

On Line and On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

marymotherofjesus.org

MY ENEMY-MY FRIEND—It was a hot and honest session in that meeting of Palestinian and Israeli women in Oslo, Norway. The Palestinian women said that they supported the Israeli's right to an independent state; the Israeli women said that they supported the Palestinian's right to resources, political integrity and freedom to live in the land. It was a significant political moment. Nevertheless, what happened after the conference adjourned may, in the end, prove to be even more significant.

On the last night of the assembly, one of these women went to the other and asked to continue the discussion about what had been lost and what must be gained if the two peoples are ever to live together well. They went out for coffee together. I don't know what was said, I only know that the conversation went on until after midnight.

When it came time to leave, the Israeli woman—old enough to be the Palestinian's mother—decided she would walk the young woman to her hotel. But then the young Palestinian realized how far the older woman would have to walk back to her own place of residence and insisted that she walk her halfway back again.

"I've had a wonderful night," the Israeli woman said as they parted. "The time with you was itself worth the conference."

The young Palestinian woman went silent for a moment. "I'm glad for you," she said, "but I'm confused."

The Israeli woman winced inside. "Why? What's wrong?" she asked.

"Oh, nothing is wrong," the younger woman said.

"I'm just confused. I don't know what to do now that my enemy has become my friend."

The next day, in the Tel Aviv airport, the Israeli women whisked through customs and baggage claim. The Palestinian women did not. When the

Israeli women realized that all the Palestinian women had been detained, they turned around, went back and refused to leave the customs hall themselves until all the Palestinians were released.

That, I learned, is what it means to proceed in the "ways of peace." It means having the courage to make human connections with those we fear, with those we hate, with those who think differently than we do. It means refusing to leave the other behind as we go.—*Joan Chittister*



THE WHOLE BODY—Celebrating the Body of Christ, I was reminded by a 60's author of note—Louis Evely—that when swallowing the Host we are committing to swallowing the whole Body of Christ. He suggested at that time that communicants open their eyes and take in the whole Body of Christ. To me, that was indeed eye-opening, a real mouth-full. And it was in 1986, that I was opened further by the following song written by Rory Cooney.

Bread of Life

[refrain]

I myself am the bread of life.

You and I are the bread of life,

taken and blessed, broken and

shared by Christ that the world might live.

This bread is spirit, gift of the Maker's love, and we who share it, know that we can be one: a living sign of God in Christ. [refrain]

Here is God's KIndom given to us as food.

This is our body, this is our blood:

A living sign of God in Christ. [refrain]

Lives broken open, stories shared aloud, become a banquet, **a shelter for the world:**

A living sign of God in Christ. [refrain]

Then there was coming to the MMOJ community where, at our first Eucharistic sharing, we said to each other: You are the Body of Christ—the Blood of Christ. We are part of the whole that still needs to be swallowed and made one. So be it.

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

OUTREACH—The current recipient of our offered financial support continues to be **All Faiths Food Bank** of Sarasota [AFFB].

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."

BLESSING—Less than three months after the Vatican issued a decree forbidding priests from blessing same-sex unions, nearly two dozen U.S. Catholic leaders and organizations kicked off the celebration of Pride month with a blessings service for LGBTQ Catholics.

"God is inviting you to draw near and that God desires a deep and intimate relationship with all of you," Bishop John Stowe of Lexington, Kentucky, told the virtual participants of the Catholic Pride Blessing on June 1.

"May God, the source of life and love, fill you with the joy of knowing your great dignity and worth as God's child, who was created in love and filled with blessings from the first moment of your existence," Stowe continued.

The event was organized by Dignity USA; co-sponsors included NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, the Institute Leadership Team of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, the National LGBTQ Task Force, Human Rights Campaign, the Tyler Clementi Foundation and the Women's Ordination Conference.—*National Catholic Review [NCR]*

FROM BMM BLOG—I am deeply disappointed in Pope Francis who missed an opportunity to take a first step toward inclusivity, equality and justice in the newly revised Canon 1379 released on June 1st. This misogynist, canonical penalty continues to equate women's ordination with clerical sexual abuse. Both are labelled grave crimes that incur excommunication.

This newly revised law should have removed all punishments against Roman Catholic Women Priests who have been serving the people of God in new ecclesial communities and justice ministries around the world for the past 19 years. Since our first ordination in 2002, we have welcomed all to receive Eucharist and other sacraments at the Table of God's extravagant love.

In the spirit of the apostles, mystics and prophets—Mary Magdalene, Hildegard of Bingen, Catherine of Siena and Joan of Arc—we are

following our consciences. No excommunication or unjust Canon Law will stop our movement to empower women and liberate the people of God! As followers of Jesus women priests are contemporary apostles leading the Church in a new model of partnership and equality. —*Bridget Mary Meehan ARCWP, Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests*

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.

NOTABLE SERIES—A year ago, after the murder of George Floyd, the U.S. exploded with protests bringing attention to the scourge of police violence against African Americans. Initial calls to "defund the police" have since been nuanced to



call for substantive reform that includes reappropriation of funds for other social services. But policing is just part of a massive justice

system that includes courts, jails and prisons. In this four-day series, "Justice Reimagined," two National Catholic Review [NCR] writers look at the prison abolition and reform movements, as well as what might work better: **restorative justice**. The three stories on prison abolition/reform are by Bertelsen fellow Madeleine Davison; former NCR executive editor Tom Roberts. Read all three articles in [NCRonline.org](https://www.ncronline.org)

QUOTE—"Let's face it, we have a long way to go before we truly reflect the 'E pluribus unum' that our currency so proudly proclaims, ..." In attempting to bring to reality the words of the great seal of the United States: E pluribus unum, the unum [one] does not supplant or deny the pluribus [many], it becomes a new reality of oneness and strength because of the many who enhance it by their diversity."—*Washington's Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory*