



Cardinal Gibbons Assembly 783
Newsletter
February 2015



REFLECTIONS FROM ST. PAUL DE VINCENT

Humility is nothing but truth, and pride is nothing but lying.

Be careful to give no credit to yourself for anything; if you do, you are stealing from God,
to whom alone every good thing is due.

The Catholic Reader

<http://thecatholicreader.blogspot.com/2013/06/st-vincent-de-paul-quotes.html>

REGIONAL FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION

Our Assembly will host a region Fourth Degree Exemplification on 28 February 2015. Sir Knights who would like to help with this project please contact Faithful Navigator Bob Testa.

Instructions for candidates are on the NC State Council Website at:

<http://www.kofcnc.org/FOURTH%20DEGREE/Exemplification%20Page.htm>.

FAIRNESS

SK Christopher R. Cooper

What is fairness? It depends on who you ask. Some people would say fairness is everyone is the same. That line of thinking is very boring. If everyone is the same there would be no one to excel in their chosen profession; military, writing, mechanic/machinist, medicine, and a host of others. Everyone would be the same. Fortunately, people are allowed to excel. One such individual is the late Dr. Jonas Salk who discovered the polio vaccine. (History.com) Now back to the question, “what is fairness?” According to *Webster’s Dictionary* fairness is, “free from bias, dishonesty, or injustice.” (Braham, 1996) This definition is sage advice to follow. What documents or books expand on this definition? There are three of these that come to mind; the *Declaration of Independence*, the *United States Constitution*, and *The Holy Bible*.

Reviewing American history, Thomas Jefferson penned the *Declaration of Independence*. (Carnes & Garraty, 2003) This document declared the United States’ independence from the British Empire. What does the *Declaration of Independence* have to do with fairness? There is one statement that sums it up, “We hold these truths to be self-evident – that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” (Laidlaw, 1888) In this passage the origin of fairness or being equal comes from God, not men. It can be inferred that unfairness occurs when men lose sight of God as the source of fairness. When men try to enforce a human inspired sense of fairness events run amuck. An example is the former Soviet Union under the rule of Joseph Stalin. (Young, 2015) His sense of fairness was whatever benefitted the state and his power. He took God completely out of the picture. The result was countless people executed as the result of show trials or death of millions in the gulags. The indifference and unfairness to human life permeated the Soviet Union and was one of the factors of its demise in 1991.

The next document that expands on fairness is the *United States Constitution* particularly the first ten amendments also known as the *Bill of Rights*. (Carnes & Garraty, 2003) The Bill of Rights protects our rights from the government and ensures men are fairly protected from government intrusion. The Founding Fathers fought the

War of Independence because of the overreach of Parliament and the British Monarch. They wanted to make sure there are safe guards against these governmental incursions on the citizens' rights. Examples of fairness in the *Bill of Rights* are freedom of religion, freedom of the press, right to bear arms, and protection from unlawful search and seizure. These rights as the Founding Fathers knew come from God to men and not from the government. If men meddle with these rights events could lead to the negative utopia of the Soviet Union and fairness being defined by man and not God.

Christ provides mankind with the best definition of fairness in the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of St. Matthew. The Sermon on the Mount covers chapter 5, 6, and 7. The passage in question is chapter 7 verse 12, "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets." (USCCB, 1986) Sometime in the 18th century this passage became known as "The Golden Rule." If you treat people how you would like to be treated you will not go wrong and fairness will be achieved. One of the most egregious examples of the violation of The Golden Rule is the Holocaust perpetrated by the Nazis government of Adolf Hitler. (History.com, 2015) Hitler viewed the Jewish people as less than human and a danger to the "Aryan race." The next statement is my opinion. Hitler would not like to receive the same treatment he and his henchmen metered out the Jewish people of Nazis occupied Europe. Hitler devised his manmade concept of fairness that resulted in the death of 6 million Jews and other people he deemed not worthy of living.

What is fairness? Manmade concepts of fairness end in disaster. Examples from history are numerous. Two of them are the Soviet Union and the Nazis government of Adolf Hitler. In the Soviet Union a negative utopia emerged. Life was cheap and many perished in the purges of Joseph Stalin. Fairness was defined as the state is supreme and the individual if necessary would be eliminated to protect the state. Under Adolf Hitler a religion and its member were systematically murdered. Fairness was defined to protect the master race. The Founding Fathers of the United States took a different course. They based fairness as coming from God as evident in the *Declaration of Independence* and the *United States Constitution*. People from all over the world make their way to America because of these precepts. Christ in the Bible in the Sermon on the Mount gives mankind the best definition of fairness in the Golden Rule.

Works Cited:

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CARDINAL GIBBONS ASSEMBLY HONOR GUARD

NEW HONOR GUARD COMMANDER WANTED

Faithful Navigator Bob Testa will not be to continue as Honor Guard Commander. If you are interested in becoming Honor Guard Commander contact him or any of the Assembly Officers to volunteer.

UPCOMING HONOR GUARD EVENT

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Location: TBD

Date: April 17, 2015

Show Time: TBD

Start Time: TBD

Completion Time: TBD

More details will be sent out when they arrive.

CONGREGATION OF PRIESTS OF THE MISSION

SK Christopher R. Cooper

In this installment of our journey of the different monastic orders we will cover the Congregation of Priest of the Mission founded by St. Paul de Vincent. (Fisheaters.com, 2015) This order is also known as the “Lazarists” and the “Vincentians.” The name Lazarists comes from the Priory of St. Lazare in Paris, France. This place is where St. Paul de Vincent lived while he accomplished most of his work. (Catholic Encyclopedia, 2015) The mission of this order as the name indicates is to perform missionary work primarily to educate the Faithful and converts about Catholic doctrine and the Church. This article will cover a history of St. Paul de Vincent and the Congregation of Priests of the Mission.

St. Paul de Vincent was born in Dax area of France on 24 April 1581 A.D. (VCCS, 2015) He came from peasant stock. (EWTN, 2015) On 23 September 1600 A.D. he entered the priesthood. St. Paul de Vincent was an intelligent man earning a degree in Theology at the University of Toulouse, France. After several assignments he began service to the Gondi family in 1613 A.D. The origin of the Congregation of Priests of the Mission began here. St. Paul de Vincent observed the Faithful in the rural areas of the Gondi estates were weak in knowledge of Catholic doctrine. He instructed them on the teachings of the Church. Madame Gondi requested him to start a mission every five years to instruct the Faithful on Catholic doctrine. On 17 April 1625 A.D. St. Vincent de Paul and his companions took the name for their community, Congregation of Priests of the Mission. The order was formally recognized by the Vatican under Pope Urban VIII on 12 January 1632 A.D. During this same time St. Vincent de Paul was granted use of the Priory of Lazare. This place is where he did most of work and it is the mother house for the order. To ensure the continuation of the order he wrote the “Common Rules or Constitutions” in 17 May 1658 A.D. St. Paul de Vincent was called from this life on 27 September 1660 A.D.

The Congregation of Priests of the Mission continued to flourish after the death of St. Paul de Vincent. The ordered weathered the storm of the French Revolution and spread throughout the world. A notable influence in the United States is St. John’s University located in Queens, New York. More information about St. John’s University is available at: <http://www.stjohns.edu/>. The closest Congregation of Priests of the Mission to Fayetteville, NC is St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Greensboro, NC. More information is available at: <http://www.stmarysgreensboro.org/>

For more information about the Congregation of Priest of the Mission in the eastern United States go to their website at: <http://www.cmeast.org/>. For the western United States information is available at: <http://www.vincentian.org/>.

Works Cited:

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IN MEMORIAM:

Please keep in your prayers for the repose of the soul of:

All Deceased Knights of Columbus.

All Members of the U.S Armed Forces.

All First Responders.

ARTICLES FROM THE ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP

Any Sir Knight who wants to submit an article to the Newsletter, turn the article into Faithful Scribe SK Chris Cooper at the next Assembly meeting or send it via email to COOP5614@yahoo.com.