

On Line and On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

marymotherofjesus.org

197- 0 [7]—On a cloudless Monday morning, we gathered with Women's Ordination Worldwide dressed in cardinal red, carrying red parasols intended to share messages of inclusion to the cardinals gathering at the Vatican for their extraordinary consistory. At a meeting of 197 church leaders that includes zero women, we seven women peacefully and creatively made our presence known outside. As we began, we prayed that our voices might carry beyond the church's closed doors and that our witness may challenge the conversations and consciences of our



brother cardinals inside the Vatican. We then opened our umbrellas, walking in a vivid line down the via della Conciliazione toward St. Peter's Basilica. As we passed, a passerby watching exclaimed, "Cardinale!"

With each step your prayers, donations, and support were with us. We were not sure how far we would get before being stopped by one of many layers of security around the Vatican, but to our surprise, we made it right to the gates surrounding St. Peter's Square. So we kept going. Next we processed to the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, where we welcomed cardinals entering the

consistory with our parasols, which read in part: "Sexism is a cardinal sin;" "Ordain women;" "Reform means women;" and "It's reigning men."

After greeting several prelates, the surrounding police apprehended and kettled our group into a makeshift holding

area for more than an hour. Despite various promises of being let go, we were eventually escorted across the Piazza del San Pietro to the nearest police station. At the station we were held for an additional 3 hours in a stale hallway waiting for our paperwork to be processed. Our

parasols were confiscated as evidence but there was a little joy as our "subversive messages" were carefully detailed one-by-one in the police report. Eventually, we were released "pending investigation," just as the cardinals were drifting out of the Vatican for their various lunch dates.

Without a doubt, we put the SISTER back in consistory, and our presence and absence were deeply felt. Our "Ministry of Irritation" continues to threaten the patriarchal business-as-usual at the Vatican. We are grateful for our Women's Ordination Worldwide partners and all those praying for us as we risked arrest

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, peace and care for creation. Come join us.

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

to raise up the absolute injustice of the inequality of women in the Catholic church. The Holy Spirit will not be detained!

Each of the women had to turn over their parasols, passports, and phones. They were held in-between porticos, then three hours at a nearby police station and then 3 more hours in a station hallway as the officers located a public defender to be assigned to them as required by Italian law. At one point an officer had to go out and get more paper to print all of the documents needed to capture their transgressions. What each had to sign in the end was quite an intimidating document. It details a criminal law procedure and how it might escalate, pending an investigation.

In the end, seven women praying with parasols occupied the resources of that police department for the better part of a working day. While it may sound harmless, their very presence was a threat to business-as-usual at the Vatican.—*Women's Ordination Conference [WOC]*

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. 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.

OUTREACH—The current recipient of our offered financial support is the **Community Foundation of Sarasota Season of Sharing**. Over the campaign's 20-year history, this time-tested and trusted resource has distributed more than \$30 million to more than 38,000 families and individuals who have been

able to get back on their feet thanks to our community's generosity..

MOVIE CORNER

“The Crickets Dance.” A southern attorney discovers a lost diary, one that changes her life and helps her find true love after she’s nearly killed in a brutal attack, in a new film starring Sons of Anarchy’s Kristen Renton. If Angie Lawrence, an attorney, and southern beauty, ever hopes to find love she needs to do two things: let a man walk her to the door and let go of the past. She sadly gets the opportunity to do both when she inherits a stunning southern antebellum mansion. While moving in, she discovers a diary hidden in the attic. It dates back 150 years. She becomes entranced with the diary’s history of slavery, brutality and how the bounds of time and injustice were overcome by love.

This 90 minute movie is based on the novel of the same name written by Deborah Robillard. Although many critics had negative comments about the film, I found it interesting, inspiring and worth watching. You can see it on Amazon Prime Video. [Kudos to Joan for this week’s movie review]—*Beth Ponce*. Send your suggestions of movies to watch, to ponce.beth@gmail.com

SPECIAL EVENT COMING—

People’s Catholic Seminary [PCS] FORUM will present **A Conversation with James Carroll**, on Tuesday evening, September 27, 2022, at 7pm EDT. James Carroll is an American author, historian, and journalist. A critical Catholic, he has written extensively about the contemporary effort to reform the Catholic Church, and has published, besides novels, books on religion and history.

In preparation for this program, we are

asked to read his book," *The Truth at the Heart of the Lie: How the Catholic Church Lost Its Soul.*" [In this book] James Carroll weaves together the story of his quest to understand his personal beliefs and his relationship to the Catholic Church with the history of the Church itself. From his first awakening of faith as a boy to his gradual disillusionment as a Catholic, Carroll offers a razor-sharp examination both of himself and of how the Church became an institution that places power and dominance over people through an all-male clergy. [He] argues

that a male-supremacist clericalism is both the root cause and the ongoing enabler of the sexual abuse crisis. Ultimately, Carroll calls on the Church and all reform-minded Catholics to revive the culture from within by embracing anti-clerical, anti-misogynist resistance and staying grounded in the spirit of love that is the essential truth at the heart of Christian belief and Christian life. [PCS asks that you] please read the book before participating in the forum. James will be focusing on his Epilogue: *A Catholic Manifesto*. More information to follow.

STAFF—Russ Banner, editor; Joan Pesce and Dorothy Sadowski, text review; Beth Ponce and Dotty Shugrue, features