

Death Penalty Passes Votes Short for Veto

Albany — Although the Assembly for the fifth straight year passed a death penalty bill, it does not seem to have the necessary votes to overcome the expected veto by Gov. Hugh Carey.

The death bill passed 91-51 with seven absent — 100 votes are needed to override gubernatorial vetoes.

Gov. Carey has vetoed the measure for five straight years and has indicated his intention to do the same this year.

Only one representative from the Rochester diocesan area voted against capital punishment — Gary Proud of Rochester. Votes of assemblymen from the diocese:

For the death penalty bill:

Robach, Rochester; Emery, Geneseo; Hanna, Webster; Kuhl, Hammondsport; MacNeil, Ithaca; Nagle, East Rochester; Rath, Brockport; Rifard, Auburn; Talomie, Geneva; Winner, Elmira.

Against:
Proud, Rochester.
Absent:
Cooke, Rochester.

DIVORCED CATHOLICS

The St. Charles Divorced Catholics Group has scheduled Dorothy A. Kaplan, Ph.D., director of the separation/divorced program at Brockport State University, as speaker at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, March 1, at the St. Charles School Library.

For information on all DCG events, the telephone number is 225-9102.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Combating Modern Anxiety

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 6:24-34. (R1) Is. 49:14-15. (R2) 1 Cor. 4:1-5.

Modern man has an anxiety complex! There is no doubt about it. An increasing number of persons are afflicted with neuroses, complexes, fears, frustrations, and ulcers. Many are so "run down" because so "wound up."

In yesteryears men were anxious about their souls. Modern anxiety is principally about the body: economic security, health, the complexion, social prestige, sex. Television ads would make one think the greatest calamity in the world was to have dishpan hands.

The second characteristic of modern anxiety is that it is based not so much on things outside us, like external dangers, as on things inside us, like vague fears of what will happen "if" or "suppose".... The more one tries to grapple with this kind of anxiety, the more helpless and hopeless one becomes, much like the netted fish which becomes more entangled in the net simply by struggling to free itself.

What is the basic reason of modern anxiety? Our Lord enunciated it in the words: "No man can serve two masters." (R3) When one tries to serve two masters, there can be no inner peace or harmony, like a radio tuned in on two stations at the same time. Because we are body and soul, because we have time on our hands but eternity in our hearts, there is a double pull in all of us. St. Augustine likened us to wounded soldiers, striving to rise but destined to fall. We are pulled two ways — between what we ought to be and what we actually are. Man worries about what is to come and what he has done. The result is that all of us have an anxiety complex, because we can become either a saint or a sinner!

Hence, there are only two alternatives open to man: either to mount up to God or to slip back into the chasms of despair and frustration. Yet there are many who think there is another alternative: indifference. They think that just as bears hibernate for a season, they too can sleep their life without choosing to live for God or against Him. But hibernation ends and one has to get up and do something. White fences don't remain white fences by having nothing done to them; they soon become black fences. No man can serve two masters. He must choose one or the other. One choice will bring love, the other hate; one hope, the other despair. Peace of soul comes from choosing God — from increasing our trust in Him.

Contrast two children — one child in a happy family, well provided for; the other a homeless orphan of the street. The first child lives in an area of love; the second does not and enjoys none of its privileges. Many souls deliberately choose to exclude themselves from the area of our heavenly Father's love whence they might live as His children and be fed like the birds of the air and clothed like the lilies of the field. Instead they trust only in their own resourcefulness and their own bank account. As a result, they lose many of God's blessings, especially freedom from anxiety or peace of mind.

Said the robin to the sparrow,
"Sparrow, I would like to know
Why these human beings
Rush about and worry so?"

Said the sparrow to the robin,
"Robin, I think that it must be
They have no heavenly
Father
Such as cares for you and me."

St. Augustine wrote: "Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee!" Consequently, the Response in Sunday's liturgy bids us pray: "Rest in God alone, my soul!"

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