

I HAD A DREAM:

Dreams to my thinking are a recombination of experiences of the previous day, thoughts, feelings, drives, and maybe even more things; at least most of the time.

For the holy ones of the Bible charged with great duties such as St. Joseph sometimes God spoke to them through dreams.

He may use dreams to communicate with us common folk as well, mostly for the dreamer's own understanding, which might be shared with others who are certainly free to accept or reject the dream, since there is no new revelation after Jesus Christ.

My dreams mostly are pleasant reveries.

Last evening the dream was a nightmare.

A group of us priests were meeting with a representative of the bishop for instruction on how to speak on the topic of chastity with warnings of what we were NOT permitted to say regarding homosexuality such as that the behavior was sinful, that people can and should be chaste, among other things.

The representative to us priests was a priest himself, a practicing and promoting homosexual, and was an attorney (no idea why that appeared in the dream). He had his own office apart from the rest of us priests and authority from the bishop to instruct us.

The representative had a giant viper with him and many smaller vipers under the control of the big one. Whenever one of us priests would disagree with the representative's lies, the smaller vipers would attack us. Some of the priests were bitten with gashes on their faces for challenging the representative.

As this was happening the meeting dispersed with us priests running out of the room to try to find in a safe place where the snakes could not enter to harm us.

I retreated into a room, closed the door which had no gap on the floor, jumped onto a bed to keep off the floor in case the snakes had gotten in to come after me. As I looked around, two kittens scampered into the room and jumped up onto the bed. At that point I understood that the snakes were gone and could not get in, and that I was safe.

Then I heard and saw the priest representative who was sent to promote the unchastity and message of the bishop in the rep's office screaming for relief. The large viper had the priest's head in his mouth, gashing his face, and would not let go.

The priest representative remained in the jaws of the snake agonizing and screaming for relief which did not come. He was now completely in the

grip of that very snake which he had threatened to unleash upon us priests to whom he was sent to make us obey him.

Then I woke up frightened yet relieved that it was only a dream.

Perhaps the recent bishops' advocating for the rights and concerns for LGBTQ youth but without the chastity component might have played into the dream.

Still the visual of this priest representing his bishop and being physically in the grip of the viper whom the priest had served faithfully and which he had threatened to unleash on the rest of us, gave me a visual understanding of what it means to be in the grip of sin, of the devil, and of the power that the evil one has to corrupt men's hearts and minds with the seven deadly sins.

Now I'll sit before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament praying for myself for constant alertness and fidelity in order to be free in Christ, and that Jesus free all those caught in the grip of the devil.