

Adherence to ideology: the tie that blinds

The following column is provided by the Minnesota Catholic Conference, which advocates on behalf of the state's bishops for public policies and programs that support the life and dignity of every human person.

The 2011 legislative session is finally drawing to a close.

Many were surprised by the inability of legislative leaders and the governor to reach a compromise agreement before a shutdown occurred. When the two parties did finally produce a budget framework, neither side was pleased with an outcome that few believe represents the beginning of a long-term solution to the state's fiscal woes.

The inability to compromise, however, was not based so much on stubbornness or sheer partisanship as it was on adherence to ideological principle.

On one level it is refreshing to see politicians stake out principled positions and stick to them. But on another level, an almost slavish adherence to ideology in politics can and does inflict harm to the very people public officials claim to serve. And it was ideology that marked the 2011 legislative session.

'The Catholic mind'

An ideology typically involves building an intellectual system around a particular idea or truth, but to the exclusion of other ideas or information.

It is a lot like a theological heresy. In many cases, an ideology represents an "ideal" system whose adherents are often, you might say, religiously devoted to it.

By contrast, what the Jesuit philosopher James V. Schall calls "the Catholic mind" is a radical intellectual openness to "all that is." It recognizes that truth and reality are not so much ours to create but instead are gifts to be received. We flourish as human beings only when we conform our actions to the truths around us, which we must first have the humility to recognize and receive.

We should not be surprised, then, that in our post-Christian Western world — marked by the increasing rejection and disintegration of Catholic tradition — ideological devotion to particular truths or ideas is the hallmark of our politics, even among Catholics.

For many Catholics of the "baby-boom" generation, the civil rights movement and the War on Poverty were defining issues.

Thus, their "hunger and thirst for righteousness" compelled them to support the Democratic Party. But when faced with the evidence that there are active attempts being made in the courts and in the Legislature to redefine the bedrock social institution of marriage, some of those same people turn a blind eye and write off protecting marriage as a "Republican issue."

Or worse, they may embrace a false ideology of civil rights that upholds people's ability to do what they want instead of what they ought.

Conversely, many younger Catholics — as well as elderly Catholics of the Greatest Generation — were shaped by opposition to communism and the culture wars, thus causing them to be more sympathetic to Republicans. When some of these Catholics are confronted with the reality of increasing poverty and declining economic opportunity, they tend to minimize the problems or try to explain them away through the lens of the faux-capitalist dogma that animates much of GOP politics today.

Asserting that government can and should prudentially step in when necessary to help alleviate the effects of poverty and build a ladder out of it are seen as dangerous endorsements of the Demo-crats and will, in the end, endanger liberties and ultimately thwart the pro-life movement, among other things.

Catholic first

What marks these two understandable perspectives is people's well-meaning isolation of certain truths to the exclusion of all others.

In contrast to a Catholic worldview that aims to integrate all truth wherever it is found, we are left with a choice between partisan agendas that are at best gravely incomplete answers to a set of comprehensive problems and at worst the cobbling together of various special interests.

Certainly, the political realities of today often require us to make an informed judgment about which party or candidate constitutes the greater good (or, more accurately, the lesser evil).

But what does not bode well for our church are the number of us who are quick to identify as Republicans or Democrats instead of, simply, Catholics.

Fortunately, there is a remedy to the slavery of ideology if we are humble enough to open our mind and will to receive it: Catholic social teaching.

'Leaven for the world'

CST is a true philosophy of society. The ethical framework it proposes to both sustain and reconstruct the public order is the fruit of thousands of years of intelligent, prayerful reflection. It can hardly be contested that had the West embraced the teaching of Pope Leo XIII in his social encyclical "Rerum Novarum" (1891), the world would have been spared much of the destruction and loss of life caused by the ideological battles of the 20th century.

Rather than taking our political cues from a party platform because we are deeply devoted to a few of its planks, we should be attentive to the collective wisdom of the church.

If we have the heart to receive Catholic teaching and let it form our politics, then the church will truly provide a leaven for the world that will not only re-orient the political landscape, but also offer the opportunity for real political solutions that safeguard human dignity, the family and the common good.

Author Jason Adkins is executive director of the Minnesota Catholic Conference. July 21, 2011 - The Catholic Spirit

Friday Night Dinner and Live Auction at the Golden Valley Country Club



Tickets are on sale this weekend!!

Regular Table:

- Rolls and butter
- Mediterranean Salad
- Chicken Marsala - with Wine Sauce and Mushrooms
- Asparagus and Red Pepper Saute
- Rosemary Potato Medley
- Reg/ Decaf Coffee/ Tea
- Dessert

Premier Pope Table:

- Fresh Raspberry and Brie Phyllo Cup
- Rolls and Butter
- Asian Jade Salad
- Choice of Grilled Top Sirloin Steak or Maple Salmon
- Roasted Asparagus
- Wild Mushroom Risotto
- Reg/ Decaf coffee/ Tea
- One wine pour- choice of house red or white
- Dessert



Also available in the back of the church:

Chicken Dinner Tickets – Served in Moorman Hall, Saturday Aug 20th 5-6:30pm

Quarter Chicken Meal - \$8

Drummy Meal - \$4.50

Smoker Poker Tickets – Doors Open at 6:30pm, Poker starts at 7 pm, Friday, Aug 26th

\$100/ticket includes 2 cigars, rib dinner, **Grand Prize \$1,000.00!!!**

DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH!!!

✠ Weekly Calendar of Events ✠

Sunday, July 31- 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Food Drive Sunday

8:00 am Confessions
 9:00 am Mass
 11:00 am Mass

Monday, August 1

8:00 am Mass
 8:30 am Exercise Class (Gathering Place)
 3:30 pm Widower and Widowers Holy Hour (Chapel)

Tuesday, August 2

8:00 am Mass
 8:30 am Grandparents Prayer Group (Gathering Place)
 10:30 pm Goodtimers 500 Club (Gathering Place)
 7:00 pm KC's (Gathering Place)

Wednesday, August 3 - HFA DQ Night (Excelsior Blvd)

8:00 am Mass
 8:30 am Coffee & Rolls (Moorman Hall)
 11:45 am Exercise Class (Moorman Hall)

Thursday, August 4

8:00 am Mass
 7:00 pm NFP (Gathering Place)

Friday, August 5

Parish Office Closed

8:00 am Mass
 8:30 am Exercise Class (Gathering Place)

Saturday, August 6

6:30 am Holy Name Society (Gathering Place)
 10:00 am Rosaries for Life (Robbinsdale)
 3:30 pm Confessions
 5:00 pm Mass

Sunday, August 7- 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Food Drive Sunday

8:00 am Confessions
 9:00 am Mass
 11:00 am Mass

SATURDAY and SUNDAY

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS...

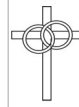
In order to insure the proper number of Eucharistic Ministers for Mass, please continue the practice of checking in the sacristy before Mass to see if your services are needed. Thank you, Sharon



ALTAR AND ROSARY NEWS

ATTENTION LADIES: It's time to get those favorite recipes out and bake for the Country Store at the Holy Family Fall Festival. Your items can be dropped off after 9AM in Kattar Hall on Saturday, August 20. Let's provide a wonderful assortment of delicious treats!!

ANOTHER NOTE: It has been brought to our attention that on occasion several altar linens will be missing and then turn up again. These altar linens are not to be used for any other purpose, as some of these linens require special laundering due to contact with our Lord's Precious Blood. We want to make sure these laundering procedures are being followed, so please leave the linens in place. Thank you.



Banns II

Brad Downs and Gina Pellegrine

Banns III

Benjamin Ellison and Darryn Beckstrom

John, Donna, Chris and Heather Qualy of Holy Family and the rest of the Qualy Family wish to thank Father Dufner, the choir and all the rest of those with the church who were so helpful when our mother/grandmother/great grandmother was laid to rest June 27th.

This Wednesday is HFA Dairy Queen Night!!

10% of all sales at the St. Louis Park DQ on Excelsior Blvd between 4:00 and 8:00PM this Wednesday will be given to Holy Family Academy so stop in and enjoy dinner or a special treat!

Wills and Bequests

*Have you remembered Holy Family for 10% of your estate?
 When you do, our legal corporate title is:
 "Church of the Holy Family of St. Louis Park, Minn."*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 11:4b-15; Mt 14:22-36
Tuesday: Nm 12:1-13; Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14
Wednesday: Nm 13:1-2, 25 - 14:1, 26-29a, 34-35; Mt 15:21-28
Thursday: Nm 20:1-13; Mt 16:13-23
Friday: Dt 4:32-40; Mt 16:24-28
Saturday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9
Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Ps 85; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. Alphonsus Liguori
Tuesday: St. Eusebius of Vercelli; St. Peter Julian Eymard
Thursday: St. John Mary Vianney
Friday: Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome; First Friday
Saturday: The Transfiguration of the Lord; First Saturday

Holy Family Weekly Offering July 23/24

Regular Envelopes	\$15,880.03
Plate	\$ 2,003.68
Online Giving	\$ 1,160.25
CARE Fund	\$ 826.59

When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us to use the information from your check to make a one-time electronic funds transfer from your account.

Thank you for generosity!

Mass Intentions for the Week

Aug 1 Marge Qualy †
 Aug 2 Mrs. Margaret Thiol †
 Aug 3 Maria & Elizabeth Fahnländer
 Aug 4 Maria Rampetstreiter
 Aug 5 Altar & Rosary
 Aug 6 Vocations
 Aug 7 Norm Rung (9AM)
 Aug 7 For the Parish (11AM)



***Holy Family Academy
has openings in grades
pre-kindergarten through
eight for the 2011-2012 school
year. If you are looking for a
small, vibrant Catholic school
that begins each day with Mass,
utilizes a traditional curriculum
and promises to train students
in virtue and Christian integrity
please call us at 952-925-9193
or visit us on the web at
www.hfamn.org
We would love to talk with you!***

We are in need of items for the Parish Festival Silent Auction!

Suggested items are Gardening, Sewing, Quilting, Kitchen, Sports Teams, Spa, Garage Necessities, Pope Theme, Books for Children, Books for Adults, Fishing, Golf, Beach, Car Care, Coffee, Tea & Tea Cups, Scrapbooking, Catholic Kids, Bug Collecting, Arts and Crafts, Cars, Handy man, Fall Raking, Bake Something each Month, Season Tickets, New TV, New Bike, Babysitting, Sing Christmas Carols, Golfing, Hunting, Fishing, Vacation Homes, Toys, Christmas Items, Lawn ornaments, Meals for a family. We're also looking for books, CD's or DVD's for the "Book Store". Place all items in Moorman Hall on the countertop by the kitchen. Questions? Call Sherri Johnson @ 952.451.8665.

Men's Softball News

This year's edition of the Holy Family Amen's Softball team has gone undefeated, 8-0. ***Congratulations to a great season!*** Double header playoff games for the Championship will be played at Our Lady of Grace fields, (50th & Highway #100) on Monday evening August 1st at 6:15PM & 7:30PM. All parishioners are invited to attend and cheer on this year's team. There is NO admission charge.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Healing After Abortion

If you are struggling with an abortion experience, experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat on August 5-7, 2011 in the Twin Cities area. The weekend retreat will combine discussions, spiritual exercises, reconciliation, a Memorial Service and a Mass of Resurrection. Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. For more information or registration contact Nancy at rvr-nancy@usfamily.net or 763.250.9313. The cost is \$160.00. If you have a financial burden, assistance is available. Also on the web at rachelvineyard.org.

The Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute

Come discover the plan that will transform your work, your marriage, your family, your community...your life! This fall, the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute will begin another two-year course at The Saint Paul Seminary. Under the direction of Mr. Jeff Cavins and taught by some of the best instructors in the Twin Cities, the program follows the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and will make sense of all things Catholic, deepen your faith, and lay out the roadmap to heaven. The classes are divided into four eleven-week modules and meet on Monday evenings, 7 to 9PM, with two Saturday morning formative sessions per module. Applications are now being accepted for the class beginning September 2011. For more information and an application, call 651.962.6890 or visit saintpaulseminary.org.

Calling for nominations for the Champions for Life Awards!

The Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis is looking for nominations for our Annual *Champions for Life* Awards. Do you know someone who is a Champion for Life? Do you know someone who works tirelessly in helping the poor or elderly; or someone who has devoted their time working with people with disabilities; or someone who has helped women and families through a difficult pregnancy; or someone who prays tirelessly for Respect Life issues? Whether it is in grand gestures or small actions do you know a Champion for Life? The categories are: Adult - Individual Youth/Young Adult - Individual or group, Couple or Family, Church, School or Catholic Affiliated Group. You may print a nomination form at www.archspm.org - Events or E-mail: wilsons@archspm.org or call 651.291.4506. Deadline is August 15.



The Knights of Columbus - St. Louis Council 3949 will be meeting on Tuesday, August 2. Rosary will begin in the church at 7:10PM with the meeting commencing immediately afterward in the Gathering Place. Refreshments will be served. All Knights: Please check our website www.kc3949.org to volunteer for upcoming Fall Festival events. Thanks!

Please remember to notify the Parish Office of any changes to your address or phone number. Thank you!



Pro-Life Corner

Ohio - July 22 - LifeSiteNews.com
The Ohio bishops have asked all parishes and schools to cease support of the Susan G. Komen Foundation. "The Ohio Bishops agreed to direct Catholic parishes and schools away from fundraising for Komen for the Cure and toward activities and organizations that are fully consistent with Catholic moral teaching," reads a July 20th statement from the Ohio Catholic Conference. The bishops cited the breast cancer advocacy foundation's support for Planned Parenthood, and the fact that their policies do not exclude embryonic stem cell research, even though they do not believe that Komen is currently involved in such research. The bishops "expressed a common desire to avoid even indirect support for research involving human embryos," says the statement.