

On Line and On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

marymotherofjesus.org



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CHRISTMAS GIFT—Becoming part of the conscious circle of humanity and the fruits of the spirit [love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control] can be the gifts we receive and give to each other and to our planet this Christmas. How to do this: Find a quiet place and, after a time of contemplative sitting, reflect on which "toxins" are most threatening for you and for our planet. Become aware of the human behaviors that contribute to that toxicity and hold them compassionately. Write out on separate slips of paper the fruits of the spirit. Let them speak to you. Allow one to emerge that feels as if it is being given to you as a gift for today. Imagine living out of that gift in the days, weeks and months to come. What does that look like? How would what you do and how you are lessen the smog of our toxic atmosphere? You may want to write down your reflection so that you can remember it later.

Then picture yourself joined with others who have also received their gift. Hands opened in a posture of embrace, empty your mind and simply sit and in contemplative silence surrender to Divine Energy pulsing in you and throughout reality. After a period of time give thanks and then just be aware and awake to any insights that arise in the days to come.

You may want to share this meditation with others and to offer them this as a gift for this COVID Christmas.

Note: Too often we get dragged down when we look at the toxic side of humanity or the destructive power of the universe. It is important to remember that moments of chaos and crisis give birth to new possibilities. The Incarnation reminds us that God loved this planet and all of its creatures so much that divinity intermingled with humanity in a most profound way. We have that inheritance, and we are asked to fully receive it as gift. Then when we join hands in the conscious circle of humanity, we will commit to protect, uphold, and bring to completion all that has been set in motion since the beginning of time .—
Nancy Sylvester [National Catholic Reporter]



PROUD—"Growing up in my mother's Pueblo household made me fierce. My life has not been easy. I struggled with homelessness. I relied on

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.

Send articles/info by Wed to be published on weekend: rjbannerusa@gmail.com

food stamps and raised my child as a single mom. These struggles give me perspectives though, so that I can help people to succeed. My grandparents, who were taken away from their families as children and sent to boarding school in an effort to destroy their traditions and identities, maintained our culture.

"This moment is profound when we consider the fact that a former secretary of the interior once proclaimed his goal to, quote, civilize or exterminate us. I'm a living testament to the failure of that horrific ideology. I also stand on the shoulders of my ancestors and all the people who have sacrificed so that I can be here."—*Deb Haaland*, Congresswoman for NM01. Former Dem Party Chair. Proud UNM Lobo mom. Pueblo woman. Marathon runner. Gourmet cook. She/her. Added twitter feed after nomination to head the Department of the Interior: "A voice like mine has never been a Cabinet secretary or at the head of the Department of Interior. Growing up in my mother's Pueblo household made me fierce. I'll be fierce for all of us, our planet, and all of our protected land. I am honored and ready to serve."—various sources, including National Catholic Reporter

COMMUNITY
MEETING ON
FEB 13
after Liturgy

their children." After the readings, Joan Pesce, co-presiding with Dotty Shugrue, shared that Mary reacted much like ourselves when faced with so much being revealed to her by the angel. Thoughts exhausted her, so she let go and let peace and joy take over. So too, concluded

Joan, must we like Mary let go the worries and strife as we bear Christ to the world. Mary Kay then added how she was struck by the scriptural words heard today, "You have nothing to fear, God has a surprise for you!" words struck her deeply as she faced cancer. Bridget Mary added that she saw Mary as companion, sister and example to the community as we all seek to give birth to Christ along our journey. And Kathy Curley shared her personal story of being pregnant, overwhelmed with family, education demands, etc., yet heard an inner response to her situation: "Don't be afraid!"—words from our gospel message—also, "nothing is impossible with God." And Dotty added her childhood days of desiring to be just like Mary, traits of softness, gentleness, holiness, traits she personally was finding difficult to imitate. As Dotty learned in later years, Mary was more than she appeared in childhood and worthy of imitating as mentioned by others today.

FUTURE OF PEACE—it is time to found a national peace academy on a par with our national service academies, where military and civilian personnel will receive the most up-to-date and cutting edge peace-building and conflict transformation training and technologies.

Further, we call for a cabinet-level department that will provide the necessary partner in government for our local communities and states to implement programs and activities that will reduce violence domestically while intentionally creating a peaceful, just, and sustainable society. —from a position paper issued from the Peace Alliance Foundation, authored by Marianne H. Perez, October 2006. Ed. note: Not much progress since]



TOWARD A PEACE-FILLED FUTURE—Torn as we may be, we continue to seek justice, make peace, and speak truth because deep down we are compelled by the vision of a new world; we have been caught by the One who even now is making all things new; and with knowledge beyond

words, we know that this crazy vision is worthy of trust.

Our broken world and hurting nation need what we have to offer. Despite our fears, we offer the certainty that our homeland cannot be secure if we strive to preserve the status quo at any cost. We offer, despite our divided hearts, the certainty that brute, unilateral force will never make us rest in tranquility. And no matter what other doubts we may have, we offer the certainty that security does not come from open markets and military might, but from the promotion of basic human rights for all.

We know what the world does not yet accept. We have something, a saving wisdom, that our country now urgently needs. Will we have the faith and courage to offer it?

REFLECTIONS on last weekend's Liturgy—

This was the proposed theme, "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. We honor all those women who fight and even die to protect

Let us pray for the healing of our own torn hearts and divided loyalties, ending as we began: [Holy One], make me an instrument of your peace...— Bryan Massingale, February 3, 2003 [Ed. note: We still keep trying, starting with ourselves.]

OUTREACH—As we close this year, our financial gifts will be directed to the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, an umbrella group of multiple groups and various organizations. Our donations will go to their “the Designated Fund” ...and in that large group, to “Community Care,” directed by Kirsten Russell, Vice President for Community Impact. Outreach, handled by Lee Breyer, will soon announce our next recipient of our financial gifts. Remember: We are donating 5% of all offerings received each month to Outreach, and Outreach will continue to focus on food and hunger issues of our surrounding communities.

PREPARING for this weekend’s Liturgy — Elena Garcia presides with Judy Connelly this coming weekend, honoring the Holy Family. Readers are Katy Zatsick and Lee Breyer. The theme of the Liturgy will be “Humanity’s expectation of God as a Super Hero.” For centuries, men and women of faith were aware of their helplessness to rectify everything that is wrong in life. People prayed for God to come to earth as a Messiah, a Savior, to clean up the earth and right all that is wrong with it. After all those centuries of longing and waiting we got a helpless naked baby unable to feed himself. That was not the way anyone expected this to happen. They had expected a Superhuman, a Superstar with muscle, intellect, and physical stature. They expected someone whose invulnerability, and invincibility would simply dwarf all the powers on the planet in a way that there could be no argument, no resistance, no standing against its presence. It appears we still fantasize in the same way. In the celebrate of the Holy Family today we stand to gain insight and wisdom into God’s revealed Love for us that is far more powerful than anything we can imagine. Her presence in us makes us into human super heroes. “Be still and you will understand.”

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. Joan posted \$730 of offerings and donations which were recently received.

NOTE: You will receive your total contribution amount for the year 2020 via email, facilitated by Joan Meehan and her husband, Tom.

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

SPECIAL ZOOM RETREAT—You are invited on Saturday **January 30, 2021**, 8:30-Noon (EST) to be part of a Zoom Retreat on the life and Teaching of St. Teresa of Avila. The purpose of this special retreat is to introduce St. Teresa of Avila’s life and context, to reflect on passages from her spiritual masterpiece, The Interior Castle, to experience Teresa’s passionate, bridal mysticism. The morning will consist of; reading and reflecting on the “seven castles” as Teresa describes her experience of the spiritual journey in her book The Interior Castle, Centering Prayer and time will be provided for both large and breakout -group sharing. According to James Finley from the Center for Action and Contemplation, Teresa is a trustworthy spiritual guide because she is an excellent teacher of the contemplative path. Like us, Teresa lived during a tumultuous time in the world and within Christianity. Learning of her experience can lead us to hope, healing and oneness in this challenging time. If you are interested in registering for this experience, Please contact Susan Holm: sjeholm@me.com Deadline for registering: Friday, Jan. 22, 2021



MINISTRY, GOVERNANCE AND DECISION-MAKING AT MARY MOTHER OF JESUS

March 22 2014

[This document serialized in this edition and in following editions was sent out to the entire membership of Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community. Members of the MMOJ Board asked that it be serialized in On Line On Point. As we prepare for our Community Meeting on February 13, it would be good if we re-read and pondered over this document.]



Background:

From Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests' Vision Statement **"A new model of ordained ministry in a renewed Roman Catholic Church"** October 1 2011 Bishop Bridget Mary Meehan and Katy Zatsick are signatories. **MMOJ is an ARCWP faith community and this statement under girds who the community is striving to become.**

The mission of the ARCWP is to spiritually prepare, ordain, and support women who are theologically qualified, who are committed to an inclusive non-hierarchical model of Church, who are committed to a renewed priestly ministry, and who are called by their communities...to minister within the Roman Catholic Church.... Our specific charism within the broader RCWP movement is to live Gospel equality and justice for all in the church and in society now. We work in solidarity with the poor and marginalized for transformative justice in partnership with all believers. We view such justice as constitutive of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **Our vision is to live as a community of equals in decision-making as an organization and within all our faith communities.** We advocate the renewal of the vision of Jesus in the Gospel in our church and in the world. (My emphasis)

[to be continued]