

Sept. 13-14, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

Sometimes I get crazy watching the news. I'm sure some of you have that same feeling as you listen to me at Mass. It is hard to hear some things. For me it was hard to hear that we are not at war with ISIS or the Islamic State. We are just going to keep them from growing and doing damage in the world with the help of some bombers. I'm not sure what to call that kind of intervention. It was hard to hear President Obama state that this organization is not following any religion for no religion would act this way. I think they would disagree with him because they are doing their best to live out the Koran. I know that there are different ways that Muslims read their holy book but I know that there is nothing in the Koran that would contradict what they are doing. I wish that I had an immediate way of fixing all of this but only God can do that. In the meantime we will have to live with what is happening.

As I mentioned in my homily last weekend we are not in a position to simply show them how horrible they are acting and because of that they would change their ways. For those of you old psychology students that was the method introduced by B. F. Skinner. All you have to do is reflect what a person says back to them and then they will change. I've never found it workable, sometimes because of what I was talking about last week. When we try to take the moral high ground we are not seen as any better than they are. The U.S.A. has been seen as the "Great Satan" by many in that part of the world for decades. They do not like what we have to offer them.

We get angry because they kill thousands in their battle for power to live their religion as they see it defined by Allah. They get angry with us because they see us killing millions of innocent babies in far more brutal ways than any terrorist has done. We try to show them that they are immoral. They look at what we have been trying to force on countries around the world through our State Department and can't believe anything could be more immoral. We, along with the United Nations, have been trying to force population control, birth control, abortion on demand, same sex marriage and other sexual differences that we give nice names to and make legal so it is magically called moral. They look at the long range consequences of those policies and want to have nothing to do with them. They see population control by these methods as destroying their future. They see marriage that is not between male and female as sterile and causing the same problem, no future generation.

If you don't believe that we are doing these things I suggest you do some reading on the Population Research Institute web-site: www.pop.org. Its founder was Fr. Paul Marx, a Benedictine priest who died a few years back. What you will find is that we are not the only ones who are trying to force these issues, but we have the resources to push harder than others.

Now none of this justifies the actions of the Islamic State or ISIS. But then nothing justifies our actions. But the most important thing that I hold onto is how proud I am of being a Catholic in the midst of all this chaos. As a Church we are doing amazing work around the world to try to change this and to help people get back to what God made us for. Some of you mentioned that I might have overstated reality in asking if anyone could think of another organization working on all these issue like the Catholic Church does. There may be some but few have the clout that we have and what we could have if we actually stood together according to God's law. Our biggest challenge is standing together as Catholics. When we start tearing pages out of the Catechism we weaken ourselves by disconnecting from the God who gives us strength. But no matter what we need to pray and see our own sins. Which reminds me that there is a great web-site that is good for understanding the Sacrament of Reconciliation, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfZkq7BABJM>

God bless you all,
Fr. Frank