

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

NO ORDINARY TIME...

Well, the Christmas Season is over. Most of the trees have been discarded and the decorations and flowers in the church have been removed. The Church now enters a season which has sort of an unfortunate name: "Ordinary Time." This term really means that it is the regular season now, devoid of any special events. The color for this liturgical season is green which is a color symbolizing hope.

I think that hope is something that we all need to hold onto in our country today. Hope for a better future, hope for peace, joy and blessings in this year of 2020. But sometimes it's hard to be hopeful when it seems that there is so much division, so much hatred and above all, such a lack of respect for human life.

Take for example in our own state of New York. In this state the laws regulating abortion have become extremely permissive. Thanks to Governor Andrew Cuomo, a so-called "Catholic," abortion is now a legal right up to the moment of birth. With the reproductive health act signed by the governor last year, New York goes far beyond what most states would ever allow in terms of abortion,. This is a very sad reality!

To commemorate the passage of the new legislation, the Governor had One World Trade Center and other city monuments lit up in pink to as he put it, "Celebrate this achievement and shine a bright light forward for the rest of the nation to follow." God help us, if the rest of the country follows the example of New York State!

Yet not content with tampering with life at its beginning, the Governor now wants to stifle it at its end. Currently, there is a bill pending in the New York legislature supported by Cuomo that endorses physician assisted suicide. The passage of such legislation will make it much easier for people to end their own lives. All you would need to do is make a reasonable request and by law you could end it all. This-after so many efforts by authorities to prevent suicide from happening!

I think we can reasonably assert that these are no ordinary times for Catholics and Christians in general.

The whole foundation of our moral life is centered upon our love and respect for God. The proof of our love for the creator, of course, is the keeping of the commandments. Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments."

On Mount Sinai, Moses received the law, the Ten Commandments, on two tablets of stone which the Lord had inscribed. Coming down from that mountain, Moses saw the Israelites, the chosen people in a state of revelry and worshipping an idol, a golden calf. Moses, in righteous anger, broke the tablets of stone, ground the golden calf to powder and scattered it upon the water which he made the Israelites drink. It was a necessary "wake up" call for them!

In our state and in our land today, we need a similar "wake up call" for we are worshipping some terribly large golden idols of sin, pleasure and selfishness. The fifth commandment is: "You shall not kill." All human life is sacred because it is created by God. The Catechism tells us that no one has the right to destroy an innocent human life. The right to life must be respected from the moment of conception until natural death.

This Friday, January 24th, thousands of Catholics, Christians, Jews and people of other faiths will march on Washington in defense of that basic human right. Let's pray as disciples of Christ that we might not be "ordinary" but rather extraordinary in our witness to life and to the true teachings of Jesus and his Church.

Sincerely in Christ,
Father Jerome