



# Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

April 21, 2019

## Readings

*This week:*

Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43

1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

John 20:1-9

*Next week:*

Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16

Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

John 20:19-31

## Psalm

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. (*Psalm 118*)

## Today

Today's presider is Fr. Kevin Ballard, 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

Friday, April 26, 7:00 p.m.

STA Sing-a-Long, Thomas House—all welcome!

## From Thomas Merton

In the old days, on Easter night, the Russian peasants used to carry the blest fire home from church. The light would scatter and travel in all directions through the darkness, and the desolation of the night would be pierced and dispelled as lamps came on in the windows of the farmhouses one by one.

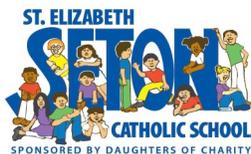
Even so, the glory of God sleeps everywhere, ready to blaze out unexpectedly in created things. Even so, God's peace and God's order lie hidden in the world, even the world of today, ready to reestablish themselves in God's way, in God's own good time: but never without the instrumentality of free options made by free persons.  
*--The New Man*

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

## 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@setonpaloalto.org](mailto:ccaligaris@setonpaloalto.org).

Register at: [www.setonpaloalto.org](http://www.setonpaloalto.org).

**24th Annual Seton Scramble May 6 at Stanford!**



## Bring life to May altar in honor of Mary:

May is the Blessed Mother's month, and we will have a special altar to celebrate Mary here at STA. You can help make this altar a lively and loving tribute to Mary by writing a prayer, or a poem, or drawing a picture, or sharing a special image or statue of Mary and placing it on the table in front of the Mary altar. The table will stay up during May, and your contribution to it can be made throughout the month. These reminders of our respect and devotion to Jesus's earthly mother can hearten us and remind us of our common humanity.

## May 4 May Fete Parade helpers needed:

STA Site Committee hosts a lemonade stand in front of the church during the annual Palo Alto May Fete parade. On Saturday, May 4, from 10 am till 11:30 am, volunteers (hopefully, some of you!) set up tables with cups, help mix up lemonade, and serve it with smiles to the families who line the sidewalk watching for their children's Scout troop, or dance class, or marching band to parade by. We answer questions about the church, encourage folks to stop by sometime, and welcome this diverse crowd with our Catholic presence.

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## International Thomas Merton Society 16th General Meeting at Santa Clara University 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](mailto:annajak14@yahoo.com) or 650-327-0978.

## Reconstruction of church front stairs April 29:



The reconstruction of the front steps at St. Thomas Aquinas Church is scheduled to start on Monday, April 29.

We expect that workmen from Hough Construction will begin demolishing the steps right away. They have until July 3 to complete the work, as there is a wedding in the church on July 6.

We are working with the contractor to determine how we might have access to the church from the ramp. Notice of adjustments to access will be posted. But flexibility is the watchword, as it is for all such building projects.

**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](mailto:kaywill@pacbell.net).]

# COMMUNITY FORUM

*Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns*

## ***Homelessness in Santa Clara County:***

[Notes by Michelle Hogan]

Bob Dolci, Housing Development Consultant and the Homeless Concerns Coordinator for Santa Clara County, gave a talk [on April 10] at the Villages in San Jose on the Homelessness Crisis in Santa Clara County.

Dolci is a former Vincentian priest, and has been involved in St. Francis of Assisi, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and, St. Martin of Tours parishes in the Diocese of San Jose.

He said that HUD does a homeless count in the county, using hundreds of volunteers, every two years. It was last published in 2017, and that year 7,394 people were identified as homeless in Santa Clara County--74% of them unsheltered, and 41% homeless for first time. In total, HUD has counted 25,951 homeless in Bay Area. Homelessness is a significant issue for the Bay Area, which has the fifth-largest homeless problem in the country.

The county has a huge response to housing the homeless. There are more than 50 case managers and dozens of outreach programs whose task is to find housing for the homeless. There are about 32 service providers in the county, some permanent like the Cold Weather Shelter Program, which has four sites, and some rotating shelters, like Hotel de Zink. These programs add 198 beds to the 736 year-round beds. In other words, despite these many efforts, only 26% of homeless people here can be sheltered.

The county now funds homelessness, since voters approved Measure A, providing \$85 million beginning in September 2015. Dolci pointed out that housing a homeless person saves the county \$42,000 per person per year! The county now also has an innovative program that trains the police in crisis intervention. The Measure A program also helps lower income households.

At least 58,583 housing units are needed in Santa Clara County to meet the current demand for low-cost housing, where the average apartment rent for a San Jose studio is \$1,948; for a one-bedroom apartment is \$2,363; and for a two-bedroom apartment, it is \$2, 878. ( Median rent in San Jose is \$3,542, he said.)

The county's goal in 2015 was to create 6,000 units to help the homeless, and 2,035 units have been added since then. Measure A funds will be used to open another 1,119 units by June 2021. Six projects are planned for 2019, four projects in 2020, and another three projects in 2021.

Someone in the audience asked about shelters, and he pointed out that shelters manage homelessness, but they don't end it, so HUD no longer funds shelters.

Some other innovative programs in the county are "Tiny Homes," essentially converted packing boxes, 80 of which are under construction; "Safe Parking Programs," which allow individuals to sleep in their vehi-

cles; and "Hope Villages," tents on concrete platforms, with bathroom and dining facilities on the site. The recent Hope Village had to be closed since it violated FAA rules (It was too near an airport), but the county is currently looking for a new Hope Village site.

## ***Notre Dame Cathedral & the Church in Europe:***

[By Thomas Reese, S.J., *National Catholic Reporter*, 4/16/9]

As fire devastates the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, the building is as much a symbol of the recent history of the Catholic Church in Europe as it once was a symbol of the church's power and cultural supremacy. The church had been in disrepair for decades. Calls for its restoration went mostly ignored until too late. Now that it is in ashes, people weep for its loss.

In recent decades, Notre Dame was more a tourist destination than a place of pilgrimage or a seat of Catholic potency. More people could tell you the story of its fictitious bell-ringing hunchback than of any one of its bishops. Inside, more selfies took place than prayers, and there were more art connoisseurs among its enthusiasts than worshipers.

This spiritual emptiness didn't come overnight. The church in Europe has been the target of secularists and anticlericals for centuries — since long before the secularizing revolution that happened on its doorstep. Much of the criticism was richly deserved. The church's hierarchy sided with the nobility against the forces of modernization in the 18th and 19th centuries. It opposed free press, free speech, and religious liberty.

By opposing political freedoms and unions in the 19th century, the church lost European men. In its opposition to feminism, it lost women at the end of the 20th century.

Only in the Eastern bloc countries, like Poland, where the church stood with the people against Communist oppression, did it flourish, but once freedom came, the Polish church, too, lost the people because of its clerical arrogance in trying to dictate public policy.

Those who engineered and cheered the destruction of clerical power and the influence of the church had little to put in its place. Libertarian capitalism exploited workers and consumers and destroyed the environment. The power of the media was used to create celebrities, sensationalize news and sell commodities. Democracy has given way to narrow-minded nationalism.

Pope Francis is a lone voice in Europe for the common good, respect for the stranger and values more important than the almighty dollar, but there is no institutional strength supporting his message. The church is a shell of what it once was.

Yes, let us weep for Notre Dame, but we have lost more than a building.

[Jesuit Fr. Thomas Reese is a columnist for Religion News Service and author of *Inside the Vatican: The Politics and Organization of the Catholic Church*.]

## Getting the Call: a Dialogue

[Mollie Wilson O'Reilly, in *Commonweal*, 4/12/19]

Carlos's phone rang early on a Sunday. "Hello?"

"Hi, Carlos? This is Msgr. Farrell calling from the bishop's office with some exciting news. His excellency has decided to elevate you to the clerical state."

"I'm sorry?"

"You're being elevated. It's like a promotion. A reward for good behavior." There was a pause. Carlos heard Msgr. Farrell sigh. "Frankly, the church is in a bit of a fix. You've probably heard about it—"

"Sure, I—"

"Officially, the media is against us and no one really cares about the truth, and what about Hollywood, if we're casting stones? But *entre nous*, the truth... isn't great. Since that report came out about the diocese, we've had to reduce more priests to the lay state than we have new ones coming in. So we're looking for alternate solutions."

"I see. But why are you calling me?"

"We've looked into your background, Carlos, and you seem like the kind of guy we need. Your HR department says you're a good public speaker and a real team player. You raised a lot of money for that cancer-related charity. And you have a knack for breaking bad news gently. Also, you're fluent in Spanish, is that right?"

"Uh, I'm a bit rusty," Carlos said.

"Fine, perfect. Do you have a wife or girlfriend?"

"Well, no, actually, I—"

"Hey, enough, stop! Yes-or-no question. No details. And... religion, let's see, your pastor says you attend Mass regularly, but—and these are his words—you 'aren't weird about it.'"

"Well, thanks, I guess. And no criminal record, right! Ha ha."

"Oh, great, great; we didn't think to check on that." Carlos could hear Msgr. Farrell rustling papers. "I'll just make a note: 'No... crimes.'"

Carlos was still feeling baffled. "You know I'm not ordained, right?"

"We'll cross that bridge when we come to it," Msgr. Farrell said. "The next step is for you to come in to the chancery for a cassock fitting and some basic training. You know where the chancery is?"

"Sure, right downtown next to—"

"Perfect." Carlos heard the papers rustle again.

"'Has... heard... of... chancery.' You are really nailing this, Carlos. I can't wait to get you in front of the bishop."

"Well, I do have some ideas about how he—um, His Excellency—could be addressing this whole crisis thing, if—"

"Ah, yes, I'm sure you do." Msgr. Farrell cleared his throat. "Check your email—we're sending you a copy

of our latest manual for clergy. It's the attachment called 'And They Said Nothing to Anyone': Servant Leadership in the Twenty-First Century. Look that over and then come on in—how's tomorrow at 11?"

Carlos glanced at his calendar. "I guess I could take an early lunch, if..."

"Oh, don't worry about your job. Those are for lay people! We can send a note on the bishop's stationery to let them know you've moved on."

Elevated to the clerical state! Carlos had to admit he liked the sound of it. "OK, I'll be there at 11. But hey—if you're looking for Catholics with leadership potential and solid character and no criminal record and all that stuff, you should talk to my boss."

"Great, what's his name?"

"It's a woman. She's—"

The line went dead. Carlos stood for a moment staring at his phone. "Wow," he thought to himself. "That really was the bishop's office!"

[Mollie Wilson O'Reilly is an editor at large and columnist at *Commonweal*.]

## Paris fire brigade chaplain saved relics:

[From Catholic News Service, 4/17/19]

A hero emerging from the Notre Dame Cathedral fire April 15 is Fr. Jean-Marc Fournier, chaplain of the Paris Fire Brigade, who is credited with saving a reliquary containing the crown of thorns and the Blessed Sacrament from the burning cathedral.

The fire chaplain reportedly demanded to be allowed into the cathedral along with firefighters to retrieve the cathedral's relics.

"Father Fournier is an absolute hero," a member of the Paris fire department told reporters April 16, adding that the priest showed "no fear at all as he made straight for the relics inside the cathedral, and made sure they were saved. He deals with life and death every day and shows no fear."

The priest was said to be at the top, or "hot end" of the human chain that included city workers and church caretakers who entered the burning cathedral to save irreplaceable religious items and pieces of art.

French Culture Minister Franck Riester said the saved items include the crown of thorns said to have been worn by Jesus before his crucifixion and a tunic once worn by St. Louis in the 13th century.

During the night of April 15, before the flames were extinguished, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo tweeted an image of the saved artifacts that were initially transferred to the city hall before being moved to the Louvre.

...The next day, people began to find out more about the heroic fire chaplain involved in this rescue.

According to news reports, he served with the French armed forces for seven years and during that time he was deployed in Afghanistan where he survived an ambush that killed 10 of his fellow soldiers. The priest also provided spiritual guidance — praying over the dead and comforting the wounded — four years ago after the terrorist attack at the Bataclan music club in which nearly 100 people died. #