

On Line and On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

marymotherofjesus.org

KATY HEADS NORTHWARD—Leaving us after many years of priestly service and activism among us, Katy plans to relocate in Michigan. She explains to us in her letter to the community: “Now is the time to move and begin, with God’s will in the Detroit area, a ministry for justice and equality. I was born in Detroit General in 1943 the year of ‘The 1943 Detroit Race Riot.’ The white population peaked in 1950 and continues to decline. Black Americans are now 79% of the citizens living in Detroit. Karen Kerrigan ARCWP is a partner in ministry with the inner-city community of St Peter’s Episcopal faith community. I hope to join in their ministry for peace, justice and equality.”



Katy standing forth in Tampa

Although she established herself in ministering to Sun City where she resided, Katy regularly came south to Sarasota from the earliest days of MMOJ to serve as a vital member of our community. Katy’s strong commitment to social justice was often apparent in her Liturgies celebrated among us and her activist participation in so many events near and far. We will miss her indeed.

REFLECTIONS ON Easter III Liturgy—Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, walking with the Risen Christ, we are in awe of the Divine Spark dwelling within our hearts. We let go of our anxieties in this time of uncertainty and loss and rejoice that we are companions on the journey called by Christ to break bread and serve our sisters and brothers in a suffering world. With this theme in mind, we moved to the selected readings and Diane Burroughs’ reflection that

came from her years of service. “As a Resident Chaplain in a trauma hospital, there’s no asking for back up, you’re in training to learn how to handle whatever occurs,” so she began. But circumstances can become overwhelming. In the story Diane shared, God came through in a situation where—although she felt alone and overwhelmed by sheer numbers of needy people—help was found right at hand.

OFFERINGS—We are grateful for your continued contribution toward the growth and development of our community. Please remember to make your regular donations to MMOJ by sending your check to MMOJ % St. Andrew UCC, 6908 Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL 34238. Again, tabulation of offerings and donations will be announced when they are received at St Andrew UCC. Remember: **MMOJ continues to donate 5% of all offerings received each month to Outreach**, and will continue to focus on current food and hunger issues of our surrounding communities.

OUTREACH—The current recipient of our financial support continues to 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.

STILL ASKING FOR HELP—I would like to invite community members to share their thoughts/ideas on future Outreach targets, anticipating times when we may have extra money/resources for donation purposes. If you can help me plan ahead for extending Outreach, especially post-pandemic, please contact me, Cheryl Brandi, Outreach Coordinator, cherylbrandi@comcast.net

PREPARATION for the coming weekend’s Liturgy—Lee Breyer and Kathryn Shea have chosen the theme: “My Grace is sufficient for you...” We are living through very trying times. Just this week, there were several mass

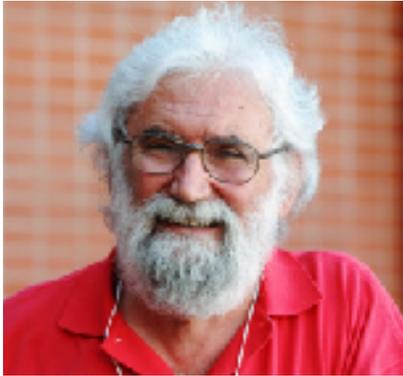
Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community Mission Statement

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. Come join us.

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

shootings in our country, and we all watched with bated breath as the jury deliberated and convicted Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd. We continue to do great harm to our beautiful planet Earth and while we celebrated Earth Day 2021 on Thursday of this week, we realize we have much work to do if we are truly going to heal and save our precious planet.

It is difficult not to get weighted down by all of this at times. And when we do, we must remember that God gave us the gift of grace, and that this grace is sufficient. In our Gospel reading this week, we hear Jesus say, "I am the good shepherd, and I give my life for my sheep. We are shown the grace of God through Jesus who came to give us God's gift of unconditional grace. So, let us walk this earthly journey together in great joy, knowing it is grace that sets us free.



Leonardo—not Michael

QUOTE—

"The mystica of active nonviolence implies changing ourselves as well as working to change the world. We must live the truth. We must be just, our integrity

transparent. We must be peacemakers. It is not enough simply to confront external violence. We must also dig out the roots of violence in our own hearts, in our personal agendas, and in our life projects. In both a personal and a political sense we must seek to live today in miniature what we are seeking for tomorrow."—Leonardo Boff

EARTH DAY

For Earth Day (April 22), author Leah Schade shares 10 practices to help us with intentionality, prayerfulness, awareness, and faithfulness to God, Creation, and the human community. During this past year of the Covid-19 pandemic, many people sought refuge in nature. In all of these places and more, God's Creation has been there for us, as always. This Earth Day, take some time to rethink your relationship with the planet. We can make different choices that protect both earth and our neighbors. Here are 10 ways to celebrate and care for Creation where you live.

1. Observe and wonder. Begin a weekly ritual of settling into a circle of nature for a few minutes of observation, contemplation, and appreciation. Maybe your yard, a green space during your lunch break at work, or just a crack in the sidewalk where weeds and grass have pushed through. Let this time center you in prayer, wonder, and gratitude.
2. Plant and grow. Even if it's just some pots on your porch or windowsill, think about what vegetables and flowers you would like to grow this season and determine when you'll plant them.
3. Share your green space on social media. Find interesting angles to take pictures of the plants and trees in your living space. When you post your pics, share that caring for God's Creation is part of your faith and encourage others to post their photos in the thread.
4. Play Earth Day bingo! This is a great activity to do with children. Make up a card with things in nature they might find in a walk around your neighborhood or in the backyard. Include dogs, birds, trees, grass, flowers, and insects.
5. Advocate online. Find out what environmental legislation is currently under consideration in Congress and call your representative and senators and encourage them to support the strongest protections for our planet.
6. Read and educate. All sorts of literature and information is available on the internet.
7. Make a donation to a local environmental organization, and in honor of someone special.
8. Pray for Earth and vulnerable communities. Write a prayer of lament, confession, thanks, or intercession regarding Creation. Share it on social media along with a favorite nature picture.
9. Honor Native legacy. Do some research about the history of Indigenous peoples in the place where you live. How might you reconsider your relationship with the natural world in light of Native American practices of honoring our relationship with all our relatives—all creation.
10. Thank those who nurtured your love of nature. Think about the person who has taught you the most about environmental concerns and cultivated your love of nature. Write them a letter thanking them for what they have taught you. How else might you care for, honor, and protect the earth and its creatures where you live this year?

HELP—I had a personal need to have some papers notarized, and put the word out asking where or to whom should I go—Kathryn Shea pointed out that Gigi, the HR director of The Florida Center would be glad to notarize anything from MMOJ community, as thanks for long-time support: Gigi Gillis [941] 304-6153.

BREAKING NEWS—Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests Response to Chauvin Verdict, Calls for Systemic Justice and Accountability

The guilty verdicts in the case against Derek Chauvin on April 20, 2021 felt like victory. The tears of relief and vindication shed on the streets of Minneapolis were shared in many cities and towns all over the country and the world. We the women and men of the Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests (ARCWP) share these feelings and reflect them in our own tears and prayers of thanksgiving for accountability in this case. But we recognize that accountability in one case is a far cry from justice for all. Because if this verdict is victory, it is a victory of one lap in a very long race. Accountability for one man's unjust death. Accountability attained in the face of highly incriminating evidence provided by a teenager with a cellphone. Accountability brought to bear only after another attempted cover-up of police malpractice. Real justice remains elusive for so many marginalized people as they interact with the system.

Justice for all will only become reality in this country with the passage of real criminal justice and police reform. ARCWP stands in solidarity with all who are working to dismantle every system of inequality, oppression and domination of people of color, LGBTQI and other marginalized people. We pray, along with Franciscan Father Richard Rohr, that we as a nation are ready to "clear the field to be ready for new seed." (Richard Rohr, 4/20/21) In the meantime, we continue the race. And we say their names.—*Bridget Mary Meehan*

CREATOR OF THE EARTH—"Never, ever, throw anything in the water," my father taught me when we were out fishing, pop bottles and sandwich wrappers all over the bottom of the little skiff. "Never, ever, throw cans out a car window," my mother warned as I finished the last of an afternoon snack in the back seat. These other messages were the descant against which I lived my young life: Don't ever hurt an animal. Don't ever keep more fish than you can eat. Don't ever use more of anything than you need. Don't waste anything. Don't ever dig up flower gardens. Don't ever trample down small trees. Don't ever hurt a baby bird.

Why? Because, that's why. Because making a garbage heap out of the water and the woods, my property or nobody's property, destroyed the beauty and goodness of creation. Because destroying another being just for the sake of



destroying it took life in vain. Because creation was good and each part of it had its own purpose that's why. Because we were to walk through life on tiptoe, as part of creation, not as predators with swollen bellies and bloated souls. We were to learn from animals and care for flowers, to have enough and never too much. We were meant to leave the world better than we found it. This was more than the kind of paltry stewardship that conserves so we can continue to be rapacious. This was a way of life that held more than humanity sacred. Those lessons ring in my heart until this day, more loudly than ever before. God, the Creed insists, created the earth. The earth, like us, in other words, breathes the breath of God. The simplicity of the statement overwhelms. What is it that has been created by God that does not reflect the presence of God? What is it, created by God, that can cavalierly be destroyed without remorse, without awareness of the divine life within it? If God is really God, that is.—*Joan Chittister*

MORE—Is Thomas Berry right when he says that our culture has taught us an inner rage against Mother Earth? Against nature? Against our own bodies? Do we carry this rage within? Does that explain the immense machinery of denial that permeates our cultural and political scene? How is it possible for an entire political party and 47% of Americans to be apparently oblivious and uninterested in climate change? In raging forest fires? In unprecedented numbers and fierceness of hurricanes and floods and destruction occurring in our southern states? In 74 million people choosing to vote for a president who thinks climate change is a "hoax"?

Does the rage against nature that Berry names help explain the rage against democracy on January 6? The rage against children and gays and ordinary citizens that plays out in mass shootings invariably by young men in schools, a gay club, movie theaters, work places? In the growing number of domestic militias? Is American manhood premised on rage? Where does all this rage come from? Might ceremony help to get to it and heal? Is lack of vital ceremonies part of the problem?

...Thomas Berry urges us to move beyond our anthropocentric worldview that has permeated our cultural institutions which cannot be trusted. He urges us to renew our participation in "the Grand Liturgy of the Universe" because at one time that is what ceremony was all about, marrying the microcosm (us) with the macrocosm (the universe).—*Matthew Fox's blog*