

CATHEDRAL FAMILY LETTER

JANUARY 23, 2012

Cathedral of the Risen Christ

A LETTER FROM MR. TONY PRIMAVERA, PRINCIPAL

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is coming to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingly power, I charge you to preach the Word, to stay with this task whether convenient or inconvenient - correcting, reproving, appealing - constantly teaching and never losing patience. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine, but follow their own desires, will surround themselves with teachers who tickle their ears. They will stop listening to the truth and will wander off to fables. As for you, be steady and self-possessed; put up with hardship, perform your work as an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

Almost two thousand years ago St. Paul wrote this in a letter to St. Timothy who was probably in Ephesus at the time. An older man by then, Paul was exhorting the younger Timothy to teach with courage and devotion. Generally speaking, this letter (Second Timothy) was concerned with the work of a pastor in caring for the community or communities under his charge.

But it seems to me that we all can take notice of St. Paul's words. In a certain sense we are all teachers – whether it is in the classroom, as a parent, or by our example as living the life of a committed Christian. It is becoming more and more difficult to remain steadfast in Christ as the culture in which we live continues to push Him aside. This culture tells us that contraception, abortion, homosexual marriage – among other things – are all acceptable.

Our culture overtly promotes crassness, pornography, and decadence to our young people. You need look no further than the television shows directed toward teenagers and young adults. And even television shows for adults are, more often than not, lewd and morally offensive.

Those of us who object to this are cast aside as unenlightened, old-fashioned, or bigoted. Subtly – and sometimes not so subtly – the cultural elites let it be known that we stand in the way of progress and “a better world”.

But do we really stand in the way of a better world? Is the world really better now that contraception is widely accepted? Pope Paul VI warned that there would be a general lowering of morality in society; a general disregard for the physical and psychological well-being of females by males; governments would use family planning programs for coercive purposes once contraception became widely available; and that we would begin to treat our bodies as though they were machines (note surrogate motherhood). Can anyone objectively say that Pope Paul was wrong?

Is our culture really better since Roe v. Wade? Can 52 million dead babies be considered progress? Can it be considered progress that the United States federal government gave Planned Parenthood \$487 million during the fiscal year 2009-2010?

Will homosexual ‘marriage’

really make our society better? It defies logic that attempting to redefine an institution that originates before the time of Christ and is defended in Scripture countless times can benefit our culture.

We must take a stand against these evils. We cannot support actions that are detrimental to our culture and directly opposed to God's Church. For too long, good people have stayed back and done very little or nothing. Has that helped our children? Is it really fair to our children? Is that what God wants us to do?

We must do all we can with our voices, with our financial boycott of offensive entities, and our vote to try to stop this insanity. We are not guaranteed that our efforts will produce success in our lifetime . . . chances are they won't. We won't be judged by God by the results of our effort, but on the effort itself. Mother Teresa of Calcutta memorably said that “God doesn't require us to succeed; he only requires that you try.”

And finally . . . most importantly . . . we need to pray. We should fall on our knees often and ask for forgiveness. Forgiveness for our country; and forgiveness for ourselves, that we might have neglected our duty to God.

As for you, be steady and self-possessed; put up with hardship, perform your work as an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.



The Holy Family

I would also like to extend an invitation to join us in prayer:

Thursday, January 26- Mass in the Extraordinary Form in the Blessed John XXIII Chapel. 3:35.

Friday, February 3- Eucharistic Adoration. Following the 8:10 Mass until Benediction at 2:30.

Friday, February 3- First Friday Prayers with the Soldiers of St. Sebastian, Cadets, and Advocates of St. Angela Merici. Cathedral Church. 2:15.