



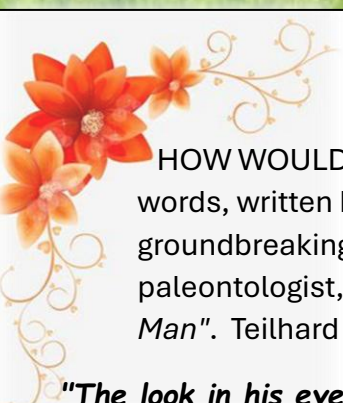
Of Seeds and Flowers

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EVERY DAY DESERVES A CHANCE, AT LOVE AND TRUTH

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE THESE WORDS SPOKEN ABOUT YOU AFTER YOU ARE GONE? These words, written by his friend Pierre Leroy, are taken from the forward to Chardin's futuristic, groundbreaking, spiritual life classic, *"The Divine Milieu"*. Chardin was a physicist, geologist, paleontologist, theologian, Catholic priest and one of the discoverers of the anthropological find *"Peking Man"*. Teilhard de Chardin certainly was a man who was in touch with the TRUE SELF.

"The look in his eyes when they met your eyes revealed the man's soul: his reassuring sympathy restored your confidence in yourself. Just to speak to him made you feel better; you knew that he was listening to you and that he understood you. His own faith was in the invincible power of love: men hurt one another by not loving one another. And this was not naivete, but the goodness of the man, for he was good beyond the common measure. In him, this belief was no mere conventional sentiment grafted on a generous nature, but the fruit of long meditation; it was a certainty that came only with years of reflection. It was this deep-seated spiritual conviction that led Pierre Teilhard de Chardin to the practice of self-forgetfulness: self, being forgotten in a sympathetic union with all people and with every individual person." The combination of priest and scientist is nothing new. But de Chardin possessed such a deep fascination with the earth since he was a little boy, often digging in the ground for bits of metal and rocks for the simple joy of holding these wondrous creations of God in his hands. This unassuming priest had such a deep and spiritual understanding that every rock and tree created by God was the physical manifestation of His unending love for us. *"Throughout my whole life," he wrote, "during every moment I have lived, the world has gradually been taking on light and fire for me, until it has come to envelop me in one mass of luminosity, glowing from within ... God did it. And the UNIVERSE is growing."*



HAPPY PENTECOST: *"SPIRIT OF GOD rest as a tongue of Fire upon each of us. YOU are the TRUTH of ALL WORDS and every person who listens with an OPEN MIND can hear YOU in their own life. Put words into our mouths that comfort and shed light, make us alive to JUSTICE and to RIGHT. Groan in us for a new creation. Let our thoughts and labors be fruitful. Be the warmth of all our love and the spark of new life we share. Be present here among us and give us the bread of PEACE. Amen."*



There is a new world being born right now and Pierre Chardin was one of the prophets calling it forth. When he died in 1955 the only people who showed up to his funeral were ten of his closest friends with only one of them accompanying his body on the final 90-mile journey to his resting place at St. Andrew on the Hudson, the Jesuit Novitiate for the New York Province. No elaborate procession, no long-winded tributes, no ornate mausoleum to this great man. A true prophet's end! ***"You are not a human being in search of a spiritual experience. You are a spiritual being immersed in human experience."*** Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

VISION AND REALITY

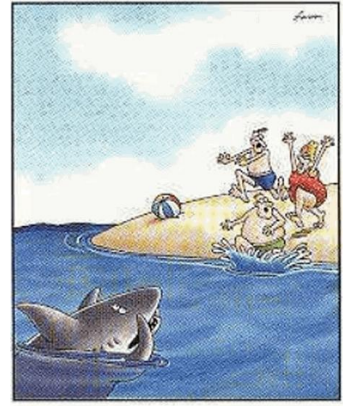
In 2 Thessalonians 6-7, St Paul speaks of the *"RESTRAINERS OF EVIL"*. I suggest that there are 4 restrainers from evil that keep us, and the Church, any church, on the right path:

1. **Natural law /Conscience** - This is the law that is implanted at birth in the minds and hearts of everybody on earth. E.G. the law that says, "We should not kill babies." Parents have the primary RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY to raise their own children.
2. **Church/Bible** - provide God's plan for the welfare and salvation of all of God's children. This demands a much higher spiritual life than the Natural Law. E.G. Keep Holy the Sabbath. The Beatitudes.
3. **Marriage and Family** - The marriage between one man and one woman is the basis of all society and the future of all civilizations.
4. **Government** - has the serious responsibility of providing for the common good of ALL its citizens in the least intrusive way possible. Justice for ALL, freedom of religion and speech included.

I'm not in the business of politics but if any of these "restrainers" are being violated it is the serious task of all clergy (BISHOPS), teachers, professors, etc., to speak out and protect the souls of their flock from being seriously hurt.

America needs a plan and effort that heals the **WHOLE CULTURE**. There exists in America a toxic cultural attitude that gives rise to abortion, euthanasia, and other attacks on human dignity. We need not just diagnose the illness or the problem but offer a lasting cure. In 2020 there were 930,160 abortions in the U.S. Then, Roe V. Wade was overturned by the Supreme Court. But in 2023, the number of abortions in the country increased to 1,026,700. We need to deal with **CAUSES**, not just **SYMPTOMS**. Heal the culture!! Heal the **ROOTS!** -The **CAUSES!** Human meaning and dignity are found in our ability to **LOVE**. **YOU** are infinitely **VALUABLE!!!** "**Love one another as I have loved you.**" **Jesus. The TRUTH spoken with LOVE empowers people - changes the culture!**

If you go to the doctor with a boil on the skin and the doctor says, "*Let's lance the boil*". Two weeks later the boil is back. You go again to the doctor and the doctor again lances the boil. Two weeks later, you go through the same process. Finally, you say, "*I'm switching doctors.*" The new doctor says, "*Let's check your diet and change what you are eating. Let's go to the cause of your problem.*" **NO MORE BOILS!!** You dealt with the cause of the problem rather than the **SYMPTOMS ONLY**. We need to deal with the **CAUSES** of all our social problems **NOT THE SYMPTOMS**. Healing causes takes time, but you get lasting results. Dealing with symptoms is immediate and **FEELS GOOD**, but no lasting results. Politicians and educators almost always deal with symptoms.

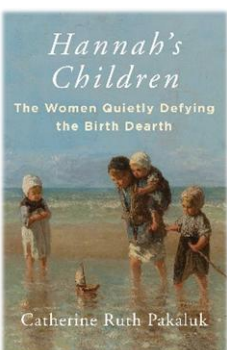


Bear! Bear!

There are two ways to save the fish from a polluted pond. One is to pull the fish out one at a time; the other way is to change the water. The second way saves the fish **FOR KEEPS**. So many of our American institutions are in the impossible process of saving the "*fish*" one at a time. - it **LOOKS GOOD** and makes people feel good, like they are doing something. -but, too often it ends up being just **BUSY WORK!**

In the midst of a historic "decline in birthrates" why do some 5% of American women choose to defy the demographic norm by having five or more children? Catherine Pakuluk, a social scientist, herself the mother of 8 children, has travelled across the U.S. interviewing some 55 college educated women who were raising 5 or more children and shared many of their stories in a book called "*Hannah's Children*". Many countries have experimented with aggressive birth/no-birth policies- all have failed. Social management never works. The Chinese are now learning this truth.

The Guardian in the UK just cited a study that showed that 40% of men between the ages of 20-25 haven't had a date in the past 5 years. Why do you think that is??



“THOSE WHO BELIEVE DON’T LEAVE. Believe that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. This single truth holds the power to change everything.”- writes Matthew Kelly. How can you say “NO” to receiving sacramentally the Body and Blood of Jesus, the Son of God? The Mass is the Last Supper reproduced sacramentally.



TRUE STORY: “About the year 700, in a monastery, a priest of the order of St. Basil was celebrating the Eucharist. He was suffering from constant doubt about the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. That is, whether the bread and wine truly became the Body and Blood of Christ after the words of consecration. This particular priest spoke the words of consecration, and the host was suddenly changed into a circle of flesh and the wine transformed into blood. Many repetitions of this miracle have happened over the past 1200 years, but the most convincing was in November of 1970. This time the miracle underwent scientific investigation, and the conclusions were presented on March 4, 1971.

Microscopic studies documented these facts: The flesh was identified as striated muscular tissue of the myocardium (heart wall) having no trace whatsoever of materials or agents used to preserve the flesh from decay. Both the flesh and the blood were found to be of human origin. The flesh and blood were found to belong to the same blood type, AB. The relics can be seen today in the church of St. Francis, Lanciano, Italy.

The Eucharist: What an ingenious way to be remembered!! Not by leaving a library, museum, university or airport but by leaving Oneself behind as living food. Such intimacy, such power! The Last Supper NOW! *“One well received communion could make you a saint.”* St. Theresa of Avila. I have celebrated or participated in the Eucharist over 8000 times in my lifetime and I ask myself, *“Why have I not become a saint?”* How about you? One time, well done, could do it!! Eucharist, Easter and Pentecost are OBJECTIVE TRUTHS!!!!

A local Congregational Church has a sign that says, “We preach Christ only.” Every time I see this, I wonder how the church deals with the words of Christ in John 6:51? ***“I am the living bread come down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread he shall live forever: the bread I will give IS MY FLESH, for the life of the world.”*** Christ only???



The tv series, “CHOSEN”, -the Life of Jesus, - make sure you see it. And TWICE is even better. And the interview of Jonathan Roumie (Plays Jesus in Chosen) on Tucker Carlson is REALLY, REALLY worth seeing. On YouTube.

OH! THAT WORLD: *“If you find that the world hates you, know it has hated me before you. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own; the reason it hates you is that you do not belong to the world. But I chose you out of the world. Remember what I told you: no slave is greater than his master. They will harry you as they harried me. They will respect your words as much as they respected mine. All this they will do to you because of my name.”* John 15: 15-18. **Last Supper - a most poignant moment in Jesus’ life! We are IN the world, NOT OF the world, but FOR the world.**

In his book, “*The Disappearance of Childhood*,” the late cultural critic Neil Postman wrote: ***“Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see.”*** We need to keep sending those messages, not just because it is our responsibility or because of the profound love and joy children bring into our lives, but because we realize that a society that abandons parenthood is a society that forfeits its future. WE are doing it and SINGING ABOUT IT!!

The only real sadness, the only real failure, the only great tragedy in life, is not to become a saint.

Have patience with all things - but first with yourself. Never confuse your mistakes with your value as a human being. You are perfectly valuable, creative, worthwhile person simply because you exist. And no amount of triumphs or tribulations can ever change that.

Saint Francis de Sales

LIFE CHANGING SPIRITUAL ADVICE OR DIRECTION: 1. 'WE CANNOT ATTAIN THE PRESENCE OF GOD BECAUSE WE ARE ALREADY IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD. WHAT IS NEEDED IS AWARENESS.' ROHR 2. We need to INTERIORIZE the person of Jesus, not just His words or teaching. He lives in YOU on purpose, by design. Keating. 3. "**ALL our efforts must be UNPRETENTIOUS (no pretending) Only then can you avoid being deceived. Pride/ego! Watch for this.**" From "The Cloud of Unknowing" by a 14th century anonymous monk. A spiritual classic!! A must read!!

"I am the vine,
you are the branches.
He who abides in Me,
and I in him,
bears much fruit;
for without Me you
can do nothing.

John 15:5



HABEMUS PAPAM

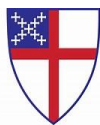
PAPA LJUN XIV



Rome, in the last Synod, made a serious mistake in not allowing and celebrating the ordination of women as deacons. BIG MISTAKE! And so, the words of Einstein are again proven true, "*The consciousness that creates a problem cannot be the same consciousness that resolves it.*"

We need fresh leadership. WELCOME TO Pope Leo XIV. His name predecessor", Pope Leo XIII did some revolutionary things, especially his groundbreaking social justice encyclical Rerum Novarum. "**Rerum Novarum,**" issued by Pope Leo XIII in 1891, addresses the rights and

duties of workers and employers, critiques both socialism and unregulated capitalism, and lays the foundation for modern Catholic social teaching. Leo XIII put his position and heart in places people at the time thought he shouldn't go. He clearly understood working people have hearts and souls and bodies and families that need care and protection as well. The Catholic Church has a strong position on social justice which should never be confused to the modern term that that yields to the social wind of the day.



Recently, Bishop Sean Rowe of the Episcopal church in the U.S. announced that they will no longer be helping the US government settle refugees in this country because of the request to resettle 59 white

South Africans including women and children. Rowe defended this decision by citing the Episcopal church's commitment to "racial justice" and that resettling white South Africans who are being killed with their farms stolen as being against

"what (The Episcopal Church) they are all about. Did Jesus ever say that yellow lives or black lives or red lives are more precious than white lives???? What about the lifework of Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela and the work of the Anglican Church in South Africa?? – not a half generation ago??? Where are the firm, constant, predictable Christian moral principles that don't change with the current wind??? We, adult Christians, cannot allow ourselves to be carried into the river current of the present, passing world around us. Jesus didn't.

Live as children of light,
for light produces
every kind of goodness and
righteousness and truth.
-Ephesians 5:9

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