

On Line and On Point

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MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

SPECIAL—For the month of February, the OLOP feature will be **The 10 Most Important Black Women in U.S.**

History—a list compiled by Jone Johnson Lewis, Dec. 31, 2020.

1. MARIAN ANDERSON

(Feb. 27, 1897–April 8, 1993, Summed up Marian

Anderson's early life was that of an emerging voice persistently thwarted because of prejudice on the part of school systems, voice academies, and concert halls. Supportive persons, relatives, friends and academia urged Marian on to use her voice in church, in singing competitions and concert venues. It was only when she left this country and traveled abroad that she soared in both her musical accomplishments and many accolades. During a 1935 tour in Salzburg, the venerable conductor Arturo Toscanini told her she had a voice "heard once in a hundred years."

Marian returned to the U.S. receiving the highest of music reviews. But it was her

1939 concert before the Lincoln Memorial that capped all that went before. Denied access to the Constitution Hall in segregated D.C., Marian was refused

both a place to sing and where to lay her head. In stepped First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. She arranged for an Easter Sunday open-air concert attended by a

mixed-racial group of some 75,000 and a radio audience of millions. It was a shining moment in U.S. history. Not only did Marian Anderson become a singing sensation in concert halls and the Metropolitan Opera Company, but she was also an important figure in the struggle for African-American artists to overcome racial prejudice in the United

States during the the 1960's civil rights movement. Her contralto voice was added to that of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's "I have a Dream" event. After many, many awards, medals and recognitions, Marian retired to live with a nephew until dying at age 96.



from a painting by Betsy Graves Reyneau

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

OFFERINGS—If you have made a recent donation to our community, we thank you for your generosity. We are most grateful for your demonstrated care and concern. 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.

“I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality.” MLK

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 families and children. Hunger deprives children of more than just food. Child hunger equals serious health consequences as well as negative impacts on prospects for future success. Your gift is critical in helping to provide the nutritious food boys and girls need to learn, grow, and thrive. You can help keep them full all year long by supporting AFFB’s Campaign Against Childhood Hunger—our community’s strongest line of defense against child hunger. Through our partners and various programs, AFFB works hard to make sure children receive the help they need. Child hunger is a problem we can solve together.

101 WAYS TO FOSTER NONVIOLENCE IN YOUR LIFE

61. Don’t buy into advertising—literally or figuratively.

62. Respect all human rights of all people: civil, political, social, economic, cultural.
63. Treat your body well.
64. Talk to someone about why violence is bad.
65. Help someone looking for a job to find one that supports people, human needs, or the environment—not corporate greed.
66. Is there a school you can ask to set up teaching nonviolent conflict resolution?
67. Put other first.
68. Speak out against violence in the media and “entertainment.”
69. Laugh.
70. Really try to understand the viewpoint of someone with whom you disagree..—*to be continued*

MOVIE CORNER

At the beginning of the pandemic we watched our first Netflix series, **Designated Survivor**. Maybe it seemed really good because our expectations were not high but we really enjoyed the series and it kept us busy in those early days of captivity. The premise of a designated survivor and a president with few obligations or favors owed was an interesting basis for the series. They also touched on very valid issues in many episodes. The series stars Kieffer Sutherland, Maggie Q, Adan Canto, Italia Ricci and, my favorite character played by Kal Penn, who actually worked in the Obama administration. Send your comments, criticisms, suggestions, to ponce.beth@gmail.com —*Beth Ponce*

2. **MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE** (July 10, 1875–May 18, 1955) Born to slave parents on July 10, 1875, the last of 17

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

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children, Mary McLeod Bethune was in the North Carolina fields picking cotton at age 9. She was fortunate to attend Scotia Seminary, a boarding school in North Carolina, 1894, and then enrolled in Dwight Moody's Institute for Home and Foreign Missions located in Chicago, Illinois. Being Black, Mary found no mission field open to her and returned home to be an educator. It was also



where she met her husband, a fellow teacher, and they had a son, Divorced in 1904, she opened a small boarding school for girls—Daytona Beach Literary and Industrial School for Training Negro Girls

—so that she might support herself and her son. merging with the all-male Cookman Institute to form Bethune-Cookman College in 1929—still recognized today as an honored institution of higher learning. Mary was a champion of racial and gender equality. She served as president of the National Association of Colored Women and founded the National Council of Negro Women. Heavily involved in voter registration she was largely responsible for vast movement of Blacks from the Republican Party into the Democratic Party. This brought her to the attention of President Franklin Roosevelt who named her director of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration, where she remained until 1944. In this position, Mary became the highest ranking African American woman in government. Later, appointed by President Harry S. Truman, Bethune became the only woman of color at the

founding conference of the United Nations in 1945.

Many were her honors and awards. And, among them was her image on a postage stamp in 1985,

INVITE—There will be a Centering Prayer Introductory Program on **Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022** via Zoom, 8:45AM – 12:30PM. No cost.

Great prep for Lent. For more information and registration please contact Bob Ferkenhoff at bferken@verizon.net or 941-350-6920. Please provide both your email and cell contact info.

HOWARD THURMAN—In the 20th century classic, Jesus and the Disinherited, the acclaimed African American Protestant theologian, Howard Thurman, provided guidance for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his associates. Thurman showed a pathway toward discovering a means by which they were able to experience anew the deep and abiding concern among African American thinkers searching for a credible renewal of Christianity in the aftermath of slavery, amid a century of segregation and the rise of the civil rights movement. This text provided that for them, and you can understand why Howard was a personal adviser to Dr. King.



Theologian Howard Thurman is depicted in stained glass at Howard University in Washington, D.C. (Wikimedia Commons/Fourandsixty)

Thurman's arguments echo into our time and we can learn a great deal from them. This is how Howard sets the theme in his book: "I can count on the fingers of one hand the number of times that I have heard a sermon on the meaning of religion, of Christianity, to the man who stands with his back against the wall. It is urgent that my meaning be crystal clear. The masses of men live with their backs constantly against the wall. They are the poor, the disinherited, the dispossessed. What does our religion say to them?"

SARASOTA CONFERENCE ON SPIRITUALITY, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL CHANGE—

The Thought and Spirituality of Howard Thurman: His Historical Legacy and Relevance to the Issues of Today. **April 1-2, 2022** at First Congregational UCC, 1031 S. Euclid Ave. Although this event is scheduled months from now, it would be good to mark your calendar. Tickets for the Fri-Sat afternoon event are \$38.00, and can be reserved through the website provided: [HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/SARASOTA](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sarasota)

Note: The list of local organizations are impressive, including Women's Interfaith Network.

SYNOD REVISITED—In his address opening the synodal process last October, the Holy Father began by clearly articulating his understanding of what an ecclesial synod requires.

The pope said, "You have come by many different roads and from different Churches, each bearing your own questions and hopes," thus affirming the need to engage, to share, to demonstrate parrhesia.

He continued, "I am certain the Spirit will guide us and give us the grace to move

forward together, to listen to one another and to embark on a discernment of the times in which we are living, in solidarity with the struggles and aspirations of all humanity."

The Spirit will "guide" and "give," which suggests participants must be docile and receptive, the very opposite of assertive, agenda-driven and activist.

"I want to say again that the Synod is not a parliament or an opinion poll," the pope said. "The Synod is an ecclesial event and its protagonist is the Holy Spirit."

An ecclesial event will require an ecclesial language, yet how many arguments, across the ideological spectrum, instead offer sociological reasons and polling data to justify a theological conclusion?

The pope concluded that opening paragraph with this stunning statement: "If the Spirit is not present, there will be no Synod."

The following is a response to troubling conservative voices who mock listening and discerning: "So if our conservative friends are keeping the synod at arm's length, there is a real opportunity for our liberal friends to be heard. Certainly, in my lifetime, there has never been such an opportunity for the Catholic left to be heard.

"I just hope we all will remember the pope's words: 'If the Spirit is not present, there will be no synod.' We are not being called to discern how to win an argument. We are being called to discern what the Spirit wants for the church. We all need to make room for the Spirit. We all need to learn to be docile and receptive. And it will be especially hard for us Americans.

—*Michael Sean Winters [NCR]*

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