

## FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF JESUS – JANUARY 10, 2021

*Remarks on what happened in our Nation's Capital on January 6, 2021*

You can find my homily for today, the feast of the baptism of Jesus, on our parish website. I want to talk today, briefly, about what happened in our nation's capital on Wednesday. As a Catholic priest, I am not allowed to talk about politics from the pulpit. So, I will speak in generalities, not with the hope that I don't offend anyone, but with the realization that I might offend everyone. Fools rush in....

What happened on Wednesday in DC included many people who wanted to express their point of view in a peaceful demonstration, and many did. But the group included people who lost control of their anger and broke the law.

In my opinion, the crowd also included people who were there hell bent on destruction, I call them anarchists, unless I'm in the rectory where no one can hear me. They take advantage of demonstrations, whose cause they do not support. They use the occasion to further their own cause. Their cause is clear. Destroy our way of government. So, how is it possible to get to where we were on Wednesday.

It is possible, I believe, because we have the capacity to choose evil under the appearance of Good. And that is what happened on Wednesday. As a nation, we have removed all gods, including our own, from the political arena. If God is gone then who makes the rules. We do and they do and we all do. The only moral code in common for opposing sides is this: The end justifies the means. To be clear - that is not our Lord's way of life. But we are more sophisticated now. We don't need God. We don't need our Lord.

Do we have to lie in order to win? Of course we do. That's what the other guys do. Do we have to destroy people's reputations and peoples families in order to win? Of course we do. That's what they do. Do we have to cheat in order to win? Of course we do. That's what they do. Do we have to assassinate someone in order to win...? Why not? The end justifies the means.

We are told by anarchists that when corruption reaches the people at the top of a pyramid structure, and those few people at the top have control of the whole system of government, the only way to remove them is by revolution and violence. And that calls for blood in the streets. There is no other way. They believe they are right. You do remember the American Revolution!

But there is another way to destroy our system of government without firing a single shot. Consider these words written in 1747, 40 years before our Constitution was signed:

“A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote for themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse due to loose fiscal policy... (Alexander Frazier Tyler)

Our national debt is now 27.7 trillion dollars. That's 222,000 dollars for each living taxpayer. We have killed (dare we say assassinated) 63 million potential taxpayers because we are pro-choice – the end justifies the means. It's our choice. No body tells us when to do, what to do or how to do, not even God.

God speaks to us about choice in Deuteronomy, 7 centuries before Jesus was born, - chapter 30, verses 19-20. Listen to God's words. “I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life, so that you and your children may live <sup>20</sup> and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him...” There is still time.

There is a takeaway from all this. Be careful, be very careful. Never, never ever choose evil under the appearance of good. We are free to choose, but know this, we must accept the consequences.