

July 8, 2015

Dear Parishioners,

I write to you from my family's cabin on the woody shore of the lower Niagara River just before it meets the waters of Lake Ontario.

Canada - with her red and white Maple Leaf flags fluttering up and down the shoreline - is just a short but dangerous swim through the treacherous eddies and mini-whirlpools.

That shoreline once represented incredible hope and freedom, for the underground railroad ran right through this part of New York State. There is a dramatic bronze statue in the nearby Village of Lewiston depicting escaped slaves looking furtively and longingly across the river to the safety of what was then free British territory. One can take driving tours to visit the homes and villages established by fugitive Southern blacks in those bygone days.



It is an interesting thing to ponder, this perennial fight for emancipation. Because sometimes we get it very, very wrong - mistaking libertinism and license for authentic moral freedom.

When we exercise our free will in a manner that goes against God's will, as it is written in our very nature, we end up not free at all, but slaves. Yet not quite like the slaves of the American past - whose bodies were enchained but whose spirits could still have been and often were very free.

No, our modern slavery is an interior, self-imposed kind. It results from a person's abuse of his free will and the voluntary choosing of evil. For now our country has enshrined a set of new evil laws and grafted into its institutions the mechanisms that enslave. The agents of corruption have called murder the "the right to choose," and defiling same-sex liaisons "marriage." Thus both life and love are duly mocked.

This is a far worse kind of bondage. It is as if the chameleon-demon of slavery has reemerged from the depths from which it was once relegated yet seven times stronger.

What an irony it is that the grand path of freedom upon which America once so nobly embarked has ended so bitterly: by calling evil "good" and vilifying those who defend the Truth. Our cultural overlords are guilty of the setting of moral booby traps to ensnare those who are vulnerable in webs of moral decadence. They need ever more slaves to maintain their autocracy of domination.

One wonders if future generations will look back upon our present-day madness and fittingly acknowledge with monuments the heroism the true champions of authentic human freedom - the citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven established by Jesus Christ Himself. For they are certainly in our midst. The question is whether we will be worthy to have our names inscribed on the rolls of honor.

Have a blessed and faith filled summer...

-Father de Rosa