

On Line and On Point

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MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

LENT—Will Lent Reveal Our Authentic Self?—“A curious thing happened among many congregations in my very white denomination after George Floyd was killed: Churches that had been at best timid to enter the work of racial justice dove into it headfirst.

Colleagues dusted off their blogs to share their thoughts. Church leaders laced up their sneakers to participate in marches. It appeared that a reckoning had occurred for countless people in the faith. They finally got it and could no longer stay silent, not while a global pandemic amplified the existing inequities in our society. It was time to act.

“This would seem like good and right action, except many began this work having previously wounded leaders of color who’d tried for years to call them into it. Worse yet, there was little to no attempt to remedy their errors or circle back with the people they’d hurt. They were eager to move toward action but had to be reminded that the past still needed to be addressed before the future could be entered with justice.

If there is a “right” way to approach Lent, it involves holding our past and future in tension. The greek words for repentance



and reconciliation both connote a reciprocal change. The person on a wayward path makes a U-turn. The transgressor trades places with the transgressed. Our lenten texts challenge us to examine who we have been, are, and are willing to become, because all of it matters in the future we will build.”—*T. Denise Anderson, acting director of racial Equity and Women’s Intercultural Ministries at the Presbyterian Church [U.S.A.] Sojourners Magazine*

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**

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.

[AFFB] in its task of providing food for hungry and needy families and children. We are going to adopt a more expansive list of recipients, dividing up our calendar year so that one-quarter of our annual donations go to each of the following: All Faiths Food Bank of Sarasota, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, The Community Foundation, and Meals On Wheels [Sarasota].

MOVIE CORNER

In an attempt to be more current with the movie scene, I was pleased to find that the film with the most Oscar nominations, *The Power of the Dog*, is available for streaming on Netflix. It brought to mind two things that each of my parents had once said. One Sunday on the way home from church after a particularly long and tedious sermon, Dad stated that “Pastor taught me the meaning of eternity this morning”. And Mom’s iteration of the classic “If you don’t have anything nice to say, don’t say anything at all.” Therefore... Send your comments, criticisms, suggestions, to ponce.beth@gmail.com —*Beth Ponce*

PRAYER for Peace and Solidarity

Holy One, in whom we live and move and have our being,
We pray for protection for the people of Ukraine.
We pray for all who have died, and for all who have been injured.
We pray for all who have fled their homeland.
We pray for all the children, elders and vulnerable Ukrainians who have lost everything.
We pray for President Zelensky and for President Putin.

We pray for world leaders who are working with them for a just and lasting peace.

We pray that love will overcome hatred and division.

We pray that we may do all we can to help them.

Amen.—(Bridget Mary Meehan)



FAST FROM...FEAST ON...

Fast from judging others;
Feast on Christ dwelling in them.
Fast from fear of illness;
Feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute;
Feast on speech that purifies.
Fast from discontent;
Feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger;
Feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism;
Feast on hope.
Fast from negatives;
Feast on encouragement.
Fast from bitterness;
Feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern;
Feast on compassion.
Fast from suspicion;
Feast on truth.
Fast from gossip;
Feast on purposeful silence.
Fast from problems that overwhelm;
Feast on prayer that sustains.
Fast from anxiety;
Feast on faith—*author unknown*

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