



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! One of my favorite movies is the 1992 Classic: **A Few Good Men**. That movie contains the infamous scene of Colonel Nathan R. Jessep (Jack Nicholson) being interrogated by the young Lt. Daniel Kaffee (Tom Cruise). The questioning was all about who ordered the "Code Red" which took the life of an innocent man. That one scene was so very human and powerful: filled with anger, entitlement and pride. It culminated in the words: **"You want the truth, you can't handle the truth. You're damn right I ordered the Code Red!"** And with the utterance of those words all the tension of the scene evaporated. The Truth was exposed, the movie was over.

Earlier this month, I saw another movie entitled **Sound of Freedom** and quite honestly it was not a pleasant watch. In fact, it disturbed me deeply. It's disturbing in its subject matter: human trafficking, the sale of children. But even more, in the fact that our country is the #1 market for such evil and it's happening now, it's not over. As that movie ended, I came out of that movie with great tension as it reminded me that indeed the truth is hard to handle. In fact, truth can be brutal. Not unlike the light that shines as we come out of the dark theater! This is why we have such a proclivity to lie, cheat and steal even in small ways. Why we have become so clever in cutting corners. Why? Because the Truth is hard to handle. (If you don't believe me, see the **Sound of Freedom**.)

How beautiful that when revealing Himself as Truth, Jesus also said the words Way and the Life! "I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life." This is important for it gives direction. Truth is ordered to Life, not death, to the right Way not the wrong. And it's always better to be on the Way toward Life.

This week, we come to July 25, "Christmas in July", and we have a chance to remember the Gift of Christian Faith. We are the only faith on earth that believes that God became man! That is radical, so too is all that flows from that Truth. July 25 also marks the anniversary of the Church Document Humanae Vitae, a document that taught about human life. When that document came out 55 years ago, it was radical. The contraceptive pill had recently been crafted and the culture of the day was filled with tension and turmoil. Nevertheless, the Church in her most solemn authority continued to teach the Truth that flows from the Incarnation. Namely, that human life is sacred as are those who give and bear Life. And while they, like all, can be used as instruments of lust, their dignity calls them to Life and Love.

I did not live in the confusing 60s and I'm glad that I did not. Some may say that I'm living in the confusing 2000s. But it seems to me that things are actually becoming quite clear. That indeed human life created in the image and likeness of God matters. And it matters very much. How we treat the smallest among us is a good indicator of how we care for ourselves and one another. And sadly, in that regard, America has a lot to learn. What America has done since the 60s in regards to human life is a truth too much to handle. But it's not too much for Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

What a joy to proclaim Him, share Him and Live Him! Recognizing, Believing and Living Him, yields not just a Sound of Freedom but the Reality of Freedom for which we were made. So, do I recommend the movie **Sound Of Freedom**? I do with appropriate reservation. The truth has power to convert us and that's not just recommended to us, it's commanded of us.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers



It is time again to submit your scheduling dates for the fiscal year and reserve your meeting space. The calendar will run from August, 2023 through July, 2024.

Please submit your requirements to the parish office no later than August 6, 2023 to ensure that the space you require is available.

Scheduling will be done on a first come, first served basis.

DON'T TAKE A VACATION FROM YOUR FAITH



It can be difficult to find a Catholic Church while traveling and vacationing in unfamiliar locations. Mass Time Ministry at www.masstimes.org is a convenient way to locate a church so you can continue to receive Holy Eucharist and celebrate Mass.