

On Line On Point

MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Marymotherofjesus.net

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S PRINCIPLES OF NONVIOLENCE

1. Nonviolence is a way of strength and not a way for cowards. It is not a lack of power which allows us to be nonviolent, but in fact the discovery of a different kind of power. It is a choice, not a resignation; a spirituality, not just a tactic.
2. The goal of nonviolence is always winning the friendship and the understanding of the supposed opponent, not [their] humiliation or personal defeat. It must be done to eventually facilitate the process of reconciliation, and we ourselves must be willing to pay the price for that reconciliation. King based this on Jesus' lifestyle and death and on Ephesians 2:13–22 and Romans 12:1–2.
3. The opponent must be seen not so much as an evil person, but as a symbol of a much greater systemic evil—of which they also are a victim! We must aim our efforts at that greater evil, which is harming all of us, rather than at the opponent.



remember
ANNUAL
COMMUNITY
MEETING
takes place
right after
Liturgy next
week

4. There is a moral power in voluntarily suffering for others. We call it the “myth of redemptive suffering,” whereas almost all of history is based on the opposite, the “myth of redemptive violence.” The lie that almost everybody believes is that suffering can be stopped by increasing the opponent’s suffering. It works only in the short run. In the long run, that suffering is still out there and will somehow have to work its way out in the next generation or through the lives of the victims. A willingness to bear the pain has the power to transform and absorb the evil in the opponent, the nonviolent resister, and even the spectator. This is precisely what Jesus was doing on the cross. It changes all involved, and at least forces the powers that be to “show their true colors” publicly. And yes, the nonviolent resister is also changed through the action. It is called resurrection or enlightenment.
5. This love ethic must be at the center of our whole life, or it cannot be effective or real in the crucial moments of conflict. We have to

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

practice drawing our lives from this new Source, in thought, word, emotion, and deed, every day, or we will never be prepared for the major confrontations or the surprise humiliations that will come our way.

6. Nonviolence relies on a kind of cosmic optimism which trusts that the universe/reality/God is finally and fully on the side of justice and truth. History does have a direction, meaning, and purpose. God is more fundamental than evil. Resurrection will have the final word, which is the very promise of the Jesus event. The eternal wind of the Spirit is with us. However, we should not be naïve; and we must understand that most people's loyalties are with security, public image, and the comforts of the status quo.—*ENTIRELY Summarized by Richard Rohr*

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

It's been quite awhile since I've watched anything well worth recommending but thanks to Mary and Jack we have an enticing list of foodie movies for this holiday season.

BIG NIGHT (1996) Stanley Tucci, in a trifecta of film, co-wrote, co-directed and co-starred as Secondo, the younger of two brothers with an Italian restaurant. (pluto.tv)

COMFORT AND JOY (1984) A quirky film starring Bill Paterson as a Scottish DJ caught up in a war between two rival ice cream dairies.

Thanks to Mary and Jack for this week's holiday movie review—*Beth Ponce*. Send your suggestions of movies to watch, to ponce.beth@gmail.com

ADVENT PRAYER Disarm me, God, Come, put away the sword I still carry somewhere in my heart. Take away the violence that lingers in my soul. Make me an instrument of Your peace. You have a plan for me: fulfill it! In this world of armaments, disarm me and I shall be able to disarm others. Come, God. There is still a trace of war and madness in my veins. Purify me, O God, and I shall let loose disarmament in the world that will cause people to praise you freely. Purify me of all violence and I shall stand before the powers and principalities without fear and free of those trapped in the structures of fear and violence. Come, God. Disarm me without my knowing it, and then, show me that you are the Disarming One, nonviolent from the beginning of time until the end of time. Disarming Presence, Unconditional Love, Great Reconciler, Suffering Servant, Patience Personified, Peaceful Mother, come, bearing peace. Come, God.

Disarm this restless heart which wanders off into apathy and selfishness, but which longs to rest in You. Lead this heart into the Flame of Nonviolence, setting fire to other hearts nearby. Let your unilateral

the fire of your Love, where it can be consumed by disarmament engage me, win me over, force the scales to fall from my eyes—
from Prayers of Protest, by John Dear, S.J.

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