

On Line and On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

marymotherofjesus.org

AIMS AND MEANS OF THE CATHOLIC WORKER MOVEMENT

The aim of the Catholic Worker movement is to live in accordance with the justice and charity of Jesus Christ. Our sources are the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures, as handed down in the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, with our inspiration coming from the lives of the saints, "men and women, outstanding in holiness, living witnesses to your unchanging love." [from the Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer for Holy Women and Men]

This aim requires us to begin living in a different way. We recall the words of our founder, Dorothy Day, who said, "God meant things to be much easier than we have made them," and Peter Maurin, who wanted to build a society "where it is easier for people to be good."—*to be continued*

We will continue this statement of purpose in later issues—copied from the annual article published in the New York City-based The Catholic Worker and sold, mailed and distributed out of St. Joseph House and Mary House in the lower east side of Manhattan. Originally sold for one



cent [and still is], each periodic issue contains solid articles based on peace and justice as well as numerous newsy pieces describing the CW movement. [You can obtain a subscription by asking for one and sending a small or large donation to Catholic Worker/36 East First Street/ NY,NY/10003] Donations, large or small, are not tax-deductible.

NOTE: About ten years back, there was a Catholic Worker house in Gainesville. It was successfully run by a young man named Johnny Zokovitch, who presently is the Executive Director of Pax Christi USA. As far as I understand, there is only one Catholic Worker House in FL today: Banyan Abbey (Homestead, FL)

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.

Send articles/info by Wed to be published on weekend: rjbannerusa@gmail.com

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.

From AFFB:As the cost of living surges in the face of growing inflation, local children are even more at risk of hunger during the summer.You can help us keep them full until fall.

REFLECTION ON HYBRID WORSHIP—MMOJ Board members agreed this past Monday it was a sound move to “hybrid” our weekly Liturgy via ZOOM and in place at St. Andrew UCC. The problem continues to be audio. The visual aspect of continuity with Zoom community can be solved through the principle of eye-to-eye contact—a responsibility of each presenter/reader.

The audio problem involves positioning of microphones, an ongoing challenge for future gatherings. Rick was tremendously helpful, effective and ever-present to help make things move along smoothly. Everyone was grateful for his help and that of our IT personnel: Peg and Cheryl. Next date: June 25.

MOVIE CORNER

Here’s a movie Dotty and Joan found riveting and relevant to issues of our time.

Anatomy of a Scandal is Netflix’s adaptation of Sarah Vaughan’s bestselling novel into a series starring Sienna Miller. The makers of Big Little Lies bring this psychological thriller about sexual consent to life on the small screen, boasting an all-star cast including Michelle Dockery and Rupert Friend.

Described by Netflix as an “insightful and suspenseful series”, it focuses on a sexual consent scandal among the British privileged elite, and the women caught up in its wake.

Anatomy of a Scandal is the story of political high-flyer James, who is accused of a terrible crime, and his wife Sophie, who is utterly convinced that he is innocent. But when the case goes to court, barrister Kate, who is prosecuting, has her own reasons for believing that James is definitely guilty – and she’s determined to prove it.

Send your comments, criticisms, suggestions, to ponce.beth@gmail.com

RESURRECTION TEACHING—

Theologian and Episcopal priest Kelly Brown Douglas compared the Risen Jesus’ instruction to his disciples to meet him in Galilee (Mark 16:6–8) and our own encounter with the risen Christ when we stand against injustice.

In asking his disciples to meet him in Galilee, Jesus was indeed calling them to imagine something different for the world. Jesus was asking them to imagine a world where life, not death, is centered. . .

. The Resurrected Jesus resurrected his disciples by inviting them away from the despair of death that was the cross into the hope of new life that was the resurrection. A community that had given up on the possibilities for life, that had lost faith in the gospel that Jesus preached, was called back into life-giving ministry. This is what the invitation to Galilee was all about.

When I remembered this Galilean invitation, as I stood in my own existential despair of crucifying Black deaths, it was

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

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as if I was being invited to Galilee to meet the resurrected Jesus. . . .

Douglas participated in a protest in support of Black lives and was filled with unexpected joy and what she calls “resurrecting hope”:

As I stood there in what seemed like a sea of people, my [spontaneous] laughter was nothing less than a signal of transcendence pointing me to the resurrecting hope that had disrupted the seeming futility of crucifying Black death. . . .

Standing in that small space of Black Lives Matter Plaza in front of the White House was the most motley and diverse crew of God’s sacred creation that I had seen come together in protest. They reflected an “otherwise way of being in the world.” They were Black, white, brown, Asian and non-Asian, Latinx and non-Latinx, queer and non-queer, trans and non-trans, bi-gendered and non-bi-gendered. They were also young and old and everything in between. . . . People were there advocating, each in their own way, for a world that looked more like God’s just future: a future where all people were living in the peace that was justice. They were embodying that very future.

CAC teacher Brian McLaren envisions much the same in a world saturated by the Risen Christ’s presence:

Resurrection has begun. We are part of something rare, something precious, something utterly revolutionary.

It feels like an uprising. An uprising of hope, not hate. An uprising armed with love, not weapons. An uprising that shouts a joyful promise of life and peace,



not angry threats of hostility and death. It’s an uprising of outstretched hands, not clenched fists. It’s the “someday” we

have always dreamed of, emerging in the present, rising up among us and within us. It’s so different from what we expected—so much better. This is what it means to be alive, truly alive. This is what it means to be en route,

walking the road to a new and better day.

Let’s tell the others: the Lord is risen!—

remembering MMOJ Community members who have stepped out and into the ranks of protest in days, weeks past: Michael Rigdon, Kathryn Shea and Mary Theresa Streck

REPEAT PERFORMANCE—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*

