

St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. ---- 01-4530387, 01-5611390



26 February 2017

BETTER TO BE AN ATHEIST THAN A HYPOCRITE



Pope Francis has offered his unequivocal support to grassroots organisers and activists who are fighting for social justice, migrants, and environmentalism, saying he “reaffirms” their choice to fight against tyranny amid a “gutting of democracies”.

“As Christians and all people of good will, it is for us to live and act at this moment. It is a grave responsibility, since certain present realities, unless effectively dealt with, are capable of setting off processes of dehumanisation which would then be hard to reverse,” the pontiff wrote in a letter that was read to organisers this week. The remarks can be viewed as a clear endorsement by the Argentinian pope of resistance against populist and xenophobic political movements. While he did not name Donald Trump, and stressed his remarks were not targeted at any individual politician, the letter, read at the opening of the US Regional World Meeting of Popular Movements in Modesto, California, seem to speak directly to protests against the Republican president.

“The direction taken beyond this historic turning point - the ways in which this worsening crisis gets resolved - will depend on people’s involvement and participation and, largely, on yourselves, the popular movements,” Francis wrote.

The letter was read aloud by a close ally of the pope, Cardinal Peter Turkson, who attended the meeting.

In the letter, Francis condemned the growth of populist and xenophobic movements around the world, saying they posed a “grave danger for humanity”. He also criticised leaders who rely on “fear, insecurity, quarrels, and even people’s justified indignation, in order to shift the responsibility for all these ills on to a ‘non-neighbour’”.

“Sooner or later, the moral blindness of this indifference comes to light, like when a mirage dissipates,” he wrote. “The wounds are there, they are a reality. The unemployment is real, the violence is real, the corruption is real, the identity crisis is real, the gutting of democracies is real.”

He offered praise to the activists who are organising in opposition to those threats. “I know that you have committed yourselves to fight for social justice, to defend our Sister Mother Earth and to stand alongside migrants. I want to reaffirm your choice,” he wrote.

The remarks would not be the first time Francis has appeared to take aim at the US president. The pope first criticised then-candidate Trump when he called for the building of a border wall between Mexico and the US, with Francis calling it an idea that was not Christian.

This week’s remarks came as several prominent US Catholic cardinals, including Joseph Tobin of Newark, denounced Trump’s executive order banning travel from seven majority-Muslim countries, with Tobin calling the order “the opposite of what it means to be an American”.

The theme of migrants and religious intolerance was prominent in the pope’s letter to the activists, in which he emphasised the importance of not classifying “others in order to see who is a neighbour and who is not”

Courtesy The Guardian

NOTICES

Money Matters

Sunday 19 February 2017

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: p170

2nd Collection: p217

Accord: p85

Family Offering: p300



Remembered at Mass

Sat 6pm: Pascal Green, Annie Geraghty, Annie, Katie & Gerard Farrell & Deceased Members

Sun 11.30: Carmel Kelly Months Mind, Tom & John Ryan, Mary & Kiara Carroll, Patrick & Clothilda O'Donnell, David Boland



Weds 01 March - Ash Weds

Next Weds 01 March is Ash Weds is the beginning of the Season of Lent There will be Mass with Ashes at 10am. Trócaire Boxes are available at the back of the church.



The Door into Lent

Travel from ‘The Empty Tomb’ of Easter Sunday, back to ‘The Door into Lent’ of Ash Wednesday in music, prayer and reflections. Music led by the Dublin Diocesan Music Group and reflections by the DCU Student Chaplains. Monday 27 February 2017 - 8.00 p.m. Monastery of St. Alphonsus, Drumcondra. (Also live on webcam www.rednuns.com)



Awake My Soul Retreat

Join other young adults (20’s & 30’s) for some time out to reflect, pray and grow deeper in your faith on our weekend retreat this Friday evening 24th to Sunday afternoon 26th of February at Mount St. Anne’s Retreat Centre, Killenard, Co. Laois (1 hour from Dublin; carpooling available). Cost, all inclusive, p120. Subsidised as an initiative of the Archdiocese of Dublin. Contact for more info & to secure a place e-mail michelle.manley@dublindiocese.ie e/ siohban.tighe@dublindiocese.ie



Novena of Grace - Harold’s Cross

4th - 12th March at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Harold’s Cross. Monday-Friday: 10.00am, Saturday: 11.30am, Sunday: 12.00pm. All welcome.

FUNERAL OF CARDINAL CONNELL



Archbishop Diarmuid Martin has said that Cardinal Desmond Connell was the first leader of the Dublin diocese to recognise, albeit slowly, the extent of the damage inflicted on children by priests who sexually abused. Dr Martin told his predecessor’s funeral mass that the hurt caused by the scandal has yet to be fully recognised and still remains for victims. He recalled that it was with difficulty that he dragged information out of some collaborators. He must be remembered as the one who established the child protection service in

the diocese, a move which was the beginning of a new culture which is now widely welcomed. Dr Martin said the hurt caused by the scandal has yet to be fully recognised and still remains for victims. One such victim, Mark Vincent Healy, who has briefed Pope Francis on his abuse in a Dublin school, watched from a pew as the Cardinal’s remains were taken in procession to a crypt in the cathedral vault where he was buried alongside six of his recent predecessors.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Help us to find God”. “No one can help you there,” said the Master. “Why not?” “For the same reason that no one can help the fish to find the ocean”, said the Master.

From “One Minute Wisdom” by Anthony de Mello

We are always looking for help. Give us a buzz on 01-5611390 at any time.

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