

BULLETIN -- DECEMBER 6

Advent penance opportunities. You will find many priests available for confessions at the following locations and times this week:

Wed., Dec. 9, 2 p.m.

West Catholic H.S. cafeteria

Thurs., Dec. 10, 12:30-2 p.m.

Immaculate Heart

While these opportunities are scheduled primarily for the respective students, no one will object to your presence and participation in the sacrament. In fact, it's a good and healthy example for our young people to see, so they won't think it's just another school exercise. Confession is not only good for the soul; it's good for *everybody*. And take note for this and for any other occasion: **West Catholic now has a new main entrance, near the west end and on the north side of the main parking lot.** You have to be buzzed in.

Fanatical minority. Peaceful majority. Whose views prevail? A friend was recently grumbling over the current mantra of the day, recited mindlessly by many of our politicians, that we must remember that the vast majority of Muslims are peaceful. "Sure they are," my friend agonized, "but that's irrelevant."

He went on to point out that the vast majority of Germans were not fanatical Nazis. But the fanatics played on restoring German pride after World War I, and in no time, they were in charge -- and then it no longer mattered what the "peaceful majority" wanted. Millions died as a result.

The vast majority of Russians were peaceful, scraping along, minding their own business. But once the Bolsheviks took over, they slaughtered any and everyone who contradicted them, seeking to export their Soviet revolution around the globe. Millions died as a result.

The vast majority of Japanese were peaceful, minding their own business. But once the Japanese imperialists gained power, they enslaved everyone around the Western Pacific. Millions died as a result.

The vast majority of the people of China were peaceful, minding their own business. But once Mao Zedong and his revolution got a foothold, it only took a minority to capture the world's most populous nation and crush it into obedience. Millions died as a result.

On and on the list goes: Cuba, Cambodia, Uganda, Serbia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Rwanda, time after time, the peaceful majority is cowed by the fanatical minority, which goes on to spread mayhem far beyond its original borders. It doesn't take a Rhodes scholar to understand that appealing to the presence of a peaceful majority is beside the point. When all of their civil institutions and mosques are under the control of the fanatics, most will choose the self-defense of silence. And the fanatics will go on raping, pillaging, exploding, crucifying, and terrorizing until someone stronger (who will of course be labeled an infidel) decides it's time to take action.

Beholding the tepid response of the world's more powerful nations up to now, it appears that it's going to take the death of millions to prod self-deluded leaders to take action. Can you imagine the reaction of the American people if, on December 8, 1941,

President Roosevelt had told Congress, “We’re just going to wait and see, because the vast majority of Japanese people are our friends. We can’t respond in a violent way just because a few Japanese warlords think they can bully us. That’s not who we are.” As a matter of fact, it took four years and the loss of thousands of American lives, but we showed the Japanese and the world *exactly* who we are. The jury might forever be out on the wisdom and even the morality of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. But Japan’s subsequent restoration and prosperity after what could have been a humiliating surrender aboard *USS Missouri* was a testimony to what we truly want as a people: genuine peace, not conquest. The same thing goes for the approach of the Marshall Plan in Europe.

People who come to this country may and must enjoy the same freedoms of assembly and association that our citizens do. They cannot, however, be allowed to segregate themselves into enclaves that are off-limits to law enforcement and other civil authority. This is what has happened in Great Britain and some other European Union nations, and they are paying the price of having home-grown cells of fanatics burst out like metastasizing cancers to ravage the body of the continent. Of course it would be wrong to deny genuine refugees entry into the country. But along with charity and the corporal works of mercy, there is ample reason for caution, given the penchant of the enemy to use any means available to breach our borders and begin to spread their poison within. For instance, when we’ve been told the horror stories of whole families leaving everything behind to escape their persecutors, why is it that the only ones trying to come here seem to be young, single men? For all these reasons, it was most heartening to see the very public denunciation of and demonstration against terrorism by members of the mosque on East Paris Avenue, S.E., on the Friday after Thanksgiving. We are eager to applaud such efforts of our fellow citizens and of all who respect the law of the land.

One last chance! Drop by the school library and see the dining room outfit, table, four chairs, china cabinet, and a full set of china and silverware. We’re doing a silent auction on it. The whole set will go to the highest bidder through a system of sealed bids. Pick up an envelope and card from the table, and write your name, address, and phone number on it, along with your bid for the whole set. (Individual items will not be sold separately.) Mark “Bid” on the envelope and drop it through the mail slot on the front of the parish office / convent or through the milk chute on the back of the rectory. The bids will be opened in the library at 11 a.m. this Sunday (today), December 6 (St. Nicholas Day). A tithe of the purchase price will be given to the parish. It could be an ideal Christmas gift for someone in your family, or for newlyweds you might know.

Conflicting understandings of our nation’s founding documents, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, are at the root of the great divide which we find in our society today. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen (1895-1979) described quite handsomely the understanding which many people simply take for granted: “The basic principle of democracy is the sacredness of the individual as a creature endowed by God with inalienable rights. The basic principle of . . . totalitarian systems is that the individual has no rights except those given him by the Party or the State . . . In America, man endows the State with rights which he received from God; in (totalitarian systems), the State endows man with rights.” We can see how this view is considered outmoded and even dangerous by many in government today, who consider themselves alone to be the ones

endowed (by whom? we might ask) with the superior wisdom that makes them fit to govern and direct the lives of everyone else. This is why they quite deliberately drop any mention of God when quoting the founding documents, and change words like “religion” to “worship,” which is a much more restrictive term than the actual freedom guaranteed in the Bill of Rights. Be alert and be wary. They’re relying on you to be asleep. God bless you!

Fr. Den

Overheard by a parishioner at work: “My wife’s cooking is so bad, the flies took up a petition to take the screens off the kitchen windows so they could get out.”