THE BIGGER PICTURE—an Ojibwa Poem:
“Sometimes I go about
In pity for myself and all the while
A great wind is bearing me
Across the sky.”

MMOJ BOOK DISCUSSION—The book is Richard Rohr’s Universal Christ, Chapter 9. After a brief hiatus, meetings will restart Saturday, Feb 22 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 8, 2020 is $131.00. Thank you for your generosity. We are most grateful for your care and concern for our community.

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. Tell them Bridget Mary sent you.

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.


LOCAL HISTORY—Celebrate Black History Month with a screening of an engaging documentary by Booker High School students. The historic African-American community of Newtown has been a vital part of Sarasota since its inception and is still thriving. A discussion led by Newtown leaders Jetson Grimes and Fred Atkins will follow the film, Celebrate Black History Month with a screening of an engaging documentary by Booker High School students. The historic African-American community of Newtown has been a vital part of Sarasota since its inception and is still thriving. A discussion led by Newtown leaders Jetson Grimes and Fred Atkins will follow the film, Newtown 100 on Wednesday, February 12, 7-9pm at the Church of the Trinity, 7225 Lockwood Ridge Rd., Sarasota

PRAYER—Each Saturday from 3:20-3:40 PM in the church sanctuary, members of MMOJ pray from places of emptiness before God, imploring direction for our world. Join us.

BIRTHDAY—On February 14, 2020, the League of Women Voters will be 100 years young. It was formed just six months before women gained the right to vote. This significant event will provide an opportunity for us to recognize the past struggles

Send articles/info by Wed to be published on weekend: rjbannerusa@gmail.com
for women’s right to vote, to celebrate our many successes, and continue our mission to promote an active citizenship and advocacy.

League of Women Voters 100 Year Birthday Party Luncheon will be

**Saturday, February 15**, 11am - 2pm at the IMG Country Club, 4350 El Conquistador Pkwy, Bradenton. Tickets: $35/person; $280/table of 8

Patricia Brigham, President of the League of Women Voters of Florida, will be the featured speaker. For further information and/or purchase ticket, contact info@lwvmanatee.org

**QUOTE**—... the wise person is one who knows and sees God shining through everything, even what seems ugly or despised.—Ilia Delio

**FAILED EFFORT**—Pope Francis’ recent letter, *Querida Amazonia* ("Beloved Amazon") fails to make the connections between destruction of the earth, poverty and women’s inequality in the Church. We cannot ignore that women’s equal status in sacramental ministry and decision-making in the Church is essential for the voice of God to rise up for justice on our earth now.

While Pope Francis makes the connection between ordination and clericalism, though well-meaning, he is operating out of a male, patriarchal model that diminishes women.

The Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests is part of a worldwide movement that ordains women to foster an inclusive church of equals in a non-clerical model of priestly ministry as a prophetic act of justice. We welcome all to the Eucharistic table including LGBTQI and divorced, and are living out a healthy liberated circular model of the *sensus fidelium*, the Spirit moving through the people of God.

With Mary Magdalene at the tomb, we are Easter Morning people proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel to a world immersed in the heavy chains of patriarchal domination of sexism, capitalism, militarism, and the degradation of our Holy Mother Earth. Embracing the ordination of women in a non-clerical circular model to achieve the full equality of women in a global Church is the only way forward.—for RCWP, Bishop Bridget Mary Meehan

**FITTING RESPONSE**—The single biggest heresy that allows us to misinterpret the scriptural tradition is individualism, revealed now in the problems we are facing with climate change, pollution, the loss of biodiversity, and the extinction of many species. We became so anthropocentric and self-referential that we thought God cared not about “every living creature” nor about the new heaven and the new earth (Revelation 21:1), but just about “us people” and not even very many of us. That’s what happens when we go down the track of individualism and lose the mystical level of perception.—Richard Rohr

**SOLID WORDS**—Fear sells newspapers and grabs our attention with every news broadcast. Terrorists might attack, hackers may control the Internet, a gallon of gas may double in price! Shrill talking heads on TV and radio constantly inflate every troublesome situation into catastrophic tragedy. The gullible get scared. People of faith, by contrast, click the “off” button.

For faithful disciples the right agenda drives out fear. We know concerns like immigration, poverty, torture, capital punishment, the environment, workers’ rights, women’s rights, and every violence demand our attention. We People of Faith overcome our fear by speaking out, knowing “the Lord our justice” (Jer 33:16) stands by our side.—John Rausch, Glenmary priest, activist in hill country of Kentucky; died Feb 9.

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 26, 6:PM, ecumenical service with St. Andrew UCC

Send articles/info by Wed to be published on weekend: rjbannerusa@gmail.com