

On Line and On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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DOING SOMETHING—Florida folks who install solar panels on their roofs can sell any excess electrical power they produce back to the grid at the retail rate. This practice is called “net metering.” As you might guess, net metering offers a major financial incentive for power company customers to switch to solar. Selling the power back to the grid helps the users defray their installation costs. The State Legislature saw reason to change that. HB 741 aimed to end that practice, thus destroying the incentive. Its intent was to kneecap the solar industry just as solar usage is finally on the upswing. The anti-solar bill was definitely the least popular bill the Legislature passed this year.



The Miami Herald revealed that the first version of the bill was written by a big utility company, not legislators. The company behind all these dark doings is Florida Power & Light. Despite the public’s widespread disdain for this bill, the House passed HB 741 by a vote of 83-31, and the Senate by 24-15—along party lines. Yet, to everyone’s astonishment, DeSantis vetoed HB 741.... What intrigued me [about this news coverage on the veto in the Miami Herald] was one detail. The paper noted

that prior to announcing his decision, “DeSantis received 16,809 emails, letters, and phone calls opposing the net metering bill. The number in support: 13. Concluded Craig in his press release: What if we bombarded the governor’s office with another 16,000 or so letters and emails in hopes of pushing him [on social justice issues]? He just might listen, as long as we do it before November. I would encourage everybody in Florida to give this a whirl. What have you got to lose?

The governor’s email address is

GovernorRon.Desantis@eog.myflorida.com. If you prefer snail mail, send your letters to him at Office of Governor Ron DeSantis, State of Florida, The Capitol, 400 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

That should get you started. Thanks, Craig!—*quoted in part from Craig Pittman’s article, With solar bill veto, Florida Gov. DeSantis slips into something more liberal, published on Florida Phoenix in Tallahassee, FL. note: For us, in our peace and justice work, Craig teaches quite a lesson.*

OFFERINGS— If you have made a recent donation to our community, we

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, peace and care for creation. Come join us.

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

thank you for your generosity. We are most grateful for your demonstrated care and concern. 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—As of July 1 we changed our recipient of our offered financial support to **Community Foundation of Sarasota Season of Sharing**. As a vital safety net, Season of Sharing is a trusted way for neighbors to support one another, whatever the crisis, be it hurricanes, Red Tide, economic downturns or even a global pandemic. Please be generous in your giving.

MOVIE CORNER

Here is an incredible documentary well-worth watching, **My name is Pauli Murray**. She was an amazing person, a luminary figure in the civil rights movement, a poet, gender equality activist, an Episcopalian priest, and especially a lawyer. She was a legal trailblazer whose ideas influenced Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Thurgood Marshall. I was surprised to have never heard of her before. Thanks again to Mary and Jack for recommending this must see documentary which is available on Amazon Prime Video.—*Beth Ponce*
Send your suggestions for movies to watch, to ponce.beth@gmail.com

THE AWFUL GRACE OF GOD—

The suffering creatures of this world have a Being who does not judge or condemn them, or in any way stand aloof from their plight, but a Being who hangs with them and flows through them, and even toward them in their despair.



How utterly different from all the greedy and bloodthirsty gods of most of world history! What else could save the world? What else would the human heart love and desire? And further, this God wants to love and be loved rather than be served [John 15:15]. How wonderful is that? It turns history of religion on its head. Jesus said it of himself: “When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself” [John 12:32] and “from my breast will flow fountains of living water” [7:38]. It is only the “harsh and dreadful” commingling of both divine love and human tears which opens the deepest floodgates of both God and the soul, and eventually I must believe, it will open history itself. I will sink my anchor here. To mourn for one is to mourn for all. To mourn with all is to fully participate at the very foundation of Being itself. For some reason, which I have not yet to understand, *beauty hurts*. Suffering opens the channel through which all of Life flows and by which all creation breathes, and I still do not know why. Yet it is somehow beautiful, even if it is a sad and tragic beauty.—*Richard Rohr, “Breathing Under Water.”*

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

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BREAKING NEWS

**TIME TO RECOGNIZE 20 YEAR
MINISTRY OF WOMEN PRIESTS
LEADING THE CHURCH
TOWARD GENDER EQUALITY** *by*
Bridget Mary Meehan ARCW

It is time for Pope Francis to take the next step - remove all penalties against women priests including excommunication and the category of "grievous crime" in canon law and affirm our prophetic leadership in ordaining women to foster the full equality of women in the Church since the Ordination of 7 women on the Danube. I look forward to Pope Francis taking this important step toward healing the grievous sin of sexism in the Roman Catholic Church by dialoguing with women priests who have been living a new model of inclusive, egalitarian ministry with the people of God in our communities around the world.
Bridget Mary Meehan ARCWP

The Women's Ordination Conference welcomes Pope Francis' July 13, 2022 appointment of three women, Sr. Raffaella Petrini, F.S.E., Sr. Yvonne Reungoat, F.M.A., and Dr. Maria Lia Zervino, to the Dicastery for Bishops as an important step in removing all barriers to women's full participation in the life of the church.

These appointments follow Pope Francis' recently announced reforms of the Vatican bureaucracy, which emphasize "canonical mission" or baptism as the criteria for leadership in the Vatican. This encouraging shift creates greater opportunities for co-responsibility and collaboration between men and women.

However, the appointment of women to Vatican positions cannot alone address the injustices women face in the church. Without gender parity within the Vatican's dicasteries, women will undoubtedly confront a culture of clericalism and sexism that has long thrived within those walls.

We also note the deep irony that women may now aid in selecting bishops, a role they themselves are prohibited from holding on account of their gender. The exclusion of women from ordained ministries continues to deprive the church of women's sacramental leadership and reinforce cultural inequalities in the Vatican and around the world.

As we prepare to celebrate the Feast of Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles, on July 22 we urge Pope Francis to listen to the calls of women who have heard the Good News of equality and long for equal recognition of their ministries.—BMM