29 B

MDP of God

I’ve mentioned to you many times how the whole foundation of our culture was the Christian Faith—*the fact is---***Jesus makes all the difference**

It is the teaching of the bible and the teaching of the Christian Church throughout the ages ---that human being are made in the image and likeness of God

That belief gives each and every person unique dignity---it demands every human being be respected---it doesn’t matter if they’re male or female—whether they ae as brilliant as Albert Einstein or they have Downs—it doesn’t matter if they are a great athlete or if they can’t walk

And while early in our nation’s history many foolishly failed to recognize the dignity of people of every race---*but as a nation we fought a great Civil war to end slavery*—so that today people of every race and national origin are recognized by the vast majority of our citizens to all have equal dignity

**Every person** *has incredible dignity because they are made in the image and likeness of God*

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Another trait of our culture has been---that those in government are to see themselves not as the masters –the ones in charge—the ones who call all the shots///---but they’re to see themselves as public servants

Today’s gospel makes that clear—Jesus said, “You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant…”

That’s why in our country we’ve always spoken of those in government as “public servants”

*In the history of the world*—**that was a huge change**---for instance in the Roman Empire—the emperor—his soldiers—his governors did not see themselves as “public servants---**Caesar was the ruler**---*his governors served Caesar*---**not the public**---*the soldiers served Caesar*—**not the public** and if Caesar required them to be—the soldiers were brutal to the people---just look at Jesus on the cross as exhibit A—*they were* ***brutal***

But in our country—thanks to the teaching of the bible--people have rights—they have the right to be presumed innocent---they have the right to be treated with dignity even when they’re guilty of a crime---they have the right to expect the people in government will be servants of the public---not their masters-----*but folks –that’s changing*

As more and more people reject God--- reject the teaching of the bible--- ///we’re becoming less and less free

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The Constitution starts out in huge print---“We the people”---but more and more decisions are being made by tyrants who refuse to listen to the people

So for instance---in 1973---every state in our country had laws that protected the preborn—those laws were enacted by the representatives elected by the people---but in 1973 seven unelected judges said---it doesn’t matter what the people vote for—it doesn’t matter what the elected representative enact---**we know better-**--*we have the power and we decided that a whole class of people are no longer people---are no longer to be protected by the law*

Just a few year ago there was a lot of discussion about what constitutes a marriage---some were arguing that two men could get married—or two women could get married---and several states had elections---*and the people always voted that marriage was to be between One man and One woman*---**30 states had voted on that**

Congress ---that’s the elected representatives of the people--even passed the Defense of Marriage act---and that act, signed into law by Bill Clinton stated: marriage for federal purposes as the union of one man and one woman, and allows states to refuse to recognize [same-sex marriages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Same-sex_marriage) granted under the laws of other states.

*But it doesn’t matter what the people voted for in the states---*it doesn’t matter what the elected representatives of the people voted for--- same sex marriage is now the law of the land---*because those with the power Lord it over us*—**they make their importance felt**---they’ve made it clear---it doesn’t matter what the people vote for---they have the power

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Right now—we’ve been dealing with the Covid 19 pandemic

And it’s interesting that the elites in our culture for the last 50 years have been preaching **“MY BODY MY CHOICE”**

That of course had to do with abortion---but now---when it comes to COvid---*it’s not my body my choice-*--**Nooooo—**it’s you will be vaccinated or you can’t go to college---you will be vaccinated or you’re going to lose your job---you will be vaccinated or you’re going to be dishonorably discharged from the armed services

The tyrant in the White House---who claims to be a Catholic--- wants to dictate your personal health decisions

**And please don’t get me wrong**---*this is not a homily against vaccination*---this is a homily about those in charge are supposed to be public servants---not tyrannical masters—**that’s what Jesus taught**

**I personally have been vaccinated**

It is the teaching of the Catholic Church that vaccinations can be a wonderful help to public health---*but at the same time the Church teaches the choice to be vaccinated or not* ***rests with the person***---no one can force another person to be vaccinated according to the teaching of the Church

It’s interesting as those who consider themselves our masters are mandating vaccinations for people of all ages---*but there are some countries that have put a hold on some vaccines*---and others who are recommending that young men not receive the Moderna vaccine because of unexpected heart issues in some who have received the vaccine

 That’s why the Church teaches that no one is to force a vaccine on others

I know in my case—I’m not comfortable at all with the way these vaccines were developed---but I often go into the homes of people who are vulnerable—our elderly—people who have serious underlying conditions----nursing homes—hospitals--so I felt that I needed to protect the people I visit

Also I had concerns about the Mrna vaccines---*no one knows what the long term effects will be*

Just recently several Nordic countries limited who can receive the Moderna vaccine---why? Because there have been several young people who have developed heart issues as a result of the vaccine

It’s only been around for less than a year and they’re finding negative impacts on some young people---*the truth is we have no idea what kind of long term impact these Mrna vaccines are going to have*

Let me give you an analogy—when I was young I had many severe sunburns

That happened over 50 years ago---I now need to go to a dermatologist every year to be checked for skin cancer [treated for pre-cancer several times]

 What happened to me 50 years ago can lead to skin cancer today

Just recently I buried a man who was a Viet Nam vet---he died as a result the Agent Orange he was exposed to 50 years ago in Viet Nam

What are these Mrna vaccines going to do to people in 20years—30—40—or 50 years from now?

*The fact is no one knows*

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Now people can weigh their options---do I want to protect myself against Covid and risk possible long term negative consequences

In my case---since I’m approaching or rounding third base in my life---so that I can protect people who are vulnerable who I visit---I decided to get the vaccine [I thought I’ll be a Guinee pig to test this new technology---but now they want to turn 12 year olds and even 5 year olds into Guinee pigs

Now if I was younger---if I was planning to have children---*because there’s speculation that these vaccines can impact your DNA and be passed down to children and grandchildren---or could impact your fertility*---I don’t know if I would have gotten the vaccine

 *The point is*---**in a free country**---it should be the choice of the individual

But right now we have a senile tyrant in the White House trying to mandate it on college students—young soldiers---and workers who work for big companies [any company with over 100 employees]

Contrary to the teaching of Jesus in today’s gospel when He said, “You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant…”

Many in government today---*contrary to the traditions of our country*---do not see themselves as public servants--- they are the rulers—they are the wise ones (in their minds)—they are the ones who will call the shots----SO JUST SHUT UP AND DO WHAT YOUR TOLD

In their minds you’re too stupid to decide what’s best for you---you’re too stupid to decide for yourself---**they speak from on high**

Do what you’re told—or you’ll be cancelled---do what you’re told or you’ll lose your job---do what you’re told or you’ll be dishonorably discharged from the armed services

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*Folks—the widespread rejection of faith has consequences*

In the past our leaders saw themselves as public servants---now they are more and more becoming tyrannical masters

Tyrannical masters who don’t care what the people vote for---tyrannical masters who refuse to let you make important decisions about your own health---tyrannical masters who will crush you if you get out of line

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*What’s the answer?* **Stand up for faith**---stand up or the truth of Jesus Christ—live the gospel---*share the gospel which proclaims the dignity of every person*

Because the truth is---without Jesus---without the bible—those who rule us will not recognize the dignity of every person ( we of course see that in the slaughter of the preborn today)—those who rule us will not see themselves as public servants---

Without Jesus we will not be free---without Jesus human dignity will not be recognized ( just look at what godless regimes have done—Hitler –Stalin –Mao-killed tens of millions of people—they don’t recognize human dignity*---they will crush anyone who gets in their way*)

Without Jesus and the bible---human dignity will not be recognized

If we want to be free---we need to embrace and spread the gospel of Jesus---if we want human dignity to be recognized we need to embrace and spread the gospel of Jesus---if we want the United States to be the land of the free and the home of the brave---we need to stand up for Jesus and His saving gospel

Otherwise we will continue to spiral downward into tyrannical rulers—who don[t see themselves as public servants—but who will more and more be tyrannical masters who crush anyone who disagrees with them

 So—I don’t know how to end this

 So in the words of Fr Walt---that’s all I got for you—stand for the creed