

On Line and On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

marymotherofjesus.org

IN SOLIDARITY—The last homily I delivered was a little over two years ago, in March of 2020, right before the pandemic shut down the world. The gospel reading that morning was Matthew's account of the Transfiguration of Jesus (Matthew 17:1-9). In this story Jesus is preparing his disciples for the cross—it's going to come, so be ready, he seems to say. Jesus knows it's the only thing that's going to transfigure them, and the same thing goes for us, too. You see, suffering has this strange and marvelous ability to pull us into oneness. Maybe you've seen it happen in your family, at the funeral of a loved one or some other communal tragedy. I think many of us felt it in the early days of the pandemic—before our dualistic politics got in the way—there was a sense that we were in it together. Until we find the communal meaning and significance of the suffering of all life, we will continue to retreat into our individual, small worlds in our misguided quest for personal safety and sanity. A Crucified God is the dramatic symbol of the one suffering that God fully enters into with us



—not just for us, as we were mostly taught to think, but in solidarity with us. The Good News is we do not have to hold that suffering alone. In fact, we cannot hold it alone.

As we approach Easter, let us remember that we too can follow this path, actively joining God's loving solidarity with all. What starts in God ends in God. All of reality is moving toward resurrection. This is the great hope of our

tradition and one that is becoming more and more necessary for the world to hear.—*Richard Rohr*

OFFERINGS—We are grateful for your continued contribution toward the growth and development of our community. 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.

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.

OUTREACH—The current recipient of our offered financial support is All Faiths Food Bank of Sarasota [AFFB] in its task of providing food for hungry and needy families and children.

This year, the Campaign Against Summer Hunger returns for its 9th year from April 1-May 15. Since the start of the campaign in 2014, we have known that when school ends, hunger begins for more than 40,000 children. And now, as the cost of living surges in the face of growing inflation, so many families are working harder than ever to make ends meet. Many Sarasota and DeSoto County students rely on free and reduced meals at school. The summer months can be especially difficult for the children of families struggling to put food on the table. Please be generous.

MOVIE CORNER

For this weekend, the editor reviews a movie]

For me, the best production of Jesus' life is Franco Zeffirelli's **JESUS OF NAZARETH**. I don't have room to list all the positive features, but time to focus on the scene that takes place in the Upper Room when Mary Magdalene has revealed to the gathered and frightened apostles that Jesus has risen! She can hardly believe the sullen and unbelieving response. After she leaves, considering she did what Jesus asked her to do, the apostles ask around: Do you believe? The great moment is when Peter is asked that question and he quietly says "Yes." "How can you say that?" he is asked.



And Peter simply replies from the pain of his three days of personal agony, "Because he said so." You can't beat that for testimony! Classic! Great! If it is on this weekend, do not miss it! Let me know what you think. Send your comments, criticisms, suggestions, to ponce.beth@gmail.com —*Beth Ponce*

QUOTE—*[Found in the March-April issue of The Catholic Worker newspaper from NY, was the following "highlighted" quotation:]* Probably no admonition of Jesus has been more difficult to follow than the command to "love our enemies."

Some have sincerely felt that its actual practice is not possible. Others contend that Jesus' exhortation to love one's enemies is testimony to the fact that the Christian ethic is designed for the weak and cowardly, and not for the strong and courageous...In spite of these insistent questions and persistent objections, this command of Jesus challenges us with new urgency. Upheaval after upheaval has reminded us that modern humanity is

traveling along a road called hate, in a journey that will bring us to destruction and damnation. Far from being the pious injunction of a utopian dreamer, the command to love one's enemy is an absolute necessity for our survival. Love even for enemies is the key to the solution of the problems of our world... Our responsibility as Christians is to discover the meaning of this command and seek passionately to live it out in our daily lives.—*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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