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ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY

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Roe Redux
GREG WEILER



Born
Again
JOHN J. FLYNN III



Prayer or
Terrorism?
PATRICK E. WHALEN



ROE REDUX

GREGORY N. WEILER



Oh what courage!

We admire so much the strength and conviction which manifested itself in our many heroes: Our Fathers who landed at Guadalcanal and Normandy.

Mahatma Gandhi on colonialism.

Martin Luther King on civil rights.

Abraham Lincoln on slavery.

Each of these men fought against a manifest evil cloaked in legitimacy. Was it courageous to oppose Hitler, Tojo, colonialism, racism, slavery? Why do we admire the aforementioned now? How were these men different that the average person of their day? Would we not have done the same? Indeed would we not have done the same?

A century of hindsight will lend some perspective on our present Culture of Death. Abortion is the quintessential evil—the killing of our children for ourselves. Mankind’s war on itself. The very opposite of selfless love—selfish killing.

Who will be the Lincoln, MLK, Gandhi of our day? Who? Me? Sorry—perhaps too many questions. ♦

CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 18, 12:00 p.m.

Monthly lunch meeting Fr. Thomas Nelson of the Norbertine Abbey, speaking on confession and abstinence.

ANAHEIM STUDIOS · ANAHEIM, CA

Sunday, February 22, 8-11 a.m.

Feed the hungry at Isaiah House.

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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

BORN AGAIN

JOHN J. FLYNN III

Our history begins again, as it were, with every birth, another page added to the human story. It is a challenge to find the right words for the page added by the birth of Christ, an event that added no mere new page, but a New Testament, new, yet still a fulfillment of the pages already written.

We deceive ourselves to think that words exist to adequately express the joy that is celebrated at Christmas, by believers and unbelievers alike, by everything and everyone created, at various levels of awareness. Certainly there is a human aspect to it, social and psychological. But it is a time of unaccountable good will. It is not good will that defies accounting at Christmas, but the heights and the depths of good will, proclaimed by angels, and not only to the chosen poor ones tending their sheep, or their song would never have been reported to us by the evangelist. It is the joy of human hope re-born, the inarticulate sense that a war that was lost can now be won, and an enemy defeated at the very gates of a kingdom under siege of a thousand years.

The joy of Christmas is the joy of Mary and Joseph, of the angels and the shepherds, the Magi, the joy of the Cratchits, your joy and mine, the joy of every generation since the birth of Christ. It is the joy too of every spirit-besotted soul who ever married words to music in a perfect carol, hung some holly, or lit a house with a bank of candles or garlands of colored lights.

The joy of Christmas is no mere human joy. It is the joy of Creation saved by its Creator, the joy of redemption and renewal. It is the joy called from the tombs of daily life by heavenly heralds whom we hear at every Christmas, in the depths of our being. At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of God with us, that he is born, and we are born again, saved by a King who bears one weapon only: his Heart. ♦



PRAYER OR TERRORISM?

PATRICK E. WHALEN

When Jesus was asked how best to pray, he replied with what is now called the “Lord’s Prayer”. Much has been written about that prayer over the centuries. There have been profound insights into each word and phrase of this prayer by brilliant pastors and by profound theologians. Yet, one line of it seems somewhat puzzling:

“...your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...”

What in the world is this “kingdom” coming, and how should God’s will be done on earth? If we Catholics are praying for this kingdom to arrive, we should have some clear ideas about it!

So what is the meaning of “Thy Kingdom come”?

In the broader context of all world history and all peoples, the Greek translation of “*kingdom*” also means “*reign*”, according to Presbyterian theologian and scriptural commentator Albert Barns:

“The petition is the expression of a wish that God may reign everywhere; that his laws may be obeyed; and especially that the gospel of Christ may be advanced everywhere, till the world shall be filled with his glory.”

The newest Catholic Catechism at section 2816 also translates this “kingdom” (concrete noun) as “reign” (action noun). Therein the Church teaches the “reign” of this kingdom came at the death and resurrection of Jesus, and it unfolds even now until “Jesus hands it over to his Father”.

This initially makes sense. We believe that God already reigns in glory in heaven, so we believers should pray that he also reigns here both in our own hearts and in the broader world. Jesus did say that the kingdom of God is “within you”. (Luke 17: 21) And it is not a political matter as to who sits on the throne of one’s own heart. Each of us can wrestle with the world, the flesh and the devil over that enormous internal decision. But if we can get past that personal submission to God, we must then consider how we advance the wish that God reign everywhere and in everyone.

So what is the meaning of “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”?

As Catholics and Christians, we

are commissioned to make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We are then instructed to teach these new disciples to obey everything Jesus commanded (Matt. 28:19-20). His new commandment was to love one another as Jesus loved (John 13: 34). Jesus laid down his life for his friends and their salvation. Justice and love can obviously involve self sacrifice!

As American law enforcement officials, we seek to work impartially in a secular justice system meant, among other things, to protect the right of all citizens to freely choose and exercise their own religious beliefs without the increasingly common intimidation of military weapons in the hands of radical terrorists as happens now in the Middle East, Africa and even in Europe. Radical terrorism motivated by religion has always been mistaken. Christian prayer that “*Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*” was not justification for the extreme violence of the Spanish Inquisition centuries ago.

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PRAYER OR TERRORISM?

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not. But the root word for Islam is “al-silm”, and it means submission. The Qur’an expressly requires the submission of self and then submission of the world to Allah. (Sura 9:5 and 9:33) Sound familiar? The vast majority of Muslims are not “Islamists” who espouse a hyper extended totalitarian political ideology. The vast majority of 1.6 billion Muslims must be the ones to correct Islamists that the Qur’an is not justification for “Islamism”- the mistaken totalitarian political ideology. Pray that they try and succeed!

Our brother Muslims seek a similar thing: submission to Allah. This is not to say the stated characteristics of Allah and the revealed characteristics of our God are the same. They are

Our living God in all his power and love has not forced his will upon us instead of our own free wills. Created in his image, we must do the same for others! Justice and peace on earth often take self sacrificial work- not the brutal sacrificing of others.

We in the American legal profession have committed our careers to preserving and nurturing a worldly government where citizens can freely choose who reigns in their own hearts and can respect those who peacefully choose a different spiritual sovereign. Constitutional justice is our sworn professional goal, our work in progress.

In the concluding words of John F. Kennedy from his Presidential Inauguration: “God’s work must truly be our own.” ♦

TUNE IN FOR A TUNE UP

What do you listen to while you commute or while driving around town? Many STMS lawyers and judges have discovered the great Catholic radio programming available in our area.

Immaculate Heart Radio (AM 1000) is available throughout San Diego and most of Orange County. Immaculate Heart Radio broadcasts an incredible

array of programming including, Tim Staples, Marc Shea, the whole array of EWTN resources.

“I look forward to listening to Sister Ann Shields every morning on my iPhone. It’s like daily spiritual direction,” said current STMS President Greg Weiler.

Check it out.



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