



Most Holy Trinity Parish

An Arizona Non-profit Corporation

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Conquering our Deepest Fear

During the last 6 months, our faith has been put to the test because of the failure of leadership, both in the Church and in the country. As one commentator noted we are experiencing the worse crisis of leadership in our national history.

What we have witnessed has been a direct attack on the foundations of faith both from the inside and from the outside. On the inside we have watched an institution fail to meet its obligations to protect, serve and witness to the Love of God that is at the heart of our belief. On the nation front we have watched civic leaders attack and divide the country in the most vicious ways possible. It was inevitable that these political attacks helped to create a hostile environment which led to pipe bomb attacks against former presidents and now an assault against a Synagogue. It was Lincoln who reminded us during the closing days of the civil war that America could never be destroyed from the outside, only from division on the inside.

Let us all be clear, what is taking place is not only ugly, it is also an attack on the very foundations of faith itself. Our Christian faith, the faith of the Jewish community and the Muslim community all talk about the dignity of our common humanity. It is a common belief that God created us to be a living presence of God in our communities. The very fact that we embrace this idea is the reason we are suffering so much today. When a synagogue is attacked, a Mosque is desecrated, and evangelical churches assaulted it is an attack on all of us. It is an attack on the very heart of Love itself.

Love is the most powerful force in the world and it is the most dangerous. It is the enemy of the bigots and those who wish to rip the country apart for political power. It is the enemy of those who fear the future of a rich cultural mix that our own parish so wonderfully represents. Luckily for us, the historic reality is, Love and decency always wins. According to Mahatma Gandhi, the great Indian liberation leader, "When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they seemed invincible, but in the end, they always fail. Think of it, always." The message of Jesus and the reality of the resurrection is the same powerful message. Love and life always conquers hate and death.

Today we need to mourn the loss of our innocents. We need to stand up and support our Jewish brothers and sisters and all who are being demonized and degraded. We need to take a stand and say never again. We need to remind ourselves that the very idea of greatness is about change, renewal and faith that the common decency of our neighbors and friends will always win out. As long as we act, take a stand and live our faith we will conquer those dark fears in our lives and the fears that are damaging our nation. Let us together renew our belief in the goodness of life. Let us be strong together,

Yours,
Fr. Tom