



# Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 28, 2019

## Readings

*This week:*

Genesis 18:20–32

Colossians 2:12–14

Luke 11: 1–13

*Next week:*

Ecclesiastes 1: 2; 2: 21–23

Colossians 3:1–5, 9–11

Luke 12: 13–21

## Psalm

Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me. (*Psalm 138*)

## 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.

## From Thomas Merton

If the "gospel is preached to the poor," if the Christian message is essentially a message of hope and redemption for the poor, the oppressed, the underprivileged, and those who have no power humanly speaking, how are we to reconcile ourselves to the fact that Christians belong for the most part to the rich and powerful nations of the earth? Seventeen percent of the world's population controls eighty percent of the world's wealth, and most of these seventeen percent are supposedly Christian. Admittedly those Christians who are interested in nonviolence are not ordinarily the wealthy ones. Nevertheless, like it or not, they share in the power and privilege of the most wealthy and mighty society the world has ever known. Even with the best subjective intentions in the world, how can they avoid a certain ambiguity in preaching nonviolence? Is this not a mystification?

-- "Blessed Are the Meek: The Christian Roots of Non Violence"  
in *Passion for Peace: The Social Essays*

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

## 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.

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.

## Call to Action meets October 4-5 in Sacto:

Come to the Call to Action West Coast Regional Conference: "Building More Just Communities" at the Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento, CA, October 4-5, 2019.

Come for a weekend of friendship, inspiration, community, and liturgy. It will be a spirit-filled weekend.

### Keynote presenters:

Roy Bourgeois, champion of women's ordination, Sister Irma Dillard RCSJ, champion of racial justice, and Ched Myers, champion of ecological justice, are the keynote speakers. Six additional speakers will lead workshops on the issues of homelessness, gender justice, clergy sex abuse, immigration, women's role in the church, and the links between carbon addiction and white supremacy.

### Registration:

Registration Fee (includes 3 meals & all scheduled activities):

Early Bird fee till July 31, 2019: \$199

Full Fee from August 1 - September 27: \$225

Registration ends September 27.

### Hotel Rooms:

To book a room at the Doubletree (\$149 single/double), call, or follow the link at [saccta.org](http://saccta.org), and reference the CTA West Coast Conference.

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sacramento

2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, California, 95815,

USA 1-916-929-8855 FAX: +1-916-924-4913

Book as soon as possible as the number of rooms at this rate is limited.

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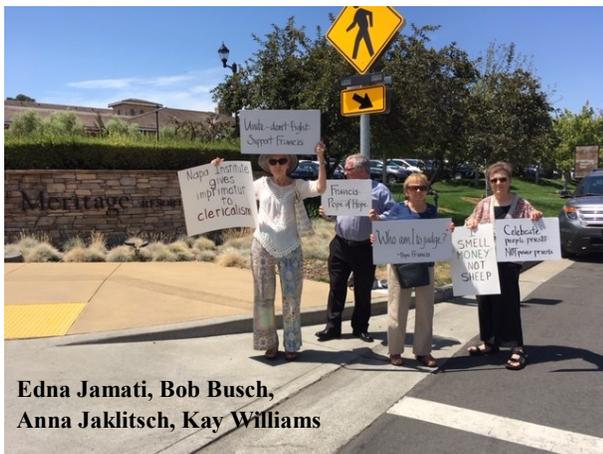
**PRAY FOR US:** Please remember in your prayers this week Denise Alongi, Rudy Bahr, George Bouchey, Tom Carmody, Kerry Carmody, George Chippendale, Mary Connors, Mike Cummings, Jim Davis, Ken Dias, Pat Dietrich, Dick Freeman, Deonna Gill, Emily Gill, Joanne Hasegawa, Fr. John Hester, Dean Judd, Hunter 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](mailto:kaywill@pacbell.net).]**

# COMMUNITY FORUM

*Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns*

## ***Napa Institute demonstration:***

Four TMC members and a Call to Action member from Santa Rosa went to Napa on July 25 to demonstrate in support of Pope Francis at the summer conference of the Napa Institute, a conservative Catholic group allied with prominent, conservative political and religious leaders--some of Francis' most vociferous critics.



**Edna Jamati, Bob Busch,  
Anna Jaklitsch, Kay Williams**

We were not allowed to hold our signs on the property of the Meritage Hotel Resort and Spa so stood at the entrance. Only a few conference attendees saw us and fewer still engaged with us. But we were interviewed by Dan Morris-Young, a *National Catholic Reporter* West Coast Correspondent, who was attending the conference. We had sent Dan in advance a summary statement of our purpose in demonstrating at the Napa Institute conference. His report follows.

Our signs read:

- “Francis - Pope of Hope”
- “Who Am I To Judge? - Pope Francis”
- “Celebrate people priests, not power priests.”
- “Unite, don’t fight. Support Francis.”
- “Napa Institute grants imprimatur to clericalism.”
- “I smell money, not sheep.”

We noticed the attendance of many priests dressed in cassocks, nuns in full habits, young as well as middle-aged men and women, but we were not encouraged to stand around in the lobby. Once our signs came out, we were told by the Meritage management, and then by a local police officer who had been called, that we were on private property and were free to demonstrate with our signs on the public street but not on the resort property.

Copies of our summary statement are available upon request.

*--Kay Williams*

## ***Burke at Napa Institute on ‘pervasive errors’:***

[By Dan Morris-Young, *National Catholic Reporter*, 7/26/19]

Napa, Calif. — In back-to-back opening keynote addresses July 25 at the ninth annual Napa Institute, well-known conservative Catholic commentator George Weigel and high-profile papal critic Cardinal Raymond Burke exhorted the predominantly affluent Catholic assembly to fight pervasive error, division and apostasy in the church and embrace its immutable teachings.

Both called the nearly 700 participants at the July 24-28 event in Napa, California, to "more thorough, intense Catholic lives" and "missionary discipleship," in Weigel's words.

It was the cardinal's first appearance at a Napa Institute conference, staged at the elegant Meritage Resort and Spa, which is among holdings of institute's co-founder, Tim Busch.

Burke was pointedly critical about the working document for the Vatican's fall Synod of Bishops on the Amazon, which includes discussion of potential priestly ordination of widely respected married men to enhance access to sacraments in that region.

"Celibacy stems from the example of Jesus Christ," said the cardinal. "Our great high priest made this choice" and it provides an example of "perfect continence" for priests.

Weigel agreed. "To relax or remove or dispose of the 1,000 or so years of tradition that lie behind the celibate priesthood is to surrender in a very profound way to the siren song of the sex-saturated culture that is killing itself and its offspring," he said.

Titled "Proclaiming the Truths of the Faith in a Time of Crisis," Burke's address centered on a review of a recent 40-point "declaration" signed by him and four other prelates — a retired cardinal from Latvia (Janis Pujats) and three bishops from Kazakhstan (Auxiliary Bishop Athanasius Schneider, Archbishop Tomash Peta and Archbishop Emeritus Jan Pawel Lenga).

Released in June, the eight-page "Declaration of the Truths Relating to Some of the Most Common Errors in the Life of the Church of Our Time" examines "official church teaching on 40 points" about which "there is much error and confusion," charged Burke, who has been outspoken in critiques of Pope Francis' teaching.

Among the 40 "pervasive errors" noted by Burke at Napa were:

- "Confusion" about working to bring Muslims or Jews to Christianity: Many feel both religions "claim

*(Napa Institute, continued on page 4)*

*(Napa Institute, continued from page 3)*

their own integrity" and that "it is wrong to work toward their conversion," but "there is salvation through faith in Christ alone," he said to applause.

- Lack of clarity that the church does permit civil authority to exercise capital punishment, a statement that seemed to conflict with Pope Francis' recent description of the death penalty as "a serious violation of the right to life of every person" and the U.S bishops' move to re-cast the U.S catechism on the topic.

- "Serious implications for the entire life of the church" when priests' "divinely appointed" role "acting in the person of Christ" at the consecration at Mass is misunderstood: an error "currently going about is that if no ordained priest" is available, "it is sufficient for the faithful to just designate one of their number to offer the sacrifice," he said.

- Sideline church doctrine that "the only moral exercise of sex" may take place "within a valid marriage" of a man and woman.

Burke laid proliferation of "errors about fundamental truths of the faith" at the feet of "decades of poor catechesis and preaching ... in a thoroughly secularized society."

The cardinal exhorted the audience to "unambiguous moral witness" when encountering "obfuscated and undermined" church teaching and "widespread sin against the faith."

Catholics "in open apostasy is not a not small number," he said, but added that he saw in Napa attendants a "movement" of faithful "who get the picture" and display "wisdom and courage in face of so much confusion and error."

"Such a movement," he said, "will not judge itself according to numbers, but according to the truth. God does not delight in numbers. God delights in truth." His remarks ended in a sustained standing ovation.

Weigel said a well-lived life centers on the question, "How have I brought others to Christ?"

Advocating "all-in Catholicism," Weigel mocked what he called "Catholic lite" and argued, "We will not attract others to Jesus" unless "manifest in our lives" are "service to the poor and marginalized and the walking wounded in our decadent culture" as well as rigorous sacramental practice.

"We are going to have to be courageous in speaking to friends, neighbors and business associates" about issues including "legal protection of life from birth to natural death," said Weigel.

In that vein, he said pro-life Catholics must do more than debate the abortion issue and should support pregnant women in crisis.

Weigel and Burke both strongly criticized acceptance of same-sex unions, gender modification, and moves to

make Latin-rite priestly celibacy optional.

Five protestors — four from the Thomas Merton Center in Palo Alto and one from the Northern California Call to Action chapter — arrived Thursday morning as Weigel and Burke were speaking. The group was escorted off the resort campus by local police called by Meritage security.

Among other things, the five told NCR they wanted to call attention to what they described as the Napa Institute's anti-Francis bias.

In a prepared statement, the Thomas Merton Center claimed the Institute "is allied with prominent, conservative political and religious leaders — some of Pope Francis' most vociferous critics. We see the alliance as antithetical to the Christian teachings of the Beatitudes."

"The Catholic Church is a church for all," it added, "not just those responding to the Napa Institute's self-promotion as the 'preeminent Catholic conference in the United States, bringing together Catholic leaders for faith, fellowship and community, as we explore the theme of This Catholic Moment.' The \$2,600 per/person registration fee limits that attendance to the 1% who already wield undue influence in the U.S."

The registration fee does not include accommodations. Significantly reduced prices were available to the ample number of priests, women religious and deacons present.

Burke declined to speak to NCR.

Burke was one of four cardinals to sign an open letter to Francis in 2016 posing five yes-or-no questions they claimed would clarify what they described as doctrinal ambiguity in *Amoris Laetitia*, Francis' apostolic exhortation on family life.

Removed as head of the church's highest judicial body, the Apostolic Signatura, in 2014 by Francis, Burke has been a prominent detractor of the pope, including Francis' approach to marriage and family life and his reforms of annulment procedures.

Francis reappointed Burke as a rank-and-file member of the Signatura in 2017. #

### ***Catholics lie-in at US Capitol for immigrants:***

Last week, Catholic advocates from across the country joined together for the Catholic Day of Action for Immigrant Children. Hundreds gathered for a rally at the U.S. Capitol; 70 sisters, priests, and lay leaders were arrested—including a Jesuit and three Jesuit university faculty/staff—for civil disobedience at the Senate Russell Building; and thousands throughout the nation made phone calls to the White House—all shared the same message through their actions: "End Immigrant Child Detention."

Make sure to check out some of the national news coverage via: *The Washington Post*, Fox News, ABC News, Catholic News Agency, and *America*.

--Ignatian Solidarity Network