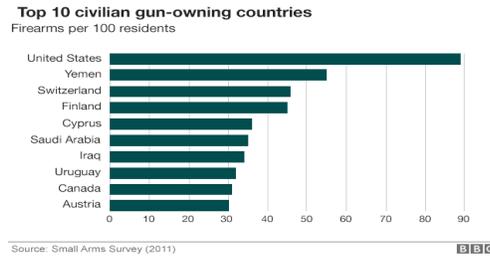


Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith in Laity Corner



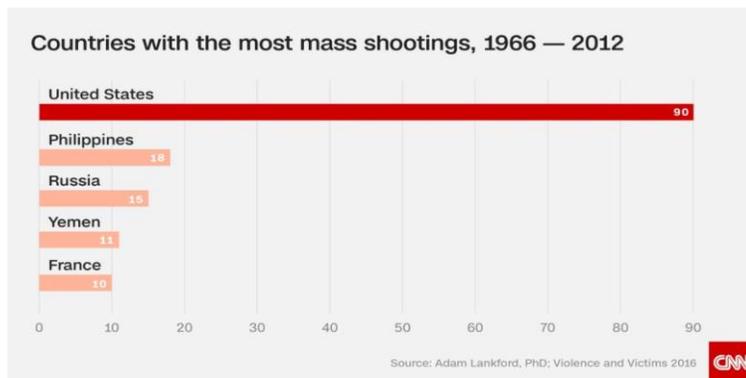
Monday, August 05, 2019

18th Sunday of Ordinary Times

Readings: *Ecc.1:2, 2:21-3/ Lk.13:12-21/Col.3:1-5,9-11*

Vanity Vane

It would be a mistake to not clearly note that over the past week some 40 people have lost their lives in local terroristic tactics across the United States. Not only do we claim to be the ‘richest’ and most developed country in the world, but we are the only country with ‘mass’ murders weekly.



Our prayers go out to families who lost loved ones and those injured over this past week. Yet, prayers without action is not a good use of time. Our concern for families and friends has to be coupled with common sense, (which is not ‘so common’) legislature which will remove assault weapons from the hands of ordinary people. Our guns we have to realize by now is not going to save us nor will it help our current problems.

“Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.” (Col. 3:2)

Those who are of faith need to be able to live with uplifting habits and behaviors. Thinking of what would Jesus have you to do? By far, the actions of too many are a far cry from what would make Christ smile. There is a clear absence of understanding the lines below

“When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.” (Col. 3:4)

There is the feeling that if we spend more time with our ‘vanities’ (*and there are plenty*) ... our athletic look, diets, teeth and hair implants, our hour-glass shapes, wrinkleless faces, or *botoxed* sags, our physical self has made billions of dollars for so many companies. We pay little heed to what is of eternal value-our spiritual selves. The Gospel reminds us dearly of what price will be paid for neglecting the ‘eternal’ with *vane vanities*. Jesus was faced with a ‘*get rich*’ scheme which thrived on the vanities of the rich.

“Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me.” (Lk. 12:13)

Jesus explained the realities of vanities with a story.

“A rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest.

He asked himself, ‘What shall I do, for

I do not have space to store my harvest?’” (Lk. 12:16-17)

The rich man made life all about him, and the vanities he will be able to gain. There was nothing in his thoughts of sharing or concern for those without. He aimed to hoard as much as he could, to be able to claim how rich and powerful his *goods* made him. He pats himself on the back for his great achievements, without a thought for anyone else or anything spiritual...

“Now as for you, you have so many good things

stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!” (Lk. 12:19)

Sadly, our country has embodied the vanities of this man. Our great economy and

country, our great jobs, our powerful weapons, our money-making bank schemes and money laundering, our secret sales and commercial deals have replaced concern for basic civil rights for all, our promoting activities for countries and people that are not like us, our aid for countries less fortunate than us, has been replaced by the fact that we are now a country more isolated than ever, with thoughts that will only cause self-destruction in the future. Yes, this vanity is self-destructive. Our vane attitude towards those who don't drive the correct car, have the ideology like me, can afford the house, the boat, connections with the right people – these are not what will give us peace of mind. Jesus does not use the word 'fool' lightly but makes this pronouncement:

“You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you.” (Lk. 12:20)

My article was not printed or published that Dayton, Ohio has been the site of another mass murder. I will repeat if our mindset is not to ACT, then our prayers and words are becoming a waste of time, energy and will only cause ongoing pain in the future.... Without a God factor, and conscious behaviors, which does not have money as the common denominator, by our political leaders, we the people must rise to create a society which is not governed by uploading deep-seated hatred.

*If we the faithful don't raise our voices and lace our shoes to walk in protest
and pray while walking -our money and greatness will NOT save us.*

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly Sunday reading reflection written by Brenda Chee Wah
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Your remarks, questions and comments can be emailed to faithinlaity@gmail.com

<http://www.christourhopeatl.org/becoming-a-catholic/christ-our-hope-catholic-church-weekly-reflections.php>

Weekly readings are taken from USCCB-Daily

Graphs: CNN/BBC online sources