

On Line and On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

marymotherofjesus.org

AS ROHR SEES IT—Our religion is not working well: suffering, fear, violence, injustice, greed, and meaninglessness still abound. This is not even close to the reign of God that Jesus taught. And we must be frank: in their behavior and impact upon the world, Christians are not much different than other people.

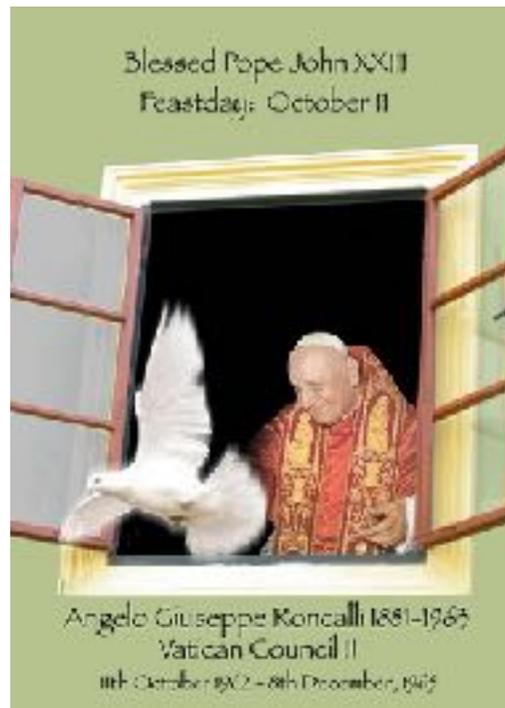
Many Christians are not highly transformed people; instead, they tend to reflect their own culture more than they operate as any kind of leaven within it. I speak especially of American Christians, because I am one. But if you are from another country, look at the Christians where you live and see if the same is true there. Let's be honest: religion has probably never had such a bad name. Christianity is now seen as "irrelevant" by some, "toxic" by many, and often as a large part of the problem rather than any kind of solution. Some of us are almost embarrassed to say we are

Christian because of the negative images that word conjures in others' minds. Young people especially are turned off by how judgmental,

exclusionary, impractical, and ineffective Christian culture seems to be. Most Christians have not been taught how to plug into the "mind of Christ"; thus, they often reflect the common mind of power, greed, and war instead. The dualistic mind reads reality in simple binaries—good and bad, right and wrong—and thinks itself smart because it chooses one side. This is getting us

nowhere.

Throughout the history of Christianity, it would seem Jesus' teaching has had little impact, except among people who surrendered to great love and great suffering. Could this be the real core of the Gospel? Such people experience God rather than merely have disconnected ideas about God. We need to rely on the mind of



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.

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mystics now to offer any kind of alternative—contemplative or nondual—consciousness. We need practice-based religion that teaches us how to connect with the Infinite in ways that actually change us from our finite perspectives.

We must rediscover what St. Francis of Assisi (1182–1226) called the “marrow of the Gospel.” [1] It’s time to rebuild from the bottom up. If the foundation is not solid and sure, everything we try to build on top of it is weak and ineffective. Perhaps it’s a blessing in disguise that so much is tumbling down around us. It’s time to begin again. In the year 1205, Jesus spoke to Francis through the San Damiano cross: “Francis, rebuild my church, for you see it is falling into ruin.” If Jesus himself says the church is falling into ruin, I guess we can admit it also without being accused of being negative or unbelieving. Maybe we have to admit it for anything new and good to happen.—*[to be continued]*

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.

OUTREACH—The current recipient of our offered financial support is **Meals on Wheels of Sarasota** [Oct-Dec]. Meals On Wheels of Sarasota is proud to assist Sarasotans of all ages who face food insecurity, isolation and the challenges

living independently while experiencing mental and physical impairments, illnesses, disabilities and aging issues. Meals On Wheels of Sarasota is also pleased to provide sustenance to those unemployed and in need during the continuing COVID-19 crisis.

MOVIE CORNER

. Thanks to Mary Al for this review of “The U.S. And the Holocaust” which she watched recently on PBS. If you missed it there it is now streaming on Amazon Prime, YouTube, Apple TV among others. The film by Ken Burns, Lynn Novick & Sarah Botstein was inspired in part by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s “Americans and the Holocaust” exhibition and supported by its historical resources. The U.S. and the Holocaust examines the rise of Hitler and Nazism in Germany in the context of global antisemitism and racism, the eugenics movement in the United State and race laws in the American South. It was very educational, very well done and a wake up sign for the U.S. as far as our political extremes which are becoming so prevalent.—*Beth Ponce*. Send your suggestions of movies to watch, to ponce.beth@gmail.com

NETWORK educates, organizes, and lobbies for the racial, economic, and social transformation we need to realize a just and inclusive society. As an organization founded by Catholic Sisters, we engage in the ongoing work to become a multicultural anti-racist organization, value women’s leadership, appreciate people from religious and secular backgrounds, and affirm members of the LGBTQ+ community.

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

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