

# We must stand firm in wake of shaken faith

All kinds of news reports over the past few years have had a capacity to erode our trust in leaders — to shake our faith. How much can we take before that happens?

Take the recent doubts that arose about whether Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. People are asking whether the wars we get involved in are about spreading democracy and freedom or represent a quest for American supremacy.

Again, great numbers of hard-working, middle-class people have lost life savings and pension plans due to corrupt CEOs. What companies can we trust anymore, and where is it safe to invest?

Coaches long were considered mentors for our youth. In too many cases today, even the field of sports doesn't sport the clean-cut look it was

known for.

People today wonder whether government leaders aren't more interested in becoming reelected than in serving and protecting them.

And churches now are fighting for credibility due to scandals.

When the faith of a nation is shaken, the consequences are major. Faith is the bonding glue that keeps society and people together. Without it families break up, businesses collapse, governments fall, churches are left empty and anarchy is given free reign.

Even more destructive is a broken spirit. The very life that faith manifests is deflated, and the will to work together is disheartened.

How do we stand firm in the midst of all that is shaking our faith?

In the U.S. Supreme Court build-



Father Eugene Hemrick

## The Human Side

ing in Washington, a frieze over the justices' benches depicts the works of good on one side and the works of evil on the other, with Justice sitting in the middle and Divine Inspiration at her side. Herein lies our answer.

When we reflect upon all that is shaking our faith these days, we learn that justice is always there to

stop untruthfulness. Those who thought their clandestine, unlawful deeds would go unnoticed now are being tried in the light of justice.

There is an old saying, "What goes around, comes around." One may get away with something for the moment, but the moment arrives when all is brought out into the light. Throughout the pages of Scripture God's promise of ultimate justice is a constant theme.

The dishonesty we've experienced in our times is disturbing. Our best antidote is to study the works of justice throughout history and to renew our resolve never to let anything break our fighting spirit in the championing of justice.

Father Hemrick is a columnist for Catholic News Service.

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