

Society needs to organize fight against pornography

By Father Paul Cuddy
Courier Columnist

The first time I ever heard an impure story was 66 years ago. I was a sophomore at Auburn Academic High School. A school club to which I belonged had a corn roast at Owasco Lake, which is located four miles south of Auburn.

I recall the nice smell of the scorched roasting corn, and the sweetness of the roasted marshmallows. After the roast, club members — mostly teenage adolescents — gathered around to be entertained by filthy stories rolling from the minds of half-a-dozen ring leaders.

As an innocent youth, sheltered by a moral family and by Holy Family School (also by the quite decent milieu of our public high school), I was shocked by two things: first, the filthiness of the stories, and second, that half the storytellers were boys from good Catholic homes. Christ did not prevail against adolescent concupis-



ON THE RIGHT SIDE

cence.

The catechism records the seven capital sins: pride, covetousness, lust, anger, envy, gluttony and sloth. Teachers might well have their students memorize the seven, saying that "you cannot understand history or literature, or even the daily newspaper without recognizing these seven attractions within all of us. By recognizing these tendencies we can be on our guard to control them, with God's grace."

The Bible gives many examples of erotic sins. The most graphic is the rape we read in 2 Samuel 13. Amnon, son of David,

lusted after his half-sister, Tamar. By trickery, he lured her into his bedroom and attempted to seduce her. The Bible records: "Not heeding her pleas, Amnon overpowered her and raped her. Amnon conceived an intense hatred for her which far surpassed the love he had had for her."

In the recent TV presentation, "The Cross of Fire," a similar case was presented of a KKK Grand Dragon lusting after a pure, idealistic girl. He raped her and then, like Amnon, turned against her.

What is the present condition in our country? Into millions of homes are pouring millions of erotic pictures through TV and videotapes. This promotes a kind of "peeping Tom" spirit to millions of men, women and children — ranging from infants to adolescents (those most worrisome years).

Is anyone concerned? Yes. But in order to be effective, great organization and co-operation is needed. A healthy example of

action took place in Auburn on November 4.

A group of concerned citizens concluded "Pornography Awareness Week" with a cavalcade of 100 automobiles — decorated with white ribbons — driving through the main city streets as witnesses of protest against sick eroticism stimulated by pornographic videotapes, TV, magazines and lewd pictures.

The parade of witnesses ended up at the historic Willard Chapel where several people spoke to an enthused citizenry.

This was the fruition of a campaign waged for five years by a non-Catholic, Sharon Dickaus, to make the Auburn area aware of a pestilence which is perverting our children and many adults. She is assisted by a core of others, especially parents who care about their children.

Pornography is a serious attack on all people. Like drugs, it should be a matter of a concern which brings action.

Patient endurance shall save your eternal lives

By Father Albert Shamon
Courier Columnist

Sunday's readings: (R3) Luke 21:5-19; (R1) Malachi 3:14-20; (R2) 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12.

Our Lord's discourse in Sunday's gospel is placed by St. Luke in the temple itself, following His remarks about the widow who had dropped two copper coins into the temple treasury. (Mark situates this discourse on Mt. Olivet.)

On this occasion, some of the disciples boasted to Jesus about the magnificence of the temple, with its costly stones and rich votive offerings. Jesus was not impressed. He chilled their admiration by announcing the destruction of the temple (an accomplished fact in St. Luke's day).

To the Jewish mind, the destruction of the temple was linked to the end of the world. That was why in response to Jesus' announcement, the disciples asked two questions: "When will this (the fall of Jerusalem) be, Teacher? And what will be the sign it (the world's end) is going to happen?"

Jesus addressed the second question about the end of the world first. Fear and expectation make people vulnerable for anyone or anything, like fake Messiahs ("I am he") and false messages ("The time is at hand").

Jesus said, "Pay no attention to them — Do not follow them." He advised the same about wars and insurrections. These upheavals are bound to happen in history, but they are not a sign that the end of the

world is coming — "the end does not follow immediately."

Nation will rise against nation, the earth will be plagued and the heavens filled with signs, but that's only par for the course. These phenomena are to be expected. They are not signs of the end.

Before the end comes, however, Jesus foretold that there would be persecution from both religious and civil authorities for His followers. Even one's own family will be of no help or protection.

Because this next section of the gospel is quite difficult, I think it is best to paraphrase it. The key point Jesus was making is, "Don't be afraid. Fear not. These times of trial are opportunities to give witness to my name. But don't worry how you can do this or what you will say. I will put words in your mouth and give you a wisdom that will confound your adversaries. Just be patient and fearless. Not a hair of your

head will be harmed. They may kill your body, but they won't be able to touch your soul. By patient endurance you shall save your eternal lives. For you who fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays." (R1).

Looking ahead to the future must never be an excuse to "cop-out" in the present. Rather, the future should give us hope, renewed energy to get on with the now. The Mass brings Christ to us each day on our altars. His presence is the pledge of His coming at the end of time; but He comes now to empower us to prepare for that coming.

Again, it is well to reflect on the honesty of Jesus. He does not promise a bed of roses to His followers. He promises them a hard time. But He counsels us not to fear, for "I am with you all days."

St. Andrew Kim was canonized when our Holy Father visited Korea a few years



A WORD FOR SUNDAY

ago. Andrew was a Korean priest martyred for the faith. He was buried up to his neck in the sands of the seashore and his head was covered with man-eating insects. He revealed that when a Korean horseman rode with a scythe to lop off his head and end his torture, he had a vision of the Mother of God which swept him into ecstasy so that he felt not the terrible pain of his execution.

You see, God never abandons His own. "All will hate you because of me, yet not a hair of your head will be harmed. By patient endurance you will save your lives" — your eternal life!

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— Mark 10:14



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Correction

In last week's edition, (Courier, Nov. 9) photographs of Pittsford violinist Tara Noval were incorrectly credited to Linda Dow Hayes rather than Judy Sanchez.

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How long does grief last?
It is not possible to give an absolute answer to this question. Every individual reacts to loss a bit differently. We can expect intense grief during the first few weeks after a loss. In the following three or four months our feelings of grief may be strong as we encounter many reminders of the death. After that we will begin doing new things for ourselves, yet continue to miss our loved one. We may become frustrated as we attempt to do things the deceased once did for us. As a second year without the deceased begins we may find our feelings of loneliness and sadness have lessened. As we develop new relationships and do more things for ourselves our grief will diminish and we will be able to restore hope and happiness to our lives. Our grief, however, may never completely disappear as our memories linger.

Should you feel the need to discuss your feelings with a trained counselor, please call on us for referrals.

We purchase all forms of insurance to protect our family & assets not because we expect the worst to happen but to be prepared. Doesn't it make sense then to prepare for what will happen? Let our trained counselors assist you with the many options available in planning for a worry-free future.

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