

# On Line and On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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



**SPECIAL**—The Venice Interfaith Community Association welcomes you to a virtual interfaith THANKSGIVING Service—“Unite and Bind Us Together: An Evening of Prayer, Song and Reflection—on Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 7:00 PM. You may access the Thanksgiving Service by going to the Venice Interfaith Community Association Website found at [www.venicefaith.org](http://www.venicefaith.org) - Venice Interfaith Community Association YouTube - Venice Interfaith Community Association Facebook

**REPEAT—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.

**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 virtually around the gravesite of Jean Donovan, one of the four, whose earthly remains are interred at Sarasota Memorial Park. ZOOM connect will be forthcoming in an email. Watch for it.



JEAN DONOVAN

**REFLECTIONS on last weekend’s Liturgy**—It was felt that since the entire month of November was set aside to remember the “saints who have gone before us,” we needed to once again celebrate the communion of saints’ memory this past weekend. Led by Michael and Mary Kay, the time following the readings was filled with one after another sharing of names. And we responded then as we do now: We remember them.

**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

**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.

Kirsten Russell, Vice President for Community Impact.

A community contribution of \$500 has been sent to Salvation Army in Sarasota. Later, another check for \$500 will be sent to the same source for Christmas expenses.

**PREPARING for this weekend's Liturgy**—In the spirit of ending the Liturgical Year, Jim Marsh and Joan Pesce will preside at next weekend's Liturgy proclaiming the Cosmic Christ. Readers will be Judy and Kevin Connelly.

**OFFERINGS**—It was revealed at our November Board Meeting, we are successfully supporting ourselves through contributions received each week. That is true at this time. To keep it happening, 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. Again, tabulation of offerings and donations will be announced when they are received from St Andrew UCC and—in turn—sent to Joan Meehan, MMOJ Treasurer, for posting.

**ANNUAL REQUEST—GIFT GIVING**--The Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests (ARCWP), a branch of the international women priest movement working to renew priestly ministry in the all-male dominated Roman Catholic Church, asks for your financial help. Needs recently assessed by members are three-fold: A process of application and guidance that helps discern a calling and provides a Program Companion to accompany candidates on the path to ordination; a program of study



through the People's Catholic Seminary that prepares for ordination and provides ongoing professional development once ordained; a wealth of information for the general public on our ARCWP web-site [www.arcwp.org]. Any gift, no matter the amount, makes you part of our movement for justice and equality in our Church. Please give, as you are able. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Mail your gift to [new address] ARCWP/5342 Clark Road - PMB 1073/Sarasota, FL. 34233 and receive a recent copy of the quarterly newsletter, Leading.

**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.

**QUOTE**—"The discipline of nonviolence requires of us that we move into the various forms of noncooperation. We will probably move slowly, one step at a time. Each step will lead to another step; each step will be a withdrawal from support of what is wrong and at the same time a building of an alternative."—Shelley Douglass

**TIMELY PRAYER**—Brother Jesus, who wept at the death of a friend, we cry out with all who are grieving loss during this time of COVID and political turmoil. You overturned tables in anger at the wrongful actions of leaders. Walk with us as we transform our anger into outpouring love and passionate action for justice. Aware that your Spirit is moving through us in our grief and anger, may we become more like you as we serve others each day. —Bridget Mary Meehan

**PEOPLE'S CATHOLIC SEMINARY [PCS] FORUM**—On December 10, PCS Forum presents Dr. Phillis Isabella Sheppard speaking about Womanist Theological Approaches to Religion and Society, from 1:00pm and 7:00pm EST. Dr. Sheppard is the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Associate Professor of Religion, Psychology, and Culture at Vanderbilt Divinity School and Graduate Department of Religion. She is a practical theologian and her areas of teaching



and research foci include womanist approaches to psychology and culture, religious experience, ethnography, sexuality, and spirituality. Keep the above dates open; more to follow.

# FORMATION FOR NONVIOLENT LIVING

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

## PRACTICING NONVIOLENCE TOWARD OURSELVES

**Practicing nonviolence** means claiming our fundamental identity as the beloved daughters and sons of the God of peace, and thus, going forth into the world of war as peacemakers to love every single human being.

John Dear: *Active nonviolence naturally flows from those who live fully within their fundamental identity as God's children through daily mindfulness and conscious awareness and who struggle to remain faithful to that core identity every moment for the rest of our lives.*

**Go deep within** by daily meditation, contemplation, study, concentration and mindfulness

**Go deep without** by seeking and practicing active, universal love for the whole human race, with no exceptions.

**Inner Transformation**—We need to let go of our interior violence, cultivate interior nonviolence, to eliminate violence toward ourselves, and practice treating ourselves nonviolently from now on.

John Dear: *If we consciously tend to ourselves, we may actually have a real gift of peace to offer others and the world. We will be a gift and a blessing to those who meet us and the world at large.*

**TEND TO OUR OWN WOUNDS,  
SEEK OUR OWN INNER HEALING,  
CONSCIOUSLY WALK THE ROAD OF  
NONVIOLENCE ONE STEP AT A TIME**



Shelley and Jim Douglass at weekly stand for peace in Birmingham, AL.