

Fr. Perozich comments —

Not a few lay Catholics have commented to me regarding politicians, the pope, and bishops who offer strong opinions which seem to border on doctrine because of their positions in government or church.

These two articles turned on lights for me. I think they speak for themselves to any reader, requiring no more analysis or comment from me, except to say that while Selwyn Duke speaks of politicians, it immediately directed my thoughts to leaders in the church as well.

My email to Selwyn Duke:

Dear Selwyn,

Your article on pols aroused the same sentiments in me about church hierarchs these days in lust for power, overbearing edicts, promotion of their ideas rather than the gospel, personal and questionable applications of the scripture to control the thoughts of us Catholics, the silencing of priests who address the novelties in church pronouncements from bishops, the additions to final documents from the Vatican which were not discussed in their synodal sessions, obfuscation of abuse claims, false claims against priests who are traditional, and on.

It seems to be a personality trait in some who will hold to power no matter the cost. Since my pleasure would be food, I do not have sympathy for the lust for power.

Thanks for the clear explanation.

Fr. Richard Perozich

And an email from me to another re the Bill O'Reilly article:

Francis has his personal outlook that he cannot attribute to the papal office as from the Holy Spirit.

He may have a desired outcome of improvement of lives for the poor, but he is not competent to direct world affairs to achieve it.

He, like me, should try to change hearts and form souls with the grace of the Bible and the sacraments to allow God to work through believers rather than try to partner with those who hate the church.

November 29, 2020

The Pope vs. President Trump



Pope Francis is a good man. At least I think so. He's seriously interested in alleviating suffering and corruption around the world and uses his influence to do that. His ultimate boss must be very pleased.

Jesus the Nazarene was a compassionate, practical guy who looked at the cold world with a realistic weariness. "The poor will always be with us," he told his followers.

With precision, Jesus spoke of ambition and achievement in his parable of the three workers given investment capital by their employer. The man who did nothing with that opportunity was scolded in the parable for squandering the gift he had received.

In his new book "Let Us Dream," Pope Francis also speaks of practical matters, confronting the world of Covid and directly criticizing the actions of President Trump.

Having written "Killing Jesus," a history of the most famous human being who ever existed, I think the Pope may be making a significant mistake in his analysis, one that the teacher Jesus would not have made.

On page two of the book, the Pope writes: “Think of governments having to choose in the pandemic. What matters more: to take care of people or keep the financial system going? Do we look after people, or sacrifice them for the sake of the stock market? Do we put the machinery of wealth on hold, knowing people will suffer, yet that way we save lives? In some cases governments have tried to protect the economy first, maybe because they didn’t understand the magnitude of the illness, or because they lacked the resources. Those governments have mortgaged their people.”

That is quite the indictment by Francis. So, playing devil’s advocate with His Holiness, let me challenge.

No country on earth has successfully eliminated Covid and a number of them badly damaged their own citizens by ordering intense lockdowns. That’s a fact.

I guess a case could be made that Sweden’s refusal to take strong isolation action led to more death in that country. That seems to be true.

As for the United States, President Trump did not want to panic the markets and create intense economic hardship. Remember, about 13 million Americans have contracted Covid. There are 330 million of us and we are all dependent on the market economy which slid into recession shortly after the virus hit.

Pope Francis is responsible for souls, an American president for bodies. Folks have to have money to support themselves and, under Mr. Trump, the U.S. economy has remained resilient while other nations have faltered.

It is true that Donald Trump did not aggressively promote mask wearing and punishing lockdowns. He was also far too optimistic about defeating the pandemic in the beginning. He might have handled those things with more touch and, surely, has paid a political price.

But the President did not “mortgage” his people. He protected their hard earned assets and investments. He also successfully fast-tracked a vaccine.

Capitalism comes through again.

Pope Francis is a disciple of “liberation theology,” a theory that demands social concern for the poor and political “liberation” for oppressed peoples. I believe Jesus would have endorsed that concept as well.

But it is HOW you provide for the downtrodden that separates the saints from the sinners. Allowing all citizens opportunities to improve their lives in this callous world should be the basis of “liberation theology.” Protecting folks from harm is equally as important as long as you don’t “destroy the village” in the process.

In the age of Covid, the USA continues to lead the planet in social and economic opportunities. With all due respect to the good man Pope Francis, President Trump contributed greatly in allowing opportunity to continue to knock through an extremely dangerous time.

At least that’s the take from this loyal American Irish-Catholic.

2nd article below

Me, Über Alles: The maddening reason politicians break their own lockdown rules

By Selwyn Duke
November 29, 2020

There's hypocrisy, damned hypocrisy, and the actions of statist politicians.

Most of us have seen the pictures or heard the stories. Governor Gavin Newsom, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Sen. Diane Feinstein and other leftists have been caught blithely breaking the very COVID-19 restrictions they self-righteously visit on the citizenry. In the case of Denver mayor Michael Hancock, he recently flew to Mississippi not an hour after warning city residents to "avoid travel, if you can." I guess he couldn't.

This has left a lot of Americans wondering if these posturing politicians actually believe their own coronavirus rhetoric. Many no doubt don't, at least not completely. Also, whatever they believe, they quite surely lack the discipline (not a big word among leftists) to adhere to any program. What would we expect, after all, from people whose only consistent credo is "If it feels good, do it" other than convenience-driven behavior? Yet there's another, mostly unknown reason for these politicians' hypocrisy.

Studies have shown that leaders, no matter the time or place, tend to be worse than the people they lead. A major reason for this is that politics attracts power-mongers (along with the narcissists and sociopaths).

Power lust is alien to most people. Oh, they can understand lusting after sex or food or money, as virtually all of us have related urges (just hopefully not to a disordered degree). Though it's a rarer defect, however, people can lust after power in just the way a robber baron may crave money; a nymphomaniac, sex; and a glutton, food. But most people can't relate to this problem — and generally don't even consider its existence — because they're not saddled with it; instinctively projecting one's own mindset and priorities onto others is a common error.

(If only this weren't so, people might be more on guard against the power-driven, known as "megalomaniacs.")

Now, megalomaniacs are overrepresented in politics because, of course, that's the realm in which you can most directly exercise control and power. These people love it, "need" it and live for it. At risk of seeming frivolous, I think the following nine-second *Star Wars* clip well epitomizes their mindset.

_____[Please insert: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sg14jNbBb-8>]
(If Gavin Newsom actually had the above ability, he could at least make himself useful and remedy his state's rolling blackouts.)

So how does this relate to COVID hypocrisy? Well, one way to enhance your sense of power is by *flouting rules everyone else must follow*. It's even more of a rush if you imposed those rules on them in the first place.

It can make you feel special, above it all, like an elite, master of all you survey. Rules are "for the little people," as the supercilious suppose, so you can feel like a big person if you're beyond rules, beyond limits, beyond constraints.

These politicians are beyond reason and rectitude, though, tragically. A truly great leader knows he should share the sacrifices he asks of his people, but our power-mongers will have none of that. The point, however, is that they're not necessarily just weak and willing to violate their own rules. Often, they *revel in doing so*.

Leaders' increasing exhibition of blatant hypocrisy is also a sign of a declining republic. In a healthy one, this is less possible because politicians are held accountable. But to whatever degree a pseudo-elite establishment places itself beyond voter discipline (e.g., via rigged elections), it can in the same proportion place itself beyond the voters' government-imposed burdens.

Megalomaniacs will never stop exercising irrational control over you because control is the goal, an end unto itself. They inflict their torments not just with the approval of their own consciences, but at the urging of their most animalistic desires.

Contact Selwyn Duke, follow him on [Gab](#) or [Parler](#) (preferably) or [Twitter](#), or log on to [SelwynDuke.com](#).

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