

On Line and On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

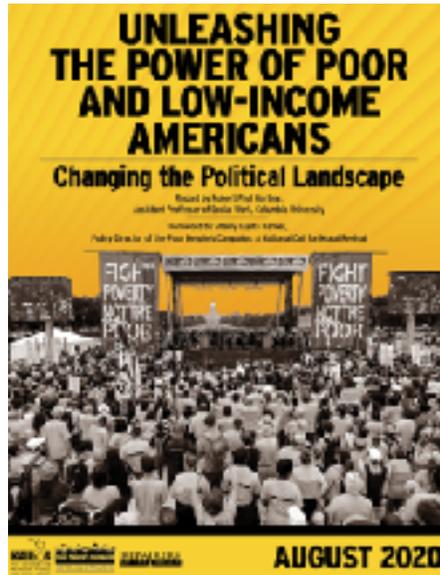
marymotherofjesus.org

INVISIBLE AGENDA—The concerns of the poor have an impact on everyone. Yet, in the lead up to the 2016 elections and for most of the 2020 primary season, there were more than 3 dozen debates without one single hour focused on poverty or the issues facing these millions of people.

How would the political landscape change if the needs and demands of poor and low-income voters were better represented in the electoral process? This new report, **“Unleashing the Power of Poor and Low-Income Americans,”** uses nationally representative data to illustrate the potential voting power of low-income Americans.

Key findings in the report are as follows:

- In the 2016 presidential election, there were 138 million voters out of 225 million eligible voters. 29 million of these voters were poor or low-income and there were an additional 34 million poor or low-income people who were eligible, but who did not vote.
- Low-income people vote about 20 percentage points lower than higher income voters. The main reported reason for not voting is the same as other non-voters: lack of interest in the issues or feeling their vote will not matter.
- The issues that matter most to low-income people are health and economic well being. Illness, disability and transportation have more of an impact on the ability of low-income people to vote.
- Voting by mail represents 1/4 of all votes cast. Voting by mail is increasingly common across personal characteristics and income status, and has been strongly bipartisan in state



implementation.—Rev. Dr. William Barber and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, Co-Chairs, Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

SOON AND VERY SOON—From now until Election Day, the **Pope Francis Voter campaign** will run digital advertisements in key states to speak directly to undecided Catholic voters. These ads will remind viewers that Pope Francis says we must vote based on Catholic values, which include ending racism, caring for immigrants, reducing poverty, protecting the elderly, and more. Digital ads are a powerful tool, but that won't be enough. We need your voice to spread the message.—NETWORK

OFFERINGS—From August 1 to August 15, we received \$855.00 in financial offerings. We are very grateful to everyone who has been able to be so generous in supporting our community during this transitional period we face together. Thanks very much! And please remember to make your regular donations to MMOJ by sending your check to MMOJ % St. Andrew UCC, 6908 Beneva Road, Sarasota. FL 34238.

OUTREACH—MMOJ has long-accepted its obligation to support outreach beyond our community—at this time—**Harvest House.** Harvest House is one of the few nonprofit organizations in Sarasota to work towards the development, preservation, and management of affordable, service-enriched housing. We serve homeless families, veterans, youth ages 16 to 24, and adults with a history of

Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community Mission Statement

We are a Christ-centered community of equals, consisting of women and men, ordained and non-ordained, empowered by the Spirit whose mission is to worship, to serve, to promote compassion, justice and care for creation.

incarceration and substance abuse. Individual donations may be made directly to Harvest House, 3650 17th St, Sarasota 34235. We will continue our tithing to Harvest House for the remainder of this month.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER—Share and Pray Wednesdays for MMOJ 1-2 PM—Join Zoom Prayer Meeting with Bridget Mary: zoom.us/5970440994 Mtg ID: 266 523 404

REFLECTIONS ON LAST WEEKEND LITURGY—So much was revealed to us in the first reading from a book authored by Dorothy Ann Lee, entitled, “How the Cult of the Virgin Mary Turned a Symbol of Female Authority into a Tool of Religious Patriarchy.” Especially where she states: “the cult of the Virgin becomes emblematic of the way the church silences women and marginalizes their experience. Marian piety in the traditional form has deep contradiction at its heart. However, in a 2014 speech, Pope Francis said, ‘The model of maternity for the Church is the Virgin Mary’ who ‘in the fullness of time conceived through the Holy spirit and gave birth to the Son of God.’ “



If that were true, women could be ordained, since their connection to Mary would allow them, like her, to represent the church. If the world received the body of Christ from this woman, Mary, then women today should not be excluded from giving the body of Christ as priest, to the faithful at Mass. Conclusion: The Virgin cult cuts women off from the full, human reality of Mary, and also from the full participation in life of the Church.

C ELEBRATION—It’s Great to Make Mistakes

It’s great to make mistakes
They show us where we’re wrong
They teach us things are different
Than we thought all along

It’s great to make mistakes
They teach us it’s okay
To do things the way we want to do
To learn along the way

It’s great to make mistakes
They teach us all to try
To do things we know how to do
To learn how to get by

It’s great to make mistakes
Or we’d all stay the same
If we didn’t have something out there
Teaching us how not to remain

It’s great to make mistakes
It’s great to get things right
But if we learn, we can be a learner too
Then we will be alright.

*Donna Marcantonio c 2020
written 3/6/94*

WHAT’S AHEAD: LITURGY FOR THIS WEEKEND—Bridget Mary Meehan will be presiding with Peg Bowen. The

theme of the Liturgy will be: Empowered and Responsible for the Well-Being of all. They point out that in the early Jesus movement, the word church referred to gatherings which met in the homes of the followers of Jesus. These gatherings had no hierarchical structures, no priests, nor did they meet in church buildings. Contemporary scholars remind us that Jesus did not give his movement a specific authority structure. In Matthew’s gospel Jesus gave the “keys” to Peter and to the community. So, the

question for the gathering: What does it mean to be empowered and responsible for promoting the flourishing of God’s people, and creation in our church and world today?

Readers of the Word will be Judy and Kevin.

WHAT I WANT—I am a Catholic and I want to be part of a peace church. I want the pope to declare that every parish built in the next one hundred years must be consecrated in the name of a peacemaker or a peace-related image or event. I want to join St. Maximilian the Resister Catholic Community, chant the mid-day psalms at Santa Maria de la Paz Catholic Church, and go to vespers at Franz Jägerstätter Parish. I want my children’s children and their children to participate in the Thomas Berry or Sr. Dorothy Stang Ecojustice group at their high school or join the Dorothy Day Catholic Peace Fellowship at the university. I’d like to go to Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at Christ the Peacemaker Cathedral or participate in the Triduum at St. Oscar Romero Catholic Church. I dream of the day when people will associate Catholics with a commitment to peacemaking as readily as they do the Brethren, the Mennonites, and the Quakers.—*Dan Miller*