

# On Line and On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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



## REFLECTIONS on last weekend's Liturgy—

The theme chosen for this by the co-presiders was to stress our personal 'awakening,' much like the great epiphany that was experienced by the three who tracked the star that led to the Messiah. Surprisingly, this personal awakening or EPIPHANY was to become *very personal*. I need to start by saying that—unlike previous weekends—I was not onboard for the Liturgy of the Word that led to the homiletic sharing by Jim Marsh this weekend. To understand where I was at, I need to tell you that I had been busy since noon single-handedly removing the ornaments, lights, etc., from the Christmas Tree, taking apart and boxing up the tree itself, packing up and storing away all our seasonal decorations, made a salad for the evening meal, and set the table. I was exhausted. Nothing seemed more important than to sink into my La-Z-boy recliner before the TV. Suddenly my I-phone rang away. It was Michael Rigdon asking me if I was intending to be part of the afternoon Liturgy. EPIPHANY! I was so embarrassed. I assured Michael I was on my way, something I did not easily accomplish due to the network problems many of you had already dealt with. I arrived just as Jim closed out the shared homily time. I was so happy that I was part of the community celebration. But I was so grateful that Michael

revealed to me this bigger picture for the day. It was truly EPIPHANY!

**OUTREACH**—Outreach is presently handled by Lee Breyer, who will soon be announcing the next recipient of our financial gifts. Remember: We are donating 5% of all offerings received each month to Outreach, as Outreach will continue to focus on food and hunger issues of our surrounding communities.

**AFTER THE VOW OF NONVIOLENCE**— It is so fitting that the co-presiders for last weekend's Liturgy decided to position the taking of a vow of nonviolence immediately after the Body of Christ consumed and united as the Body of Christ into to being even more the Body of Christ to the world in which we live. As the long-time peace activist, Emmanuel Charles McCarthy explained to his small ZOOM audience New Year's Eve [of which I was in attendance], "Nonviolence is living as Jesus did, living out the will of God." It is God's

will that we live at-one-ment, in communion, in peace and righteousness, in love with everyone—no exceptions. How often we repeat similar wording in our weekend Liturgies. Taking a vow of nonviolence, therefore, is living out one's full commitment as the Body of Christ. For all of us who joined this first vow of nonviolence, a pledge to try and live nonviolently for the next calendar year,

something that will help us on our daily journey is the Vow of Nonviolence Prayer sheet that was available via email on the weekend [if you did not obtain a sheet, do let me know]. Handily divided into the seven days of the week, we are provided with a daily reminder of our commitment. All of us will have our difficulties with this commitment, especially when faced with [Thursday] "persevering in nonviolence of tongue and heart," or [Friday] "Living conscientiously and simply so that I do not deprive others of the means to live—or—live simply so others might simply live. Each

MMOJ  
COMMUNITY  
MEETING  
**FEB 13**  
after Liturgy

## 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](mailto:rjbannerusa@gmail.com)

day we end with a prayer that stresses The Holy One got us started and is going to keep us going. With that, let's go together one day at a time.

**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. Joan posted \$170 this past weekend.

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

**FOR NEEDED PRAYER**—Remember, members, family and friends: Ernie Zavodnyik, Cheri McDonough's son, Michael, Bridget Mary; Sally, Sally's sister, Jim Marsh's family, Mary Kay Stoudehar, Diane and Janet—all who are in need of serious prayer on their behalf.

**A MORNING WITH THERESA OF AVILA**—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: [sjholm@me.com](mailto:sjholm@me.com) Deadline for registering: Friday, Jan. 22, 2021.

**REFLECTIONS** on the coming weekend Liturgy—Dotty Shugrue and Joan Pesce co-preside, Kevin and Judy Connelly are our readers, as we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptizer. The chosen theme will be the path to new beginnings. Jesus made his first public

appearance when he approached John to baptize him. Jesus's baptism symbolizes the beginning of his public life, his path to new beginnings. As we celebrate the initiation of Jesus into his world of ministry, let us reflect on the new beginnings before us in this new year of 2021. We have all faced many new beginnings. Some born out of joy, blessings and deep happiness, some out of hurt, tragedy, and death. We are a resilient people. We will not hide from the difficulties before us. We are a community of believers. Difficult times cannot drag us down. Together let us stamp our feet and proclaim "we can conquer all things" through the One who walks with us. For "wherever two or more of you are gathered in my Name, there is love." We have the love that overcomes fear and gives light to the path of new beginnings.

**GOD IN CHARGE**—If you are anything like me, there is some part of you that was relieved to turn the calendar over to 2021. The new year puts at least some symbolic distance between ourselves and 2020, a year that brought so much chaos, heartbreak, and uncertainty to so many people throughout the world. I dare say that no one lived through the past year without experiencing some level of disruption and loss of freedom, of health, of loved ones, and especially our cherished notions of how things "ought" to be....

The beginning of the new year seems like a good time to pause, "pull back the veil," and ask, "Where is this all going? What is the end goal for all of us, and—for that matter—for the cosmos



itself?" Is our "late, great planet Earth" really headed toward Armageddon? In these fractious, unmoored, and disillusioned

times, I can hardly think of more relevant concerns.

No matter what is going on around us, it's important to remember that God keeps transforming creation into something both good and new. Instead of hurtling us towards catastrophe, God always wants to bring us somewhere even better. A helpful word here is "evolution." God keeps creating things from the inside out, so they are forever yearning, developing, growing, and changing for the good. That might be hard to see sometimes in the moment, but it's nevertheless true.—*Richard Rohr*

**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.]*

*we continue...*

*From last weekend: Supportive and selected readings supported that we advocate the renewal of the vision of Jesus in the Gospel in our church and in the world. The following describe more fully the community of MMOJ.*

Most of the members of Mary Mother of Jesus come from the traditional Roman Catholic Church parish structure: a parish council and/or parish finance council. Parish representatives are either elected or appointed to the councils. Their duties are advisory to the parish priest who has final authority for any decision facing the community including all financial decisions.



Vatican II envisioned equality in ministry for the People of God. Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community exists to call forth and to empower all members to participate fully in ministry as each is called by Sophia, Holy Wisdom. Each member has a ministry whether directly within MMOJ or within the larger community. As an inclusive, egalitarian Catholic community with both ordained and non-ordained members, everyone comes together as a discipleship of equals to share their knowledge, skill and abilities so that the community functions as one-the Body of Christ in the world.

*to be continued...*