedt of Minneapolis, as the group's in-house chaplain before finally bowing to public pressure last August.

Pope Francis is thankfully moving the Church in a totally different direction, including marginalizing ideologues who were appointed as bishops by his predecessors.

Contact:

TMC member Bob Busch is the inspiration and organizer of this trek to the Napa Institute Conference to speak for the Church of Pope Francis in a peaceful and respectful way. Let him know you will come along or just want more information: (612) 360-5368, or robertbusch27@gmail.com

(Moon, continued from page 4.)

am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit, for you can do nothing without me.” ...

The US space agency had recently had to defend itself from an attack by an atheist called Madalyn Murray O’Hair, who had taken out a lawsuit to ensure no astronaut was allowed to practise religion in space, or on the Moon....As a result, Aldrin was told that, while it was fine to go ahead and take Communion on the Moon, it could not be broadcast...So while Aldrin was allowed to invite the world to take a moment to give thanks, what followed inside the landing craft was redacted; all the world heard was silence, and the passages from St John were heard only by Armstrong, who was there with him, and by ground control in Houston....

Aldrin said later that he hadn’t considered whether it was right to make his worship explicitly Christian, but he worried afterwards that it might not have been.

“Although it was a deeply meaningful experience for me,” he wrote, “it was a Christian sacrament, and we had come to the Moon in the name of all mankind – be they Christians, Jews, Muslims, animists, agnostics, or atheists.”... #

Consider Mary Magdalene's feast day:

[By Alvin I. Amadi, *America*, 7/16/19]

According to the Gospel, the first person to encounter the risen Christ is the female disciple Mary of Magdala, also known as Mary Magdalene. John recounts the amazing story in the Gospel passage proclaimed at Easter Sunday Mass: "On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb" (Jn 20:1).

Nothing in the Gospel occurs by mere chance. It is highly significant that in a society where men wielded power in almost every aspect of life, Christ chose a woman to be the first to see him after his resurrection and to announce the news to his apostles.

Underscoring this significance, three years ago Pope Francis elevated the memorial of St. Mary Magdalene, traditionally observed on July 22, to the status of a feast day. In this way, the pope accorded a dignity to the liturgical celebration of St. Mary Magdalene similar to that of the apostles, who are each celebrated as feasts. ...

Pope Francis' act demonstrated the church's respect for the dignity of women. Women make up a large majority of volunteers, catechists, religious educators, faith formation leaders, sacristans and others who do so much for our church, and Mary Magdalene is most qualified to be an example and a source of inspiration to them. ...

In the last few years, there has been much talk about how to better appreciate the gifts that women bring to the church and how to better integrate feminine presence in the church's decision-making processes. Pope Francis frequently reminds us that the church is "feminine" and has repeatedly called for a more robust theology of women.

Given these conversations, the time is right to further elevate the feast of St. Mary Magdalene to a solemnity. It would accord this great woman equal dignity with the nativity of John the Baptist, which is liturgically observed as a solemnity. This would be a good way to recognize both John and Mary as pivotal players in announcing the good news of salvation: the former announcing the Lamb of God to the world and the latter announcing the resurrection to the frightened Apostles.

A solemnity of St. Mary Magdalene would also provide an extra measure of encouragement to all those women working in the church's ministry to those at the peripheries of society.

Elevating the celebration of Mary Magdalene to the rank of a solemnity—making her the only woman thus celebrated in the General Roman Calendar apart from Mary, the mother of Jesus—could be a watershed event in the pope's efforts to highlight the invaluable role played by women in the life and mission of the

church. Now is the time for Catholic parishes and schools to devote more time and resources to educate us about St. Mary Magdalene and why she matters in God's dramatic designs for the world's salvation in and through Christ.

[The Rev. Alvan I. Amadi is the administrator of St. Mary Parish in Algoma, Wisc., in the Diocese of Green Bay. From 2014 to 2018, he served as the director of Worship and Liturgical Formation at St. Francis de Sales Seminary in Milwaukee.]

Communion on the moon in 1969:

[By Joanna Moorhead, *The Tablet*, 7/18/19]

The first liquid poured by human hands on the Moon, and the first food eaten there, were Communion elements. But this first lunar liturgy was kept under wraps by Nasa. "That's one small step for man: one giant leap for mankind." One of the most famous -sentences ever uttered was heard 50 years ago this weekend; they were the words of Neil Armstrong, commander of Apollo 11, as he stepped on to the Moon's surface on 21 July 1969.

But it was some other words spoken from the lunar landing craft a few hours earlier... The "Eagle" had touched down on the Sea of Tranquillity at 20.17 UTC on 20 July, with Armstrong and fellow crew member Buzz Aldrin aboard. There then followed around six hours before the hatch was opened and Armstrong, and a few minutes later Aldrin, took the steps for which history will forever remember them. However, two hours into that six-hour wait, as TV and radio broadcast to one of the largest-ever global audiences, Buzz Aldrin spoke some words that were more cryptic than they sounded.

"Houston," he said. "This is Eagle. This is the LM [landing module] pilot speaking. I would like to request a few moments of silence. I would like to invite each person listening in, wherever and whomever he may be, to contemplate for a moment the events of the past few hours, and to give thanks in his own individual way."

Aldrin had already made up his mind how he would mark this moment, and how he intended to give thanks. He'd made the decision a few days earlier, back on Earth, while attending a Communion service at Webster Presbyterian Church in Houston, Texas, where he was an elder. ... At the end of it, pastor Dean Woodruff handed Aldrin a small piece of the Communion bread, a phial of wine and a tiny chalice, which the astronaut stowed in the small pouch for personal possessions that he was allowed to take with him. He wanted, he said later, to express his "feeling that what man was doing in this mission transcended electronics and computers and rockets."...

The following day, he was on his way to Cape Kennedy; and on 20 July, having spoken those words, Aldrin unwrapped the bread, opened the tiny bottle of wine and poured its contents into a mini chalice. "In the one-sixth gravity of the Moon, the wine curled slowly and gracefully up the side of the cup," he wrote afterwards. He then ate the bread, drank the wine, and read from John 15:5: "I

Moon, continued on page 3.