

Pastoral Council
Thoughts for Reflection
May 15, 2016

Yearning for the Good Samaritan

The other day, Pope Benedict gave an interview that is well worth reading. One item particularly caught my attention: Man yearns, in his heart, for the Good Samaritan.

In the harshness of the world of technology – in which feelings do not count anymore – the hope for a saving love grows, a love which would be given freely and generously.

Men, in their intimate consciences, expect the Samaritan will come to their aid, that he will bend down over them, pour oil on their wounds, care for them and take them to safety.

The Samaritan images God's love; he puts himself out to help a stranger. He does not wait for someone else to do it. This is an important message for us, where we seem to be deflected from our national identity.

We have been a country built on the idea of freedom for all men based upon inalienable rights that originate in God. But we are becoming a country based on *alienable* rights that originate in - and can be removed by – the state. In the heart of the United States of America, socialism is gaining respectability.

As has been proven repeatedly, socialism doesn't work, but failure is the least of the problems that will be created. In fact, certain failure is the only hopeful thing about it!

Socialism is a terrible sin. It pretends to shallow Christian ideals, but it denies the power of God. It denies the supernatural and the sacred, and emphasizes the natural and the utilitarian. Instead of encouraging charity and excellence, socialism encourages sameness. It imposes a false morality, but once the state becomes the arbiter of morality, it bestows favors upon those who convert to the current ideological fashion – and marginalizes those who don't.

We are not hungry for a government that doles out benefits and protections according to its whims. In our hearts, we want to know the unchanging superabundance of God's love. We want to know, and to experience intimately, Divine Mercy.

Divine Mercy cannot be replaced by the beneficence of the state. If you want to know what the state looks like when handing out privileges, go to the DMV in some large city, take a number, and get in line.