

June 3, 2018

Dear Friends,

As I begin this newsletter I am in Ashland celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of a dear friend. I have known her most of my adult life and am only a few years behind her in age. We have history on our side, memories forged in the cauldron of life's challenges, triumphs, questions, losses, and simple joys. We are 'chosen' family, sisters bound together by ties that seem both current and ancient. It reminds me of how interconnected we all are in this human family. Blood lines help define hereditary advantages and vulnerabilities while culture largely determines language, values and how we see the world. But beneath these more or less arbitrary characteristics that differentiate familial and tribal groupings we are each part of the larger human family, and more alike than we are different. The more we move from one location to another and lose our connection to 'place,' to extended family, and a sense of belonging to our 'origins,' the more we search for others with whom we can identify. We all need to feel seen, accepted and valued for who we are and what we have to offer the world. We have a deep need to belong somewhere. In the past that need was met through family networks, secure jobs and stable communities. Now job and housing insecurity, family and employment relocation, the lack of geographical stability and the rapid demise of community integrity have all created a growing sense of isolation. It would be easy to decry all we have lost in the social and cultural transitions of the last several decades, but we are also making gains. As we outgrow some of the old tribal affiliations of the past we are slowly moving toward deep blood-bonds with all of humanity and solidarity with the planet as a whole. Forced relocation is traumatizing all of us, to be sure. At the same time it is destroying formidable barriers to kinship that lie beyond tribal loyalties and social constructs. Without experiencing a sense of belonging to the larger human family we can't realize a deep connection and social responsibility for our common home. And as we begin to integrate the concept of 'common home' that, in itself, can move us toward a deep sense of belonging to the human race as a whole, to the earth's ecosystem, and to that needed solidarity with all of creation we, in our depths, and the earth herself craves. 'Chosen family' is a concept that is gaining traction as dislocation increases through market forces, war and governmental policies that sever family, social and cultural ties to historical origins. Though it is currently a concept that extends connections to like-minded groups and individuals, many people are beginning to use the phrase to claim allegiance to the global family, both human and non-human. The 'chosen family' network—those who intentionally choose all of humanity, the earth and all of creation as 'family'—is slowly beginning to grow. I believe we are moving toward this choice on a global scale. This is not a conscious movement by any means. It lives within the deep stream of the collective unconscious, that spiritual dimension at the heart of human/earth reality. It is a consciousness shift long in the making. 'Chosen family' becomes 'all of us' in the deep structure of our common humanity. It is another way for Christians to perceive everyone as 'one of us', beloved members of the family of God.

**Lectors: Sunday Mass Readings:** If you are interested in accessing the readings for our weekend Masses they can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/> which is the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) website. We use the Sunday

readings for both Saturday and Sunday Masses. Though the Church designates the New American Bible (NAB) translation to be used at liturgies, Sophia Christi uses the translation created by Priests For Equality because of its commitment to inclusive language. Lectors will find some differences between the two but are still encouraged to prepare using the USCCB site since variations are somewhat minimal.

### Mass Schedule This Month

**Mass in Portland** will be Saturday, **June 9**, at **Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2823 N. Rosa Parks Way** at **5:00pm**. Please bring an entree, salad or veggie dish 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 10**, at **First Congregational Church, UCC, 1050 E. 23<sup>rd</sup>**, at **4:00pm**. A potluck follows our celebration. Please bring an entree, salad or veggie dish 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:

#### Summer Picnic – Sunday, August 19, 1:00 to 4:00pm

*At last summer is here! Time to get out the calendar and mark the dates for the events you don't want to miss. The Sophia Christi potluck Picnic will be held on August 19 from 1 to 4. It will be at Carol's house in Stayton. For those of you who have not attended it is a wonderful opportunity to spend a day in the country where it's quiet, peaceful, and the only noise you hear are the swallows feeding their young. This is also one of the few chances we have to visit with members of both congregations. Plus there is a nice walking path through the woods. Carol's place is half way from Eugene and Portland and is less than a 1.5 hour drive from either place. So mark your calendar on August 19 for a lovely day in the country. --Carol*

#### Next Council Meeting – Saturday, June 30

Our next Council meeting will be Saturday, April 21, from 10:00 to 12:00 via Conference Call. If you have questions or ideas to offer, please give your thoughts to Council members at the June weekend Masses or email them to Toni or one of the members before the meeting. Portland Council members: Kathy, Mike, Joy and Jim. Eugene Council members: Judith, Carol, Jessica, Bruce and Dianne.

### Pastoral Update:

#### Contemplative Prayer Group -- Eugene

*We are finishing *The Divine Dance*, by Richard Rohr, and have selected a new book for our study. We expect to begin the new book by July. We have chosen *The Meaning of Mary Magdalene: Discovering the Woman At the Heart of Christianity*, by Cynthia Bourgeault. Cynthia Bourgeault is an Episcopal priest, and contemporary mystic, who leads lectures, workshops and retreats across the US. She also co-teaches with Richard Rohr and James Finley at the Center for Action and Contemplation, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. If you want to join the group for our newest adventure into our Faith journey, talk to any member of the group after Mass on Sunday. The members are: Amanda Powell, Dianne Dugaw, Dianne Turner, Bruce Turner, Judith Manning, Mary Michaud, and Anna Lankutis. --Anna*

## 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](http://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.

As we come together next weekend we have left the season of Easter behind us and enter the long months of 'ordinary time' that stretch from here to Advent. The use of the word 'ordinary' comes from the Latin term 'ordinal' and it simply means 'numbered' or 'counted time.' So we begin counting Sundays—10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> etc.—through summer until we reach the first Sunday of Advent. The sanctuary and vestment color is green, traditionally associated with new life and growth. The Holy Spirit has come upon the community again at Pentecost and we recognize her presence among us, revitalizing our hearts and invigorating our spiritual lives. She refreshes our hope and inspires our work in the world as we receive and incorporate her guidance and encouragement. We have moved beyond the celebratory season of Easter and it can be tempting to drop into old, familiar routines of busy-ness, to sink into a kind of apathy or even despair listening to the challenging news of the day. As followers of a man who demonstrated love and inclusion of everyone, without exception, we are called to embrace the circumstances of our time with courage and open-hearted dedication to the principles of mercy, forgiveness, inclusion and justice. It is a tall order and will require that we continue the work of transforming our hearts, reigning in the ego's self-absorption, cultivating generosity of spirit, and both asking for and offering forgiveness. The Spirit within us is alive and well. Let us recommit ourselves to being people of hope.

Peace and blessings to all of you,

Toni