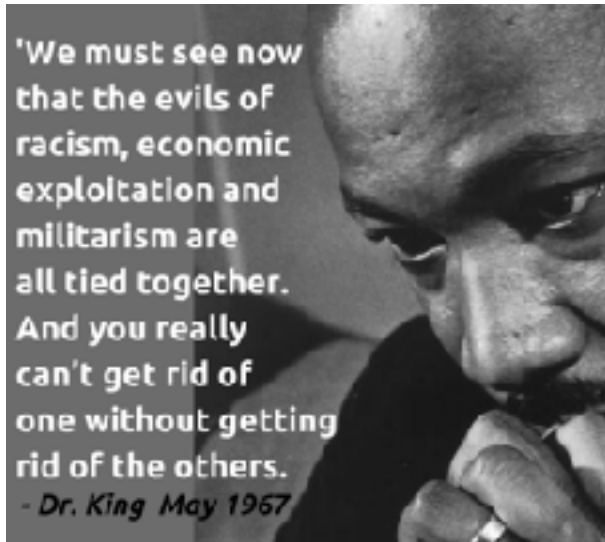


# On Line and On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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



**WHAT WILL WE DO?**—Above all else, Martin Luther King was a prophet of hope and not of doom. "I have a dream," he cried again and again in his most eloquent hour; and, on the night before he died: "I have seen the Promised Land. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord." As he believed in the ultimate might of nonviolence, so did he strongly believe in the ultimate triumph of racial justice in these United States. He would not have it otherwise than that one day the black American and the white American would face one another not as sworn enemies but as blood brothers [and sisters], would face one another and clasp the other's hand in equal dignity and opportunity, with mutual respect, with unfeigned love. There is only one question, a question for every man, woman and child in this country: Will this prophet be heard in death as he was not heard in life? Will the martyr accomplish by his blood what he could not achieve by his words? Will we make the dream of Martin Luther King come true?—

*excerpted from an America magazine editorial, April 20, 1968. on the occasion of MLK death.*

## REFLECTIONS on last weekend's Liturgy—

After the readings, Dotty Shugrue reflected on her past memories of how past celebrations of Jesus' baptism, how an effort was always made to address our personal baptism and washing away of sin. She now sees how appropriate it is to celebrate "new beginnings." As was revealed in the opening words for today's Liturgy: "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." Joan Pesce added the strong personal message given us each day in the words surrounding this historical "new beginnings," and applied them to her/our own life: "This is my Beloved"...upon whom my favor rests." We must not pull away. We must be present, perhaps just in silence.

**MMOJ  
COMMUNITY  
MEETING  
SAT FEB 13  
after Liturgy**

**NOTE:** After the Liturgy, Michael Rigdon called for a vote on whether or not to have an **Ash Wednesday Prayer Service** February 17. Most voted yes.

**OUTREACH**—The next recipient of our financial gifts will be **All Faiths Food Bank of Sarasota**. All Faiths Food Bank is a member of Feeding America – a network of food banks across the country. One of its key objectives is to equitably serve agency partners who distribute food to those struggling with hunger. All Faiths understands that hunger is a health issue and its mission is, "Together with our partners, we provide healthy solutions to end hunger in our community." Remember: MMOJ is donating 5% of all offerings received each month to Outreach, as Outreach will continue to focus on contemporary food and hunger issues of our surrounding communities.

## 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)

**MLK PRAYER SERVICE**—Women Witnesses for Racial Justice—honoring Sister Thea Bowman on Sunday, January 17, 2021, at 7:00 PM, with Dr. Simone a Davis, Dr. Kim Harris, Kayla August, M.A., and more! Register by going to [futurechurch.org](http://futurechurch.org)

**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.

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

**A MORNING WITH TERESA 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**—Lee Breyer and Joan Meehan are co-presiders, with readers and theme: Five years ago Pope Francis addressed the Congress. In

that talk he spoke about Martin Luther King [whose birthday is celebrated Friday, January 15]. The Pope described MLK as "a prophet who awakened us to carry out God's will for justice and the elimination of all prejudices." At our Liturgy, we will honor MLK for all he did as the most visible spokesperson and leader in the civil rights movement.

**PRAYER for Unity in Diversity at this Time of Crisis by Bridget Mary Meehan ARCWP**

Let us pray for a peaceful transition of power in the inauguration of President Joe Biden as president and Kamala Harris as vice-president.

**Response: Holy One, we believe that you speak and work through us.**

Let us pray and pledge ourselves to work for equality and justice for everyone in our country—no exceptions as we confront discrimination and conspiracy theories that are rooted in hatred, untruth, and threats of violence.

**Response: Holy One, we believe that you speak and work through us.**

Let us pray for wisdom for our political leaders as they respond to the assault on the Capitol yesterday.

**Response: Holy One, we believe that you speak and work through us.**

Let us pray and pledge ourselves to foster unity in diversity in our country.

**Response: Holy One, we believe that you speak and work through us.**

Let us pray that all civil and military leaders will follow their oath to the Constitution.

**Response: Holy One, we believe that you speak and work through us.**

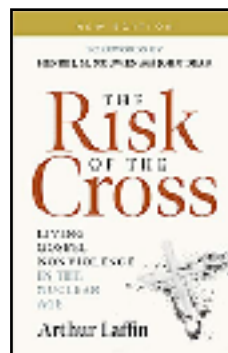
Let us pray and pledge ourselves to treat others with kindness.

**Response: Holy One, you you speak and work through us.**

**NEW BOOKS**—The National Catholic Reporter has featured Arthur Laffin's book, **The Risk of the Cross** [Twenty-Third Publications] as evidence that the Just War Theory is out. Gospel nonviolence is the right way to go.

In *The Risk of the Cross*, Arthur Laffin, a longtime peace activist and practitioner of Gospel nonviolence, answers these questions in no uncertain terms. First, nuclear resistance ought to

be at the very heart of the church's mission globally—but especially in the United States.



Second, rather than waiting for the hierarchy and local clergy to take the reins of the peace movement today, Laffin argues that this work begins on the local level. Third is the way laypeople can take these concerns on their own shoulders through prayer and action.

The Catholic Nonviolence Initiative (CNI), a project of Pax Christi International that began with a conference at the Vatican in 2016, continues its work promoting Catholic understanding of and commitment to Gospel nonviolence with a new book, **Advancing Nonviolence and Just Peace in the Church and the World**, Rose Marie Berger, Ken Butigan, Judy Coode, and



Marie Dennis, (Eds.) The fruit of a global, participatory process culminating in a second Vatican conference in 2019, the book includes “biblical, theological, ethical, pastoral and strategic resources, presented to serve as a contribution to Catholic teaching on nonviolence.” Available in the U.S. from Winchester Book Gallery: <http://bit.ly/3ohtBoD>

**MMOJ BOARD MEETING**—The final meeting for the current Board/Finance will be **Monday, January 25 at 10:00 AM**. The primary focus of this meeting will be to discuss/establish the agenda for the Annual Meeting on February 13th immediately following liturgy and dinner. We are grateful to Cheryl Brandi and Mary Montavon for sharing their gifts by submitting their names as candidates for the new Board. Our prayer is that each of you will listen to the stirrings of the Spirit within and make a commitment to help build this church. **We need one more candidate to run but will be delighted to have more.** You are welcome to join our Zoom meeting via the internet or by phone.

Zoom Meeting ID: 371 969 3082  
Passcode: 1066  
?/Problems: email [patbobmac1@gmail.com](mailto:patbobmac1@gmail.com)

**Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests Condemns Violence in U.S. Capitol**  
We, the members of the Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests, express our shock and deep sadness over the chaos and subsequent violence that occurred on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 on the U.S. Capitol, the citadel of democracy. President Trump, his supporters and sadly, some Republican members of the House

and Senate, tried to subvert a democratic presidential certification which has been an honored tradition for generations.

Our Mission Statement states “...we are respectful of differences among people.” We acknowledge that the United States is a polarized country, but we must and will promote justice for all. We fervently pray that differences can be resolved peacefully and the Democratic Republic be fully restored. We pray to be a beacon of hope to all nations, and to work for equality and justice for everyone —no exceptions —as we confront discrimination and conspiracy theories that are rooted in fear, hatred, and untruth.

We believe this domestic white terrorist assault against our legislative branch was fueled by divisive rhetoric and an open disrespect for the U.S. Constitution. We believe this assault has its roots in racism which presents itself in white supremacy and patriarchal domination. As Christians, we cannot use Jesus’ name to foster racism, sexism or violence. We invite all people of good will to work together to foster mutual respect in an inclusive democracy.

Now, we mourn our dead; each a citizen of history, however long or short, with hopes and dreams unfulfilled. We stand and weep with anguished loved ones and will forever remember the ugly face of unbridled disrespect as we continue our prophetic witness for justice, and equality for all.

**LETTING GO**—The art of letting go is really the art of survival. We have to let go so that as we age, we can be happy. Yes, we’ve been hurt. Yes, we’ve been talked about and betrayed by friends. Yes, our lives didn’t work out the way we thought they would. Letting go helps us fall into a deeper and broader level at which we can always say “Yes.” We can always say, “It’s okay, it’s all right.” We know what lasts. We know who we are. And we know we do not want to pass our pain on to our children or the next generation. We want to somehow pass on life.—*Richard Rohr*

**QUOTE**—“Each and every time you shift your limited perspective to a perspective of wholeness, you are raising the collective consciousness. Every time you heal or transform a stale limited belief, you are adding to the light of the collective consciousness. Every time.”—**Peggy Black**

**QUOTE II**— “The future ain’t what it used to be.”—*Yogi Berra*

**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: Following supportive and selected readings advocating the renewal of the vision of Jesus in the Gospel in our church and in the world, we described more fully the community of MMOJ, to which we now add:*

**Structure**

*The structure of Mary Mother of Jesus is organic in that no permanent committees exist except one-the MMOJ non-profit board which oversees finances for the community as it is required by Federal and State laws.*



*Although the above is a book discussion group, it is descriptive of a community meeting*

*As needs arise from the community and are expressed by the members, ad hoc committees are formed. Committees such as hospitality, outreach, financial development, ministerial support for co-presiders, and soliciting ministry organizations outside the community which may be supported financially can be created.*

*to be continued...*