



Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 10, 2016

Readings

This week:

Deuteronomy 30:10–14

Colossians 1:15–20

Luke 10:25–37

Next week:

Genesis 18:1–10a

Colossians 1:24–28

Luke 10:38–42

Psalm Today

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live. (*Psalm 69*)

Today's presider is Fr. George Schulze, 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, July 11, 7:00 p.m. TMC Liturgy Committee, Thomas House Library

Thursday, July 14, 7:30 p.m. TMC Board Meeting, Thomas House

From Thomas Merton

Within the last two or three years, the Abbey of Gethsemani has been visited by men experienced and fully qualified to represent such traditions as Raja Yoga, Zen, Hasidism, Tibetan Buddhism, Sufism, etc. The names of some of these would instantly be recognized as among the most distinguished in their field. Therefore, the question of contacts and actual communication between contemplatives of the various traditions no longer presents very great obstacles. A little experience of such dialogue shows at once that this is precisely the most fruitful and the most rewarding level of ecumenical exchange. While on the level of philosophical and doctrinal formulations there may be tremendous obstacle to meet, it is often possible to come to a very frank, simple, and totally satisfying understanding in comparing notes on the contemplative life, its disciplines, its vagaries, and its rewards. Indeed, it is illuminating to the point of astonishment to talk to a Zen Buddhist from Japan and to find that you have much more in common with him than with those of your own compatriots who are little concerned with religion, or interested only in its external practice.

— *Mystics and Zen Masters*

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

Welcome to presider Fr. George Schultze:



We are pleased to welcome Rev. George Schultze, SJ, as our presider today. Fr. Schultze is assistant professor of Moral Theology at St. Patrick's Seminary and University in Menlo Park, and director of the Pastoral Year Program there. Fr. Schultze studied Industrial and Labor

Relations at Cornell University, completed an MBA at the University of California, Berkeley, and received his doctorate in Social Ethics at the University of Southern California. Prior to entering the Society of Jesus, he worked for the National Labor Relations Board. He is the author of *Strangers in a Foreign Land: The Organizing of Catholic Latinos in the United States* (2006).

TMC donations help Ecumenical Hunger Program:



TMC donations sent to the Ecumenical Hunger Program are set aside specifically to help fund the Wednesday night meals at EPA's St. Francis of Assisi served to men, women and children who come for a hot hearty meal.

Pictured are some regular volunteers working in the kitchen. Volunteers who come from many different community groups make this a very welcoming place to share a meal.

Vacation Bible Camp:



St. Thomas Aquinas Parish annual summer camp for children ages 6-12 will be held the first two weeks of August (Aug 1-5 and Aug 8-12) from 9 a.m. to noon in the Hall at Our Lady of the Rosary. Help your child or grandchild get to know more about Jesus and his family through scripture, drama, dance, music, and crafts.

Children may attend one or both weeks. The cost for the camp is \$50 per child per week. Don't let the cost keep you away: scholarships are available if they are needed. Registration forms are available on the parish website and in the vestibule at each of the churches. Contact Susan at suolsen@dsj.org to register.

Bulletin submissions must be e-mailed by Thursday noon or phoned by Thursday, 9:00 pm. Kay, kaywill@pacbell.net, (650) 270-4188. Michelle, myhogan@comcast.net, (650) 493-8452.

Hotel de Zink coming in August:

Our parishioners will be taking food to the Hotel de Zink (homeless shelter) at the Christian Reformed Church on Arastradero Rd. during the first two weeks of August. Please check your calendars to see which date you would be able to help. Ruth Chippendale will be at the churches after Mass to sign people up during the month of July, or call Ruth at 650-856-6350.

Catholic co-op selling local produce:

Subscribe to the community-supported agriculture (CSA) program offered by NanoFarms, a Catholic workers' co-op offering boxes of freshly picked sustainably grown and pesticide-free vegetables and fruit for delivery in San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties from May to December. The boxes cost \$30 a week and contain between 11 and 14 vegetables, fruits and herbs each week.

The produce comes from fields at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. One of the founders of NanoFarms is Fr. George Schulze, S.J., who teaches at the Seminary. Fr. Lawrence Goode, the pastor at St. Francis Parish in East Palo Alto, also helped get NanoFarms started.

NanoFarms is a profit-based workers cooperative. It is an effort to apply the Catholic social justice and economic principles of distributism to modern-day income disparity.

To order, call (650) 817-8801, or email to NanoFarm-USA@gmail.com, or go to nanofarms.com to sign up for a box of organic, nutritious produce.

Bilingual Eucharistic ministers invited:

Stanford Medical Center/Stanford Health Care is looking for bilingual volunteers to assist in its Catholic Holy Communion to the Sick in the Spiritual Care Department. Hours are flexible and training will be provided. Please consider becoming a volunteer to serve those in the hospital who cannot attend Sunday Mass.

If you are interested, please contact Isabel Tagle (650) 854-4280 or Isabel.tagle@sbcglobal.net

PRAY FOR US: Please remember in your prayers this week, Denise Alongi, George Bouchey, Tom Carmody, George Chippendale, Sr. Fran Ciluga, Mary Connors, Mike Cummings, Ken Dias, Fr. Thierry Geris, Deonna Gill, Emily Gill, Joanne Hasegawa, Dean Judd, Michael Kiriti, Hunter Kubit, Dick Jackman, François Jamati, 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, Kay Williams, and T. J. Wooten.
[Add or subtract names by e-mailing Bulletin editors: Michelle Hogan, Kay Williams. See listings below.]

COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

Save Sunday, Sept. 11 for Multifaith Peace Walk & Picnic:



On the 15th anniversary of the attacks of 9/11/01, join together with brothers and sisters of many backgrounds and spiritual traditions to say "no" to fear and "yes" by walking together in

South Palo Alto to show the way to community and peace.

People of all ages, races, cultures, religious traditions and backgrounds will walk united in their diversity, in solidarity as one community sharing our common humanity. So far we have gathered folks from Muslim, Jewish, Catholic, Methodist, Lutheran, First Congregational and Quaker communities to walk together.

There will be brief programs along the way, as well as children's activities, music, and refreshments.

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016

1:30 Gathering (Snacks, coffee, music, stroller/wagon/tricycle decorating)

2:00 Program and Walk begin

Start: Congregation Etz Chayim, Spark Church & St. Andrews United Methodist Church parking lots, 4111 & 4161 Alma St., Palo Alto

End: Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, 3233 Cowper Street, Palo Alto

4:30 Picnic: American Muslim Voice-hosted picnic at Mitchell Park, 600 East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto.

Walk length: 2 miles plus .5 mile to picnic (shuttles will be available from Our Lady of the Rosary Church to Mitchell Park, and from the park back to parking area at Congregation Etz Chayim).

[Sponsored by Multi-Faith Voices for Peace and Justice]

5th "Nuns on the Bus" tour begins July 11:

[Excerpts from article by Tom Roberts, Global Sisters Report, NCR, 7/1/16]

When the Nuns on the Bus get rolling July 11, they'll be headed for the "gaps" in society, the places where the powerless left behind in the U.S. economy can be found

They'll also visit the politically powerful, gathered at their conventions to anoint the next presidential candidates, in hope of making the case for mending the growing breach between rich and poor.

It's a variation on a persistent theme for Sr. Simone Campbell, the 70-year-old executive director of NETWORK, the Catholic social justice network that launched the annual bus tour in 2012. This year's version, "Mend the Gaps," will focus on promoting poli-

cies that bridge divides in the United States, with a special focus on policies that affect women and people of color.

The bus, which is wrapped in signs heralding the work of women religious, will visit 22 cities in 13 states [in the Midwest and East], including stops in Cleveland during the Republican National Convention (which runs July 18-21). The final stop will be July 26-29 in Philadelphia, while the Democratic National Convention is underway....

The bus tour has evolved into an annual rite of spotlighting social ills by elevating the stories of individuals, neighborhoods and organizations and calling attention to the deficiencies of inequitable systems.

Campbell is especially focused on the income gap, or the growing separation between the top earners and those on the bottom....

To bridge the income gap, the Nuns on the Bus suggest:

- Tax justice: expansion of the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit as well as closing loopholes "so corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share"
- Living wages: increases in minimum wages enacted federally and indexed for cost of living
- Family-friendly workplaces: pro-family policies, such as paid leave and paycheck fairness for women

Disparities have grown, Campbell said, because people have bought into the ideology of individualism, which she calls "the core unpatriotic lie."...

The bus, she said, is the alternative. "Community shows up. That's one of the gifts of being a sister on the bus. We pray together every morning. We're used to creating community — and we're all from different communities."...

Nuns on the Bus is a symbol of the 21st-century status of women religious and their mission of challenging the powerful and advocating for the powerless....

When Francis spoke about the poor, about the need to accompany those at the margins, about accompanying rather than judging, many U.S. sisters understood from long experience what he was talking about.... #

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Dark night of US politics:

[by Fr Bryan Massingale, *U.S. Catholic*, May 2016]

Our nation's political campaign for the presidency has already distinguished itself by its debased level of public discourse....Instead of serious discussion of pressing issues, leading candidates engage in schoolyard taunts and trade adolescent insults...

...[W]e can get needed perspective on our national life from Catholic spirituality's understanding of "dark night" experiences. The dark night, in Carmelite spirituality and the teaching of St. John of the Cross, is a metaphor for a period of profound unraveling, intense disorientation, and deep crisis. When all that we turn to for security, identity, and meaning is severely challenged—if not ripped away—we feel naked, vulnerable, and lost.

Yet John of the Cross insists that such distress is the result of a new experience of God's presence in our lives. In a paradoxical way, this disturbing turbulence comes from the advent of God, who shatters all of our previous limited images of God and too small conceptions of what God wills. The profound dislocations and crises of the dark night are a summons to surrender views of life and self that have become cramped, stunted, and even destructive. This unraveling is a time of purification. It leads to new life, greater hope, and more authentic love. ...

Perhaps our political dark night becomes the mirror that shows us what we have avoided seeing. The vulgarity of our politics challenges us with the toxic results of public discourse that has valued partisan name-calling and punished cooperation for the common good. Perhaps what is being revealed to us are the consequences of years of scapegoating those who look differently, worship differently, or love differently than we do.

This dark night of current politics might be the bright lens that we need to see clearly how some faith leaders have allowed religious discourse to become hijacked to serve the narrow interests of a political party. Perhaps this time of national turmoil, embarrassment, and crisis is the harsh revelation of the folly of an uncritical allegiance to political parties.

God's love is subversive and destructive; it exposes self-serving political ideologies as shortsighted and corrosive....

Perhaps ... the "grace" of this time is the revelation of how toxic our political environment has truly become, in order to spur us to build a new political culture based not on the exploitation of fear but on solidarity with and for the least among us. #

Bishop Cupich of Chicago tapped by Vatican:

Pope Francis on Thursday named Archbishop Blase Cupich of Chicago to the Vatican's...Congregation for Bishops, in effect positioning the Chicago prelate to help shape the next generation of bishops in the United States and around the world.

The Congregation for Bishops is composed of roughly 30 senior prelates from around the world, and is the body that submits recommendations for new bishops' appointments to the pope. Although the final decision is always up to the pontiff, with relatively few exceptions, popes generally accept the panel's recommendations.

As a result, the Congregation for Bishops is widely considered among the two or three most influential departments in the Vatican, and generally appointing someone as a member is a sign that they have the favor of the present pope.

The congregation is presently led by Cardinal Marc Ouellet of Canada, who was appointed to the role by emeritus Pope Benedict XVI....

By tapping Cupich, Francis has extended his effort to put a more moderate-to-progressive stamp on the Congregation for Bishops, and, by extension, the global episcopacy....

At 67, Cupich is poised to be a member of the Congregation for Bishops for a long run, potentially until he turns 80.

Although each member of the congregation gets a vote on every bishops' nomination to come before it, the informal practice over the years has been to defer to the members from a particular country when a position opens up in that country....

Since becoming Pope Francis' surprise pick for Chicago in September 2014, Cupich has carved out a profile as a leader of the moderate-to-progressive camp in the Church.

During the 2015 Synod of Bishops, for instance, Cupich distanced himself from some of his fellow American prelates who had expressed concerns about the synod process, and also called for greater inclusion of "marginalized" groups in the synod's deliberations, such as gays and lesbians.

Cupich also suggested support for calls to allow divorced and civilly remarried Catholics to return to Communion in individual cases, following a process of discernment.

In the wake of the recent Orlando massacre, Cupich was among the American bishops who explicitly mentioned "our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters" in his statement on the attack, calling for stepped-up efforts to promote tolerance.

Cupich, who's of Croatian ancestry, is a native of Omaha, Nebraska, and previously served as the bishop of both Rapid City, South Dakota, and Spokane, Washington. —CRUX Staff, 7/7/16