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ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY

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Disciples Against
Shrillness
GREGORY WEILER



Lonely Heart
JOHN J. FLYNN III



A Man for All
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**2014
RED MASS**



DISCIPLES AGAINST SHRILLNESS



**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
GREGORY N. WEILER**

As our culture careens around seemingly irreconcilable poles and shrill voices surround us, it seems pretty hard to keep one's peace.

Is it just me or does Afghanistan, Iraq, student murder suicides, so-called "gay marriage," craziness at the border, and the 5-4 Hobby Lobby-type cases make you question if "this nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created ... equal," can long survive? (When in doubt quote Lincoln.)

It is at these times in particular that we are called to discipleship. During a recent homily Msgr. Michael McKiernan reminded us that to be polarized, to be angry, shrill and unforgiving to our opponents, is simply "not Catholic".

Should we not be different in our discourse? Unyielding in both Truth and Charity? Simply remarkable in our courage and compassion? These are the paradoxes of discipleship, only possible with the Grace attendant to the Word, the Eucharist and self-surrendering service.

Not up to the challenge? Me neither. Not on our own. But there is a certitude in the midst of this crazy world, and He is the means and end. PAX ~ GNW

Gregory N. Weiler is a partner at Palmieri, Tyler, Wiener, Wilhelm & Waldron LLP in Irvine.

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The St. Thomas More Society of Orange County is an independent organization sponsored by lawyers and judges who are practicing members of the Roman Catholic Church.

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IDEALS OF ST. THOMAS MORE

The legal profession is a high calling with corresponding responsibilities to society. The principal objective of every lawyer is to promote and seek justice. Catholic Lawyers pursue the truth in both their spiritual and professional lives. The duty of a Catholic lawyer is to remain faithful to Jesus Christ, His Church and its teachings at all times despite the personal consequences.

THE OBJECTIVES OF STMS

- encouraging its members to live a Christian life and apply the principles and ideals exemplified by St. Thomas More in their lives and encourage same in the legal profession.
- promoting and foster high ethical principals in the legal profession generally and, in particular, in the community of Catholic lawyers.
- assisting in the spiritual growth of its members.
- encouraging interfaith understanding and brotherhood.
- sponsoring the annual Red Mass for elected and appointed officials and

members of the legal profession.

MEMBERSHIP IN STMS

- Each member of the Society is committed to:
- strive to live an exemplary Christian life and apply the principles and ideals exemplified by St. Thomas More in their daily lives and encourage same in the legal profession.
 - attend monthly meeting of the Society and provide personal support to the St. Thomas More Society.
 - attend and support the Red Mass.

LAWYER'S PRAYER

Give me the grace, Good Lord,
to set the world at naught;
to set my mind fast upon thee
and not to hang upon the blast of men's
mouths;
to be content to be solitary;
not to long for worldly company
but utterly to cast off the world
and rid my mind of the business
thereof.

- ST. THOMAS MORE

EDITOR@STTHOMASMORE.NET



LONELY HEART

JOHN J. FLYNN III

We are born lonely, though hardly alone, and never fully recover from this wound, inflicted by the mere fact of existence, inherited from our first parents. We live our lives in search of at least a poultice, if not of the cure itself. Dorothy Day titled her autobiography *The Long Loneliness*, a fitting name too for a life without God, though the title fits almost as well all of the human condition in this life.

Of course we can know joy in this life, yet even those loves that infuse a joy beyond understanding seem somehow referential, as if pointing us beyond the immediate cause of our joy to a transcendent reality, in which all the loves that we know in this life have an imperfect share. It is this love, to which all the others point, for which we pine all our lives.

The incurable wound of loneliness is a wound of disunion, of separation, the wound of suspicion, fear and distrust, distrust even of ourselves. It is because of this wound that we always sense within ourselves the potential of self-deception, of duplicity. So was fear born in human life,

which must be overcome if the heart is ever to open itself to the possibility of union, with God, and with the children of God. We can even fear to love God, afraid that our trust will lead to disappointment. But it is not possible in this life to trust without risk. It is the bearing of this very risk that yields the highest possible good we can know in this life. We are reminded in June of this reality by the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart: The Heart of Jesus is depicted as a heart uncaged, unprotected, yet from which flows the love of God in a perpetual torrent. The heart that cannot suffer cannot love.

The love of God in one limited sense is a story like every other, the meaning of which cannot be fully comprehended until the last page is written. Whatever else occurs in the course of human events, though, the last page has already been written: Love has destroyed death, and every tear will be wiped away. ♦

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You are invited.

RED MASS

Join us
October 6, 2014



We are honored to welcome Bishop Kevin Vann to his second Red Mass in Orange County and seek his blessing on the dedication and mission of our local legal community.

Red Mass begins at 6:00 p.m.
The complimentary dinner reception is at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Family Cathedral
566 S. Glassell St
Orange, CA 92866
(714) 639-2900

Questions about Red Mass should be directed to Bill Malecki at bmalecki@yahoo.com

Sponsorship opportunities for Red Mass should be directed to Fabio Cabezas at fabiocabezas@cox.net

CALENDAR

Wednesday, July 16, 12 p.m.
Monthly lunch meeting.

PONTIUS PILATE: LESSONS FOR THE CEO

Speaker: David A. Shaneyfelt
Topic: "Pontius Pilate: Lessons for the CEO"

Dave Shaneyfelt has taken his experience as a seasoned civil litigator in state and federal courts across the country and used it to unpack what scholars and historians can tell us about the greatest trial in history – the Trial of Jesus Christ. He has been lecturing on the Trial, to large and small audiences, for more than fifteen years. One aspect of that Trial is the person and role of Pontius Pilate and the lessons that CEOs and leaders can draw from it. Dave's fast-paced, highly-detailed PowerPoint presentation probes this history and shows its relevance to decision-making of all kinds.

Dave is an attorney with The Alvarez Firm in its Calabasas, California, office where he represents corporations in disputes against insurance companies and general business litigation. He is a former trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division, in Washington, D.C. and is rated "AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated," the top rating, 5.0 out of 5.0, by his peers as listed in Martindale Hubbell.

He is also a writer, and has published more than 50 articles in the National Catholic Register, Catholic World Report, Crisis Magazine, as well as in various legal and professional journals, including, most recently, in the Los Angeles Lawyer Magazine. He is a graduate of Thomas Aquinas College, where he worked from 1997 to 2005, before returning to the practice of law. He earned his law degree at Willamette College of Law in Salem, Oregon, where he was senior editor of the law review.

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Sunday, July 27, 8-11 a.m.
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A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

PATRICK E. WHALEN



There is an ancient Latin saying: “*In medio stat virtus*”. The English translation is: “*In the middle stands virtue*”.

In conquering and ruling most the known world, even the iron fisted Romans soon learned the political virtue of ruling wisely with “moderation”. They learned from the horrible mistakes of being too ruthless or too lenient. The middle position was often the most politically expedient.

Fast forwarding to the current day, the Roman mantra of moderation has degenerated into intellectual and moral relativism in the Western World. Relativism is now “in season”.

One must ostensibly think and act in a politically acceptable way, be it progressive or conservative. Washington D.C. and Sacramento, California have never been more partisan! The same can be sadly said of the “Fourth Estate”, the Press.

The current situation runs along these lines. If all citizens are endowed by their Constitutions with the inalienable right to their own moral compass with a *true north* of their own choosing (within politically correct limits of course), then each person is “free” to select his own truth. And the ancillary virtues of *tolerance* and *inclusiveness* shield moral relativism from any criticism or cross-examination. As a famous Roman once

said: “*What is truth?*”

But, there is a fly in the ointment! Its name is religion.

Religion has a way of antagonizing political institutions and their imperatives. Take for example our society’s namesake, St. Thomas More. Before he was a saint, he was just Sir Thomas. And he was a Roman Catholic lawyer and a loyal subject of his Sovereign, Henry the VIII. Enjoying the limited social mobility of that era in England, Sir Thomas eventually became the high Chancellor of England. He ominously wore his gold chain of office around his neck as seen in the famous Holbein portrait.

But his neck was in mortal danger, because he was a practicing Catholic and a loyal subject of the King. This became evident when the Pope denied Henry VIII’s petitions to divorce his first wife of over twenty years and to marry the short lived Anne Boleyn. So, the King had Parliament pass the *Act of Supremacy* of 1534, making Henry the sole head of the Catholic Church in England. He gave himself a divorce, over and over again. As you know, Sir Thomas quickly resigned as Chancellor, but he was ultimately beheaded after a trial for refusing to take the oath of supremacy of the Crown over the Church in England. His last words reportedly were: “*I die the king’s good*

servant but God’s first.”

It is submitted that today we face a similar dilemma as confronted St. Thomas More. Modern western nations are reaching the societal and legal conclusion that **Freedom** is not an ultimate political virtue in comparison to **Justice** and **Equality**. And devout religion is often accused of aiding and abetting the subversion of those ancillary virtues of tolerance and inclusiveness. Today, the sacred and the profane are at odds more than ever.

Like Thomas More, we are increasingly pressured by our sovereign society to take an implicit oath of supremacy. The pendulum has swung to honor one relative moral authority at the excessive expense of another, and spiritual warfare is likely behind it all.

Evil always seeks to obscure truth, and evil’s best weapons are deception and fear. In truth, liberty and justice have always been in a creative tension. We must not be deceived or intimidated into thinking otherwise. In times of imposed confusion, we need only remember the words of Jesus: “*I am the way, the truth and the life*”. Now there is a faithful moral compass. Do not be surprised if those words are eventually deemed “hate speech”! Why? They are followed by the Lord’s words: “*No one*

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A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

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comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

When Jesus spoke those words, all roads may have led to Rome. But parse His words as we may, Jesus seems to be saying not all religions lead to God and his eternal kingdom. If they did, why did Jesus have to suffer and die for our sins?

To further complicate matters both civil and spiritual, virtue does not always stand in the middle, as some grand compromise. Jesus challenged his followers again by saying: "*He who is not with me is against me.*" (Matthew 12:30)

In a grand resolution of these dilemmas above, Jesus also taught the eight beatitudes cited in the Gospel according to Matthew at Chapter

5. They are merciful lessons and assurances of divine Justice:

- Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (*Verse 3*)
- Blessed are the meek: for they shall possess the land. (*Verse 4*)
- Blessed are they who mourn: for they shall be comforted. (*Verse 5*)
- Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice: for they shall have their fill. (*Verse 6*)
- Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. (*Verse 7*)
- Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God. (*Verse 8*)
- Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. (*Verse 9*)
- Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (*Verse 10*)

Now I finally understand better the portion of the Lord's Prayer that states: "*Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...*"! We are freely to seek

the justice and mercy of God here on earth, even as lawyers and judges. For example, to the separation of church and state, we must say, yes! To the suppression of religious liberty, we must say, no!

Liberty and justice, in their proper balance, can peacefully coexist without political trials and capital punishment as still happen in other parts of this world. Our legal system is dedicated to that result even without checking the true compass of our Catholic faith. Constitutional balances make sense just as initially laid out in the United States and California Constitutions. But in this season of moral and intellectual relativism, it sure helps to have been a Catholic lawyer.

We then can truly be a man or a woman for all seasons- if we have the heart and mind for it. ♦