



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! Two weeks ago, I had the terrific opportunity of spending five days with Benedictine Community of Monks at St. Vincent's College in Latrobe, PA. I was there to take a class on prayer but I received so much more as I entered a "classroom" of faith, beauty and life lived according to a different Way. It was healing, refreshing and full of life. If you're out in Western PA, I encourage you to visit this place of holy ground. Certainly, with summer now here, I encourage you to experience life lived a different Way: That's one of the joys of summer and it's very important that we take advantage of that difference.

Five years ago, NYT best selling author, Rod Dreher published a book about living a different way: [The Benedict Option: A Strategy for Christians In a Post-Christian Nation](#). At the same time, our Archbishop Charles wrote a similar book entitled: [Strangers Living in a Strange Land: Living the Catholic Faith in a Post-Christian World](#). Dreher highlighted the way of life espoused by Benedictine Communities through the ages; Chaput highlighted the counsel found in the Letter to Diognetus. Both sounded the horn that we now live in post-Christian, even an anti-Christian age. Signs of this are abundant in the violence, anger and rage that mark not only newsfeeds but hearts. The sadness, grief, loss of innocence are now part and parcel of our modern day and with all of it comes a hardening of the heart. Yet, there remains another Way!

A beautiful witness of this is Sir Thomas More whose feast we celebrated this past week. He lived this other way while being the King's good servant, a faithful husband and devoted father. His faith in Christ stood out in its peacefulness, hope and love. Watch or read "A MAN FOR ALL SEASON" and let his witness season your heart. Another terrific witness is St. Francis DeSales, he too espoused this other way. Knowing himself to be prone to anger and sadness, He chose to live life differently. Tracked down by murderous and hateful people, he slept in trees, announced the Gospel and lived the Gospel Way.

My friends, it is now our turn to do the same. Amidst the rage, hatred, destruction and violence of our day, we are called to live differently, to show His Way. This is not mere passive non-violence. But rather, a robust embrace and active living the Gospel: Believing and Living it with great faith, hope and love! Now that is exciting, empowering and healing. And it is our Vocation in Christ. Let's live it! This week, pray with these quotes from these two saints.

St. Francis DeSales:

***"Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength."***

St. Thomas More writing to his daughter from a jail cell prior to his execution:

***Meg, In good faith, I trust God's tender pity shall keep my poor soul safe and make me commend his mercy. Do not let your mind be troubled over anything that shall happen to me in this world. Nothing can come but what God wills. And I am very sure that whatever that be however bad it may seem, it shall indeed be the best.***

Peace, Fr. Rogers