

# Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Tuesday, June 2, 2020



Readings: 2 Peter 3:12-15a; Psalm 90:2-4, 10, 14, 16; Mk 12:13-17

Dear Parishioners:

How much more can we take? The COVID-19 pandemic, an economy in shambles, people disregarding Corona virus as “just another flu” and ignoring safety protocols, and now our nation in flames. The incredibly callous and stupid actions of a white police officer that killed an African American man on the streets of Minneapolis has ignited a firestorm throughout the entire country. The anger and rage of the African American Community is understandable. After all, look at the events a couple of weeks ago when a young African American man in Georgia was taking a Sunday jog and because two self-righteous white men *thought* he fit the description of someone who allegedly committed a burglary, they grabbed their shotguns, got into their pickup truck to track him down. They found him, confronted him --- and then killed him. Where was the outrage at that injustice? Enough is enough. Our history as a country has many proud moments in it but there are an equal number of moments where we ought collectively hang our heads in shame. The National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama, is the site of the “Lynching Museum” which graphically displays a memorial to the 4,400 *known, documented* lynchings of men and women in the United States. How many more were there that are not recorded? During the 1863 Draft Riots in New York City, which were quelled only when combat troops recently off the battlefield of Gettysburg were brought in, Black men, women and children were hanged from the lampposts of New York by mobs of rioters. Those of us old enough remember the riots of the 1960’s protesting inequality on almost every level. I, myself, remember the horrifying reality of segregation in 1966 when I spent several weeks with my uncle in Meridian, Mississippi who was serving as chaplain in a Catholic Hospital in that city. Just days ago, (thinking they were being funny?), a man in Santee wore a KKK hood to a supermarket as a face mask and then, a few days later, a man and woman in another supermarket wore facemasks emblazoned with Nazi swastikas, the most reviled symbol in human history. How much more can we take? To be sure, the riots, the destruction of private property, the burning, looting, shooting, stone and Molotov cocktail throwing of some of the demonstrators is in no way an acceptable response to the killing of George Floyd. However, a thinking person, a Christian person, a moral person cannot turn a blind eye to the root causes of the present turmoil. Racism exists. Racism exists among *every* race and culture and is a tool of the devil used to divide God’s children from one another and it needs to be eradicated. How is this accomplished? It’s NOT accomplished by pushing God out of society as we pretty much have, or by standing in front of a damaged, historical church in the nation’s capital holding a bible for a photo op. Racism will be eradicated only when we see God in everyone as precious children of His creation. Years ago, as a student in Vienna, I learned that when an Austrian person greets another they don’t say “Good morning/afternoon/evening.” The first thing they say is “Gruss Gott,” meaning “I greet God in you.” Sadly, even that seems to be fading from the vocabulary of the younger generation there, but it is still widely used. We English Speakers could learn a lesson from that. In Spanish, when someone leaves another they say “Adios” (“to God”) or “Vaya Con Dios” (Go with God) again recognizing the presence of the divine in the other. Even our English “goodbye” comes from Old English “God be with ye (you).” How, why have we forgotten that? Racism will be eradicated and peace will be possible when we come to recognize the presence of God in every human being on the earth. Remember the children’s song: “Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Red or Yellow, Black or White” all are precious in His sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world,” and we are all God’s children. If we don’t believe that, if we can’t believe that; if we put our politics, our economy, our race, our culture, our nationality, our personal opinions ahead of God and His teachings --- we’re doomed. We’re doomed, and we can’t call ourselves faithful Christians. How much more can we take? Pick up your bibles and read: John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:11-18; 1 John 4:16-21.

## PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL:

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

**THE MEMORARE:**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence we fly unto thee, O virgin of virgins, our mother; to thee do we come, before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despite not our petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer us. Amen.

**A Little Humor:**

(And we do need some these days.)

“Pickpocketing on an elevator is wrong on so many levels.” (get it?)

In the words of NC State great Charles Shackelford: “I can go to my left or right. I am amphibious.”

A little boy noticed that the parish priest always bowed his head for a moment before starting his homily. One day he asked the priest why he did that. “Well, young man,” the priest said, proud that the little boy was so observant of his messages: “I’m asking the Lord to help me preach a good homily.” “How come He doesn’t answer it?” the little boy asked.

**Riddle Me This:**

Yesterday’s Riddle: There are 30 mice moving around in a classroom during class, but no one is screaming. Why not?  
(Answer) It’s a computer class and they’re computer mice.

AND Who was the smartest man in the Bible? (Answer) Abraham. He knew a Lot.

Today;s Riddle: I used to be for hunting, now I’m just for fun; Toss me out and I’ll come back, I end where I begun. What am I?  
(Answer Tomorrow)

AND – Why didn’t they play cards on the Ark? (Answer tomorrow)

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