

# On Line and On Point

[marymotherofjesus.com](http://marymotherofjesus.com)

**MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**



**DON'T BE AFRAID**—Our age has been called the age of anxiety, and I think that's probably a good description for this time. We no longer know where our foundations are. When we're not sure what is certain, when the world and our worldview keep being redefined every few months, we're going to be anxious. We want to get rid of that anxiety as quickly as we can. I know I do. Yet, to be a good leader of anything today—a good pastor, manager, parent, or teacher—we have to be able to contain and hold patiently a certain degree of anxiety. Probably the higher the level of leadership someone has, the more anxiety they must be capable of holding. Leaders who cannot hold anxiety will never lead us anyplace new.

That's probably why the Bible says "Do not be afraid" almost 150 times! If we cannot calmly hold a certain degree of anxiety, we will always look for somewhere to expel it. Expelling what we can't embrace gives us an identity, but it's a negative identity. It's not life energy, it's death energy. Formulating what we are against gives us a very quick and clear sense of ourselves. Thus, most people fall for it. People more easily define themselves by what they are against, by whom they hate, by who else is wrong, instead of by what they believe in and whom they love.

I hope you recognize from this common pattern how different the alternative is. We might catch anew the radical and scary nature of faith, because faith only builds on that totally positive place within, however small. It needs an interior "Yes" to begin, just as the "Yes" of Mary began the entire process of salvation. God needs just a mustard-seed-sized place that is in love—not fear—that is open to grace, that is thrilled, that has found something wonderful.—*Richard Rohr*

**OFFERINGS**—We are grateful for your continued contribution toward the growth and development of our community. We do thank you. Please remember to make your regular donations to MMOJ by sending your check to MMOJ % St.

### 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](mailto:rjbannerusa@gmail.com)

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**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**—I know I found myself in a bit of confusion over the new distribution of donated funds from the community. After consulting many, I now have the arrangement: JAN 1—Quarter 1: Coalition of Immokalee Fair Food program; APR 1—Quarter 2: All Faiths Food Bank of Sarasota; JUL 1—Quarter 3: Community Foundation of Sarasota Season of Sharing; OCT 1—Quarter 4: Meals on Wheels of Sarasota.

All Faiths Food Bank of Sarasota [AFFB] has joined a national program to insure there are no hungry children. It is called “No Kid Hungry.” They explain how we can help: “We all have different strengths to share in the fight to ensure each child in the United States gets the food they need. Whatever your strength, there’s a way you can share it to help kids.” Our way will be in our quarterly donation.

## MOVIE CORNER

The Roku channel is currently streaming a fascinating documentary on George Westinghouse called Westinghouse. Although we can all probably think of a Westinghouse product or two. These would just be the tip of the iceberg of his accomplishments and contributions to society. He was innovative, inventive and kind. His development of the air brake system for trains alone saved thousands of lives. Watching this documentary was a reminder of how much used to be

produced in America. But the most touching insight into Mr. Westinghouse was his care for his workers. The working conditions, safety, health care, shortened work week and even living conditions were so ahead of his time that he was accused of mismanagement. If you don’t have Roku, find someone who does and be inspired by a hero. Let me know what you think. Send your comments, criticisms, suggestions, to ponce.beth@gmail.com —*Beth Ponce*

**LENTEN REFLECTION**—The ravages of war continue to be reflected every day as we watch the news. We sit with tears in our eyes and become filled with anger and disbelief that these horrors continue to afflict our Ukrainian neighbors. Even more disturbing is that



we see Black people being pushed back to the end of the line to board trains and busses as they attempt to escape the violence in

Ukraine. Are their lives of less value? The ravages of war are not free from racism. Our frustrations and stress remain unabated. How can we sit by and do nothing? What can we do? Will we ever be able to forgive him who has inflicted all this pain and turmoil — who has turned the world upside down just so he can build his power base? Why does systemic racism continue to fester amid these other atrocities? Is there more yet to come that will affect us all in the future? How can we live through this and not despair? Prayer can give us comfort, we can share the stories of oppression, and we can donate monetarily to worthy causes.—*Cathy Foxhoven*

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

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## WITNESS—Stand With Ukraine and NO to Rumble in Sarasota County!

We must say NO to Rumble, a media platform that spews Russian propoganda. Rumble's plan is to locate its US headquarters on Longboat Key at a property owned by the Gecko Restaurant Industry. This potential "incentive grant" of up to \$825,000 contracted to the Economic Development Corporation (EDC), who then contracts with Rumble is our taxpayer dollars! Yes, taxpayer dollars!

Over thirty Sarasota County residents, including several from our MMOJ community, participated in Tuesday's protest at the Sarasota County Administration Building to support Ukraine incentive grant to the EDC.

After an hour of totally confusing discussion and a motion by Commission Detert and then a proposed Amendment to the original Motion, and several

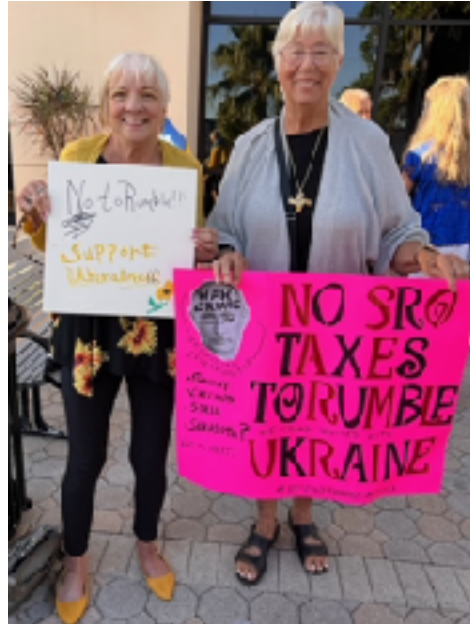
consults with their legal staff, it went nowhere! Commissioner Christine Ziegler was given an extraordinary amount of time by Chair Maio to rant, and I mean seriously rant, about his own personal beliefs and agenda. And yes, the same Christian Ziegler that was very

much involved in, and present at, the January 6 th insurrection. I call upon us, as a faith community, to remain vigilant and responsive on this issue.

It ultimately was tabled for discussion and vote at the next County Commissioners meeting. Let's show up in great numbers, wearing blue and yellow in support of Ukraine! And don't forget your signs!

I call upon all of us to

remain vigilant and responsive on this issue. As we say in my home state of Kentucky, "we must be on this like flies on shit." Remember the words that Jesus taught us, "Whenever two or more of you are gathered in my name, I am with you!"  
Peace, Kathryn



[https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/2022/03/29/rumble-financial-incentive-florida-sarasota-county-prompts-protest/7197500001/?utm\\_source=heraldtribune-](https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/2022/03/29/rumble-financial-incentive-florida-sarasota-county-prompts-protest/7197500001/?utm_source=heraldtribune-)