

On Line and On Point

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MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

IN MEMORIAM—Thich Nhat Hanh has passed away peacefully at Từ Hiếu Temple in Huế, Vietnam, 22nd January, 2022, at the age of 95.

As a prolific author, poet, teacher and peace activist, Thich Nhat Hanh was exiled from Vietnam after opposing the war in the 1960s and became a leading voice in a movement he called “engaged Buddhism,” the application of Buddhist principles to political and social reform.

Thich Nhat Hanh has been the most extraordinary teacher, whose peace, tender compassion, and bright wisdom has touched the lives of millions. Whether encountered on retreats, at public talks, or through books and online teachings—or simply through the story of his incredible life—we can see that Thich Nhat Hanh has been a true bodhisattva, an immense force for peace and healing in the world. Thich Nhat Hanh has been a revolutionary, a renewer of Buddhism, never diluting and always digging deep into the roots of Buddhism to bring out its authentic radiance.



The entire global spiritual family should take a few moments to be still, to come back to mindful breathing, so that together we—as one people can hold

Thich Nhat Hanh in our hearts in peace and loving gratitude for all he has offered the world.

“The Earth is everywhere. You may be used to thinking of the Earth as only the ground beneath your feet. But the water, the sea, the sky, and everything around us comes from the Earth. Everything outside us and everything inside us comes from the Earth.”—*Thich Nhat*

Hanh [offered by Mike Coughlin]

“...I had first heard of him (sometime during the late 80s or early 90s I think) when Daniel Berrigan came to give a talk on peacemaking... Shortly following that event, I read a marvelous conversation (in book form) between Daniel B and Thich Nhat Hahn entitled: *The Raft Is Not The Shore*. [offered by Tim Musser]

No writing on the solitary meditative dimensions of life can say anything that has not already been said better by the wind in the pines.—*Thomas Merton*

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.

OFFERINGS—We are grateful for your continued contribution toward the growth and development of our community. We thank you so much. Please remember to make your regular donations to MMOJ by sending your check to MMOJ % St. Andrew UCC, 6908 Beneva Road, Sarasota. FL 34238.

Remember: MMOJ continues to donate 5% of all received offerings each month to Outreach, which will continue to focus on real issues of food and hunger in our surrounding communities.

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.” MLK

OUTREACH—The current recipient of our offered financial support continues to be All Faiths Food Bank of Sarasota [AFFB] in its task of providing food for hungry and needy families and children. Hunger deprives people of more than just food. AFFB 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. AFFB 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.”

101 WAYS TO FOSTER NONVIOLENCE IN YOUR LIFE

51. Smile.
52. Eat less meat or none at all [for the environment, in solidarity with the poor, in respect of animals].
53. Reclaim your power as a child of God.

54. Oppose all wars.
55. Spend time outdoors.
56. Check the labels on the clothing you buy; be conscious of who might have made them, under what conditions.
57. Let go of your defenses.
58. Encourage your faith community to study nonviolence.
59. Reduce, reuse, recycle, restore.
60. Follow your conscience.—*to be continued*

MOVIE CORNER—This week I’d like to highlight two movies from the creative work of Lin-Manuel Miranda; the Broadway stage play, **Hamilton**, and the new animated movie, **Encanto**.

The stories are very different with Hamilton being darker and historically based while Encanto is colorful and imaginative. But there are repeating threads of family and how the matriarchal lines are the keepers of the story. The music is awesome and the lyrics important to the plot. A recent article in the Washington Post points out that “four songs from the film are on the Hot 100”. The songs tell the story and we found it helpful to put on the subtitles to make sure we didn’t miss anything. Both are available on Disney + and may make it worthwhile to add their streaming service. Send your comments, criticisms, suggestions, to ponce.beth@gmail.com —*Beth Ponce*

QUOTE—I do feel that God is with the movement of noncooperation. I have no special revelation of God's will. My firm belief is that God reveals [self] daily to every human being, but we shut our ears to that ‘still small voice.’ We shut our eyes to the ‘pillar of fire’ in front of us.”—*Mohandas Gandhi*

STAFF—*Russ Banner, editor; Joan Pesce, Lee Breyer, Anna Davis, text review; Beth Ponce and Dotty Shugrue, features*

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



SYNOD—All Inclusive—The recent news that a connection has been made between the Vatican and Women’s Ordination Conference [WOC] for the purpose of expanding the circle of “hearing” so as to include “voices at a distance” is welcomed indeed. It is also good reason for MMOJ to consider steps by which our community’s voice can also be heard. It seems in our best interest to do so. [The above parody of the original Synod symbol indicates the new direction in the making.]

SPECIAL ALERT—Please mark your calendars for April 1-2 when two leading experts on Howard Thurman will be in town to lead us through a consideration of his deep spirituality and his influence on the civil rights movement:

SARASOTA CONFERENCE ON SPIRITUALITY, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL CHANGE—The Thought and Spirituality of Howard Thurman: His Historical Legacy and Relevance to the Issues of Today. April 1-2, 2022 at the First

Congregational UCC, 1031 S. Euclid Ave. Now recognized as “one of the unacknowledged shapers of 20th century America,” fellow Floridian Dr. Howard Thurman was a seminal figure within the American civil rights movement. He was “a spiritual genius who transformed the people who transformed history.” (J. Blake, CNN, Feb 2019) Join us as we explore his life how he pioneered a form



of spiritual practice that blended deep spirituality with political advocacy.

Registration: \$35.00 per person; with scholarships available. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

SPEAKERS will be **The Reverend Dr. Luther E. Smith Jr.**, Professor Emeritus of Church and the community at Candler School of Theology (Emory University, Atlanta, GA) is the author of *Howard Thurman: The Mystic As Prophet; Intimacy and Mission*; and editor and author of *Howard Thurman: Essential Writings*. and, **The Reverend Doctor Shively T. J. Smith**, Assistant Professor of New Testament at Boston University School of Theology (Boston, MA), is the author of *Strangers to Family: Diaspora and First Peter’s Invention of God’s Household*.

[***Highly recommended by Kathryn Shea] MARK CALENDARS NOW!!

INVITE—Sponsored by the Service Team for Centering Prayer Groups of Manatee and Sarasota Counties, there will be a Centering Prayer Introductory Program on **Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022** via Zoom, 8:45AM – 12:30PM. No cost.

During these challenging times Centering Prayer is a way to draw closer to God. It is a Christian form of meditation that serves as a method of movement into contemplative prayer, a way to open oneself to the Divine Presence and, through the healing of the Holy Spirit, to be of greater service to those around us. Great prep for Lent. For more information and registration please contact Bob Ferkenhoff at bferken@verizon.net or 941-350-6920. Please provide both your email and cell contact info.