

On Line and On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Marymotherofjesus.org



REFLECTIONS—Last weekend’s splendid celebration of Katy’s 10th Anniversary of her priesthood [ordained by Bishop Bridget Mary on February 6, 2010] was highly reflective of her ordination opening statement: “Only by the Mercy, Grace and Providence of the Holy One am I able to say, “Here I am Loving God, I am ready.”

On February 22 this year, Katy concluded her homily with these words: “I give thanks for you, each member of our MMOJ community. You know the story of my life after my ordination as we walk together as the Pilgrim People of God. I ask your forgiveness if I have hurt you. I give thanks that you are such an important part of my spiritual journey home to our God of Unconditional Love for each of us and all of us. I ask God’s mercy and grace for each of us and all of us as the Pilgrim People of God.”

Thank you, Katy, for your years of service and your continued presence with us on this journey.

MMOJ BOOK DISCUSSION—The book is Richard Rohr’s Universal Christ, Chapter 9. Meeting from 2 to 3:15 PM [beginning and ending on time]. For further information and to indicate you will attend contact Janet at jblakeley1234@gmail.com or call 941.445.7795

WEEKEND OFFERING—The total of the offering for Saturday, **February 22, 2020** is \$.00. We want you to know that during the winter months, MMOJ is sending 5% of its weekend offering to **The Florida Center for Early Childhood**. Thank

you for your generosity. We are grateful to everyone who has been so generous in supporting our community. Thanks so much.

YOU CAN HELP—Homeless need warm clothing—especially for men. Note: Most homeless men are small. Clothing more specifically means long pants and long johns, socks, warm Winter coats. Items can be delivered to Friendship Baptist Church, 5700 Palmer Ave., Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. You can call Judy Prince [941-323-6361], or Liz Wilson [same number] for more information.

WINTER OUTREACH—This winter MMOJ will be tithing to **The Florida Center for Early Childhood**. For 40 years they have been a leading provider of therapeutic services, early education and healthy development for children in Southwest Florida. At risk infants and children through eight are its focus. Our own Kathryn Shea leads the executive staff. Personal checks may be placed in the collection. Tell them Bridget Mary sent you.



HEART TALK—Learning to open the heart requires first that we open our lives. The home of whites that has never had a person of color at the supper table is a home that has missed an opportunity to grow. The man who has never worked with a woman as a peer, better yet as an executive, has deprived himself of the revelation of the other half of the world. The comfortable contemplative who has never served soup at a soup kitchen, or clerked in a thrift shop, or spent time in inner-city programs, lives in an insulated

bubble. The adult who has never asked a child a question and really listened to the answer is doomed to go through life out of touch and essentially unlearned. The world they know cannot possibly give them the answer that they seek. “When someone comes to the gate,” the Rule of Benedict instructs, “say ‘Thanks be to God.’” Say, in other words, ‘Thanks be to God,’ that someone has come to add to our awareness of the world, to show us another way to think and be and live beyond our own small slice of the universe.—*Joan Chittister*

WANTED—Part Time Bookkeeper with QuickBooks experience to set-up Mary Mother of Jesus (non profit) accounts on QuickBooks, enter data weekly, make-out checks for signatures and do monthly reconciliation reports. If you are interested or have questions please call Sally Brochu at 941-445-7610.

SURE—Please come to the SURE Nehemiah Action Assembly on **Monday, March 23**, at 6:30 PM. Doors will open at 5:45 PM. It will be held at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium (801 N. Tamiami Trail). Please bring as many people with you as you can! There is strength in numbers, and we will have a chance for our appointed and elected leaders to take positive actions in favor of:
*Restorative practices in our county schools as a method of positive behavior support, instead of a reliance on out-of-school suspensions.
*Civil citations instead of arrest records for nonviolent misdemeanors. Between 2009 and 2013, 16,044 people in Sarasota were arrested for nonviolent misdemeanors. Only 2,734 were convicted. This means that 13,310 individuals were found not guilty, but still received an arrest record.
*Affordable housing in Sarasota County and in Sarasota city limits. Further info, contact Maryal.

LENTEN WORDS—“May this Lent be a time of recommitment for us, as we say “Yes” again to our baptismal call to be priests – and leaders of faith; to be prophets – ones who listen to God’s Word and announce it in our communities, our families and our world; and to be kings [kin] – ones who willingly and lovingly pour out our lives in service to those who are in need”—*Karon VanAntwerp Latham*

LENTEN QUESTIONS—“In the Gospels, Jesus doesn’t call us to believe in him, to like or love him, not even to worship him. For those who would be his disciples, Jesus’s call is to follow him. We are called to listen to him, to learn from his words and deeds, and to embody ourselves

who it is that he is and to do what he has done. Who we are as Pax Christi USA always comes back to this most fundamental question: How are we witnessing to Jesus in the world today? How are we being the ‘peace of Christ’ in a world steeped in violence, fear, injustice and pain?”—*Johnny Zokovitch, Exec Director, Pax Christi USA*

LOOKING FORWARD—With this developing into a tumultuous cultural and political year John Dear’s message of how to engage Nonviolently is very timely. We are now in the final stages of promoting his coming to Sarasota on April 20, First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1031 S. Euclid, at 7 PM. John Dear will reflect with us on the anti-war, pro-peace psalms, and the psalms that celebrate creation, as a way to ground ourselves in faith and trust in the God of peace during these times of war and climate change, then take questions and sign books. Mark your calendars now, invite a friend or three.

BRIDGET’S BLOG—In her new book, *Jesus, Friend of the Soul*, Joyce Rupp offers reflections for the Lenten season that invite us to respond to Jesus’ invitation: “come and see.”
“By spending time with the qualities of Jesus, we are able to become more acquainted with his personal traits of goodness. We do so by going to where his Spirit stays- in the home of our hearts and in the larger dwelling place of the world. As our hearts ignite with a renewed desire to give ourselves more totally to the abiding love of Jesus, we become credible invitations for others to come and see this divine Companion who entralls us with his Beloved Presence. “My Prayer: Loving Companion, I open myself this Lent to go deep into my heart where you dwell in infinite goodness. May I let go of anything that prevents me from seeing, feeling, thinking or acting according to your Way of loving and serving. May I grow in kindness, compassion and joy in my thoughts, actions and ministry. Amen.

PLAN—Lent is a very long season, and its penitential character can become routine, mundane and commonplace. ...After the ashes wear off, how can I keep the awareness of the commitment to this call to transformation, this personal invitation to the self-emptying, sacrificial love of Jesus? ...I think I’ll begin with the following: Shed old ways that keep you self-centered. Embrace love. Be love. Let the false self and its vanity die out. Be attached to God and God’s dream for you. Seek union with God and let that pure love transform you. Suffering touches everyone. Unite yours to God and all who suffer.—*Judy Principe*