

On Line and On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

marymotherofjesus.org



THREE WISE QUEENS—*[remembering the first MMOJ newsletter editor, Carol Ann Breyer and her insistence it was this way]*

The Queens came late, but the Queens were there/ With gifts in their hands and crowns in their hair.

They'd come, these three, like the Kings, from far,/ Following, yes, that guiding star./

They'd left their ladles, linens, and looms,/ Their children playing in nursery rooms,/ And told their sitters: "Take charge! For this Is a marvelous sight we must not miss!" The Queens came late, but not too late/ To see the animals small and great,/ Feathered and

furred, domestic and wild,/ Gathered to gaze at a mother and child.

And rather than frankincense and myrrh/ And gold for the babe, they brought for her/ Who held him, a homespun gown of blue,

And chicken soup—with noodles, too

And a lingering, lasting, cradle-song/.

The Queens came late and stayed not long, For their thoughts already were straining far –

Past manger and mother and guiding star

And a child aglow as a morning sun –

Toward home and children and chores undone.—

[Norma Farber (1909-1984) – from "When It Snowed That Night"].

REFLECTIONS on last weekend's Liturgy—

After the Gospel reading, Elena Garcia shared her reflections on the selected readings for the day. She took from the first reading, "Christmas as Shattering The Containers of our Expectations," a reflection by Fr. Ron Rolheiser OMI, the question: Why doesn't the Creator of the universe flex more muscle [in face of all the tragedies, problems and difficulties in our world]? And added the additional question: Where and how do you find the Presence of God? Kevin saw the need for each of us to pass through a process of growth and development wherein we would come to know the plan of God. Michael

added how he saw the coming plan of our community to take a vow of nonviolence was part of this process—our way of coming closer to the Way of the Divine. Bridget added how we are all wounded healers seeking to join with others who have passed this way.

before us [using examples of 12 Step groups and other support groups of all kinds] who can help and guide us through the tears and pain. Jim Marsh closed out the homiletic sharing by announcing to us the recent

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

tragic murder of his grand-nephew. His family has been shattered by this event. He also saw the importance and value of accepting the challenge in the coming vow of nonviolence. As a fitting ending of this Liturgy, these words sent us forth: "As we leave here in the peace of Christ and the joy of God, let us be mindful of our connection to each other, for as children of God we are family. May we strive to be the joyful and compassionate people that God created us to be. And let our service continue!"

OUTREACH—Outreach is presently handled by Lee Breyer, who soon will 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.

REFLECTIONS on the coming weekend

Liturgy—Jim Marsh co-presides with Peg Bowen, and readers will be Cheryl and Jim Brandi. Jan January 2 is designated the Feast of Epiphany. The theme chosen for this weekend will stress our personal 'awakening.' Traditionally, Epiphany (Jan 6th) marked the 12th day of Christmas. Actually the Christmas season ends liturgically with the Baptism of the Jesus during the following weekend. We will all be invited* to share in a "Vow of Nonviolence" which will serve as a communal prayer together after communion and before blessing. [**remember, each of us has a choice whether or not to take such a vow.*]

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.

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, Sally's sister, Jim Marsh's family, Diane and Janet—all who are in need of serious prayer on their behalf.

STAR OF PEACE—"Once they saw a star that pointed to a promised land, to a land of peace.

Peacemakers set out to follow that star. It is both a joyful and arduous journey. Sometimes the star shines brightly, the promise seems certain, and the pilgrims can sing, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring God's peace.' Often the star disappears, clouded over, hidden from view, and the pilgrims grope blindly, grow discouraged, get weary, give thought to settling down, to forgetting the promise of peace. . . . An occasional oasis for the spirit is essential, a time to feast on the refreshing waters, the rich food of the spirit in order to get strength to continue the pilgrimage through darkness, star-shine or not."—*Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB*



QUOTE—"I raise up my voice, not so I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard . . . we cannot succeed when half of us are held back.—*Malala Yousafzai*

A MORNING WITH THERESA OF AVILLA—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

2021—With much hope and anticipation for a year ahead filled with good news, may it also be a year of greater care and concern for those in more need than ourselves.

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: We advocate the renewal of the vision of Jesus in the Gospel in our church and in the world. [The following readings support this.]

From Acts 4:32-34

The community of believers was of one mind and one heart. None of them claimed anything as their own; rather, everything was held in common. The apostles continued to testify with great power to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and they were all given great respect, nor was anyone needy among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them and give the money to the apostles. It was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

From "Watch for the Light, Readings for Advent and Christmas" Nov 28

The whole meaning of Christian community lies in offering a space in which we wait for that which we have already seen. Christian community is the place where we keep the flame alive among

us and take it seriously, so that it can grow and become stronger in us. In this way we can live with courage, trusting that there is a spiritual power in us that allows us to live in this world without being seduced constantly by despair, lostness and darkness. That is how we dare to say that God is a God of love even when we see hatred all around us. That is why we can claim that God is a God of life even when we see death and destruction and agony all around us. We say it together, nurturing what has already begun, expecting its fulfillment—that it is the meaning of marriage, friendship, community and the Christian life."---Henri Nouwen, 2001

From Mary Mother of Jesus book mark:

We are an equalitarian community of worshippers led by RCWP, married priests and spouses, and lay persons participating in an open gathering to recall, celebrate, and promote the message of the gospel.

to be continued...

weekend of January 2 - 3

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