30 A-Voting

MDP of God

As many of you know—I love the holy rosary—I love it so much I wrote a book on it.

My all-time favorite reflection on the rosary occurs during the 4th Sorrowful Mystery of when Jesus carries His cross.

I reflect on the fact that Jesus was given His cross “because Pilate washed his hands of Jesus’ fate.” *He washed his hands of his fate*

*Pilate had the power to save Jesus*---**but refused**

*Pilate thought Jesus was an innocent man,* **but basically took a “pro-choice” position on His crucifixion.**

Basically saying to the crowd, “I don’t think this man did anything wrong”

“I find nothing against Him--- *but if you want to kill Him, go ahead and take Him*—**I wash my hands of it”**

Pilate washing his hands of Jesus fate—doesn’t make him innocent in the death of Jesus

His washing his hands of Jesus’ fate---makes Pilate a coward who didn’t have the courage of His convictions

His cowardice led directly to the death of Jesus---now of course –all of our sins were a part of the reason Jesus was crucified—but the immediate cause was Pilate’s washing his hands of the fate of Jesus

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I bring this up because our readings today remind us of God’s plan of love and the duty we have to protect the innocent—in our 1st reading from the Book of Exodus we heard:

“Thus says the LORD: "You shall not molest or oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt.”

That could just as easily to match the situation of today say—You shall not molest or oppress the unborn child—for you were once unborn children yourself”

It goes on to say:” You shall not wrong any widow or orphan.
If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry.  **My wrath will flare up, and I will kill you with the sword**; then your own wives will be widows, and your children orphans.”

So God’s Word says to us—if we embrace evil—*if we refuse to protect the innocent*—if we participate in the oppression of the weak and needy---notice God says, “*My wrath will flare up*, **and I will kill you with the sword”**

He’s basically saying He will inflict a punishment on us that corresponds to what we’ve allowed to happen to the weakest—the most defenseless people in our midst

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I have to tell you I fear for our nation---since 1973 we’ve allowed the wholesale destruction of unborn babies to go on—leaving them with no legal protections—more than 61 million children have been destroyed

Just recently we had hearings for a new Supreme Court justice---and many of the senators were very concerned that Amy Coney Barrett might overturn the Roe vs Wade decision—that was the evil decision that overturned the laws in all 50 states of our country –laws enacted by the elected representatives of the people---and of course this barbarous policy of abortion on demand was forced upon us by unelected judges on the Supreme Court---who are euphemistically called “justices”

These so-called **justices** have inflicted the death penalty on millions of innocent children

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In our gospel—Jesus tells us the greatest commandment is that we love God with all our heart and soul, and mind

And the 2nd is that we love our neighbor as ourselves---Jesus says the whole law and the prophets depend on that

My friends –this law of love should guide every aspect of our lives

 The way we treat our family

 The way we treat the people we work with or go to school with

The way we treat our fellow parishioners---think of the parking lot after Mass

 *It should impact the way we vote*

Often when I do Baptisms—I read this gospel—and I ask people present---what’s the opposite of love?

And usually people will say hate---*but that’s not true*---**love and hate are actually very close to each other**---in both love and hate there’s a lot of emotion—there’s a passion that’s part of it—there has to be a relationship—you have to know the person or know of the person to love them or hate them

I usually point out that I know a lot of married people---who sometimes it’s hard to tell if they love each other or hate each other---*you might know some of the same couples*

 *The opposite of love in indifference*

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Because with indifference there’s no emotion—there’s no passion—there doesn’t have to be any kind of a relationship---indifference is basically**---“I don’t care”**

So for Pontius Pilate---they were going to kill an innocent man---**he didn’t care**---*because to do the right thing might cost him something-*--and he wasn’t going to take a risk for someone he didn’t know and care about

Among many people in our nation--we’re going to keep killing over 3,000 babies a day---the attitude is among many *I don’t care*---**it’s no skin off my nose**

*What I care about is*---what are they going to do to the price of gas?---that’s what I care about!

Are they going to give me more in my social security?---that’s what I care about!

What’s going to happen to my deductibles---that’s what really matters!

 *3,000 dead babies every day—it’s not important*

The fact is my friends—whenever God looks at the United States of America---He every day sees a 9/ 11 scale slaughter---/what do I mean by that?

On September 11th 2001 the United States was attacked---*and more than 3,000 people died that day*

 The devastation of that event --*it changed everything*

I can’t help but to think in God’s plan---that the number who died that day wasn’t an accident

Because *it’s roughly the same number of innocent children who die every day in our nation by abortion*

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And those children die because of fear---many women are frightened and desperate

It happens because of lust and unchastity---many people today ignore God’s commands on purity and chastity—and surprise surprise—they have to deal with a pregnancy

But this slaughter of the unborn--- happens most of all because of indifference

Many people just don’t care that innocent children are dying everyday—they have no legal protection

And they have no legal protection—because unelected {Quote marks} “justices”--- have declared from on high---that we cannot protect these children

But they have no legal protection because we have politicians who run for office saying---they are going to keep the slaughter legal

Folks---you need to understand that politicians who are all for the destruction of the unborn—politicians who will not lift a finger to save these children—who wash their hands of the fate of these children just as Pilate washed his hands of the fate of Jesus---**they don’t care about you either**

 All they care about is their own power and wealth and position

Let me just give you a couple of other examples of that

We live in what is called the rust belt---why the rust belt---the Midwest used to be the center of American productivity—Americans had well-paying jobs building cars—making steal---making all kinds of products

But because of lopsided trade deals---our jobs were sent to Mexico and China---*the coastal elites got rich off of it*---politicians grew rich off of it---but many American families were left without good paying jobs—many Americans families suffered greatly---but many of those in power just didn’t care

Again my friends—anyone who washes their hands in the deaths of 3,000 babies a day---they don’t care about you or your family—*they care only about their own power*

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 Another example---we’re a nation of immigrants--- most of us wouldn’t be here if our ancestors hadn’t come from other nations—*this ties in very much with our 1st reading today that said:*

“Thus says the LORD: "You shall not molest or oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt.”

 And all through history people came here to live the American dream

They were able to buy houses---many started their own businesses—*they made a great life for themselves and their families*

My mom was an immigrant—my grandmother was an immigrant---my great grandparents were immigrants

And that immigration led to the greatness of America---those in power regulated immigration so those coming here could be absorbed into the population

They could stoke the fires of the American economy—and they built the greatest country on earth

But things are different now--- we’ve had politicians of both parties have really betrayed us----and betrayed people from south of our border *who are yearning for a better life*

Many of these poor people pay coyotes—*usually drug cartels to smuggle them in-*--many of the woman and children are sexually abused on the journey---**there are people who die on the journey**

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When people get here---many of them are under the thumb of these cartels they owe money too—**and are sold into servitude**

For many, once they get here they have to constantly look over their shoulders because they don’t know when they’ll be arrested and deported

So they’re under the thumbs of the cartels and they’re looking over their shoulders for the police

They can’t buy a home—*because they might be arrested and deported and lose everything*

They can’t start their own businesses—because they have to constantly look over their shoulders

The bottom line is---unlike all the other immigrants in American history----*they can’t live the American dream*---**what is going on is criminal**

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And many presidents from both parties have basically given the people south of our border a wink and a nod {act out}---their words—“don’t come here it’s not legal” –while winking and nodding and encouraging them to come

 The result is—people living in servitude

People being exploited---**it’s truly criminal what our politicians from both parties have done**

In my mind—the only way to solve this grave injustice is to first--- *secure our border—*so that desperate poor people won’t be encouraged to come here illegally-**and then** *in a compassionate way deal with the millions of people who are here because they saw the wink and the nod*

*But why has this situation been allowed to go on?* Because many in power are just indifferent to what happens to innocent people

 And as I said---indifference is the opposite of love

The people in power who take the Pontius Pilate approach to abortion---have also supported trade deals that took our jobs---they’ve been indifferent to the immigrants who are just yearning for a better life as so many of our ancestors have

 Folks--*we can’t reward them*

 *There’s no guarantee that anyone we vote for will do the right thing*

**And in the current election for president---we’re certainly are not voting for someone to be named a saint**

 *There are no saints on the ballot*

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But I think it’s important---that we understand that the people who favor the destruction of the unborn---who promise to continue the destruction of the unborn---who want to use our tax dollars to pay for the destruction of the unborn—**they care about nothing and no one but their own power**

*We can’t reward them—*many of these same people are chipping away at our freedom of religion by mandating that Christians disobey their conscience and must pay for abortion inducing drugs—they’ve done this to Christian business people---*they’re even trying to make nuns pay for abortion inducing drugs*

We can’t reward the people who have been exploiting immigrants

 We can’t reward people who are trying to take away our religious freedoms

 We can’t reward people who have sent our jobs to other countries

 We can’t reward people who take the Pontius Pilate approach to abortion

*We need to stand up for the law of love*---we need to care about the unborn---we need to care about the immigrants who have been exploited---we need to care about the families who have been devastated by their jobs being sent away—we need to care about religious freedom

There’s a man on the ballot for president---who claims to be a Catholic---but who is an embarrassment to the faith

He voted time and time again for trade deals that exported our jobs

He’s promised to pass laws that keep the slaughter of the unborn going

He’s promised to used our tax dollars to pay for abortions

He was part of an administration that forced Christians to pay for contraception and abortion inducing drugs---*who even fought the Little Sisters of the Poor in court to force them to pay for abortion inducing drugs*

Again—listen to our 1st reading from Exodus

If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me,
I will surely hear their cry.
**My wrath will flare up, and I will kill you with the sword;**

To vote for such a man—who claims to be a Catholic but who makes such a mockery of our faith---is to invite the wrath of God on our nation

 We are voting for the soul of our nation—please vote wisely