

Some Thoughts about the World from your Pastor

A few weeks ago, the readings warned the religious leaders to speak to the people against those who reject God and strive to deceive His people. If the leaders failed to speak, they were to be held guilty. I feel I need to share what God has put on my heart. Last week we heard Jesus share the heart of the gospel message. He summarized the ten commandments simply with the two great commandments. Love God and Love your neighbor! What does such a commitment yield? Nothing less than eternal life. The followers of Christ have hearts and minds focused on eternal realities. They also realize that every human soul is infinitely valuable. We must love each other if our love for God is real.

I certainly do not know everything and by no means believe that I have perfect insight about anything, with that said I feel compelled to share some of my thoughts about the world at large and what I believe has been happening over that past century or so and how the devil has been trying to deceive our world. The only way it would seem to me that the devil can "hurt" God is by hurting those whom God loves; that would be you and me! We are not special; God loves all that He creates, but each and every one of us is unique. I really like how Fr. Spitzer describes each of us as a universe unto oneself. God also desires that all are saved, but He will never force Himself on anyone. God invites, never compels! It is at the heart of human freedom! Will we choose God and love for our neighbor?

The early Christians suffered under the oppression of the Roman Empire. The force behind the empire was seemingly simply to serve the glory of Rome. Soldiers were conditioned to give their life in service of Rome, the glory of battle was more important than life itself.

The Bible begins with the preeminent battle between good and evil. It seems to me that the fundamental temptation the devil used was to tempt Adam and Eve to be like God. If they would eat the forbidden fruit, they would know good from evil. Sadly, in a way the devil was speaking the truth, because before they ate the fruit, they were innocent and only knew the good. After the fall, they immediately began to hide themselves from God and each other. The good news is that God forgave them. God always forgives, nature never forgives. I am convinced the reason that nature never forgives rests in God's love for us! By that I mean that through a discerning eye we can discover the difference between good and evil. Good leads us to human thriving, while bad actions lead to destruction and agony. If we go against nature it will harm us and our environs.

There was an intellectual movement that arguably began in the 1800's that made it respectable to not believe in God. Its precursor could arguably be put forth as the Masonic movement which held as a fundamental precept that all religions are in one sense equal. Many today subscribe to such a notion. Many believe that truth when it comes to religion must be relativized. The implications are that no religion can claim a more complete understanding than another. In fact an atheistic view would see any belief in God as detrimental to human progress. These movements spawned new philosophies and ideologies that not only did not believe in God but actually was intent on destroying any faith in God.

The French revolution guillotined many, churches and monasteries were attacked and sometimes outright destroyed. This led to ideologies, particularly Communism, to attack religion and its leaders. The philosophy of Marx and Engels infected the minds of many. The first line from the Communist Manifesto is chilling, "a specter is haunting Europe". The communist ideology has led to over 100 million deaths in its direct aftermath. It seems evident that their tack from the 1930s was to infiltrate colleges, universities and even religious institutions. They also were compelled to control the press and information. They also attacked the family, so as to see the "state" as the only reliable authority. Sadly, it seems like they met with great success. It seems to me their fundamental error is a denial of human nature. They convince the gullible to believe that their sacrifice will lead to a worldly utopia where

everyone will have enough stuff. They admit that they need to change human nature. Sadly we cannot hope to change the laws of physics any more than we can change human nature.

There is historical evidence that the communists were very intentional in their attempt to infiltrate organizations. These adherents took their communism as a religion that was worth sacrificing their own life to bring about some future utopia. The end justified the means was certainly justified in their twisted minds. A means that included placing its adherents in trade unions, the universities and even the Church. An excellent but disturbing book, The Devil and Karl Marx by Paul Kengor provides the facts concerning these efforts. They would describe those who were their pawns and dupes and suckers.

From the beginning of the Church there have been traitors among the ranks. Judas betrayed Jesus, it is hard to know but I tend to believe that Judas wanted a political solution. He may have thought that if he turned over Jesus, Jesus would vindicate Himself and then an uprising would overthrow the oppressive Romans. When this did not happen he despaired. I believe that Judas' greatest sin was not the betrayal but he failed to realize that God would forgive him. If I am right, those who will be duped in voting in support of the Culture of Death, will be forgiven if they seek God's mercy. Again, God always forgives!

We must strive to deepen our relationship with Christ and never put our faith in ideologies. We must strive to be holy in our state of life. If you are married, perfect your love for your spouse and children. All Christian vocations call us to die to self. The more spouses mutually give themselves to each other and their children, the deeper their joy will be!

The Bishops in the Document Faithful citizenship notes that the preeminent issue confronting this election is the respect for life. Without life any other issue is clearly secondary. Yet we find ourselves with even bishops being on different sides. How is one to discern who is right. Climate change, immigration issues, or issues concerning health-care are indeed important concerns, but killing innocent children to the tune of almost 1 million to 1 and a half million a year, which is between 2,700 to 4,100 children a day outweighs all other issues! If we put our trust in God He will take care of our global problems. In an emergency every person in this country has access to healthcare! There is no rational comparison.

This week this county will choose a president, it seems evident we do not have canonized saints to choose from. Both candidates have pasts, both have horrible allegations leveled against them concerning their relationships with women. One clearly supports the right to kill innocent human beings and federally fund the killing, He has also stated that he wants to attack the religious liberty of organizations, like the Little Sisters of the Poor, who simply do not want to materially cooperate with the destruction of innocent children in the womb. Also, it seems one candidate has received seemingly at least indirectly money from those governments that see the United States as their enemy. Hopefully all of us can be informed enough to vote for the candidate who has demonstrated at least some protection for the vulnerable and innocent child. Let us pray that Catholics do not vote for those who support abortion and thus materially cooperate with such an intrinsic evil. Let us pray we get the leader we need and not the leader we deserve. Let us pray for those who have been deceived and make the mistake of seeing something profoundly evil as a good choice.

Most do not pay attention, but we seemingly no longer have a free press. Facebook, Twitter, and most media outlets refuse to report anything negative against the candidate that they favor. This bias has unfortunately led vast segments of our population to be misinformed. Please pray from the depth of your hearts to be guided by the Spirit so that you may not materially cooperate with evil in the upcoming election.