



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! The 3rd week of January is always a chilly one for America. Not just in terms of temperature, but in terms of history. Over the course of these coming days, we mark the birth of the great civil rights leader, Martin Luther King Jr, 1/15/29. And then, we mark the Anniversary of the court decision that took away the right to be born for all unborn children, the Roe-vs.-Wade, 1/22/73. The proximity of days for these two anniversaries could not be starker. In the first case, a man who fought for civil rights his whole life. In the second case, the taking away of the ultimate civil right, the right to life. This year, these two anniversaries are made all the more chilly as we experience Inauguration Day 2021. Chilly not only because of our new president's support of abortion but because of all the turmoil, violence and division found in our country today. One might say that the United States of America is not so united.

As Christians living in these times, what do we do? That question could yield lots of good answers and it would do us well to consider the question. In the coming weeks, I will do that via a few video reflections. But for now, let's simply consider our Lord, who also lived in divided and unjust times.

The greatest act of injustice was the Betrayal, Condemnation and Killing of Jesus Christ. In the face of that, Jesus was neither a doormat nor a zealot. He was Son of the Eternal Father. In that time, his actions spoke volumes. Whether it was his silence, his forgiveness, his love or his works of mercy. In all things, He spoke and lived Truth. As people who have been baptized into Him, we must do the same. Falling victim to neither division, despair nor anger, but falling more deeply in loving union with Him and allowing that union to form our acting, our thinking and our willing.

A beautiful example of this taking shape in our community is the Chester County Women's Services. Located in the heart of our town, right next to the Country Butcher, they do excellent work. They will be with us next week to share their witness at the 5PM, 9AM and 10:30AM Masses. Tonight, I will be with them for the Human Life Sunday Prayer Service. Please check it out www.ccwsmedicalinfo.org

Finally, I close with some words from Martin Luther King Jr. and St. Pope John Paul II. .

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

"Time is always right to do what is right."

"America, your greatest beauty and your richest blessing is found in the human person: in each man, woman and child, in every immigrant, in every native-born son and daughter. For this reason, America, your deepest identity and truest character as a nation is revealed in the position you take towards the human person. The ultimate test of your greatness in the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most defenseless ones." Pope John Paul II September 19, 1987

Peace,

Fr. Rogers