

On Line and On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

marymotherofjesus.org

Earth Day, April 22, 2022

NUCLEAR WEAPONS—Nuclear weapons are one of the two most critical, terrifying, moral and spiritual issues facing our nation, and planet—our common home. The other is the climate crisis, and both are interconnected. The U.S. imperial war machine is the largest consumer of fossil fuels and one of the greatest polluters on the planet. With these two crises, the entirety of the Holy One's "good" creation is utterly threatened unlike at any time in human history....

Recently, Pope Francis became the first pope to outrightly condemn the possession of nuclear weapons, saying, "If we also take into account the risk of an accidental detonation as a result of error of any kind, the threat of their use, as well as their possession, is to be firmly condemned..." Most recently, a pastoral letter by Archbishop John C. Wester of Santa Fe, NM—where two of the three nation's nuclear laboratories exist [Los Alamos and Sandia], along with the largest U.S. repository of nuclear weapons at Kirkland Air Force Base—also condemned nuclear



weapons and called for nuclear disarmament to protect the planet.... We can no longer rely on those in government who, for the most part, refuse to serve the common good, or at most give mere lip service, but rather have chosen to serve what is best for the ruling elite—corporate profits at all costs, including the planet. The central problem as Dorothy Day correctly articulated, is

our acceptance of this filthy rotten system, which I may add is evil, corrupt, and utterly rotten to the core, and therefore irredeemable.

This means, first and foremost, to pray and take Jesus' words seriously, relying on the Spirit for wisdom,

courage and direction, the next step is to organize: form community with family, friends, neighbors, church groups, etc, build solidarity, and take to the streets. Make use of repeated general strikes and other forms of creative nonviolent resistance and nonviolent direct action. There is no other option. To believe others is futile. All life hangs in the balance.—*excerpted from an article by Mike Wisniewski in the newsletter of the Los Angeles Catholic Worker.*

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—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.

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. First Quarter donation of \$161.75 was given to Immokalee Workers [CIW].

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. Please be generous.

MOVIE CORNER

Darkest Hour, as you may have guessed, is a movie about Winston Churchill. It is set in the early days of his tenure as Prime Minister during World War II. He is well portrayed by Gary Oldham. Although a bit slow moving, it provides an insightful look into history. It is currently streaming on Netflix. Let me know what you think.

HELP NEEDED: Have you seen a good movie? I'd love to know. You don't have to write the review or even have your name mentioned. Just email the movie name and if possible where you've seen it to ponce.beth@gmail.com With longer days and warmer weather I do not watch as many movies so could really use your



suggestions and recommendations. Thank you all. Send your comments, criticisms, suggestions, to ponce.beth@gmail.com —*Beth Ponce*

MOVE INTO ACTION [the start of a series to accomplish]—Erika Chenwith and many others have found that 3.5% of a population has to be moved into nonviolent direct action for change to become possible.... Therefore, we need everyone in hearing distance and those perusing these words to move into action [bringing our friends along with us as soon as possible.]

For many of us, our movement into action is not always linear, and our journeys are seldom the same as others. Suggested activities that will follow in later issues will serve to help us consider what is needed for us to move from people who care, people whose heart breaks at the realities of our world, into people who move into committed accountable, strategic

collective action for a transformed world.

We are encouraged to make time, begin with prayer, grab some paper and a writing tool, and dig into presented questions and prompts. The more honest we are, the better prepared we will be to step off the sidewalk and into the streets [literally and metaphysically] in a serious,

faithful, and effective way. Not only will our spirits appreciate these acts of integrity, but we just might be a part of a community that helps heal our world. Dare we take another step into this effort to save the earth, our descendants, and our soul?

[Next: A Commitment to Accountability]

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

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St. Andrew and MMOJ meet with open arms

Michael Rigdon shared with me this story:

To understand the nature of our relationship, one between two established faith communities, you would have had to be at that first visit of MMOJ community representatives—among which were Imogene and I. Our small contingent met with a similar small group of parish board members from St. Andrew United Church of Christ. We were slow to get started on our first tour simply because their pastor was not immediately available.

Nevertheless, we began without him.

[Bishop] Bridget Mary Meehan led

our group as we entered the sanctuary.

Imogene and I took up the rear.

As we paused midway in that vast seating area, one of the board members explained some salient points about the architecture. I was distracted by a man running down the aisle toward us. He wrapped his arms around me and said, **“Welcome, my Brother!”** And that was my first meeting with Phil Garrison, Pastor of St. Andrew.



His same welcome was extended to each member of our small group, and a later welcome that was further extended that weekend to each and every member of the MMOJ community. Phil’s welcome was genuine and sincere. His future sharing in mutual services was always outstanding, embracing, inviting and even

—through the shared Word, challenging. Phil was a great Pastor, Christian witness, and even a peace and justice activist guy! We were so fortunate to have him as our first pastor in residence—a term not long enough.

Since Phil’s departure, we have

had good relations with his replacements, and also with St. Andrew parishioners. Many are the examples of similar close sharing and working together; but we leave those stories to be yet told. We celebrate today our return to St. Andrew, and we look forward as we seek more and more ways to advance our faith community relationship: Welcome Sisters and Brothers!—*as related to me by Michael; Russ Banner*