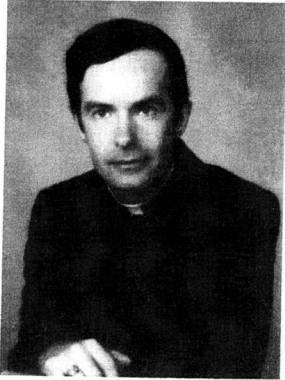


Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd...



Continued from April...

Historically, since before the American Revolution, gun ownership by private citizens has been an accepted and unquestioned right in American culture. Many of us can easily remember when, not very

was no need for locked doors, metal detectors, ID badges, cameras, and security guards in schools, churches, government and corporate office buildings, or airports. Throughout our land, we dwelled quietly and securely in our villages and cities without living behind walls with bars on our windows and gates on our entrances. Then, in recent years and with increasing frequency, an alarming number of today's mentally ill and demonically inspired echo the prophetic words to be spoken by a villain in a future time and different place: "I will go up against the land of unwalled villages; I will fall upon the quiet people who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls and having no bars or gates..." (Ezek. 38:11) To illustrate this dramatic shift in recent years, consider the record of just those incidents involving a shooting at a school. In all of the 18th century, there was only one. The 19th century witnessed only 28. Then, in the 20th century, there were 227. Just 18 years into the 21st century there have been 207. What accounts for this sudden escalation of violence?

Every time a vehicle backfires, gun-control advocates raise their voices in a chorus to intone their mantra calling for the disarmament and increased vulnerability of Americans. They shamelessly use the scene and innocent victims of every tragedy as a platform to promote their superficial, naïve, and simplistic solution to a complex problem. They attempt to undermine the 2nd Amendment by skewing the intention of the Founding Fathers and the interpretation of a "well regulated militia" to mean a

militia composed of professional law enforcement, not ordinary citizens. Gun-control advocates either fail to recognize or refuse to admit that maniacs committed to violence will, if deprived of guns, use bombs, poison, vehicles, knives, clubs, even their bare hands to intimidate, maim, and kill. Do gun-control advocates honestly think they can regulate all of these methods of producing mayhem? Have they ever considered that guns have both defensive and offensive uses? How many lives could be saved by an armed potential victim during the response time needed for police to arrive at the scene? How many justify their advocacy of the abolition of Americans' freedom of choice to bear arms as way to save lives, yet also advocate abortion (infanticide), which destroys lives, and attempt to justify it as the right of freedom of choice? This has to be a prime example of getting your wires crossed and your knickers on backwards.

We can and should enact additional legislation where needed to make gun possession illegal for the mentally ill, minors, and those convicted of violent crimes. But, research documents that violence not only continues to exist, but increases where strict gun laws are imposed. We must also remove the violence that proliferates movies, TV, video games and music, infecting the impressionable minds of millions. We must restore constructive discipline in homes and schools. We must expose "political correctness" as blind denial; the refusal to admit there is a problem and correctly identify its cause. "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil..." (Isa. 5:20) However, the real solution is much deeper and more complicated; we must address the root cause of mass murder, not just the methods used. John Adams stated, "Our Constitution (our form of government and society) was made only for a moral and religious people (those inculcated with Judeo-Christian values). It is wholly inadequate to the government of another." Adams was addressing 220 years ago what we are experiencing today; there can never be enough laws and

policemen to maintain order in a society composed of people who lack self control. Both the root and solution of the problem are located in the heart—the mind, conscience, soul. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately corrupt; who can understand it?” (Jer. 17:9) We cannot rely on politicians and jurists to understand it.

Daniel Tompkins (1774-1825), governor of NY and vice president, said,

I cannot omit this occasion of inviting your attention to the means of instruction for the rising generation. To enable them to perceive and duly to estimate their rights; to inculcate correct principles and habits of morality and religion, and thus to render them useful citizens, a competent provision for their education is all essential.

Whether as parents in the home, clergy in the church, or educators in the school, we must teach once again the Judeo-Christian morality, values, and ethics that originally made America great in obedience to Christ's admonition, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations (beginning with our own), ...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...” (Matt. 28:19)

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