Finding your microclimate within the solitude to thrive

Mother's Day through the eyes of a "Plant Mama"

Pictured: One of about 4 successful houseplant regions in Megan’s home (featuring a blooming oncidium and pahiopedlium and some awesome greenery)

5th Sunday of Easter
May 10, 2020

I have a confession to make: I killed a plant.

Technically, it was a months-long battle for it to live, "it" being a two-inch long portion of a cordyline (ti leaf) stem I really wanted to propagate. (After all, ti leaves make great lei.) I started with soil-propagation... nada. Then I exhumed it and tried water-propping, which yielded one stringy root and some promising-looking buds which, over the course of the next bazillion months... also did nothing.

Having thought I gave it a fair chance, I sadly stopped refilling its water jar, and now it's a desiccated little stem. I killed it.

Now, seeing as this Sunday is Mother's Day (I know, that was an odd transition!), it got me to thinking: each of my plants has different needs to thrive, and as Plant Mama I've got to figure them out and provide them (sorry I failed you, cordyline). Some merely tolerate what others desperately need, and yet others will flourish anywhere.

It's the same with us humans, and as we're sheltering in place with more time for personal reflection in our solitude (a healthy practice, in my opinion!), we're realizing the same thing our mothers always knew - we're all different, and will be responding differently to the microclimate we find ourselves in.

Some of us are like pothos and succulents, chugging along happily independent, responding to any attention as if they're being overly coddled. The pothos people are doing just fine in the quarantine. Some
like a strict regimen and go downhill if anything changes, like maidenhair fern. The maidenhair people recognize their need for a structure and schedule. Others go along with anything: watering, feeding, not watering, not feeding, like a croton. Because of their easy adaptability, these are great people to have around you to get yourself out on a hike or try out a party on Zoom. And then there are the orchids - who might look like they're thriving and happy, shooting out spikes and flowers, but if you pull them out of the pot, their roots may be disintegrating and papery or their base is silently withering away. Be extra mindful and caring of the orchid people, who hide their struggles by pretending everything is fine.

At their core, mothers (plant or human) help others, especially their own, to own their microclimate and thrive in it - physically, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally. Let's take a cue from our mothers and help others thrive in every way, even as we physically isolate ourselves. Helping others just may be the microclimate you do best in, yourself.

Megan Arteaga
Youth Ministry/Communications

Weekend Worship Opportunities
May 10, 2020

8:30am | Livestreamed Mass (available all day)
10:30am | Parking Lot Benediction

Download and print the Worship Aid here

Join us again in the parking lot at 10:30am for the Liturgy of the Word and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Click on the image to open or print this Sunday's worship aid for your convenience. All text in BLACK will be used for Benediction.

"Like" us on Facebook!
To make it easier for you to know when we're live-streaming things like Sunday Mass and Tuesday Adoration, to easily share photos from Parking Lot Benediction, and to connect with other parishioners throughout the week, you can "like" us on Facebook!

Will there be any Baptismal Classes coming up?
Yep! Even as we continue to shelter in place, Baptismal Preparation

RCIA has resumed - online!
The four adults who have been preparing for their initiation into the Catholic Church this past year have resumed their sessions this
Classes will be offered on Zoom for those parents wishing to have their child baptized.

Scheduled classes are May 13 and 20. Please let Tony know if you would like to attend these sessions!

Please do note, however, that we are unable to schedule your child's baptism until the shelter-in-place order has been lifted.

If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and the possibility of becoming Catholic, please reach out to Tony Millette.

Is that a new sign?

You may notice a "For Lease" sign near the school building next to the parking lot. This is due to the fact that our lease agreement with Fountainhead Montessori expires this summer, and our lease negotiations have stalled.

Therefore, we are taking the prudential step of seeking other interested parties, believing this to be the best approach for the good of the parish. If you have any questions or know of any possible interested parties, please let Father George know at 925-254-2426 or gmockel@smparish.org.

High Noon at Santa Maria: Monday through Thursday!

Our Pastoral Team recently subscribed to the Pro version of Zoom, which means we're able to do it for more cool things now. Here are our new weekday offerings this week:

**Monday Prayer Hour at Noon with Megan**

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking here
Meeting ID: 986 6498 4683
Password: 574014

**Tuesday Adoration at Noon on Facebook Live**

Click here at or slightly before noon

No account or password needed; simply scroll down to the "Happening Now" section

If you DO have a Facebook account, feel free to comment your prayer intentions and we will add them to ours!

**Wednesday Faith Sharing at Noon with Tony**

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking here
Meeting ID: 981 1876 8033
Password: 822861
Thursday Rosary at Noon with Deacon Jim
Join Zoom Meeting by clicking here
Meeting ID: 984 2873 9419
Password: 361075

How can I keep supporting Santa Maria?
Thank you so much for thinking about us and continuing to support our parish during these trying times! We are greatly appreciative of any help you can provide.

You may mail a check to the Parish Office (40 Santa Maria Way, Orinda CA 94563), or make a one-time donation using Faith Direct, our eGiving service, to make your Easter offering.

If you would like, you can also sign up for recurring giving through Faith Direct to continue to give to the Sunday plate even though you can't come to the church to drop it in the basket as usual. Again, we thank you for your planning and your generosity!

Pastoral Team
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Megan Arteaga
Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12),

Prayer Intentions
For the Sick:
Liduvina Acosta, Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoaib Aryan, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Kathie Brady, Cara Bradbury, Maria Carmen, Fred Chavaria, Grace Parent DeBoot, Rich Delany, Lorna Elliott, Anne Emery, Nora Enriquez, Emidio Fonseca, Liam Foley, Patricia Fox, Bridget Gallagher, Noreen Gillham, Doris Hale, Florentino Ibabao, Brian Kelly, Mason Kelly, Aileen Kelly, Michael Kelly, Jim Kennedy, Jerry Kirk, Lawrence Knapp, Carol Koupus, Judy Lazarus, Jim Marchetti, Rose Mary McPhee, Robert Nick, Arsi Orihuella, Deacon Jim Pearce, Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Ben Richey, Patrick Sheehy, Jean Wells, Faye Young

Would you like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list? Please contact Mirna in the Parish Office at 925-254-2426 or at mirnawong@smparish.org.

Mass Intentions
All Mass Intentions during Shelter in
Place orders are either postponed or celebrated privately. Mirna is contacting all those who requested the currently scheduled intentions.

To request a Mass Intention, please contact Mirna in the Parish Office.