



Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

March 3, 2019

Readings

This week:

Sirach 27:4–7

I Corinthians 15:54–58

Luke 6:39–45

Next week:

Deuteronomy 26:4–10

Romans 10:8–13

Luke 4:1–13

Psalm

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you. (*Psalm 92*)

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

Wednesday, March 6, 6:00 pm

Ash Wednesday Mass with Ashes

Wednesday, March 6, 7:30 pm

STA Site Committee, Thomas House Library

From Thomas Merton

The history of our own time has been made by dictators whose characters, often transparently easy to read, have been full of repressed guilt, self-hatred, and feelings of inferiority. They have managed to enlist the support of solid masses of men moved by the same repressed drives as themselves. The wars they have waged with one another have been the sacrifice which the masses, degraded by totalitarianism, have offered up in fanatical self-idolatry, which never completely manages to assuage the nausea brought about by self-hatred.

--The Living Bread

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

Ash Wednesday March 6:

Ash Wednesday Mass and Distribution of Ashes sponsored by the Thomas Merton Center is at 6:00 pm here in St. Thomas Aquinas church.

The celebrant is Fr. Kevin Ballard, S.J.

A pamphlet, "Lenten Prayers for an End to Hunger", is available in the back of the church for you to take. It has readings, prayers and actions to help you and family observe Lent in 2019, prepared by Bread for the World.



Lenten Morning of Reflection April 6:

Save Saturday morning, April 6, from 9 am till noon at St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center, for a Lenten Morning of Reflection, led by Sr. Marilyn Wilson--a Sister of Charity of the Blessed Virgi Mary.

Sr. Marilyn is a an educator, spiritual director and retreat facilitator. She will lead us in an informal structure of prayer and contemplation as we approach Easter. All are welcome. Breakfast refreshments served.

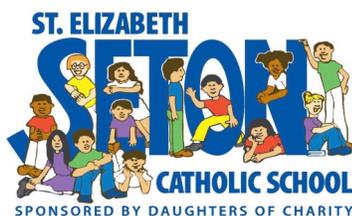
International Thomas Merton Society 16th General Meeting at Santa Clara U. June 27-30:

This biennial meeting carries out the mission of the ITMS to promote an understanding and appreciation of the multifaceted character of Thomas Merton and encourages study and research to make better known the unique contribution he has made to the literature of spirituality and to American literature and religious life.

This year's conference theme is "O Peace, bless this mad place," a line from a poem by Merton. Keynote speakers include Rose Marie Berger, Fr. Cyprian Consiglio, O.S.B. Cam., Robert Ellsberg, Ron Hansen, and Richard Rodriguez, a panel on Dan Berrigan, and many concurrent sessions on topics such as Merton and Racism, Merton and the Ignatian Tradition, Merton and Peace, Merton and Ecology. Sr. Kathleen Deignan, who has led several retreats for TMC in the past, will participate in a workshop, as will Morgan Atkinson, the filmmaker who has shown two of his films on Merton at TMC events.

Registration for the 3-day conference is open now at: merton.org/2019. Registration fee is \$350 for ITMS members (TMC is a member) or \$400 for non-members and includes 3 days of meetings and meals. (There is no option for partial registration.) Several members of the TMC Spiritual Education Committee will be attending. Contact Anna Jaklitsch with questions: annajak14@yahoo.com or 650-327-0978.

Save the date for Seton Golf May 6:



Play golf on the renowned Stanford Golf Course and support Seton School students at the 24th Annual Seton Scramble for Students on Monday, May 6th.

Seton School empowers children of low-income families to reach their full potential--helped by the monies raised from the golf registration fees.

In addition to the golf, there is food: Coupa Café catering, food, wine, beverages. Awards and a Silent & Live Auction cap off the day's golfing exertions.

Proceeds will directly support St. Elizabeth Seton School students. For more information: email Carmel Caligaris at ccaligaris@setonpalalto.org. Register at: www.setonpalalto.org.

24th Annual Seton Scramble May 6 at Stanford!



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, 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, Mary Rose McGuire, Maureen Mooney, Hayden Pastorini, 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.]

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COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

An agenda for moderates:

[Excerpt of opinion piece in the *NY Times* by David Brooks, 2/25/19]

...The problem with moderates has always been that they don't have a magnetic idea. Recent moderation has been a bland porridge that defines itself by what it doesn't like.

It doesn't have to be that way.

What is the core problem facing America today? It is division: The growing gaps between rich and poor, rural and urban, educated and less educated, black and white, left and right.

A moderate agenda should magnify our affections for one another.

What big idea counteracts division, fragmentation, alienation? It is found in Leviticus and Matthew: Love your neighbor. Today's left and right are fueled by anger and seek conflict. The big idea for moderates should be solidarity, fraternity, conversation across difference. A moderate agenda should magnify our affections for one another.

There are four affections that bind our society, and moderates could champion a policy agenda for each:

We are bound together by **our love of our children**. The first mission is to promote policies to make sure children are enmeshed in webs of warm relationships: child tax credits, early childhood education, parental leave, schools that emphasize social and emotional learning.

We are bound to society by **our work**. The second mission is to help people find vocations through which they can serve the community: wage subsidies, apprenticeship tracks, subsidies to help people move to opportunity, work councils, which are clubs that would offer workers lifelong training and representation.

We are bound together by our **affection for our place**. The third mission is to devolve power out of Washington to the local level. Out-radicalize the left and right by offering a different system of power, a system in which power is wielded by neighbors, who know their local context and trust one another. Create a national service program so that young people are paid to serve organizations in their community.

We are bound together by **our shared humanity**. The fourth mission is to embrace an immigration policy that balances welcome with cultural integration. It's to champion housing and education policies that encourage racial integration. Neither left nor right talks much about racial integration anymore. But it is the prerequisite for national unity.

Moderation is not an ideology; it is a way of being. It stands for humility of the head and ardor in the heart. When you listen to your neighbor, you see how many perspectives there are and you're intellectually humble

in the face of that pluralism. When you listen to your neighbor, you see that deep down we're the same and you hunger to deepen that connection.

Let the left and right stand for endless political war. The moderate seeks the beloved community. That, too, is a magnetic idea.

[David Brooks has been a columnist with The Times since 2003. He is the author of "The Road to Character" and the forthcoming book, "The Second Mountain."]

Francis: Death Penalty is wrong:

[By Junno Arocho Esteves, *Catholic News Service*, in *National Catholic Reporter*, 2/27/19]

VATICAN CITY — The death penalty is a cruel violation of the basic right to life and robs people of the chance to repent and make amends for the crimes they have committed, Pope Francis said.

The right to life is "the source of all gifts and of all other rights" that must be protected, the pope said in a video message to participants at the World Congress Against the Death Penalty Feb. 27.

"The death penalty is therefore a serious violation of the right to life of every person," he said.

...[T]he goal of the World Congress Against the Death Penalty is to encourage "countries to make concrete commitments, mobilize public opinion and help to develop common strategies" to abolish the death penalty.

In his message, the pope recognized the need for governments to protect their citizens from "serious crimes that threaten the common good and the safety of people." On the other hand, he said, "we can never abandon the conviction of offering even those guilty of crime the possibility of repentance."

"For this very reason, it is a positive sign that more and more countries are taking a chance on life and no longer use the death penalty or have removed it completely from their criminal legislation," he said.

Francis said that although the death penalty was once seen as an appropriate response to some crimes, "the dignity of the person is not lost even when he or she has committed the worst of crimes."

... "No one's life can be taken and deprive them of the opportunity to once again embrace the community he or she wounded and made suffer," the pope said.

Last August, the pope ordered a revision of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which says that "the church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that 'the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person,' and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide."

Investors wield clout on social issues:

[By Dennis Sandowski, Catholic News Service, in *America Media*, 2/28/19]

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- A broad investor coalition involving religious orders, labor unions and state pension funds that control more than \$3 trillion in assets is working with the nation's leading drug distributors as corporate annual meeting season nears.

The 53 members of Investors for Opioid Accountability have used their financial and moral influence as shareholders to gain agreements from corporate officials to better track distribution of the highly addictive class of drugs.

Donna Meyer, director of shareholder advocacy for Mercy Investment Services of the Sisters of Mercy, said the investors have experienced successes as well as struggles through multiple actions that have included the filing of shareholder resolutions for consideration at corporate annual meetings and long-term direct engagement meant to change company practices....

While continuing throughout the year, the prominence of such efforts rise as corporate annual meeting season approaches each spring.

Meyer said such work on behalf of faith-based organizations extends from their moral convictions on the dignity of all human life.

At the same, she added, investors of all types want their portfolios to continue to grow, and their actions are rooted in heading off practices that pose financial risks and can damage a company's reputation.

... During the 2017 annual meeting of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Meredith Miller of the United Auto Workers Retiree Medical Benefits Trust approached Meyer about working together to curb opioid addiction and abuse because of their role as corporate shareholders.

Investors for Opioid Accountability quickly took shape and as of Feb. 12 included 53 members managing \$3.3 trillion in assets. Eleven members are Catholic entities, including the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois, six religious congregations and three health systems. Their overall leverage has allowed the coalition to approach 11 companies that supply opioids, including Allergan, AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health, CVS Health, Rite Aid and Walgreens.

In some cases, shareholder resolutions have been filed and then withdrawn based on a company's willingness to report on their practices publicly and look at ways to better monitor opioid distribution.

Allergan, Cardinal Health and CVS Health have been particularly responsive to shareholder concerns... In other cases, including Walgreens and Dutch-owned

Mallinckrodt, shareholder resolutions seeking better governance measures to monitor and manage risks related to opioid distribution have been filed and are expected to come up for a vote at upcoming annual meetings...

Opioid abuse is just one of many concerns among investors seeking more socially responsible corporate behavior this year.

...Julie Wokaty, associate communications director for ICCR, said its members had filed 250 resolutions with 163 companies by the end of January. Some resolutions have been challenged by companies through the Securities and Exchange Commission while others have been withdrawn because of "engagement" over company practices, she said.

The resolutions focus on dozens of issues such as political contributions and corporate lobbying, climate change, human rights violations of immigrants in the U.S. and international workers, technology advances that threaten personal secrecy, prescription drug pricing and environmental concerns including climate change.

...[T]ropical deforestation has been a concern of the Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment in Milwaukee for several years. Frank Sherman, the coalition's executive director, said a resolution on the issue was filed with Restaurant Brands International, which owns Burger King, Tim Hortons and Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen.

While the company has set 2030 as its goal to eliminate deforestation from its supply chains, its competitors have set 2020 as their deadline. The resolution seeks a report on the company's plans to reduce or eliminate deforestation-linked soy and beef products by Nov. 1 with annual updates.

...Mark Peters, director of justice, peace and reconciliation for the Priests of the Sacred Heart, U.S. province, told CNS the order has filed resolutions with Cincinnati-based Macy's Inc. and TJX, the parent company of TJ Maxx, HomeGoods and Marshalls.

The order's concerns focus on the human rights of workers producing the goods offers by both corporations' retail stores...Peters explained that companies know that their practices are under scrutiny by shareholders and customers alike.

"They are enlightened enough to realize they need some policies in these areas, and many have fantastic-sounding policies," he said. "But having the policies and making sure they are being carried out and checking into the nooks and crannies is what we're trying to do here." The order's resolution filed with the retailer seeks a report by December "on the company's process for identifying and analyzing potential and actual human rights risks of operations and its supply chain."