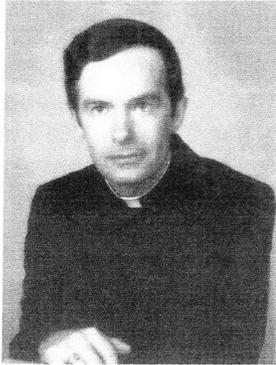




## Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd



(A continuation of last month's article)

"The sun rises and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises." (Eccles. 1:5) So the dawn of an era appears on the horizon and it rises to a climactic brightness only to return to the horizon. Its

fading rays blend into the faint glow of the dawn of a subsequent era and the proverbial torch is passed from one generation to another. The times pass with the time and we, like the men of Issachar, strive for understanding of the times to know what to do.

As the years pass and I traverse the streets of my hometown, I sense in the atmosphere a haunting specter of change. One cannot actually see it clearly, yet the unmistakable awareness of its presence can be felt in the air. There have been some topographical changes, but the general landscape and familiar landmarks remain much the same. It is the same place I have always known, yet somehow, it is not the same town. It has been wisely observed that it is not where we are or what we are doing, but who we are with that matters most. This simple yet profound truth explains the riddle of what has happened to my hometown and my homeland. It is we the people who are the defining element of a place, whether it is our home or town or nation, and a particular era in time. If America and what it means to be an American have changed, it is because Americans have changed.

Medieval artists depicted saints as being surrounded by halos similar to the shekinah light of God (I Jn. 1:5) that glowed about Moses after his descent from Mt. Sinai (Ex. 34:29) In 1939, science caught up with theological knowledge when Kirlian photography was developed. An aura composed of electrical coronal discharges emanates from living people, animals, and plants and changes according to physiological and emotional variations. When a part of the body is removed or death occurs, the aura continues to outline the missing form for a time. Then gradually, the glow fades until it vanishes. As people depart from a place, the effects that emanate from their presence

also diminish with their absence. We experience this from within the home when a family member leaves or dies. Eventually, others assume their vacant places and the atmosphere is changed. The America that many of us and all of our predecessors have known is passing with time. Like a body racked by disease, call it liberalism or atheism or relativism or globalism, America is becoming more and more unrecognizable and indistinguishable from the rest of the world. If our response is wanting or too ineffective to match the challenge, all that will be left is the fading glow of the memory of what once was. Kirlian photography can only verify what we already know with our heart.

The crisis America is facing does not originate with the politicians who have been elected to public office, the minority segments of the population that are agitating for more political power, or the litany of controversial issues. These are only the symptoms of a problem that is deeper and more serious than most realize. The statement from the comic character Pogo says it best; "We have met the enemy and he is us." Citizens of European descent have been the controlling majority since the colonization of America and are projected to be so for at least the next quarter of a century. Politicians and the issues that animate them come and go and minorities cannot accomplish their agendas alone due to the sheer percentage of their numbers. The real threat to America as we have known it comes from the scalawags among the dominant majority who vote carelessly, are ignorant of the issues before them, and act in collusion with hostile and self-serving minorities. The question posed by the 2008 and 2012 elections is whether or not the scalawags now form a majority among those of the dominant culture. The Republic can survive a few incompetent politicians, restive minorities, and prickly issues. To do so, it will require leaders who can offer experience to make practical application of theory to reality, perspective to utilize a working knowledge of the past and vision for the future to see the present clearly, and continuity to communicate and transfer tradition and culture to successive generations.

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What it cannot survive is a majority dominated by a horde of depraved fools who think they can lead but have lost their way, who are ignorant of America's foundational history and subscribe to a twisted revisionist version, who are in a state of intoxicating delirium about their current world and times, and who live by blind expedience in the present with no vision for the future. What President Garfield said about congressmen applies to all government officials. He said, "Now, more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their (politicians). If (they) be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption." It has been said that people get what they deserve; only those who are content with what they get are willing to admit it.

(To be continued next month)

***Fr. Richard Rudd***

**Hughes Camp Chaplain**