

Casa de Clara  
CATHOLIC WORKER  
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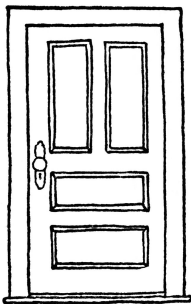
Prayer & Liturgy



Activism



Food Distribution



Door Ministry



Casa de Clara



Showers to the People!



Foot Care

Easter 2018

Join Us!

Volunteer

- Door Ministry
- Cleaning
- Yard work
- Foot Care
- Dentists

Prayer

- **Masses:** April 7, May 5, June 2 @ 11 a.m.
- **Sacred Circle** (prayer group): Fridays @ 7:30 p.m.
- **Peace Vigil:** 4th Fridays @ noon in front of Lockheed-Martin

Support

- Cars
- Toilet paper
- Tissue paper
- Tee-shirts & underwear
- Your love and prayers



Donate to the Catholic Worker:

Online at [www.sjcw.org](http://www.sjcw.org)  
OR  
Make checks out to Casa de Clara

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Dear friends,

At the local Episcopal cathedral in downtown San Jose, children clap, dance, and march around the sanctuary singing, “We are marching in the light of God,” just before the Gospel is proclaimed. It is a joyful sight, and I know these children are learning something valuable: the Gospel calls us to get up and walk!

“We have died to sin... so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father’s glory, *we might walk in the newness of life*,” writes Saint Paul (Romans 6:4). Sin is anything that leads to death. We are called to “die to sin,” that is, to reject all forms of violence (“guns and nukes share the same DNA,” our friend Mark reminds us), and march for a new vision of life.

Women and men, the young and the old, have been doing precisely that these past few months in San Jose and across the nation. In January, tens of thousands of women and male allies filled the streets for the Women’s March, demanding respect for the dignity and rights of women. On the month anniversary of the school shooting in Parkland, FL, students across the country walked out of their classrooms at 10 a.m. in angry defiance of adults who’ve let another mass shooting occur on our watch. On March 24, these same teenagers, now joined by adults, demanded stricter gun control laws in the national March for Our Lives. More marches are planned for April 20, the anniversary of the 1999 Columbine High School massacre.

“Marching in the light of God,” is, of course, nothing new. It’s what Gandhi and his fellow satyagrahi did when they marched to the sea to harvest salt in defiance of the British Empire. It’s what King and other civil rights activists did when they marched to Washington in 1963, or crossed the Edmund Pettis bridge on the way from Selma to Montgomery in 1965, only to be savagely beaten by state troopers. As Bishop McGrath told those gathered at Archbishop Mitty High School for National School Walkout Day, “Prayer, of course, is good. Education is good. And Solidarity, too, is good. But we need also to act,” that is, to march in the light of God.

Marching doesn’t always lead immediately to the change we want. In early 2003, 10 million of us across the world took to the streets to stop the imminent Iraq War - fifteen years later, we are still enmeshed in armed conflict there. Yet, so did that first “March for Our Lives” end in apparent failure, when Jesus processed into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to confront the power of Empire, only to be nailed to a cross five days later.

Biblical scholar John Dominic Crossan tells us that Jesus’ march into Jerusalem from the East was a public liturgy meant as a rejection of the military procession of Pilate coming into Jerusalem from the West. The question, then, is which march will we join? Will we choose to march “in the light of God,” or in the light of Caesar?



Easter 2018

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If we choose to march in the light of God, to walk in the newness of life, we are certain to come up against repeated failure. Just look at where our decades of marching against Lockheed-Martin have led - the largest defense budget in history, and a boon for Lockheed! “A servant is not greater than the master” (John 15:20). Yet our walking is not in vain. The Easter message is this: just as God raised Jesus from the dead, so will God turn our failures into life for the world.

We have been privileged to see glimpses of such Easter triumphs as we walk with the women of Casa de Clara. We recently celebrated the 1 year sobriety of a friend who for six years wandered the streets of San Jose haunted by demons induced by her mental illness and addiction. Today, she is housed, sober, and brimming with vitality. Another family that had been in and out of shelters (including Casa de Clara) for years is now in a two-bedroom apartment near the kids’ schools. One of the girls is now a star volleyball player for her middle school!

Our faith calls us to walk - to walk with the marginalized and powerless, to walk for nuclear abolition, to walk to keep guns out of schools. As we walk in the footsteps of Jesus, the powers that be will try to stop us, threatening us with arrest, a ruined reputation, and ultimately the cross - just as they did to Jesus, to Gandhi, to King. If we persevere, our reward is participation in a world renewed - the kingdom of God which God is creating, even now, in our midst.

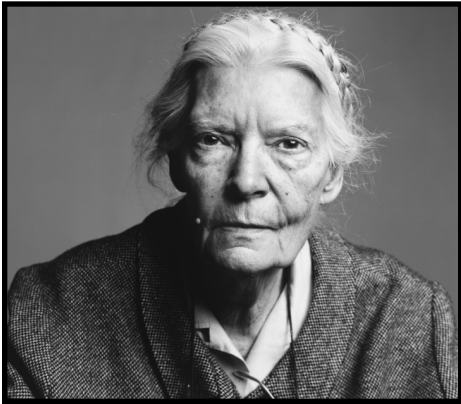
Thank you for walking with us all these years.

Love,  
  
Fumi  
on behalf of the Catholic Worker community



**The Mystery of the Poor**  
The Catholic Worker - April 1962  
*Dorothy Day*

On Easter Day, on awakening late after the long midnight services in our parish church, I read over the last chapter of the four Gospels and felt that I received great light and understanding with the reading of them. “They have taken the Lord out of his tomb and we do not know where they have laid him,” Mary Magdalene said, and we can say this with her in times of doubt and questioning. How do we know we believe? How do we know we indeed have faith? Because we have seen his hands and his feet in the poor around us. He has shown himself to us in them. We start by loving them for him, and we soon love them for themselves, each one a unique person, most special!



In that last glorious chapter of St. Luke, Jesus told his followers, “Why are you so perturbed? Why do questions arise in your minds? Look at My hands and My feet. It is I Myself. Touch Me and see. No ghost has flesh and bones as you can see I have.” They were still unconvinced, for it seemed too good to be true. “So He asked them, ‘Have you anything to eat?’ They offered him a piece of fish they had cooked which he took and ate before their eyes.”

How can I help but think of these things every time I sit down at Chrystie Street or Peter Maurin Farm and look around at the tables filled with the unutterably poor who are going through their long-continuing crucifixion. It is most surely an exercise of faith for us to see Christ in each other. But it is through such exercise that we grow and the joy of our vocation assures us we are on the right path.

Most certainly, it is easier to believe now that the sun warms us, and we know that buds will appear on the sycamore trees in the wasteland across from the Catholic Worker office, that life will spring out of the dull clods of that littered park across the way. There are wars and rumors of war, poverty and plague, hunger and pain. Still, the sap is rising, again there is the resurrection of spring, God’s continuing promise to us that He is with us always, with his comfort and joy, if we will only ask.

The mystery of the poor is this: That they are Jesus, and what you do for them you do for him. It is the only way we have of knowing and believing in our love. The mystery of poverty is that by sharing in it, making ourselves poor in giving to others, we increase our knowledge of and belief in love.

**SJCW Friend Spotlight**  
*Peggy Coleman*

Peggy Coleman has been involved with the San Jose Catholic Worker and the Catholic Worker movement for decades. It all started when she first was introduced to Dorothy Day by a friend. She immediately started subscribing to the *The Catholic Worker* newspaper. It was shortly after that she discovered our community. At that point the community consisted of Casa de Clara, and a house on 2nd St. which served as a soup kitchen and hospitality for homeless men. Shortly after getting involved, Peggy bought and moved into a house right behind Casa de Clara, and her back room became the community’s prayer space.

Over the years Peggy has been involved in many different aspects of the Catholic Worker. One aspect she is especially passionate about is the nonviolence and anti-nuclear weapons activism. Peggy has been a regular at vigils for peace at Lockheed-Martin (the photo to the right is of Peggy and her new Golden Retriever puppy,



Chagall, a.k.a. Coco’s new best friend, at Lockheed-Martin). She has proven herself to be dedicated to nonviolence through her steadfast presence at actions, involvement in planning, and even risking arrest.

Peggy has also significantly helped out at Casa de Clara. For years she was the dedicated Wednesday night cook, and everyone in the house always looked forward to her delicious home-cooked meals and warm company. Currently Peggy spends Fridays with us helping out with household chores, gardening tasks and serving our friends who come to the front door.

Thank you Peggy for your commitment, love, friendship and support!



**Community Notes**

*A lot happens at the Catholic Worker, some of it exciting, some of it mundane. Here are some recent happenings that we thought were worth sharing.*

- We interviewed three wonderful young people and offered them **summer internships**. Stay tuned for more information!
- *Showers to the People!* has expanded - once again. In addition to a hot shower, clean clothes, a hot meal, and foot care we now are offering body work (**acupressure and Reiki**) to our shower guests on Wednesday afternoon. Thank you Suzanne for your generosity in offering this service.
- Mid-March, we had a wonderful **birthday celebration** for one of our guests. It was a night filled with laughter and sharing.
- The week before Holy Week, the **water heater in the shower trailer broke** down. To avoid cancelling a shower service, we decided to use the showers at Casa de Clara that Wednesday. We were able



to hire a plumber to fix the water heater, thanks to all our generous supporters. It is through your generosity that we are able to pay for unplanned expenses like this one.

- On March 29th we hosted an **immersion group** from Santa Clara University - it is always a great experience sharing our lives and work with groups!
- Earlier this year, **Presentation High School** selected *Showers for the People!* as one of the service sites for the service component of their Moral Theology class. It has been a tremendous help having numerous Presentation **students help with showers**. Unfortunately all the students are now finished with their service requirement. Thank you to all the students who helped out; we hope you come back!

*Sign up for our weekly email to stay up to date with our ministries!*  
**Just send an email to [casadeclara@sjcw.org](mailto:casadeclara@sjcw.org)**