

On Line and On Point

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MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

3. **SHIRLEY CHISHOLM** (Nov. 30, 1924–Jan. 1, 2005)—Shirley Chisholm was born in Brooklyn, New York, on November 30, 1924. Both her parents were

immigrants: Charles, a factory worker, came from Guyana and Ruby, a hard-working seamstress hailed from

Barbados. Chisholm was the oldest of four daughters. Shirley graduated from Brooklyn Girls' High in 1942 and went on to Brooklyn College where she won many prizes as a member of the debate team. Graduating cum laude in 1946, professors encouraged Shirley to consider a political career. However, she knew in her future she faced a "double handicap" as both Black and female. So she started off working as a nursery school teacher. In 1949, she married Conrad Q. Chisholm, a private investigator (they divorced in 1977). She was able to receive a master's degree from Columbia

University in early childhood education in 1951. By 1960, she was a consultant to the New York City Division of Day Care. Ever aware of racial and gender

inequality, she joined local chapters of the League of Women Voters, the National Association for the

Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Urban League, as well as the Democratic Party club in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn.

Shirley's political career started off in 1964 when she ran for, was elected and became the second African American in the New York State Legislature. In 1968, Chisholm went after a seat in Congress. There, "Fighting Shirley" introduced more than

50 pieces of legislation and championed racial and gender equality, the plight of the poor, and ending the Vietnam War. In 1972, Shirley sought the Democratic Party presidential nomination; but, she was thwarted by many discriminatory actions on the part of Democratic foes.



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.

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She was blocked from entering primary debates on TV, settling for one speech on behalf of her candidacy. Still, many were the students, women and minorities who were willing to follow the Chisholm Trail. Shirley Chisholm retired from congress in 1983. She said of her life's work : "I want to be remembered as a woman ... who dared to be a catalyst of change."

"Occasionally in life one develops a conviction so precious and meaningful that he/she will stand on it till the end. This is what I have found in nonviolence." MLK

OFFERINGS—We are grateful to everyone who has been so generous in supporting our community. Thanks 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.

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. The AFFB mission is "Together with our partners, we provide healthy solutions to end hunger in our community." One of its key objectives is to equitably serve agency partners who distribute food to those struggling with hunger.

101 WAYS TO FOSTER NONVIOLENCE IN YOUR LIFE

71. Attend a demonstration for peace.

72. Relax your body posture.
73. Support organizations that work for peace and justice.
74. Try using consensus decision-making.
75. Read about someone who has tried to live nonviolently.
76. Remember that each day is a blessing and a gift.
77. Accept your own worth.
78. Watch a video about justice or peace with friends and discuss.
79. Recognize and name the divine in every person you encounter.
80. Refuse to be silent in the face of what really matters.—*to be continued*

MOVIE CORNER

The Academy Award Nominations came out today and it was a sad reflection on my modern movie knowledge since I haven't been in a theater in two years and wasn't familiar with the nominated films. Luckily I'm an old movie fan and recently came across a Humphrey Bogart movie that I had never seen. The 1950 film, *In a Lonely Place*, also stars Gloria Grahame who played Ado Annie in the original film version of the musical *Oklahoma*. The film is a subtle, psychological thriller and crime noir story told almost entirely through dialog. We streamed it on Roku but it also should be available on Amazon Prime. Send your comments, criticisms, suggestions, to ponce.beth@gmail.com —*Beth Ponce*

4. **ALTHEA GIBSON** (Aug. 25, 1927–Sept. 28, 2003)—Althea Gibson was born on August 25, 1927, in Silver, South Carolina. Early on, the family moved to Harlem in New York City. Her family struggled to make ends meet, living on public assistance for a time, and Gibson

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

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struggled in the classroom, often skipping school altogether. However, Gibson loved to play sports

Althea began playing tennis as a teenager and went on to win the national Black women's championship [ATA] twice. Because of her winning ways, she received a sports scholarship to Florida A&M where she struggled through four years until graduation in 1953.

At a time when tennis was largely segregated, Althea was barred from many tennis tournaments. Four-time U.S. Nationals winner Alice Marble advocated on Gibson's

behalf and the 5'11" player was invited to make her United States National Championships (now known as the U.S. Open) debut in 1950. In



1956, Gibson's tennis career took off and she won the singles title at the French Championships (now known as the French Open)—the first African American to do so—as well as the doubles' title there. In July 1957, Gibson won Wimbledon, defeating Darlene Hard, 6-3, 6-2. (In 1975, In September 1957, she won the U.S. Open, and the Associated Press named her Female Athlete of the Year in 1957 and 1958. During the 1950s, Gibson won 56 singles and doubles titles, including 11 major titles.

In the '60's, Gibson for a short time turned to golf, making history again as the first Black woman ever to compete on the pro tour. She was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1971. On September 28, 2003, Gibson died of respiratory failure in East Orange, New Jersey.

RELATIONSHIP—In the Bible, we see God using the very wounded lives of very ordinary people, who would never have passed the tests of later Roman canonization processes. Moses, Deborah, Elijah, Paul, and Esther were at least complicit in murdering; David was both an adulterer and a liar; there were rather neurotic prophets like Ezekiel, Obadiah, and Jeremiah; an entire history of ridiculously evil kings and warriors—yet all these are the ones God works through. They are not summarily dismissed.

God's revelations are always concrete and specific. They are not a Platonic world of ideas and theories about which we can be right or wrong. Revelation is not something we measure, but something or Someone we meet! All of this is called the "mystery of incarnation." Our temptation now and always is to trust in our faith tradition of trusting in God instead of trusting in God. They are not the same thing! Often our faith is in our tradition in which we can talk about people who have trusted God in the past. That's a sad way to avoid the experience itself, to avoid scary encounters with the living God, to avoid the ongoing Incarnation.

It's not about becoming spiritual beings nearly as much as about becoming human beings. The biblical revelation is saying that we are already spiritual beings; we just don't know it yet. The Bible tries to let us in on the secret, by revealing God in the ordinary. That's why so much of the text seems so mundane, practical, specific, and, frankly, unspiritual! The principle of the Incarnation proclaims that matter and spirit have never been separate. Jesus came to tell us that these seemingly different worlds are and always have been one.—*Richard Rohr*