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Primate's See Of Caer - Glow

5501 Sixty-Second Avenue
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781
Telephone 727-548-4802

The Most Reverend John J. Humphreys, D.D.
Archbishop-Primate

ADVENT PASTORAL LETTER, 2018

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Most of us in this country are breathing the proverbial sigh of relief that the election cycle is over. Such boredom, such sarcasm, such downright hatred, I believe we have never before seen in this country. In my lifetime I have not always clung to one political party; I always vote for the person and not the party – certainly not a party whose platform violates some very basic tenets of my Faith. And there is the “rub” today: some of those people call themselves Catholic, when in fact they live contrary to Catholic teaching. Such people are NOT Catholic, not even in name.

We are into a second generation in which too many so called Catholic people have made little or no attempt to raise their children in the true Faith. Too many “babies” are walking to their Baptisms, and most will not even see the inside of a church again until they begin to think about marriage, and will approach a priest just because they think that is the way “it should be done.” SHAME! SHAME! SHAME! And shame again!

It was bad enough when Madelyn Murray O’Hare saw to it that prayer is outlawed in our schools and in too many other public places in our country. But it is far worse that parents, grandparents and guardians are making the O’Hares and other God-less infidels of this world triumph with their neglect of their religious obligations.

God is still in charge. He sets the rules, and NO ONE can change those rules. Yes, God is infinitely loving and kind and forgiving, but God does not tolerate our being indifferent (at best) to the rules He has laid down for us. God is loving, but he is stern; kind, but does not tolerate our indifference; forgiving, but still holds us accountable. If there is anyone among us who thinks God does not mean business,

in what he has ordered us to do, that person is not only naïve, but just plain stupid. Our world is a testing ground, and we MUST pass the test, or He will not admit us into His kingdom. A “new church” loves to play down the place of hell in the afterlife. Nonsense, if that were true: that there is no hell, our Lord Jesus Christ would not have mentioned it so many times in His sermons and parable. Hell is real. And we are here to avoid getting there.

We who call ourselves Catholic MUST do all in our power to see that those who are committed to their charge LIVE the Faith. Parents must raise their children with all the dignity and reality of genuine Catholicism. Grandparents must use their influence on their grandchildren – not by badgering but by SHOWING genuine love for the Faith. Teachers must teach by good example and fidelity to moral and upright behavior in all things. Above all, as Saint Paul teaches us, priests MUST “Preach the word . . . in season and out of season: reprove, entreat, rebuke in all patience and doctrine, for there shall be a time when they will not endure sound doctrine.” (2 Tim 4) That time is NOW– here, this moment! Can it be any plainer than what we Christians are facing concerning our Faith in every direction in which we turn? We must turn it about. IT will not turn on its own. We must PRAY, we must not be hypocrites, we must live good exemplary lives before all peoples everywhere. There is quite enough hypocrisy and deceit in the very highest quarters of the Church. We must expose and denounce those things wherever they exist. Only in that way will God look favorably upon us again and grant us the peace and wisdom we need in this life.

With every good wish and prayerful blessing to you and yours, I am faithfully yours in Christ,

John J. Humphreys

The Most Reverend John J. Humphreys,
Titular Archbishop of Caer-Glow