

On Line and On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

marymotherofjesus.org



FUTURE CHANGE: LESS IS BEST—How much is enough? [In the vow of nonviolence, we are essentially asked to “live simply, so others might simply live...so,] as we reflect on simple living and consumption, this is a question that we must take to prayer and honestly evaluate in our own lives. How much food, how much clothing, how much air travel do we need to sustain ourselves? The answer will be different for each person, but for most people living in the United States today, the answer is less than we have now. Consider the following questions as you contemplate how much is enough in your own life:

Do you feel that you have a good sense of how much is enough in your own life? Are there areas in your life that you may be able to live with less that would benefit the planet? Consider clothing purchases, food, technology or other areas where you practice conspicuous or unconscious consumption.

Do you ever use shopping as a coping mechanism or a way to feel momentarily happy and fulfilled? If so, what is a different activity that you could substitute—one that would provide a good feeling but no burden bringing home?

Consider an item that you were excited about purchasing. Has it provided lasting happiness? Do you still use this item, or is it possibly time to pass it on to someone else? Does the item align with your values in terms of how it was produced and its impact on the earth?—Brenna Davis, an NCR article

REFLECTIONS on last weekend’s Liturgy—

Weekend Liturgy—Within a wonderfully constructed and presented liturgy by Kathryn Shea and Lee Breyer, Lee concluded the Gospel message and Liturgy of the Word by focusing on three questions drawn from the scriptures of the day—three that were presented to The Baptizer in the deserted wilderness: Who are you? What are yo u doing? What do you say about yourself? Lee turned those around: “Ask yourself the same questions,” he continued, “Who are you? What are you doing? What do you say about yourself?” Great answers came forward.

Joan Pesce: Usually these questions are asked of me when I am doing something...I [might] fall short of what I am doing...[still] I am of God... becoming what [God makes] of me...Heaven knows who I am.

Alicia: When we help one another, we reveal who we are...I’m helping who I am.

Lu-Ann [NY friend of Donnamarie]: Where do I place my identity [who am I?]....Jesus [gives me direction when he says] “Apart from me, you can do nothing.” So, all I do is for Christ’s glory.

The conclusion of the Liturgy provided the following gems: [Kathryn] Let us go forth in compassion and peace; holding fast to what is good and rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. And may God, who promises peacemakers a place in the KINdom of heaven, guide us on our different paths through our pilgrimage on earth to our heavenly home. May we do so with God’s gifts of Christ-like love for one another – and with a hunger for justice everywhere – in ourselves, our homes, our

CHRISTMAS LITURGY
Dec 24 at 4PM

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.

countries, and the world in which we live ... and do that with no exceptions. [Lee] Be with us as we continue on our paths and follow in the footsteps of Jesus – for we are the face of God to the world...and may be reflect our loving God well to everyone we meet. Amen.

OUTREACH—Until the end of the year 2020, we will continue directing our financial gifts to the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, an umbrella group of multiple groups and various 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. As has been done so often in our past history of giving,.

PREPARING for this weekend's Liturgy —On

Saturday, marking the fourth week of Advent, Dotty will preside and Joan Pesce will co-preside. Readers

will be Kevin and Judy. The theme will be a celebration of Mary, visited by a Messenger of the Sacred Spirit with a profound request: would she be willing to bring a most extraordinary child into the world, to become the mother of Jesus. In saying YES Mary began an epic journey, fraught with incredible challenges that she could never have planned for or imagined. Mary stood up and took action to ensure that both she and her child would be protected and would be safe. Today we honor all those women who fight and even die to protect their children. May they find support and love on their journey.



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. 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.

FOR NEEDED PRAYER—Remember, members, family and friends: Bridget Mary; Sally and Janet—all who are home, but in need of serious prayer on their behalf.

MMOJ Board Meeting—On Monday, December 21 the Board will meet via Zoom from 10:00 am-noon. The following are the Meeting ID: 776 345 0316 and Passcode: 1066. If you will be joining us by phone, dial 1- 301- 715-8592 and use the same ID and Passcode. The agenda will cover year end issues and planning for the upcoming **Annual Meeting on February 13th**. Your input is important to us, so please join us if you can.

TOWARD A VOW OF NONVIOLENCE

Some History

MLK JR—“May all who suffer oppression in this world reject the self-defeating method of retaliatory violence and choose the method that seeks to redeem....Through using this method wisely and courageously we will emerge from the bleak and desolate midnight of ‘man’s inhumanity to man’ into bright daybreak of freedom and justice.”

In the 1963 Birmingham, Alabama Civil Rights Campaign, we can recall the David-and-Goliath-like battle that pitted MLK, JR, school children, and the best of the Civil Rights movement against vicious police Chief Eugene “Bull” Connor, the Ku Klux Klan and white racists—a battle that showed the world the power of organized nonviolence.

Preparation—First and foremost, all Birmingham resisters were violence. We have learned well how to be violent. We not have to unlearn those lessons and learn how to be nonviolent. We need to be trained in nonviolence.”

The Birmingham movement worked hard for many months training everyone, including the youth, in the practice and methodology of nonviolence. Every participant was required to undergo nonviolence training. And they learned their lessons well.

All were required to sign a pledge of nonviolence, which was written by Rev. James Lawson. That training and signed commitment, within the context of the strong local and national movement, the brilliant organizing, the willingness to risk jail and death, and the charismatic leadership of Dr. King, channeled the energy of the youth into a contagious force of nonviolence that would wear down even the most hardened white racist and our worst apartheid.

Result—On the third day of May, 1963, thousands of black children marched through the streets right up to the opposing fireman. The day before, many of the children were brutalized when

those same fire hoses were turned on them. All of them embodied the words of Dr. King, who said, "We will match your capacity to inflict suffering with our capacity to accept suffering and we will wear you down until justice comes." "Turn the hoses on them!", screamed Bull Connors—The children began to sing, as they continued walking forward. They proved that Jesus' method works. They modeled the Christian way. The fireman put down their hoses. Some of them started crying. The singing children walked through their ranks.

The Original Pledge by Rev. James Lawson :

I hereby pledge myself—my person and body—to the nonviolent movement. Therefore I will keep the following ten commandments:

1. Meditate daily on the teachings and life of Jesus.
2. Remember always that the nonviolent movement seeks justice and reconciliation, not victory.
3. Walk and talk in the manner of love, for God is love.
4. Pray daily to be used by God in order that all men and women might be free.
5. Sacrifice personal wishes in order that all men and women might be free.
6. Observe with both friend and foe the ordinary rules of courtesy.
7. Seek to perform regular service for others and for the world.
8. Refrain from the violence of fist, tongue or heart.
9. Strive to be in good spiritual and bodily health.
10. Follow the directions of the movement.

VOW OF NONVIOLENCE

Recognizing the violence in my own heart, yet trusting in the goodness and mercy of God, I vow for one year to practice the nonviolence of Jesus who taught us in the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the daughters and sons of God... You have learned how it was said, 'You must love your neighbor and hate your enemy,' but I say to you, 'Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you. In this way, you will be daughters and sons of your Creator in heaven.

Before God the Creator and the Sanctifying Spirit, I vow to carry out in my life the love and example of Jesus, by striving for peace within myself and seeking to be a peacemaker in my daily life; by accepting suffering rather than inflicting it; by refusing to retaliate in the face of provocation and violence; by persevering in nonviolence of tongue and heart; by living conscientiously and simply so that I do not deprive others of the means to live; by actively resisting evil and working nonviolently to abolish war and the causes of war from my own heart and from the face of the earth

God, I trust in Your sustaining love and believe that just as You gave me the grace and desire to offer this, so You will also bestow abundant grace to fulfill it

The above vow of nonviolence comes to us from Pax Christi USA members Eileen Egan and John Dear. I propose that we join as a community on World Day of Peace, January First, 2021, and pledge together the above vow. Then, forevermore let us be known as an inclusive catholic **peace** community