

On Line On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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ARCHBISHOP'S LETTER BY JOAN CHITTISTER—Part Two—

This letter is a strong and holy one: It calls for diocesan recommitment to the nuclear issues in very concrete ways. First, he calls for parishes to hold public conversations to determine the actual public steps that can be taken to open the nuclear conversation across the country again.

Wester calls us to press for The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It has been ratified by 86 countries so far but not one of the nine nuclear powers — the U.S., China, Russia, France, the United Kingdom, India, Pakistan, Israel or North Korea — have signed it.

Obviously, we have work to do. He reminds us to realize that we have far exceeded "nuclear deterrence" with a few hundred nuclear weapons. In fact, we now have over thousands of them. Thousands of nuclear weapons. To be

justified how?

He reminds us that we are, ironically, destroying ourselves and our country in the name of defense.

The archbishop's letter is a humane, holy and understandable approach to a topic that has often unleashed passions so deep they were actually ineffective everywhere.

At the same time, this letter, I admit, strikes me in a very tender place. Like Wester, I went to Hiroshima, too. I visited the museum, too. I saw the clothes that had been radiated into pieces of brick wall as the person who had been wearing them literally disappeared into the ether.

Then I followed the two-part diorama that shows on one side of it a model of the bustling and developed city of Hiroshima until — on the other side of the divider— there was nothing left but one teetering tower and a hunk of brick here and there. I looked at it and blinked. In seconds, Model A had become Model B. And behind it,

in simple frames on the wall, were two letters from President Harry Truman commanding the U.S. Air Force to refrain entirely from bombing five Japanese cities — Kyoto, Yokohama, Kokura, Hiroshima and Nagasaki — so we could find out which of the two new bombs would do the most damage.

I am an American! Standing in that crowd

COMING SOON
Annual Memorial
Service for
Salvadoran Martyrs
Friday, Dec 2
at 4 PM
ZOOM

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

in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, the embarrassment of it consumed me. I could feel the tears pour down my face before I could attempt to dry my eyes. I turned my back away from the crowds pushing behind me to continue the tour.

And then, out of nowhere it seemed, I felt someone put their arms around my waist and say softly in my ear, "I'm so sorry. We cry, too, sometimes, but we don't want you to cry."

It was my young teenage Japanese guide with a searing lesson in forgiveness and universal care at the same time.

From where I stand, it is clear that violence starts at the top for us. Under the aegis of "defense," we have come to exalt the kind of violence that undermines every layer of our entire society. It corrupts our children, it unmoors our relationships, it blinds us to the poison in our national heart while we get less and less happy every day.

We have been called by strong bishops over the years, all of whom understood this infection in the body politic. Bishops Thomas Gumbleton, Raymond Hunthausen, Leroy Matthiesen, and 75 other bishops who led the American episcopacy into the first peace pastoral in the United States precede a bishop who is waking us up again to what the Beatitudes are really all about.

The difference is that Wester is alone and standing in what came to be the center of the "American Nuclear Soul" in Santa Fe calling us again to examine our American consciences. As Pope Francis said at the Peace Memorial in Hiroshima on Nov. 24, 2019, "The use of atomic energy for purposes of war is immoral, just as the possessing of nuclear weapons is immoral. ... How can we speak of peace even as we build terrifying new weapons of war?"

Who says that no one can do anything important alone? We have a bishop now who by standing up alone may — we can hope — wake this country up again to the place of conscience in the life of the Beatitudes.

Provided, of course, that we are willing to stand there — alone — as well.—*Joan Chittister*

OFFERINGS—We are grateful for your continued contribution toward the growth and development of our community.

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.

SALVADORAN MARTYRS—Of the four women martyred in El Salvador, **Sister Dorothy Kazel** is buried in Northeast OH with members of her Ursuline order. Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clark and Ita Ford are buried in Ossining, NY. And **Jean Donovan**, Lay Volunteer from OH, is buried alongside her parents at Sarasota Memorial Cemetery. Each year since her death December 2, 1980, someone has visited Jean's grave, in ones, couples and groups, to bring roses and prayers. Since its inception in 2005,

the Manasota Chapter of Pax Christi USA has held a song and prayer service at Jean's gravesite on Dec. 2. Because of Covid, we held last year's memorial service via ZOOM, and plan to do the same Friday, Dec 2, at 4 PM. Once again we will need readers and our usual large audience. All are welcome to join us. If you don't know who Jean was, by the end of the service, you will.

A DEEPER LOOK INTO NONVIOLENCE

—a presentation by Richard Rohr for our Advent reflection. Said Dr. King:

"Occasionally in life one develops a conviction so precious and meaningful that he/she will stand on it till the end. This is what I have found in nonviolence."

What a special gift for Christmas! Join in the four-week reflection on Nonviolence in the Advent Issues of On Line On Point. All in preparation for re-taking a Vow of Nonviolence, weekend of Dec 31-Jan 1.

WILL POPE FRANCIS DIALOGUE WITH ROMAN CATHOLIC WOMEN PRIESTS? I HOPE SO!—Bridget Mary Meehan, Special to The Review, November 6, 2022—

[With gratitude to Christopher White, the author of this encounter with Pope Francis on a flight returning from the Persian Gulf on November 6th, that was published in the National Catholic Reporter. See my unofficial dialogue with Pope Francis in italics --

Bridget Mary Meehan Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests]

Pope Francis: "Pope Francis, returning from a four-day visit to the Persian Gulf

on November 6th, gave an impassioned defense of women's rights, strongly condemning the practice of female genital mutilation and decrying those who treat women as 'second class citizens.'"

Bridget Mary: It is heart-warming to hear that Pope Francis is promoting women's rights in the world. I pray that now he will have the courage to take bold steps to change the misogynist theology, laws, structures, and practices that treat Roman Catholic women as second class citizens in their own Church.

Pope Francis: A society unable to value women, the pontiff told journalists in a press conference aboard his flight back to Rome from Bahrain, "is a society that will not progress."

Bridget Mary: A Church that does not value women as equals will not progress.

Pope Francis: "I ask myself, why does a woman have to fight for her rights?," Francis asked aloud.

Bridget Mary's Response: The Vatican has done everything possible to stop the international Roman Catholic Women Priests Movement -- including placing women priests in the same "serious crime" category with pedophile priests and imposing the harshest

punishment of all -- excommunication.

Pope Francis: "The pope also cited his own record of naming more women to head Vatican offices, saying that things improved each time a woman took over

a Vatican office. Although the Vatican is still largely led by male clerics, Francis has appointed women to positions of leadership at the Vatican Museums, the



Vatican's office for the Synod of Bishops, and at the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, among other places.”

Bridget Mary: I am grateful that women are making a difference in their role as leaders in the Vatican.

Since the ordination of 7 women on the Danube, Roman Catholic Women Priests have been living a new model of priestly ministry in inclusive communities of equals. We are creating a "big tent" Church where all are equal, all are loved and all are invited to receive Eucharist and the other sacraments including those who have been marginalized by the institutional RC Church -- the divorced and remarried, LGBTQI, and women who are treated as second class citizens in their own Church.

Pope Francis: "The key is dialogue . . . the Catholic community is undergoing a

synodal process that is exploring a number of controversial questions such as women's ordination and blessings for LGBTQ couples -- to listen to the 'holy people of God' and to prioritize evangelization."

Bridget Mary: I appreciate the desire of Francis for an open dialogue with the people of God on some formerly taboo topics especially women's ordination. I believe that the Spirit is speaking through Pope Francis and through our worldwide prophetic RCWP movement that ordains women for public ministry in the Church in order to foster the full equality of women in all ministries in the Church.

Women Priests are ready for an open, respectful dialogue with Pope Francis. I hope Pope Francis is too!—*Bridget Mary Meehan*

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

