

On Line and On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
marymotherofjesus.org



REMEMBERING—*"In today's world, which increasingly faces the challenges of social injustice, division and conflict that hinder the realization of the common good, Dr. King's vision of harmony and equality for all people, attained through nonviolent and peaceful means, remains ever timely."*—Pope Francis

During the years after the bus boycott, King grew increasingly committed to nonviolence. An India trip in 1959 helped him connect more intimately with Gandhi's legacy. King began to advocate nonviolence not just in a national sphere, but internationally as

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well: "the potential destructiveness of modern weapons" convinced King that "the choice today is no longer between violence and nonviolence. It is either nonviolence or nonexistence."

King's notion of nonviolence had six key principles. First, one can resist evil without resorting to violence. Second, nonviolence seeks to win the "friendship and understanding" of the opponent, not to humiliate him. Third, evil itself, not the people committing evil acts, should be opposed. Fourth, those committed to nonviolence must be willing to suffer without retaliation as suffering itself can be redemptive. Fifth, nonviolent resistance avoids "external physical violence" and "internal violence of spirit" as well: "The nonviolent resister not only

refuses to shoot his [or her] opponent but he [or she] also refuses to hate him [or her]" . The resister should be motivated by love in the sense of the Greek word agape, which means "understanding," or "redeeming good will for all..." . The sixth principle is that the nonviolent resister must have a "deep faith in the future," stemming from the conviction that "The universe is on the side of justice."

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

When nonviolence was challenged in the Civil Rights Movement because of seeming ineffectiveness, said Dr. King: “Occasionally in life one develops a conviction so precious and meaningful that he will stand on it till the end. This is what I have found in nonviolence.”... “We maintained the hope while transforming the hate of traditional revolutions into positive nonviolent power. As long as the hope was fulfilled there was little questioning of nonviolence. But when the hopes were blasted, when people came to see that in spite of progress their conditions were still insufferable ... despair began to set in.” Arguing that violent revolution was impractical in the context of a multiracial society, he concluded: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that. **The beauty of nonviolence is that in its own way and in its own time it seeks to break the chain reaction of evil.**”—*information obtained mostly from The Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute of Stanford*

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
January 17, 2022
— Martin Luther King, Jr. Day —
an American Holiday
CONNECT VIA ZOOM
Special prayer service at 1 PM
led by Kathryn Shea

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 task of providing food for hungry and needy children. AFFB is a member of Feeding America – a network of food banks across the country. One of its key objectives is to equitably serve agency partners who distribute food to those struggling with hunger. AFFB understands that hunger is a health issue and its mission is, “Together with our partners, we provide healthy solutions to end hunger in our community.”

101 Ways to Foster Nonviolence in your life

31. Stop needing to be “number one.”
32. Recognize that everyone has a “piece of the truth.”
33. Compromise.
34. Forgive someone who has hurt you or a loved one, let them know.
35. Make a connection with someone who is different from you.
36. Ask God to help you on your nonviolence journey.
37. Spend quality time building relationships.
38. Speak truth to power.
39. Live with compassion for all life around you.
40. Offer solutions. —*to be continued*

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

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QUOTE—We don't have scarcity of resources in this nation, instead, we have a scarcity of moral consciousness that is blocking economic investment and voting rights and hiding behind an historically regressive and racist filibuster which is morally indefensible, constitutionally inconsistent, politically incompetent, and economically insane.

We will act together using moral language, with the power of love, truth and justice on our side, until our demands are realized. This may take more than a season, but our deadline is victory! Every day of continued injustice will only embolden our agitation and strengthen our resolve to realize our moral agenda and the nation we have yet to be.—*for the Poor People's Campaign, co-chairs, Rev. Dr. William Barber and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis*

EUCHARIST IN A PANDEMIC

When you live alone and all of your friends are over 70 years old and considered "high risk" for severe Covid-19 disease, the possibility of safely celebrating Eucharist seems impossible at least for the time being.

I decided to check in at Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community in Sarasota. Pat and I worshipped with them each year during our winter vacations there. They now have a Zoom

liturgy each Saturday at 4:00 PM. Their pastoral team is led by Mary Bridget Meehan, an ordained Roman Catholic woman priest.

Bridget Mary's blog provided a worship aid for the weekend liturgy and suggested that participants join them with a candle and their own elements of bread and wine or juice.

People started to sign on to the Zoom session about a half hour before the service began to discuss the week's happenings and catch up with one another. Promptly at 4:00 PM the group is asked to click on the mute button and the Liturgy begins. They "unmute" after the Gospel for a dialog homily and at the consecration everyone together raises their bread and wine to be blessed by all. After communion there is a final blessing by and for the entire community and further opportunity for comments and reflection.

Nothing can compare to celebrating Eucharist in person with my own community but I found this experience very moving and it helped to satisfy my hunger.—*Mike Coughlin [Mike attended last weekend's Liturgy and sent the above comment to his eucharistic community in the Greater Cleveland area of Ohio.]*

MOVIE CORNER—A big thank you to Joan Pesce for this week's movie recommendation. **FINDING YOU** is an inspirational romantic drama full of heart and humor about finding the strength to be true to oneself. After an ill-fated audition at a prestigious New York music conservatory, violinist Finley Sinclair (Rose Reid) travels to an Irish coastal village to begin her semester studying abroad. At the B&B run by her host family, she encounters gregarious and persistent heartthrob movie star Beckett

Rush (Jedidiah Goodacre), who is there to film another installment of his medieval fantasy-adventure franchise. As romance sparks between the unlikely pair, Beckett ignites a journey of discovery for Finley and vice versa. It is available on Amazon Prime. Keep sending your comments, criticisms, suggestions, to ponce.beth@gmail.com —Beth Ponce



VOTE - VOTE - VOTE

NOTE: There are currently two bills awaiting a vote in the U.S. Senate; the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. Both of these bills would federally protect our rights to cast a ballot and gut many of these state voter suppression laws. The family of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has requested that communities and individuals avoid marches, parades, etc., to commemorate Dr. King's special day. Instead, we are asked to do what we can to support legislation that strengthens the democratic right of all citizens to vote.

Sen .Rick Scott*
502 Hart Senate Office. Building.
District of Columbia 20510-090

Sen. Marco Rubio
317 Hart Senate Office Building,
District of Columbia 20510-0903

Rep. Vern Buchanan*
221 Cannon House Office Building,
District of Columbia 20515-0913

**find your particular senator/
representative on the web*

SYNOD—*[Last weekend, I featured Pope Francis' call for a world-wide, every diocese-involved, listening session as part of a SYNOD that started with the people. I heard from on one, until the following was received.]*

Thanks so much for your work to include the Synod discussion in OLOP. I did not even know that this endeavor was going on. Here are some of my thoughts and reactions. How do they expect to listen to those on the periphery and even outside the church if there is no mechanism to include them in the discussion? *[Actually, there is: Individual responses can be sent to the Vatican.]* I participated in the information gathering on the family a few years ago. Unfortunately, participation seemed to be limited to those in leadership like the Parish Council. From their discussion, the response was collated, summarized and filtered up through the priest/bishop hierarchy of the church. This left me with great doubt on the final authenticity of the information. *[I would agree, and that will be the process in all too many areas. But, where the Spirit is allowed to be free, there is great hope.]* The voice of MMOJ is one that is critical to be heard. *[Agree. Question*

is, how?] I feel MMOJ represents a committed, Spirit led community on the edge...or outside and it would be good for us to respond. *[Again, agree. Question is are there more than one interested?]*

Unfortunately the discussion questions were very disappointing. *[Very much in agreement.]* If the leadership and policies of the Catholic Church are exclusionary, many of these questions seemed a waste of time and a smoke screen hiding the true issues at hand. If the Church continues to excommunicate women priests and refuses to embrace or minister to the queer community and wastes time advocating the withholding of communion from the US President, what good are these little discussion questions? *[Hope is in the Holy Spirit breaking through the defenses and allowing the voices of the people to be heard, listened to and acted upon.]—Beth Ponce [and my comments, RJB]*

QUOTES OF NOTE—"I think we need to hear the great rebuke of Jesus. Nuclear weapons are not the will of the nonviolent Jesus, and it is time we took his rebuke seriously. If we listen, we can hear Jesus' voice crying out today: Stop building nuclear weapons, do not prepare for nuclear war, dismantle your nuclear weapons, and welcome God's reign of universal love and peace."—*Archbishop John Wester of Santa Fe, N.M.*, who issued a new pastoral letter, urging the local community and the world to join "**a renewed commitment to the cause of peace**" with the goal of

eliminating all global nuclear weapons arsenals.

Archbishop Wesler also said this: [This] pastoral letter also serves as an invitation to readers to review the nonviolent practices of Jesus..."It means seeing every human being as a sister and brother, and doing everything we can not to harm them, but to actively love them, including the people of Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, and others."

FURTHER QUOTE—"When one breaks the law to resist the probability of nuclear war, one is not just breaking the law . . . one is upholding the one law from which all decent and just law derives: 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.'"—*Philip Berrigan*

ROHRISM—When we are at peace, when we are not fighting it, when we are not fixing and controlling this world, when we are not filled with anger, all we can do is start loving and forgiving. Nothing else makes sense when we are alone with God. All we can do is let go; there's nothing worth holding on to, because there is nothing else we need. It is in that free space, I think, that realignment happens. Francis lived out of such realignment. And I think it is the realignment that he announced to the world in the form of worship and adoration.—*Richard Rohr*

SORRY about lateness in publication. I attempted some changes that were not meant to be. All's well again! ed.