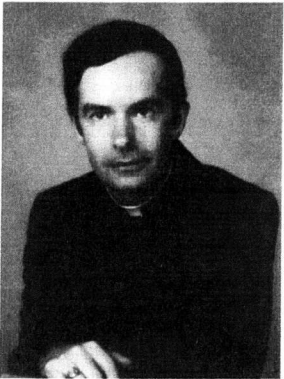


Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd...



In my hometown, a story is told about a priest of Irish descent who became legendary during his long tenure in this parish. When he arrived here in the early 1900's, the KKK was active in this area and some members, clad in white sheets, decided to call on the new priest. When they

announced their presence outside the rectory, the priest greeted them with his gun and asked which of them would like to be the first to receive the last rites. In the verbal exchange that ensued, he recognized some of their voices, one belonging to a member of a family that owned a business on the courthouse square. In the back of the store was a heating stove where local men, KKK members included, gathered to pass the time of day. Not long after the encounter at the rectory, the new priest walked into the store and joined the group assembled around the stove. With repeated visits as time passed, he was gradually accepted as one of the good old boys.

In the years since the KKK was organized, it has been accused of promoting racist as well as anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic views. Whether or not the stories that convey history are pleasant or not, the truth needs to be told from generation to generation without politically-correct editing, revisionism, or personal bias.

Several months ago in Popular Bluff, Missouri, a history teacher asked his students to give presentations on constitutional amendments. Each student wore a costume associated with the amendment they studied. One of the students discussed the 15th Amendment which guaranteed freed slaves the right to vote and wore the costume of a Klansman for illustration. Instead of a white sheet, thin-skinned liberals saw a red flag and erupted in self-induced convulsions of hysteria. The instructor was accused of insensitivity and lapsed judgment, suspended, threatened with termination, and subjected to groveling at the feet of foaming-at-the-mouth fanatics with profuse apologies and pleas for forgiveness.

One of the leaders of the mob out to "lynch" the instructor was a Negro pastor who seemed to exercise an inordinate amount of influence over the public school district's superintendent. Why does this not upset the same liberals who demand the separation of church and state? By exaggerating this event out of proportion, all of the district's teachers will now be subjected to "diversity" training. It is a strategy common to liberals to enact their agenda by exploiting the emotions of fear and hate. They throw tantrums and create chaos, then promise to restore order and peace if they get their way. Allowing them to have their way only concedes defeat, inflames their passions, and evades truth and lasting peace. To paraphrase Franklin, those who give up their freedom of expression for temporary peace deserve neither freedom nor peace. Critics of the history teacher attempted to justify their anger by noting that hate crimes have increased in the last three years. How many hate crimes have been committed by liberals, like Antifa and their sympathizers, against conservatives and Christians? These same critics demand that "...some education on these hurtful symbols and their history is very much in order." It is also hurtful that Confederate and Christian symbols are increasingly under attack. Yes, let's educate students about their true history and what they really symbolize instead of creating an inaccurate and even libelous curriculum of propaganda under the misnomers of "history" and "education." One of the students in Poplar Bluff rightly asked why the instructor was being attacked when, after all, the class dealt with history. Ironically, the report of this incident never once mentioned the content of the student's presentation; all of the attention was disproportionately focused solely on their costume.

On the campuses of school districts and colleges, liberals seek to rewrite and teach a version of history that caters to their sensitivities. Like Napoleon, they ask, "What is history but a fable agreed upon?" Robert Walpole, Britain's first prime minister, declared, "All history is a lie." Liberal's version of history would make that statement true. They insist that the WBTS was over slavery, the Founding Fathers were deists, the US was never a nation of Christians, and the Holocaust never happened. Where history is concerned, I cannot quote often

enough Santayana, who said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Consequently, we witness gangs of thugs like Antifa repeat the tactics of Nazi brown shirts in the streets of our cities. Denial of the Holocaust is fueling the rise of anti-Semitic and anti-Christian hatred on college campuses. Christians, Jews, and those with conservative views, intimidated by their teachers and fellow students, are afraid to exercise their freedom of speech or do so in restricted areas and behind closed doors in hushed tones.

Jonathan Haidt wrote a book entitled *The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas Are Setting Up a Generation For Failure*. Today's liberals and their proteges, students who will be the next generation of adults, have tunnel vision, acute sensitivity, and higher levels of intolerance because they have been over-protected and sheltered from failures, disappointments, and perceived offenses that are all part of reality. Unable to cope with experiences and ideas they find disturbing, there is an increased need for counselling due to depression and anxiety. The newest movement at colleges across the nation is the acceptance that failure, uncomfortable as it is, can be a beneficial experience and that learning from our failures and those of others can give one strength and resilience. Building on this revelation, how much longer will it take before these same people experience the epiphany that a return to freedom of expression and civil debate of different ideas will also produce strength and resilience? The answer to that question will determine our success or failure as individual citizens and collectively as a nation of Americans.

Fr. Richard W. Rudd
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