

On Line and On Point

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MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

TRUTH SETS US FREE—To be his disciple, Jesus says, is to “know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” This familiar line has prompted much reflection on the relationship between truth and freedom. In obvious terms, someone who always tells the truth is free of the dissembling and maneuvering of those who craft their words to keep open their options and to cultivate everyone’s favor. Speeches by politicians are tested in focus groups and scrubbed of controversy before being delivered. An honest candidate addressing a controversial topic will lose half his audience with each speech. Jesus meant something much deeper when he said that he was the Truth. As God’s Word, Jesus lived the reality built into God’s creation, and especially in human nature, which he modeled with total transparency. He was the original human being fashioned in the image of God. To see him, believe in him and follow him was to live in perfect freedom. Sin distorts the truth, leads to deception and cover ups with guilty silence and shameful accommodation, until whole communities and societies live compromised lives built on lies that become official truth. Fairness is

sacrificed, ideals lost, integrity traded in for advancement and success. In the events of Holy Week, we will see the depths to which a deceitful and pandering world is willing to let an innocent man die to save its institutions. Jesus will be brought up on false charges, condemned without evidence, crucified to satisfy a mob and save face for the high priest and the Sanhedrin and to avoid trouble with Rome.

That world will come to an end on Calvary with Jesus’ death. Earthquakes, storms and the tearing of the veil in the temple sanctuary will be the first

messengers that a new dispensation has begun. We are called to witness it, and then embrace it as disciples.—*Pat Marrion [NCR]*

First Hybrid
LITURGY
Sat. Apr 23 4 PM
St. Andrew
UCC

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

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.

on real issues of food and hunger in our surrounding communities.

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. Hunger deprives people of more than just food. 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.”



MOVIE CORNER

A great feel good family movie about dogs and underdogs, **Rescued by Ruby** is now streaming on Netflix. It is based on the true story of a Rhode Island state trooper who dreams of joining a K9 unit and a naughty rescue dog that he recruits

as a partner. I was not familiar with any of the actors but the director was Katt Shea...have you been moonlighting Kathryn? It's an awesome movie if you love dogs and a pretty good movie even if you don't. Harpo, our Leader Dog for the Blind puppy, really got into it. I think he identified with the naughty dog parts; I know I did. . Let me know what you think. Send your comments, criticisms, suggestions, to ponce.beth@gmail.com
—Beth Ponce



SEE IT NOW—Paul's vision of life “in Christ,” life in the “new creation,” did not mean, “Accept the imperial way of life with its oppression and violence, but practice love in your personal relationships.”

To make the same point differently, people like Jesus and Paul were not executed for saying, “Love one another.” They were killed because their understanding of love meant more than being compassionate toward individuals, although it did include that. It also meant standing against the domination systems that ruled their world, and collaborating with the Spirit in the creation of a new way of life that stood in contrast to the normalcy of the wisdom of the world. Love and justice go together. Justice without love can be brutal, and love without justice can be banal. Love is the heart of justice, and justice is the social form of love.—*Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan*

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