

misunderstand me, I believe in these causes as issues our society must address to become a better world, but in my view **ALL Lives Matter** (as in **GOD's LOVE** shines on the just and the unjust). It is the path of "un-holiness" we are taking to get there that saddens me. These attitudes are causing us to complain constantly...about everything. Here I am complaining about complaining, but what it is doing to our communal "mood" is what concerns me most. This is a concern not shared by "activists" today. We expect **perfection** not just in outcome but in every detail along the way and destroying the lives of "perpetrators" is "justifiable". And when we don't obtain our objective, the rhetoric we use turns into a cruel form of **bullying**. Whatever happened to "**respectfully disagreeing**". Where did we lose "I hear what you are saying, but I disagree.? How can we move forward? What is our common ground? ". These days it sounds more like "You're a pig and I despise the air you breathe". A quick but obvious sample of this is our current situation in Washington. Our President is not just in opposition on some issues, he is an "amoral", pathological liar", "a misogynistic bigot who hates women (especially of color)", "a crude foul-mouthed Nazi lover". Most likely, none of these is true but what comes from his mouth is hard to repeat also, so it's hard to rebut. These are the leaders of our government... When, and how did this happen? In a world where respect of others was the mantra just thirty or forty years ago, we have become the epitome of intolerance. And cruelty. I'm almost afraid to promote world kindness. We seem to use such efforts as a referendum to counter-punch ourselves into a 180-degree coma.

I recognize part of the issue here is the release of frustrations and anger over historical injustice. I get that. We all should get that, but we should use the energy of frustration to reverse trends, not amplify them. For some of us, I feel the ambivalence we experience, both in civil matters (government participation) and church, reflect this functional apathy. We are just worn out from the "same old thing" and feel helpless to find solutions. There isn't enough room here to explore answers adequately, but merely to say it is our imperative to fight for change, through peace and kindness. I loved the beautiful advice we read in Luke's Gospel a little while back. Our reward will be found in our **perseverance to seek Holiness**. This is our primary duty to the next generation who will inherit the mess of sociological behavior we are modeling for them. We **will** have a world, someday, where all the expectations we have are met; where kindness rules our demeanor, self-less service to others is the norm, and where our entire focus is the **Will of the FATHER**. It is **right** and **just** that we desire a more perfect world, but ...at the end of the day we are a society and church governed by human beings with a proclivity to imperfection. Instead of casting the "first stone", in humility let us all work for change and accept that we are all flawed in some way or another.

My point at the beginning of this article is we **ALL** hold the responsibility to work at the "ART of loving others". We need knowledge of **Christ's life**, we need regular **meaningful worship**, and we need to serve one another justly. And, we need patience and compassion dealing with one another. Keep pushing for change (first in ourselves), **seek the Kingdom of GOD**, and one day it will be realized. I'm pretty sure *They Call It Heaven*.

**PAX CHRISTI, Deacon Mike**

Comments, Questions, Random Thoughts?