

# On Line and On Point

**MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

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

**CRY FOR PEACE**—Except for those who cannot see it and those causing it, the present moment in our country's history is a time of crisis. The entirely legal and justified FBI search of Donald Trump's palace in Florida has unleashed vicious reactions across the country. These have simmered for several years and now are in the open. They are not only the reactions of extreme right-wing anarchists. Millions of U.S. American citizens have gotten caught up in an untruthful narrative that essential systems of government are corrupt and must be destroyed. The national divide is deep and wide.

Without getting into partisan politics, it is true, as one commentator put it, that we are in uncharted territory much like the pre-Civil War history; democracy is on the line; there is a deepening rupture in the U.S. commonwealth.

One should not (as yet) draw too fine a line between this current reality and the rise of Nazism in the 1930s Germany. However, some parallels exist: the desire to "make Germany great again" and more ominously, using legitimate political processes which initially gave rise to Nazism. At the same time, Pax Christi USA (emphasis on USA) – and indeed the U.S. Catholic Church in general – should give serious reflection to the ways



the Lutheran Church in Germany responded to those events.

They are a snapshot of where Catholics are today. One Protestant historian has described reactions of that Church, the largest denomination at the time there, as Nazism began to show its true nature.

The Lutheran community had three distinct positions on what had moved from a possibility to a reality: right wing destruction of all democratic structures. First, some were in full agreement, enthused, even complicit with what was happening in their country. This segment of the Lutheran Church applauded the

"reforms" which the new regime was successfully initiating in Germany. One could even say that their reaction was understandable after the dreadful effects of the conditions imposed on them by the Treaty of Versailles 10 years before. Germany had become in common parlance a "basket case." The Brown Shirts were setting matters right again. Next, a majority of Lutheran congregants remained indifferent to what was happening. They were being permitted to conduct the usual business of their church. Now with the advantage of historical perspective, it is clear that what Hermann Goering advised Hitler had proven effective: "Give them religion and that will keep them quiet." Finally, there

## **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.

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was the “Confessing Church,” extraordinarily brave people of faith who publicly opposed what was taking place. The most famous of these folks (many of whom sacrificed their lives for this righteous cause) was Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who left the security of a pastorate in the United States to return to Germany and oppose Nazism. We claim with great reason that we are Pax Christi USA, the official Catholic peace movement in the United States. That gives us a national projection, an important word to say in public discourse, so needed at this time in our nation’s history. Our strength, as with so many similar organizations, lies in local and regional chapters, vigorous grassroots communities. And Pax Christi USA already plays a prophetic role at each of these levels. However, a compelling demand insists that we take seriously — revitalize — our national character. We are called to be prophetic, speaking truth where falsehood seems to reign. As a non-hierarchical lay movement, we have the freedom and expertise to engage with our fellow citizens in this vital public debate. We are spokespersons for integrity, for true patriotism, for respect of one another and our public institutions, for nonviolence — in a word, for the values we hold as followers of the One who spoke forcefully to his nation 21 centuries ago. —*Joe Nangle OFM, Pax Christi USA Ambassador of Peace [Thanks to Katie]*

**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.

**OUTREACH**—The current recipient of our offered financial support is the **Community Foundation of Sarasota Season of Sharing**. While Season of Sharing exists to be an emergency resource of last resort, it is also an indicator of our community’s capacity to heal. In times like this, philanthropy can truly shine, and we appreciate every gift of any size that can be made to help our friends and neighbors.

**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.

## MOVIE CORNER

“Sorry We Missed You,” via rental on Amazon Prime, is an eye-opening drama of a British family beset by poverty, which manifests itself in gig economy jobs with no benefits, per se, and commonplace after-hours, on-call assignments. Fourteen hour days from both parents has negative repercussions on two teenage children, with only the young daughter exhibiting responsibility for most of the movie compared to her older brother, now becoming a juvenile delinquent because of his gang’s graffiti painting. The husband has labored across job after job only to land finally as a delivery driver as we begin the movie. To gain this franchise job he had to sell the car his nursing-care employed wife was using to get to her clients, forcing her to take public transportation at great inconvenience. The downward spiral is difficult for the family. I was impressed with the wife’s great kindness and patience throughout most of the movie. The husband’s supervisor at the delivery terminal is a template for the worst boss

ever, so kudos to the actor who so well played the role of this unlikeable character. All in all, the flick is a sobering representation of a present situation none of us would desire, inspiring “there but for the grace of God” reflections on the viewer. Thanks to Jerry for this review.—*Beth Ponce*. Send your suggestions of movies to watch, to [ponce.beth@gmail.com](mailto:ponce.beth@gmail.com)

**QUOTE**—“The trouble is that once you see it, you can't unsee it. And once you've seen it, keeping quiet, saying nothing, becomes as political an act as speaking out. There's no innocence; either way you are accountable.”—*Arundhati Roy*

## MOTHER EARTH IS CRYING

I am crying and do you not hear?  
My ice is melting.  
The seas are rising.  
Earth is burning.  
Temperatures rising.  
Desertification is causing unprecedented climate refugees.  
Extreme weather is destroying crops, homes and businesses.  
What more must I do to get your attention,  
to change your ways?  
I will survive with or without you.  
I am crying out for your survival,  
are you listening?—*Mary Lou Knicki, OSB*

**STAFF**—*Russ Banner, editor; Joan Pesce and Dorothy Sadowski, text review; Beth Ponce and Dotty Shugrue, features*