June 5, 2016

Dear friends,

We enter Ordinary Time in a not-so-ordinary spring with temperatures nearing 100 degrees in Portland this weekend. Summer is still more than two weeks away and already air conditioners and fans are humming. We can talk about the effects of climate change in this region and its impact on plants, trees, farmers and their crops, but the challenge of managing extremes of heat and erratic weather patterns hits us wherever we live—in the city, the suburbs, the countryside and around the globe. It underscores our common humanity and reminds us of those basic needs we all have for water, food and protection from the elements. Those of us who have our basic needs met, who have a home, plenty of water, food and refrigeration still may complain, but there are many members of our worldwide family who lack even the barest essentials for maintaining their lives and the lives of their children. As individuals we are limited in what we can do to help supply and distribute those things that are critical to survival. This is why we band together, form non-profits, agencies and governments. Pooling our talents and resources we can address the needs of the poor, the wounded and less fortunate or able-bodied members of the human family in ways impossible for us to manage alone. When we internalize the truth that 'we are one body,' one 'family,' we begin to recognize the call to service as a 'false-self' emptying exercise, to use the language of Richard Rohr. That intrinsic call to serve is embedded in life's fragility. It is, perhaps, most visibly apparent watching mothers of almost all species with their newborns. The infant's need for food, care and protection is constant and exhausting, and a parent's natural tendency toward self-concern must be over-ridden to sustain the life of the child and then nurture it to maturity. A similar demand is made of us with regard to those whose lives are threatened by a desperate lack of food, water, shelter and even the means to attain them. It is as though we are called to be mothers and fathers of the whole human race, attending to the needs of those who must depend on others to survive. Some are mentally or physically ill. Some are infirm or dreadfully immature. They all need love. They all need access to those basic elements of life-support mother earth generously provides. We are called to serve 'the poor.' They are humanity's 'children'. We will always have children (the poor) among us, Jesus says. Maybe the human family needs this 'call to serve' and this 'call to conscience' to insure that the enticements of physical reality do not thoroughly obscure the deeply spiritual purpose of our earthly journey. Maybe we also need reminders that all of us are fragile, breakable, and that detachment, self-emptying and letting-go are necessary in every human life. The path to spiritual development takes us through deserts where we and those around us cry for help, for rescue. At any given point, whether we are learning to rely on the generosity and kindness of others, or learning to rise above our own self-interest to respond to those desperate cries, our challenge is the same. Our job is to learn to let go and to love.

**Readings for Liturgies** can be found on the USCCB website at
**http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/**

## Mass Schedule This Month

**Mass** in **Portland** will be Saturday, **June 11**, at **Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2823 N. Rosa Parks Way** at **5:00pm**. Please bring an entree, salad, veggie dish or dessert for our potluck meal. Choir rehearsal begins at 4:00 and all interested singers and musicians are invited to come and participate.

**Mass** in **Eugene** will be Sunday, **June 12, at First Congregational Church, UCC, 1050 E. 23rd,** at **4:00pm.** A potluck follows our celebration. Please bring an entree, salad, veggie dish or dessert to share. If you are interested in being part of the choir as a musician or singer, please come at 3:00 for rehearsal.

## Upcoming Events:

### Parish Council Meeting, June 26

Our next Council meeting has been re-scheduled from Saturday, June 25 to Sunday, June 26. We will still meet from 10am to noon at Ike Box Coffee Shop in Salem. Carpools are available from both Eugene and Portland, and all Sophia Christi members are encouraged to come and participate. If you are unable to come, and have questions or concerns you would like the Council to address at its next meeting, please contact Mitch, our Council president, at **naloorider@gmail.com**

### Summer Picnic August 7—Reminder

Our annual summer picnic at Carol's in Stayton will be Saturday, August 7. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to come for a fun and relaxing afternoon out in the country. More details will be provided in next month's newsletter.

## Pastoral Update:

### Eugene Ministry Partner Chosen

Brother Charley Smith, OFS, of the Eugene Catholic Worker Poverello House, spoke to us after Mass about his work with the homeless. After hearing his experience and receiving solid answers to basic, practical questions, the community voted to begin a six-month trial ministry partnership with the Eugene Catholic Worker Community. Anna Lankutis of Sophia Christi is our volunteer liaison with Eugene Catholic Worker.

*The Eugene Catholic Worker mission is to "Foster a way of life that experiments with the power of radical gospel love in action as catalyst for lasting social and personal transformation by living and working in the Franciscan tradition." Under the guidance of Brother Charley Smith, OFS, the Eugene community currently provides food and shelter to those in need. The Poverello House is at 158 E 12th Ave. in Eugene and the Francis and Claire House, currently under renovation, is at 633 W. 8th Ave. in Eugene. The W. 8th Ave. location is due to open for occupancy this month. The Poverello House serves as a hospitality house and shelter for daytime use and for 10 full time residents. From the kitchen at Poverello, meals are prepared for the Tuesday-Saturday breakfast at Washington-Jefferson Park, sandwiches for evening delivery to those on the streets, meals to White Bird Clinic and soup for Sunday morning at Occupy Medical in downtown Eugene.* ***Sophia Christi members can become involved in the following ways, and as needs change this list will be updated accordingly:***

*- Assist with serving the Tuesday-Saturday AM breakfast*

*- Make sandwiches on either Tuesday or Thursday afternoon*
*- Cook a supper meal at the Poverello house on E. 12th Ave.*
*- Make soup and bring it to serve on Sunday morning*
*- Donate household items: paper towels, toilet paper, toiletries and sandwich bags on an ongoing basis for both the E. 12th and W. 8th houses.*

*For additional information about Eugene Catholic Worker visit the website at* ***eugenecatholicworker.com****. You may also contact Brother Charles at the Poverello house:* ***charley@eugenecatholicworker.com****, or, Anna Lankutis of Sophia Christi at* ***lankutisa@gmail.com*** *--Anna Lankutis*

## Portland Ministry Partner—Rose Haven—Items Needed

We will continue collecting the following items for Rose Haven's women and children at Masses in Portland:

*- Underwear (new only)*
*- Socks (new only)*
*- Practical walking shoes*
*- Bras*
*- Rain jackets*
*- Umbrellas*

***Personal Care Items: New and unopened please***

*– Feminine hygiene – tampons & pads*
*– Shampoo (travel size is ideal)*
*– Soap & body wash*
*– Hand sanitizer*
*– Tooth brushes*
*– Toothpaste*

## Website

Remember that the newsletter, current homily, and Council minutes are posted on the website each month, as are all upcoming Sophia Christi events along with directions to those events. Our web address is **www.sophiachristi.org**

**A pastoral reminder**--if you or someone you know has a pastoral need that isn't being met, please don't hesitate to give me a call. You have my email address in this mailing, and my office phone number is 503-286-3584. Feel free to use either one. You can contact me anytime for conversation, home visitation, reconciliation or anointing, home Masses, weddings, funerals, memorial services or other pastoral care needs.

Compassion fatigue combined with a sense of powerlessness has led many otherwise loving people to become harder of heart over the past several years it seems. It isn't just the global nature of media outlets, or the manipulation of news sources, or even the constant barrage of information through laptops, tablets and mobile devices that lead many of us to shut down, turn off and withdraw into a protective state of apathy. No, I think we're scared and trying to find some corner of safety in an increasingly chaotic world. We are more and more globally dependent on each other socially, economically, and politically than ever before and the stakes keep getting higher while trust levels are plummeting. It is a time of incredible change, beyond anything the human community has confronted in the past. So much is being lost that denial is rampant and fear inevitable. As followers of Jesus we are called into this time of political, social, and spiritual upheaval to help usher in the reign of God by being firmly grounded in faith and hope. Though we feel the turmoil ourselves, wrestle with our own anxieties, and may even be tempted to despair at times, we also know Jesus' story and have his example

to light our way. We know his suffering and betrayal at the hands of friends. We know the means of his death. Even his weeping over Jerusalem provides a lens through which to view events in our world today. Over and over we are reminded through his story that life emerges from the tomb. This faith that life defeats death is part of our Christian DNA. It is also the pattern of nature itself. It brings comfort and hope to those who can see.

We are in the midst of a deep evolutionary and spiritual transformation that is international in scope. Some identify it as a spiritual birthing process on a planetary scale. If we adopt this maternal view we may be able to recognize the unrelenting labor pains for what they are and bring hope to others in the midst of this turbulent process. With that same maternal view—with our feet on the ground and securely rooted in the faith and ministry of Jesus—perhaps we can listen to the fear around us and offer even more hope, understanding and care to people we encounter each day. And through our volunteers at Rose Haven in Portland and the Catholic Worker house in Eugene we can bring the resources and talents of our community directly to the poor, feeding, sheltering and loving those who most need our Mother's tender, embracing care.

May the blessings of ordinary time be with all of you,
Toni