

# On Line and On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

[marymotherofjesus.org](http://marymotherofjesus.org)

**RBG, PRESENTE!**—Ruth Bader Ginsburg blazed a trail for women's equality that is historic and revolutionary. Her legacy for justice and equality will live for generations to come. As an advocate for women's rights and a Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg worked tirelessly for equal protection under the law. Our nation has lost a giant advocate for women's rights.

The Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests, a prophetic movement for the full equality of women in the Roman Catholic Church, joins our voices with millions in our nation who expect Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg to be honored both in the process and the selection of a new Supreme Court Justice.

The notorious RBG will never be forgotten. May we be filled with her ferocious spirit for equality and carry her legacy forward in our work for justice: in our communities, churches, states, nation and world!

—statement issued by ARCWP

[ed. note: Bridget Mary announced on Sep. 22 that ARCWP enrollment has topped 100!]

**MORE IS SAID**—Heidi Schlumpf, executive editor of the National Catholic Reporter, was quoted in an announcement of the Supreme Court Justice's passing, as saying: ""One RBG quote making the rounds after her death was her assertion that "Women belong in all places where decisions are being made." That is as true in the church as it for the judiciary. Because church leadership is tied to ordination, women are prevented from being in all places where decisions are made."



To this, a member of the Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests [ARCWP] had the following to say:

Dear Heidi, I enjoyed your article about the church needing 'notorious' women willing to dissent and was surprised that you didn't mention The Roman Catholic Women Priest Movement. These women did not leave the church they were and are excommunicated for their 'notorious' behavior (which is to speak truth to power). These women haven't left the church; they still consider themselves a part of the church. Notorious women get excommunicated and acknowledgement of them is disavowed. Many Holy Women were disavowed in similar ways over the centuries only to be recognized at later dates. Your notorious women are here, perhaps they deserve

more recognition as such. Keep up the good work of advocacy! Many Blessings,  
Jill Striebinger, Member ARCWP

**REQUEST [repeated]**—Looking for phone volunteers to respond to calls to MMOJ for information or help in the time of Covid. You would be on call for a month at a time. Your number would appear if a person googled MMOJ Sarasota FL. Please contact Katy 813 938 5750 or [katyrcwp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:katyrcwp@tampabay.rr.com) for more info.

**OFFERINGS**—Please remember to make your regular donations to MMOJ by sending your check to MMOJ % St. Andrew UCC, 6908 Beneva Road, Sarasota. FL 34238. Thank you for your ongoing generosity. We are most grateful for your

## 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.

overall care and concern for our community. Tabulation of offerings and donations are announced when they are received from St Andrew UCC and—in turn—sent to Joan Meehan, MMOJ Treasurer. This will help to explain the more sporadic reporting of funds received during our ZOOM days.

**QUOTE**—"You have more power within your being than you can ever imagine. Practice being at peace, and you will experience peace, no matter the external conditions . . . Right now, the world needs your peace. We are rarely so urgent in our requests, but now is the time to be the change you wish to see in the world."—Ann Albers

**CONNECTION**—Katy arranged with the **Community Foundation of Sarasota County**, an umbrella group of multiple groups and organizations, that we be able to direct our donations to their "the Designated Fund" . . . and in that large group, it will go to "Community Care," directed by Kirsten Russell [see note below]. She is the Vice President for Community Impact. As a result, **until the end of the year 2020, we will be directing our financial gifts to the Foundation.**

**LETTER RECEIVED**—Dear Katy and Team, Wow! What a wonderful gift you entrusted to the Community Foundation. Thank you for recognizing our community needs and generously responding. Your donation will help keep many and families facing challenges during this pandemic. Our community is fortunate to be blest by your generosity. With appreciation, Kirsten

**REFLECTIONS on last weekend's Liturgy—**

We were all deeply impressed by the message of transformation so well worked into the prayer and song of the evening. Summarizing the core meaning of the Liturgy and quoting from Richard Rohr's chapter on Transformation and Contemplation from the book, *The Universal Christ*, we have the following: Authentic Christianity is not so much a belief system as a life-and-death system that shows you how to give away your life, how to give away your love, and eventually how to give away your death.. Basically, how to give away—and in doing so, to

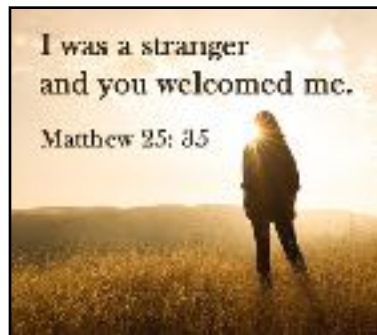
connect with the world, with all other creatures, and with God.

**VOTING**—Recently, the U.S. Catholic Bishops issued their Guidelines and Primacy of Conscience in Voting in Upcoming U.S. Election pamphlet for guidance in the pews. Bridget Mary had this response:

While affirming the importance of primacy of conscience and the principles of Catholic social teaching in the upcoming election, the U.S. bishops clearly promote a one-issue approach in complex moral decision-making in their guideline on Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship. [see #42].

In forming their consciences, Catholics must seek the truth by examining what is right and just as they discern the choices before them. Missing from the bishops guidelines is the example of Jesus in the gospels who embraced an ethic of divine accompaniment and inclusivity in moral decision making. All our political choices should be rooted in the ethics of love and responsible action. What is the best choice among political leaders who will do the most good and least harm in the light of deeply rooted values of justice, compassion and the fullness of life for all?

Bridget Mary Meehan ARCWP,  
[sofiabmm.bmm@gmail.com](mailto:sofiabmm.bmm@gmail.com)



**FAITH RESPONSE**—[published in Herald Tribune, Sat. Sep 19]—We, the members of the **Venice Interfaith Community Association**, feel it is vitally important to speak out for respect and understanding between people of different faiths, particularly in these days when some religious institutions – nationally and, sadly, one locally – are sending out messages of hate and intolerance.

We are blessed to live in a country that protects the right to worship as we please and to speak our minds as people of faith. When that right is abused and messages that divide and insult are publicly displayed by religious institutions, those religious institutions must be marginalized and shunned.

Religion has an important role to play in bringing this country together, in standing up for justice, love and understanding. We will never be silent and allow those who preach a gospel of hate and intolerance to hijack the true message of religion. We call on all people of conscience, religious or not, to speak out always for what Abraham

Lincoln called “the better angels of our nature.”—  
[MMOJ was a co-signer to this published letter]

**NEED A SPIRITUAL KICK?**—Here is some advice from Board Secretary, MaryAl: Because we are not meeting in a church building to give out books of daily meditations for Advent, we are asking each of you to look on your websites for daily prayers. Go to your favorites, Richard Rohr meditations, Franciscan Media, Jesuit spirituality, Joan Chittister, etc. I’m sure you can find a daily prayer that will be just what you need.



[For further information on the above course being offered, check out [artfulspirituality.com](http://artfulspirituality.com) ]

**IMPORTANT INITIATIVE**—September 21st was the International Day of Peace and the start day for the Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action, running through October 2nd, Gandhi's birthday. [Although this is a late announcement of this initiative and correlative events mentioned below, one still is available this week. But, first, more on the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative.]

The Catholic Nonviolence Initiative started in 2016 and a handful of Pax Christi USA members have been at the center of the effort. One of them is Judy Coode, Project Coordinator for the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative and former Chair of the Pax Christi USA National Council.

“Nonviolence is a charism that is at the heart of Pax Christi USA's identity,” said Judy, “and we're excited to share with you that we're diving deeper into a project that is designed to expand the theology, spirituality and practice of active nonviolence within the Catholic Church.”

This week's event will be **Monday, Sept. 28** at 4pm EDT: "Confronting Institutionalized Violence with Gospel Nonviolence", a webinar on confronting racism, militarism and nuclear weapons through Gospel nonviolence with Pax Christi USA Teachers of Peace Art Laffin, Msgr. Ray East, and Marie Dennis [former ex. dir. of Pax Christi International]. For registration, go to [PaxChristiUSA.org](http://PaxChristiUSA.org)



**NONVIOLENT LIVING**—If the purpose of nonviolence is the creation of the Beloved Community, we have our work cut out for us. Simplified: Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people. For Christian people, it is imitation of Jesus as the living Body of Christ on earth: active, nonviolent resistance to evil, even to the cost of our lives.

It would be good for us to learn about nonviolence as a way of life. A portion of each weekend's OLOP will be devoted to this understanding, and lead us—hopefully by the beginning of next year—to the taking of a community/individual pledge/vow of nonviolence [nonviolent living]. More to follow.

**MEASURING JUSTICE**—I've come to believe that the true measure of our commitment to justice, the character of our society, our commitment to the rule of law, fairness, and equality cannot be measured by how we treat the rich, the powerful, the privileged, and the respected among us. The true measure of our character is how we treat the poor, the disfavored, the accused, the incarcerated, and the condemned.—*Bryan Stevenson*