

On Line and On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

marymotherofjesus.org



GOING ON FROM HERE—No matter the outcome of the election, 2020 has demonstrated the myriad ways American capitalism exploits marginalized communities, including depriving vulnerable populations of housing and adequate health care amid a global pandemic. As countless Americans have lost their loved ones, U.S. billionaires continue to make billions.

As Pope Francis mentions in Fratelli Tutti, we cannot be "a society that seeks prosperity but turns its back on suffering."

As an institutional church, we must use our faith to confront and challenge the violence inflicted upon our nation's most marginalized.

Since the first coronavirus case was confirmed in the United States in January, more than 230,000 Americans have died; and in New York, the center of the pandemic here, more than 30,000 people have lost their lives.

Thousands have lost health insurance, jobs, savings and their homes. Along with being disproportionately affected by this pandemic, communities of color continue to face violence at the hands of armed police officers.

Violence against these communities has always existed in our nation. But in 2020, a year when both political parties have used our faith as campaign ploys, extremist violence is on the rise, and individual U.S. bishops have denigrated racial

justice efforts, many BIPOC [black, Indigenous and people of color] are wondering if we are truly safe in the Catholic Church.

We cannot move forward as a church and nation until we collectively mourn the countless American lives lost this year, including grappling with the ways capitalism has directly contributed to the various crises we are seeing this year.

The Catholic Church, as many BIPOC have written this year, must be a part of this public reckoning. This begins with the all-male, almost all-white body of Catholic leaders, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.— Olga Segura [National Catholic Reporter article]

ADVENT RETREAT with Fr. Bob Cushing—This is a very special offer, because this Advent series only has previously happened in Birmingham, AL, each year at Mary's House, a Catholic Worker House. Two year's ago, Lee and I traveled down for the weekend program. This year, we are invited via ZOOM to join Bob Cushing, a retired but very active peace and justice advocate and priest of Savannah, GA. His basic theme will be, "Prepare the Way for a Nonviolent Revolution." In further explanation, he adds, "In the desert of Covid 19, the nonviolent Christ calls us to a radical metanoia. Jesus, our nonviolent friend of prophets and saints, will show us how."

The schedule is for an evening session on Friday, Dec 4, three sessions on Saturday, and one on Sunday, Dec 6. You will be dealing with Central Standard Time [one hour later than here], so you might miss Saturday's session from 3-5PM [4-6 our time]. Outside of that, all other sessions are reachable. To register, you will use the following: <https://www.maryshousebham.com/advent2020> Cost will be \$20. I highly recommend this event.

REFLECTIONS on last weekend's Liturgy—

An explanation was offered right from the start: At these difficult times, it is now more important than ever to gather together to support one another as

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.

“companions on this journey”, a journey of the unknown. Our theme asks us to reflect on the results of Tuesday’s election, its impacts on our country, and the Covid pandemic burning across the USA. We are challenged, where do we find hope and how are we called to be transformed as citizens and as a country? After the homily, Katy invited the community to share answers to the question: What tomorrow ... you imagine? What is your hope? Many answers were offered, but I include the last given by Anna Davis: Seeing our country as an experiment [expression of George Washington in his Farewell Address] of joining many differences, just like a family as it extends. This experiment was temporarily upset; but now we are offered the opportunity to restore order.

STILL LOOKING—Kathryn Shea is heading a task force made up of volunteer MMOJ members, ordained and non-ordained. This committee will write a job description for our music ministry position(s), develop a process for handling performance assessments and how those issues will be resolved in a respectful and transparent manner and identify who will manage. So, committee members are needed. If you would like to help in this effort, please contact Kathryn at KSheaconsulting@outlook.com or call 941-650-6592.

OUTREACH—Until the end of the year 2020, we will be directing our financial gifts to the **Community Foundation of Sarasota County**, an umbrella group of multiple groups and organizations. We will be directing our donations to their “the Designated Fund” ...and in that large group, it will go to “Community Care,” directed by Kirsten Russell, Vice President for Community Impact.

PREPARING for this weekend’s Liturgy —Mary Katy Stadohaur & Michael Rigdon will preside at our MMOJ liturgy on Saturday November 14. The theme will be “Celebrating All MMOJ Saints.” Joan Pesce & Jerry Bires will be the readers. Mike added this explanation: We celebrated the feast of all Saints/all souls two weeks ago with Bridget Mary and Pat presiding. But the month of November offers us the opportunity to celebrate the communion of Saints again. So that’s what Mary Kay and I decided to do. We hope the readings and our shared homily time will promote for all of us a time to remember.

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. We are grateful for your continued contribution toward the growth and development of 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.

NEED—Dear MMOJ Community, Once a year we ask you for a donation to People’s Catholic Seminary. Please consider supporting us and the work we do with our candidates and deacons. PCS is a not-for-profit organization and all courses are free for ARCWP candidates and deacons. The courses align with the ordination units and allow the participants to work in a cohort model where they share and comment on assignments with each other, program companions, and course facilitators. To read more about us and to donate, click here: <https://pcseminary.blogspot.com/>. With gratitude for each of you, Mary Theresa and Bridget Mary



40TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL—On Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 4 PM we will hold a special memorial gravesite service to honor the four El Salvadoran Churchwomen Martyrs. Via ZOOM, we will gather, pray and reflect upon the significant witness of their lives for El Salvador and for us as well. All this we will do around the gravesite of Jean Donovan, one of the four, whose earthly remains are interred at Sarasota Memorial Park—doing this virtually. More information next weekend.

INVITE—sponsored by the Service Team for Centering Prayer Groups of Manatee and Sarasota Counties, there will be a Centering Prayer Introductory Program on Saturday, Nov. 21, 2020 via Zoom, 8:45AM – 12:30PM. No cost. During these challenging times Centering Prayer is a way to draw closer to God. It is a Christian form of meditation that serves as a method of movement into contemplative prayer, a way to open oneself to the Divine Presence and, through the healing of the Holy Spirit, to be of greater service to those around us. For more information and registration please contact Bob Ferkenhoff at bferken@verizon.net or 941-350-6920. Please provide both your email and cell contact info.

FORMATION FOR NONVIOLENT LIVING

[The following comes from John Dear's book entitled, "The Nonviolent Life."]

THREE DIMENSIONS—I propose a simple vision of nonviolence that all can aspire to, three dimensions of nonviolence:

1. Practicing nonviolence toward ourselves;
2. Practicing nonviolence toward all others, all creatures and creation;
3. Practicing active nonviolence by joining the global grassroots movement of nonviolence, practicing all three dimensions simultaneously if we are to become authentic practitioners of nonviolence.



We are called to a new kind of centered mindfulness where we consciously practice an interior and exterior nonviolence, where we practice nonviolence in our private lives as well as work publicly and actively in the movements for disarmament, justice and peace through creative nonviolence. It means becoming in our own ordinariness new Gandhis, Kings and Dorothy Days.

Dr. King: I plan to stand by nonviolence because I have found it to be a philosophy of life that regulates not only my dealings in the struggle for racial justice but also my dealings with people and my own self.

nonviolence

Nonviolence is what the spiritual life is all about. God, we are learning, is a God of nonviolence. A Godly life, then, is a nonviolent life. Every one of us is on a journey toward our loving, nonviolent

God. Along the way, we discover the God of nonviolence within us and among us. In this lifelong pilgrimage, we come to rely on the living God of nonviolence and peace, and to renounce the false gods of violence and war. The God of peace becomes the focus of our lives, and we seek to serve the God of peace as instruments of God's peace. This is our great quest...the purpose and meaning of life.

Practicing nonviolence toward ourselves

Violence can be simply defined as forgetting who we are, forgetting our basic humanity, ignoring or not claiming our true identity as a human being, as a daughter or son of the God of peace, a brother or sister of every other human being.

nonviolence defined

Nonviolence can be define as remembering who we are and recalling each day who we are, and constantly reclaiming the truth of reality—that we are all one, all of us daughters and sons of the God of peace, sisters and brothers of one another.

process

The more we can claim our core identities as God's beloved sons and daughters, and therefore as the beloved brothers and sisters of one another, the better we will be able to practice nonviolence like Jesus, and fulfill the mission of peace that he sends us on. As we honor who we are, we will start to be more nonviolent to ourselves, and non-cooperate with our own inner violence, so that the God of peace, the One who tells us who we are, can dwell at peace within us. *...to be continued*

