



SAN JOSE

CATHOLIC WORKER



December 2018

Price: Whatever it's worth.

It Keeps on Going

by Andrew Lanier Jr.

It is quite difficult to figure out what to share with you all. So much has happened since our last newsletter. Fumi has moved and is creating a new life in Oregon with Jessica. Julian and Lisa continue to do well in Big Sur at New Camaldoli Hermitage. Gemma and Mary, our summer interns, are both back in school and preparing to graduate in the spring. Coco and I were overjoyed to welcome Chelsea, Marcus, Nathan, and Calia into the community. They have all been great partners in the work.

With all these goings and arrivals the I am deeply touched by your continued commitment to this Catholic Worker community. This community would not have survived without your support. I know all those we work with are extremely grateful for your support. The fact that all our ministries continue to operate is proof that with a community we can survive all sorts of transitions and difficult periods.

As I reflect on this past year I am reminded of the postscript from Dorothy Day's autobiography, *The Long Loneliness*. She writes about her experience of the Catholic Worker did not start with a strategic plan. The Catholic Worker was a response to the needs of the community and those who wanted to share their gifts and talents. The Catholic Worker is "an organism, not an organization" as co-founder Peter Maurin said.

One of the most significant ways our work has continued and developed is the opening of Hope Village. It has been quite a journey since we opened on September 8th and incredible to be with all of you who came out to our rally, who wrote to local officials, and the endless calls, emails, texts and well wishes. Without your support, Hope Village would not be open today. I am excited to see how we can continue to make history in how we support people experience homelessness in 2019.

As I write, Marcus and Calia are wrapping some Christmas presents that were just delivered. The house is decorated throughout and Christmas music is playing in the background. The Thanksgiving and Christmas and wonderful times here at Casa de Clara. Most of our alumni come back to celebrate these holidays with us. We always have a feast, but the most nourishing aspect for me is seeing the bonds of the women and children who have lived at Casa de Clara over the years. These gatherings truly feel like a family gathering. There is a lot of sharing of memories, jokes, teasing - mostly of my musical tastes, but most of all there is a tremendous amount of love. If only our dining room walls could talk, the stories of love they could share. Thank you for making these memories possible and for partnering with us in creating a new society within the shell of the old.

Kings Bay Plowshares Update

by Chelsea Page



On the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination in April, seven Catholic Workers trespassed at the Kings Bay Naval Station in Georgia, site of six nuclear weapons submarines. In September a Memo was filed in federal court with briefings that justify the defendants' use of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. In their affidavits, the defendants speak eloquently about their sincerely-held religious beliefs and how these beliefs motivated their nonviolent acts of prophetic witness. A date for their trial is expected to be set after the court considers the latest filings.

Please pray for Elizabeth McAlister, 78, and Father Stephen Kelly, 69, currently incarcerated in the Glynn County Correctional Facility, and the other resisters who are out on bond: Mark Colville, 55, Clare Grady, 59, Martha Hennessy, 62, Patrick O'Neill, 62, and Carmen Trotta, 55. Abolish nuclear weapons forever!

Visit www.kingsbayplowshares7.org for more information



Why Hope Village?

by Peter Miron-Conk

Since its' founding in 1933, Catholic Worker has been about social justice and caring for the poorest of the poor. While not unrelated the concerns have generally been addressed in separate activities. We support the protesting of nuclear weapons, war, and racism. We offer shelter, meals and hospitality to people experiencing homelessness and especially those with chronic mental illnesses.



Today in San Jose, and in many areas around the country, we face a major crisis in homelessness. Forty-four years ago, when San Jose Catholic Worker started, the homeless were almost exclusively people with addiction and mental health issues. Today, many of the 7,000 people in Santa Clara County and 4,000 people in San Jose are homeless because they lack adequate income to maintain a home. It is the most important social justice issue of our day and it is happening in broad daylight in front of us. This is a human rights crisis that demands a response. People are sleeping on street corners and sidewalks, in cars, RVs, encampments, freeway on ramps, along creeks, under bridges and in parks. While giving lip service to addressing the problem, the major response from the City of Jose, Water District and Caltrans is to spend millions of dollars conducting "cleanup actions" where the tents, sleeping bags, clothes and personal property of people experiencing homelessness is "stored" in the back of a garbage truck. There are no alternatives to the current situation offered.

We feel morally compelled to do something. Our response is organizing a tent community for people experiencing homelessness that will give them the basic necessities of restroom, showers, garbage service and a clean, secure and safe environment. The project is HOPE VILLAGE. We see this as a first step, a model that can be replicated around the city. If you think the current situation is a disgrace and agree that something more needs to be done to address the homeless encampments then please join us and support HOPE VILLAGE.

Hope Village On-Going Needs

- Monetary donations (via www.sjhv.org/donate or checks made out to Casa de Clara with Hope Village in the memo line).
- Non-perishable food:
 - Canned chicken or turkey
 - Canned vegetables
 - Pasta
 - Jerky
 - Canned soups
- Cold weather essentials:
 - Waterproof jackets/ponchos
 - Tarps (10x10)
 - Sleeping bags
 - Hand warmers
 - Hats & gloves
 - Tents

To stay up-to-date on Hope Village, sign up for the email list at www.sjhv.org

Hope Village Next Steps

by Andrew Lanier Jr.

We are extremely grateful for all those who have showed up for our recent work days, especially Bellarmine, Valley Christian, the Boy Scouts and so many others. Your efforts are great help in preparing the Village for the winter weather. Residents are also very grateful for additional community space that is protected from the elements.

We are currently working with the County of Santa Clara and the City of San Jose to expand the size of Hope Village and the number of residents. These are crucial steps in demonstrating the duplicability of the Hope Village model. We are also busy setting up a restroom trailer that was donated; guests will soon no longer have to use porta potties. Another project we are looking forward to is the setup of a robust solar electricity system, which includes adding additional panels to the Showers to the People! shower trailer.



Meet the Community!

The Chearcus

A married couple, Chelsea and Marcus have worked together since 2005 in Nevada Desert Experience (NDE), Trinity House Catholic Worker in Albuquerque, and the Catholic Worker Farm in Northern California. Their passions are nuclear weapons abolition and offering nature retreats to the HIV positive community.

In July, Chelsea & Marcus made a commitment to join Andrew from September through September (2018 to 2019) as live-in Catholic Workers at San Jose's Catholic Worker community of Casa de Clara. Life in the Bay Area gives Chelsea a boost in seeking a calling from a United Church of Christ (UCC) congregation as an ordained minister. Marcus continues spending one-third of his time each month at the Catholic Worker Farm, and the other two-thirds at Casa de Clara. They are still the Co-Directors of Earth Abides Catholic Worker Farm's HIV+ ministry called "Catherine House," along with Catholic Worker Farmer Tom Spiritbringer who is promulgating the Universe Story Calendar. Marcus maintains his position as an NDE Council member, and hopes to start a monastery for Catholic Buddhists near the nuclear weapons testing ground in Nevada. One of their other new projects is opening a Catholic Worker Farm in Yuba City, California, in late 2019 or 2020. Chelsea is a San Jose native and this couple very much appreciates being part of the Casa de Clara scene!

If you are curious about any of this, you can check out the website for some Catholic Worker Farm information here: <http://pax.CatholicWorker.biz>

Calia

After interning with us in the summer of 2017, Calia is excited to be back at Casa de Clara.

Since she last lived here, she completed her degree in Education and Spanish. She finds joy in working one-on-one with people, particularly children, and supporting them to grow holistically to reach their full potential. After graduating, Calia spent a few months living at Casa Colibri Catholic Worker in Jalisco, Mexico. There, she happily labored in a community garden, assisted an after-school program, and worked on her Salsa and Bachata skills.

She returned to the United States earlier than expected largely because she feels drawn to working with and serving people experiencing houselessness here in California. Calia is currently discerning where God is leading her to live out the Gospel and put down roots next. In the meantime, she finds joy in making soup to share, working barefoot in the garden, and hanging out with kids.



Nathan

Nathan came to California four or so years ago to serve at Dorothy's Place, a former Catholic Worker community in Salinas. After two years there he has since drifted through various Zen practice centers (Tassajara and Green Gulch), has completed a massage therapy program in Monterey, and has continued to spend time at Dorothy's Place before he moved in to Casa de Clara in early October.

He spends whatever free time he has going into prisons, mainly Salinas Valley State Prison and Correctional Training Facility in Soledad, facilitating intensive, experiential workshops on conflict resolution with the Alternatives to Violence Project. If not in prison, on Sundays you'll probably find Nathan at the local Quaker meeting.

Before coming to California he has lived in various intentional communities, living and working in a therapeutic community leading work-based therapy in Vermont, serving in the Peace Corps as an environmental volunteer in Mali, and living in Agape Community in Massachusetts where the seeds of contemplative community and radical nonviolence were first planted.

His dietary staples include oatmeal and sugar-free peanut butter, and otherwise he enjoys reading and going on walks.

Nathan plans to be here in San Jose at least into this coming summer as he is helping to plan a national gathering for the Alternatives to Violence Project which is set to occur in May in Oakland, after which he may move back into the woods to plant his fingers in the soil and be lulled to sleep by the chirping of crickets.

Summer Intern Reflections

Better late than never - editor's fault

Gemma Hamm

My experience at Casa de Clara was one I will never be able to forget. From working with people on the streets, to life in community, the past three months have challenged me in ways I never expected. The expression of love that surrounds the community of Casa de Clara (guest, worker, or friend) is deeper than anything I have ever experienced before coming here.

I quickly learned that going to shower days are not just about cleaning showers, and being on door duty is not just about answering the door, and making people food or giving out a blanket. Interwoven in the ministries at Casa are friendships and community. I expected to clean a shower. I didn't expect sitting down and talking for 30 minutes about my family with a person who was there to receive a shower. Recently, someone who comes to our door almost every day came over and called out eagerly to Mary and I that he wanted us to meet his son. In three short months, I never would have expected I would be important enough in this person's life that they would so eagerly want me to meet their family. I did not realize just how powerful the community at the Catholic Worker would be, from the volunteers, to the people on the streets, to Mary and Andrew. I had no idea how important the role of community would play within my time at the Catholic Worker.

I walk away from Casa not knowing how to fall back into my real world. I have become used to a multitude of extraordinary things happening on a day to day basis at Casa de Clara. I know my heart will long for our daily dinners with guests, alumni, and friends. I will miss this beautiful community of people eager to bring love and peace into our world, fighting for social justice through acts as simple as giving someone a shower.



Mary Markham

My summer here has been full of many "firsts." It has been my first time leaving Portland, Oregon for longer than a week, my first time living closely in community with others, my first internship, my first welcoming into the Catholic Church, and my first time cooking an entire meal by myself.

Life here has been met with challenges, growth, joy, and the development of beautiful relationships that I will cherish all of my days. Challenges have come in many forms, from being challenged in my prayer life, to the weight of knowing that the blanket I give to a woman will not cure her fear while sleeping on the streets. And yet, the joy that I experience here comes in unexpected and uplifting waves. From the acceptance I feel when people at showers know me by name, to getting a dance lesson in our living room from a woman I met at showers, to considering a long-time guest in our house a motherly figure in my life, joy is never far from here.

I recently wrote a letter to a friend about my time at Casa de Clara. I ended with, "Life for me will look differently now. I don't know exactly how, but it will be different." Though I cannot see all the changes in my life, I have noticed some already:

I know that I now view my role as a citizen as one of serious responsibility to support those living on the margins. I view my role as a social work student with new motivation for change. I view my role in personal relationships as an opportunity to engage in dialogue about the importance of challenging systemic oppression. I view my role as a Christian not simply as relationship between me and my savior, but also as a relationship with my sisters and brothers in community. I view my role as a woman with more confidence and fire to empower other women. Lastly,

I view those living on margins of society not as those who require my help, but as people with talents, desires, capabilities, brilliance, and stories, who I have the opportunity to advocate for and engage in relationship with.

If you know of a college age student or older who would be interested in being a summer Casa de Clara intern, have them contact us by February March 2019



The Long Loneliness Post Script

by Dorothy Day

We were just sitting there talking when Peter Maurin came in. We were just sitting there talking when lines of people began to form, saying, "We need bread." We could not say, "Go, be thou filled." If there were six small loaves and a few fishes, we had to divide them. There was always bread. We were just sitting there talking and people moved in on us. Let those who can take it, take it. Some moved out and that made room for more. And somehow the walls expanded. We were just sitting there talking and someone said, "Let's all go live on a farm." It was as casual as all that, I often think. It just came about. It just happened.

I found myself, a barren woman, the joyful mother of children. It is not always easy to be joyful, to keep in mind the duty of delight.

The most significant thing about The Catholic Worker is poverty, some say. The most significant thing is community, others say. We are not alone anymore. But the final word is love. At times it has been, in the words of Father Zossima, a harsh and dreadful thing, and our very faith in love has been tried through fire.

We cannot love God unless we love each other, and to love we must know each other. We know him in the breaking of bread, and we are not alone any more. Heaven is a banquet and life is a banquet, too, even with a crust, where there is companionship. We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community. It all happened while we sat there talking, and it is still going on.



Community Notes

- In June, Andrew and Larry (Redwood City Catholic Worker) had their court date for their Good Friday arrest at Lockheed Martin. No charges were brought forward.
- Over the course of the summer we were able to pay for two homeless individuals to relocate to LA and Missouri where they are able to stay with family members.
- We welcomed the new JVC Santa Clara Community at our September House mass. We have enjoyed their regular presence at house events since then.
- We have been fortunate to partner with San Jose State University and Presentation in being a placement site for student volunteers this past semester. We are extremely grateful for their help!
- In October we hosted John LaForge of NukeWatch, and Marion K pker, from Hamburg, Germany of B chel ist  berall! atomwaffenfrei jetzt, for a discussion on America's nuclear policies and America's nuclear presence in Germany.
- Hope Village opened and we proceeded to move three times in less than a month. It was a certainty a whirlwind of a start. We could not have asked for better support and love from the community.
- We had a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration with our current guests, alumni, and community family members.
- Andrew participated in a three day fast with several other community members to voice concerns over the selling of public land to Google. We had hoped the city would have put stronger requirements on Google to reduce their affects on the house market.
- Marcus was sentenced to 20 hours of volunteer service after being the first person prosecuted in 30 years at the Nuclear Test Site in Nevada for civil disobedience.
- The Christmas season has arrived at Casa de Clara. We recently brought home a Christmas tree and had a wonderful time decorating the tree and house while enjoying home cooked tamales and enchiladas by two of our guests.



Mornings with Moses

by Calia Kammer

From my second-story bedroom here at Casa de Clara, I look out over the parking lot of the next-door African American Community Center. In the morning, I stand at my windowsill, cradling a bowl of oatmeal to warm my hands and belly. The morning sun reaches in, blanketing my groggy face and illuminating the happenings in the lot below: a couple begins their morning routine, unloading and shaking out their tent, carefully folding the nylon walls in thirds, and packing belongings into two shopping carts. The scene unfolds with the mundane sacredness of any morning routine, the couple silent except for the occasional exchange over what to pack where, in what order.

The juxtaposition of our rituals to begin the day stands as splintering as the wooden fence between us: me, seeking quiet nourishment with a cup of tea and Scripture, them continuing the endless hustle to “Somewhere else, somewhere else... I don’t know where but not here”, navigating the chaos of robberies and rapes, lifting their tired heads upwards in search of fresh air and dignity.

Beside my steaming bowl of oats lay the words of the book of Exodus, spiraling my imagination elsewhere: Moses, pre-solidarity days, still hidden in the comfort of Egyptian privilege, witnesses a fellow Hebrew beaten by an Egyptian. The Hebrew kills his offender and hides him in the sand, with Moses looking on (Ex. 2:11-12). Moses sees the wrongs committed towards both the Egyptian and his fellow Hebrew, recognizing the wrong in both. From my bedroom window view, I cannot help but view myself as this not-yet-honorable version of Moses, standing in the warmth of my place in the socioeconomic hierarchy. Yet, rather than descending into guilt-driven paralysis at the sobering starkness of difference in circumstances for myself and our houseless neighbors, I’m reminded of Moses’ obedience to God’s call as he commits to the humility and tediousness of the exodus which follows in the storyline.

Instead of condemnation or shame to shut us down, God calls to us through ancient Biblical stories and our modern, violently divided realities alike: How will you respond to the blatant violence and injustice before and within you? What will you do with all you have been given?

As Oswald Chamber writes, Christ solemnly and clearly explains how we ought to live, but He never forces us to follow Him. We choose to let God’s Spirit soften us to hear the cries of those beyond the windows which separate our various versions of comfort from others’ worlds of fear and chaos. The Spirit calls us to see our kinship, as Moses did, with all who suffer –victim and perpetrator alike. With this restored vision comes the call “to not turn away from your own flesh and blood...” (Isaiah 58:7). As Moses stripped himself of the Egyptian garb, we surrender our hungry grasping for prestige and recognition so that we may truly be with one another. May we turn towards and move closer to all our human kin, of even those whom we have yet to consider brothers and sisters.



Letters from the Mailbox

Hello from the Pacific Northwest!

We are enjoying our new home in Southern Oregon, though we miss all of you dearly.

Jessica loves her program in herbal medicine, and is thrilled at the opportunity to spend time in the wild learning about herbs and healing. Fumi is working in the tasting room of a local winery, pouring wine and making friends.

If you are ever passing through Ashland, please look us up!

Love,

Jessica and
Fumi



Greetings, friends!

We are doing well at New Camaldoli Hermitage. Although we are far from San Jose, we continue a modest ministry of hospitality as housekeepers for the monastery’s retreat facilities. The slow, quiet, contemplative rhythms of monastic life suit us well, and we relish our access to the beauty and wonder of the Big Sur coastal wilderness.

Come on retreat sometime!
We’d love to see you.
(www.contemplation.com)

Love,

Lisa & Julian



A Letter to Roman Catholic Bishops Regarding the Upcoming Meeting on the Sex Abuse Crisis

by Johanna Berrigan, Amanda Daloisio, Claire Schaeffer-Duffy, and Joanne Kennedy

Below is a letter addressing our concerns about the crisis in our Church and the upcoming meeting written by fellow Catholic Workers. The letter requests a broader representation of the People of God at the meeting for we believe that a meeting with the all male hierarchy, that has for decades been at the root of the problem, is not helpful. In order for meaningful resolutions, real reform and healing of the church body to take place, we believe this meeting should include women, lay people, survivors, parents of children who have been abused, and others to adequately deal with this grievous crisis. A copy of this letter has been sent to the both Bishops of the Diocese of San Jose.

Dear Bishops,

We are writing to you as members of the Catholic Worker movement founded by Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin in the United States. We are involved in peace and justice work in our respective communities. We write to you today about what we believe to be an overarching matter of justice: the absence of women and lay people in the hierarchal structure of the Catholic Church; especially as it relates to dealing with the sex abuse scandal and subsequent cover up that has roiled the Church.

We are a Eucharistic community, we love God and love our Church, but the Church is in dire straits at this point in her history. Our hearts are broken. We know that sex abuse within the Church has been an issue for many decades. It came to public attention in this country in 2002. Since that time, according to a Pew Forum, the Catholic Church loses more members than it gains at a higher rate than any other denomination, with nearly thirteen percent of the all US Americans describing themselves as former Catholics. People feel hurt, angered and betrayed by the Church. They have lost their faith due to the actions of the very people entrusted as the moral leaders and teachers of the faith. This is devastating.

It has come to our attention that Pope Francis has convened a February meeting in Rome of the presidents of bishops' conferences worldwide and representatives of religious orders to address the clergy sex abuse crisis. We do not understand how a meeting of the very men who are at the heart of this grievous problem will help. In an August 20th Letter to the People of God Pope Francis wrote: "The only way we have to respond to this evil that has darkened so many lives is to experience it as a task regarding all of us as the People of God. This awareness of being part of a people and a shared history will enable us to acknowledge our past sins and mistakes with a penitential openness that can allow us to be renewed from within." If this is a "task regarding all of us as the People of God," women and lay people should and must be included in the discussion and discernment of how to renew the Church from within. We join with the women who spoke at the Voices of Faith gathering in Rome on November 26th asking for just that, more representation from women.

While we recognize that lay members of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors are contributing to the preparation for the February meeting, we respectfully request a broader representation of the People of God at the conference itself. We envision a meeting that will include survivors of abuse, parents of the children whose lives have been destroyed, lay groups for whom justice on this issue has become their vocation, and women theologians. We believe that including a diverse group of people from the United States and other countries, where the sex abuse crisis has had a devastating effect, is essential for restoring trust and can provide valuable guidance on how to bring reconciliation and true healing to the global Church.

We are heartened by Pope Francis' recognition that clericalism in the Catholic Church is responsible for creating a culture where criminal abuse persisted and extraordinary efforts were made to keep crimes hidden. We implore you not allow this clerical culture to continue. Including lay people, especially women, in the February meeting would be an important first step toward that end.

Sincerely,

The San Jose Catholic Worker Community

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From the Archives



Can you spot some former community members? Left to Right, Top: Peter, Norma and Sharron, Louis McHorten. Bottom: Sr. Terasita and others.

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Needs:

- **Donations:** Checks can be made out to Casa de Clara Catholic Worker, or donate at www.sjcw.org
- **Cars:** for many of our guests, transportation is their biggest need after housing. We are grateful for any working vehicle you can give to us.
- **Household supplies:** vinegar, borax, biodegradable Castile soap (such as Dr. Bronner's), toilet paper, laundry detergent
- **Cast Iron Pans:** we could use cast iron pans of all sizes for Casa de Clara.

Up Coming Events:

- January 5th - House Mass, 11:00 AM at Casa de Clara
- January 8th - Story Night, 7:30 PM at Casa de Clara
- January 25th - Peace Vigil at Lockheed Martin, Mathilda & Java in Sunnyvale
- March 15th - 19th - Pacific Life Community annual retreat. Call Larry (Redwood City Catholic Worker) for more information (650) 366-4415.
- April 13th - 19th - Sacred Peace walk in Nevada. Contact Marcus at 408.297.8330 for more info.

