

## Homily – April 14, 2021

By Fr. Virgil Petermeier, osc

We celebrate God who intervenes in our world not by condemning but by offering true salvation and by empowering brave messengers and bearers of Christ's light. Often, we choose paths leading to illusory or false salvation. So, we call upon our compassionate God.

In the first reading, we heard that an angel of God intervened to keep the Good News about the Risen Christ proclaimed in brave manner. The Good News is that God did not send his son to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. Christ's light, though often not preferred, is going to conquer the world's darkness. The first reading ends with a glimpse of that victory, telling us how the Court officers were gentle in arresting the apostles due to the many people who were so enthusiastic and convinced about the apostles' Good News regarding the risen Christ.

We continue to need people who bravely proclaim the Good News about Christ Risen, consistent with Christ's saving message—not condemning, not violent and offering true salvation. One of those brave voices is one of our own Crosier confreres in Onamia, Minnesota, Fr. Ernie Martello, osc. He sent a message to the Minneapolis Star Tribune yesterday for hopeful publishing. It is titled, "When will we ever learn?" I will read his message.

There are too many guns in this world. There are too many guns in this country. The loss of life in the past century and in this century is too much to fathom; it is unbelievable. But it has been this way always, through all human-recorded history. Always and everywhere, people have been killing people, before guns were invented.

I think I can say with some surety that all religions exist to bring God's peace to the world. To really recognize God, one must then recognize one's sisters and brothers. You can't really and authentically believe in God without a growth in love that extends out to others, and finally to the whole world.

Beloved Pope Francis has recently written a small volume titled, "*Let Us Dream*," with the subtitle, "*The path to a better future*." He starts with the pandemic and says that this is the chance that we could learn something, namely our dependence on each other. This covid crisis hides all the other crises among us, one of them being the proliferation of arms, of guns. I believe that he is right and I believe that many of us see that. The recent killings and conflicts in Minneapolis are just the tip of an iceberg.

Can we imagine a world without guns? Are any of us brave enough to say "enough is enough?" Could we possibly imagine ourselves saying "let us really strive to live by the

religious principles that humankind as a whole embraces, even among those who are atheists or agnostics?”

These crises which we recognize globally are a CHANCE! Could we actually begin to change? We could, but only individual by individual, family by family, synagogue by synagogue, mosque by mosque, and church by church, organization by organization. LET GOD'S VOICE IN THE PEOPLE'S VOICE BE HEARD!!! When will we ever learn...when will we ever learn?

Fr. Ernie, underscores Jesus' **light** of true salvation, namely, LOVE. Fr. Ernie decries the **darkness** of false security, which too many in our society hope in by supporting supposedly problem-solving wars and the illusionary safety by guns. Our true savior, Jesus, enlightened us, saying, “The one who uses the sword will die by the sword.”

When will we ever learn? When will we ever prefer Christ's light over the world's darkness?