

**June 28, 2020 | 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

[2 KGS 4:8-11, 14-16A](#)

[PS 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19](#)

[ROM 6:3-4, 8-11](#)

[MT 10:37-42](#)

*By Br. Steve Herro, O. Praem*

*"...and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me...." Matthew 10: 38*

This weekend (June 27-28) would be a good time to invite [Martin Gugino](#) to our Sunday liturgies. The New Yorker, an unpretentious Catholic peace activist, received national attention (not his wish, but [being the subject of a Presidential tweet](#) can open the flood gates) for being manhandled by Buffalo, New York police at an anti-racism demonstration on June 4.

Matthew's Gospel for [June 28, the 13th Sunday of Ordinary Time](#), is prefaced by very challenging language on discipleship. Jesus has summoned the 12 and commissioned them to drive out evil spirits and cure diseases. Travel lightly, and if anyone refuses you, shake the dust from your feet and move on. After all, Jesus said earlier in the chapter, I have come to bring division and discipleship demands taking up the cross.

Yonat Shimron ("[Martin Gugino is a Catholic peace activist, not an 'Antifa provocateur,' friends say](#)," *National Catholic Reporter*, June 10, 2020) writes that Martin Gugino has been a Catholic social activist for many years:

*Friends of the retired computer scientist described Gugino as a devout Catholic and a graduate of Canisius High School, a private Jesuit school in Buffalo, who is a passionate advocate for multiple causes on behalf of the poor and disenfranchised. Gugino spent his retirement lending a hand to multiple causes, among them Black Lives Matter.*

*"Martin has a passion for social justice," said Mark Colville, who runs Amistad Catholic Worker in New Haven, Connecticut, and has known Gugino for years. "When he sees wrong he wants to be involved in making it right."*

*Colville said Gugino made multiple trips from his home in the Buffalo suburb of Amherst to New Haven — a six-and-a-half-hour drive — to help prepare and serve meals at Amistad, a house of hospitality that describes its mission as "follow(ing) Jesus in seeking justice for the poor."*

When I read of Gugino for the first time, I thought of any number of Catholic peace activists that I have met in Wisconsin and Washington, DC--Catholic Workers, anti-war demonstrators, supporters of Black Lives Matter. If Gugino could be roughed up by police at a peace demonstration, could my prophetic Catholic peace activist friends Bob, Meg, Jack, Eli, Bob,

Matthew, Sally, Gerry, Ann, Joe, Jason, Patrick, Marge, Andy, Brian, Leanne, Art, Mary, Chris, Marie, Bill, Mary, Mark, Michael, Nancy, and others suffer the same consequences? But isn't that what Jesus warned (some would say expected of us) when he said (Matthew 10: 38) "...and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me."

Besides Gugino's heroic demonstrating and response to police brutality (at a rally **against** police brutality), Fr. Bryan Massingale also recently wrote of the cost of discipleship, even if it causes conflict with your family and friends ("[The assumptions of white privilege and what we can do about it](#)," *National Catholic Reporter*, June 1, 2020):

*...have the courage to confront your family and friends....I understand the desire to have peaceful or at least conflict-free relationships with family and friends. But as the Rev. Martin Luther King said so well, "There comes a time when silence is betrayal." Silence means consent. Or at least, complicity.*

*Until white people call out white people, there will always be safe places for racial ugliness to brew and fester.*

Jesus didn't run for rabbi of the year. He challenged his disciples to offset the status quo if necessary. His words and examples are as relevant for us today as they were for his first followers 2,000 years ago.

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