

On Line and On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
marymotherofjesus.org

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AN ENTIRE MONTH OF CONTEMPLATION—

The signal is clear: There is no time to sink into the quiet of fall that is promised with the coming of Thanksgiving. By the Friday morning that follows it, the raucousness of capitalist Christmas bursts suddenly upon us. The warning of autumn, with its browning of leaves and graying of skies, that life too, is susceptible to the wisdom of the seasons gets lost in the plastic world of limitless desire and limited resources. Shopping becomes what Advent is meant to be: the consuming preparation for one of the greatest feasts of the Christian year.

But commercialism is not the problem. We're a consumer society whatever the season. The problem is that the lack of contemplative consideration that comes with Christmas consumerism too often drowns out the sounds of Advent and drains not only the feast but even, perhaps, the rest of the year of its meaning. As a result we have managed to make Christmas an event, a passing fancy, an exhausting endurance exercise, stripped of reflection by the pressure of social protocols. But judging from the scripture of the season, Christmas is surely meant to be an attitude toward life, not a carnival. It is meant to be arrived at slowly and lived



succulently. Christmas is not meant to be simply a day of celebration; it is meant to be a month of contemplation. But because Advent has been lost somewhere between the Thanksgiving turkey and pre-Christmas sales, we have lost one of the richest seasons of the year.

Advent is an excursion through Scripture meant to give depth and emotional stability to the days for which there are no songs, no tinsel, no flashing lights to distract us from its raw, tart marrow. Unless we can reclaim Advent, the lack of it will show dearly in the way we go through the rest of life itself.—*Joan Chittister*

OFFERINGS—We are grateful for your continued contribution toward the growth and development of our community. Thank you 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 [AFFB] in its mission of providing food for hungry and needy children. AFFB works with food banks around the U.S. to help kids during this crisis & all year long. Because of this crisis, millions of vulnerable children are losing meals they depend on. Healthy meals for kids. Summer meals. School breakfast programs, etc. According to the latest estimates, as many as 13 million children in the United States live in "food insecure" homes. That phrase may sound mild,

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.

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but it means that those households don't have enough food for every family member to lead a healthy life. Please be generous in your offering to ease child hunger especially those in "food insecure" homes.

MOVIE CORNER

This week's recommendation is **Big Shot** which comes to us from Joan and Doty and is streaming on Disney+. *"The series is a realistic and heart-warming presentation of personal and family challenges resulting in growth in community and personal relationships. Doty and I loved this feel good and meaningful series and highly recommend it for all."* [Joan Pesce]

Summary: Accepting a coaching position at a private high school, [Coach and lead actor] realizes that his new team of teenage girls needs more than just tough love, he has to learn how to connect with them. As he attempts this, he finds himself growing more into the person he's always wanted to be, while the team is discovering themselves both on and off the court.

Send your comments, criticisms, suggestions, thumbs up or down. And most of all PLEASE SEND YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHAT TO WATCH to ponce.beth@gmail.com —*Beth Ponce*

COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS ON VATICAN II

VAT II AFTER-EFFECT— The question is this: What do you see to be the most significant after-effect of Vatican II?

First, we heard from Ann Cooke and Jack Duffy, followed by Jan LoGalbo, Suzanne Bires, Jerry Bires, Michael Rigdon, and Maryal Gagnon, Janet Blakeley, Bridget Mary Meehan, Mary Kay Staudohar, Pat MacMillan, Anna Davis and Beth Ponce. Today we hear from:

DOROTHY SADOWSKI

I was a member of a religious community at the time of Vatican II. That event was one of the most significant and glorious in all of our history! We were directed to go back to our roots, and back we went, full force. As John XXIII exemplified, the windows were unlocked and thrown wide open. We read, digested, and discussed all of Vat II's documents. We had some of the best speakers in the country to help lead and inspire us. Our liturgies were alive and joyful, finally! We were steeped in the freshness and excitement that Vatican II represented. The whole church was

called to return to its roots: to preach and live the gospel of our brother Jesus!

When I left my religious community and looked for a similar worshipping body, I was hard-pressed to find one. At long last I found our community of St. Peter (and in FLA, MMOJ)—in my mind, the best deal in town! Our community follows the spirit and direction of Vatican II to the best of its ability. Also, I observed that much of the wider church, over the years following the 60's and 70's, retrenched big time. Gospel mandates were just too hard and inconvenient. To buck the civil and political culture—of which the church had become so much a part, was too risky. There was too much "power" to lose!!

The most significant after-effects of Vatican II remain top priorities in my life and in those of my church community. (And I see them in a few diocesan parishes and in many independent Eucharistic communities.) The biggest is that the Church is the people of God—ALL the people of God, not just the clergy or members of religious communities. Clericalism needs to continue dying out so that all the people of God can FULLY participate.

Primacy of conscience is another after-effect. Baptism sets us on our feet, and as we use all resources necessary, we make up our minds and hearts as conscience dictates.

And a third after-effect is at the heart of the gospel: the preferential option for the poor. We can no longer afford a devotional-type church; we have work to do in building the KINdom, which Jesus so intentionally started, all over this planet! And one final effect, God's hand, presence, and grandeur in all of creation: our sisters and brothers, our plants and animals, our air, water, and soil, our earth and sky!

The documents of Vat II and some of the more recent papal encyclicals are shot through with these effects. Perhaps we should all return to them for guidance, sustenance, inspiration, and the plentiful word of God!—*Dorothy Sadowski*

THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE RESPONDED!

QUOTE—"Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. Maybe many of us won't be here to greet her, but on a quiet day, if I listen very carefully, I can hear her breathing."
—Arundhati Roy



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

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PREPARATION FOR TAKING AGAIN A VOW OF NONVIOLENCE

- Dec 4 We will open our time of preparation for retaking the vow of nonviolence by viewing and listening to Elif Shafak's presentation "**Is violence ever justified?**" Please take the time to view and listen! [Simply use your cursor and go to center of pic below. You should obtain the starting arrow. Press to start.



PLEASE NOTE: I received this video from **Tim Musser**, member of Pax Christi Cleveland West. Tim offered it as a perfect way for our community to prepare again to take the vow.

COMING SOON.....

- Dec 11 **PURSuing NONVIOLENCE**—By John Dear—This first installment will be found on page 3 of OLOP
- Dec 18 **PURSuing NONVIOLENCE**—By John Dear—will be continued on page 3 of OLOP
- Dec 25 **PURSuing NONVIOLENCE**—By John Dear—the conclusion

GO TO BRIDGET MARY MEEHAN'S BLOG FOR THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1. New Documentary on Anne Tropeano's Call to Priesthood

<https://bridgetmarys.blogspot.com/2021/11/father-anne-is-fighting-for-woman.html>

2. Roman Catholic Women Priests in Colombia Were Present at Women's March for Peace in Colombia by Olga Lucia Alvarez Benjumea ARCWP

<https://www.elespectador.com/colombia-20/conflicto/3000-mujeres-en-resistencia-frente-a-3000-hombres-armados-en-el-bajo-cauca/>

This article was written in Spanish about Olga Lucia Alvaerz and Lucero Manco Arias - both ARCWP women priests- in Colombia who marched for peace in Colombia. PICTURES INCLUDED