

# On Line and On Point

## MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

### BRINGING ALL TOGETHER—

Feminist biblical, historical, and theological research is developing methods of retrieving glimpses of women who, though denied power and voice, were nevertheless there, walking with their God. Recovering lost memories, rectifying patriarchal distortions, reassigning value, and breaking the silence, these methods vigorously reverse the erasure of women's lives in the Spirit....

We remember, for example, the story of Hagar, the Egyptian slave woman who disrupts the covenant narrative of Abraham and Sarah, who is the first person in Scripture to receive the promise of a great people stemming from her, and the first to dare to name God. We recover the truth of Mary Magdalene, who was a leading apostolic witness to the Risen Christ and not a repentant prostitute as she had been made to appear in the history of patriarchal interpretations. We recoup



the strength of the virgin martyrs, Agatha, Lucy, Cecilia, Anastasia, and others. They were young girls put to death not because they demeaned sexuality, but

because they discovered a sense of themselves in relation to Christ; this enabled them to resist society's demands that they enter patriarchal marriage, that is, they resisted the right of the state to dictate the terms of their humanity, and so forth. Today feminist scholars are discovering the whole host of anonymous women, marginalized and silenced women, poor women, women of color, raped and brutalized women, caring and ministering women, strong and vibrant women, sexually active women, setting-out-not-knowing-where-they-were-going women, "ordinary" women of fidelity, humor and valor, all holy women of

the world, and reading them onto the list as equal partners with men in the company of God's friends and prophets. —from *Abounding in Kindness*, by Elizabeth A. Johnson.

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

**OFFERINGS**— We are grateful for your continued contribution toward the growth and development of 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 is the **Community Foundation of Sarasota Season of Sharing**. All collected funds are distributed to those in need in the four-county region and may be used for rental assistance, utility bills, child care, transportation, food vouchers, or other crucial expenses to help families restore a sense of security when it is needed most urgently. Please be generous in your giving.

## MOVIE CORNER

During World War II, reclusive writer Alice has her sequestered life upended when Frank, an evacuee from the London Blitz, is left in her care. Despite initially resolving to be rid of him, Alice finds herself and her emotions reawakened by him. Some critics say: **Summerland** is well worth watching, but it is not a wartime film. It is about people and who they choose to care for. "Dotty and I watched this recently and definitely agree. It shows the very human side of us and is also inspiring and tender. It was definitely worth an hour and a half of our time on Prime video," stated Joan Pesce.

Many thanks to Joan for this review.—  
*Beth Ponce*

Send your suggestions for movies to watch, to [ponce.beth@gmail.com](mailto:ponce.beth@gmail.com)

**BOOKS**—For some readers, Jonathan Franzen's one-word novel titles signal that he is a storyteller who wants to handle big themes. For readers who already find him aloof and arrogant, even bombastic, the big-theme titles probably reinforce this characterization. Other readers, however, may be drawn to his novels precisely because they take aim at perennial questions, often from small and unlikely places: from messy Midwestern family homes, from the small uncomfortable pits of failed marriages, from isolated cabins of eccentrics who have ducked out of the world and its problems.

Still other readers may resist being hauled back into the world of middle-class white Americans, a demographic which has already had plenty of time on center stage.

In Jonathan Franzen's latest novel, **Crossroads**, middle-class Christian white Americans take the stage. And unlike Franzen's previous big-theme novels, there's no detour to visit arms dealers in Eastern Europe, or hackers in South America. This is appropriate to the tenor of the United States in 2022, when it is dawning even on the most naive that we don't need to import exotic disaster from overseas. We have always been great at manufacturing the homespun variety.—  
*Rebecca Bratten Weiss [NCR]*

**WHO'S AT FAULT?**—Fifty-five years ago Dr. King called the United States the greatest purveyor of violence on the planet. In what is probably the most prophetic speech anyone has ever made about US foreign policy, Dr. King said,

*“The war in Vietnam is but a symptom of a far deeper malady within the American spirit, and if we ignore this sobering reality, we will find ourselves organizing ‘clergy and laymen concerned committees’ for the next generation. They will be concerned about Guatemala and Peru. They will be concerned about Thailand and Cambodia. They will be concerned about Mozambique and South Africa. We will be marching for these and a dozen other names and attending rallies without end, unless there is a significant and profound change in American life and policy.”*

Dr. King argued that there must be a “radical revolution of values,” if we are to avoid this fate of never-ending crises. We must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered. . . We should have listened.

The United States remains the greatest purveyor of violence on the planet. Our government shows no regard for human rights in discerning where to engage. The US does not support democracy, unless one assumes a “market economy” is a reasonable stand in. Certainly the “market” is what the coups, interventions, and saccharine appeals to “US standing” in the world seem to ultimately be about. Racism, materialism and militarism indeed!

The latest Pentagon budget proposed by the Biden administration for FY 2023 was the largest Pentagon budget ever at \$813 billion; Congress promptly bumped it to \$839 billion. In reality total national

security spending actually tops \$1.4 trillion. The United States currently has forces deployed in 85 countries around the globe for the purpose of buttressing counter insurgency operations. Biden has just greenlighted US re-engagement with forces in Somalia, while in Europe, we remain on the brink of war with Russia; Ukraine being the site of one of the many US supported coups in the post-cold war era.—*from the Quixote Center’s recent newsletter*

**CELEBRATION**—Dear friends, as we gather today [Feast day was July 22] to celebrate the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, we do so in a world plagued by horrific violence of every kind and still in desperate need of the Easter Good News first proclaimed by Mary Magdalene some two thousand years ago. Today, as we reckon with the violence raging around us, and especially the gun violence that day after day, night after night, claims lives, shatters families, and terrorizes communities, we remember that Mary – along with other women – remained with Jesus, keeping vigil as he suffered the horrific violence of the cross and left the safety of the upper room to anoint his broken body, and was blessed and sent forth to share the news of Resurrection. And we pray for the same faith, strength, and courage to bear witness, to stand vigil, and to confront evil and violence in our midst. That we too might become bearers of the Good News: That light dispels the darkness, that truth exposes the lies, that love conquers hate, that hope overcomes despair, that death gives way to new life.—*from the downloaded prayer service published and offered free by FutureChurch*

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