

## WHAT IS OUR STRATEGY?

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

THOSE ARE THE QUESTIONS WHICH I'M SURE ARE BEING ASKED IN OFFICES OF LAWYERS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS AND CLERICS IN THE DIOCESE OF BUFFALO AND MANY OTHER PLACES THIS WEEKEND.

WHAT IS THE STRATEGY?

THAT WORD CONJURES UP SCHEMES AND PUBLIC RELATIONS AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES. IT CONJURES UP BUSINESS AND "BRANDING" AND MARKET SHARE AND STATISTICS.

OF COURSE, THE WORD "STRATEGY" CONJURES UP THOUGHTS OF BATTLES. AND THERE IS A BATTLE GOING ON FOR THE SOUL OF THE CHURCH IN BUFFALO.

## SO WHAT IS OUR STRATEGY?

LAST WEEKEND I SAID AT THE BEGINNING OF MASSES THAT I DID NOT WANT TO GO DEEPLY INTO ISSUES SURROUNDING THE ABUSE COVER UPS IN PENNSYLVANIA AND BUFFALO. I THOUGHT THERE NEEDED TO BE TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT. AND THERE ARE NO EASY ANSWERS.

THE ISSUES ARE DEEP, SYSTEMIC, AND ROOTED IN—WHAT SOME HAVE RIGHTLY CALLED—THE ARROGANCE OF CLERICALISM...

SOME HAVE TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECTED THEIR OWN ISSUES AND AGENDA TO THE ABUSE CRISIS AND HIERARCHIAL COVER-UPS.

ALLOWING **MARRIED CLERGY** IS NOT THE ANSWER. PAEDOPHILES DO NOT STOP BEING ATTRACTED TO CHILDREN BECAUSE THEY ARE MARRIED.

ALLOWING **WOMEN PRIESTS** IS NOT THE ANSWER TO THIS CRISIS. LOOK AT THE **MAGDALENE LAUDRIES IN IRELAND** WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPOSED FOR WHAT THEY ARE JUST A FEW YEARS AGO—PLACES OF TORTURE EMOTIONALLY, SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY.

EVEN THE RESIGNATION OF SOME CARDINALS, ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS—WHILE IT MAY BE WELCOME IN SOME CASES—WOULD NOT SOLVE ALL THE PROBLEMS.

SOMEONE SAID TO ME THAT I MUST BE HAPPY TODAY... THEY SAID "YOU NEVER LIKED THE BISHOP."

AND I **STOPPED HIM AND SAID THAT I TAKE NO JOY OR GLEE IN SEEING THE DOWNFALL OF THIS MAN.** IN THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS -- **SINCE THE BISHOP'S PASTORAL VISIT HERE AT SAINT BERNADETTE'S FOR THE PRO-VITA AWARDS MASS**—I HAVE FELT A CHANGE IN HIS DEMEANOR AND HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERNS TO HIM ABOUT SEVERAL PASTORAL MATTERS. IT WAS SOME OF HIS POLICIES AND ADVICE BY A HIS SUPPORT STAFF THAT I DIDN'T LIKE.

**THERE IS NO JOY IN SEEING A 73 YEAR OLD MAN DROWNING IN A TREMENDOUS FAILURE OF TRUST.**

UNFORTUNATELY, **AS WLOF RADIO AND DEACON PAUL SNYDER HAVE INDICATED IN THEIR CALL FOR BISHOP MALONE'S RESIGNATION,** THE RECENT REVELATIONS IN THE CASES OF FR. AMITH AND YETTER—BOTH OF WHOM SERVED HERE AS ASSOCIATES UNDER MSGR. NUGENT—AND THE RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS INDICATES A LACK OF GOOD JUDGEMENT ON THE PART OF THE BISHOP **AND HIS ADVISORS.**

**BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE, THERE IS NO JOY IN THIS.**

AND, BY THE WAY, THE VOICES OF THE POLITICIANS WITH THEIR OWN PERSONAL AND PUBLIC AGENDA CARRY NO SWAY WITH ME. MANY SUPPORT ISSUES WHICH ARE DIRECTLY OPPOSED TO THE CONSISTENT LIFE ETHIC OF THE CHURCH. AND THEY ALL SEEK HIGHER OFFICE OR REELECTION.

**BUT DEACON SNYDER AND THE STATION OF THE CROSS DO.**

SOME HAVE TOLD ME THEY DON'T TRUST POPE FRANCIS.

Homily Notes August 25/26 2018  
Fr. Paul D. Seil, Twitter @BuffaloPadre  
Saint Bernadette Church, Orchard Park, NY  
Recording from Mass on Saturday will be  
posted on Parish Website.  
[www.SaintBOPNY.org](http://www.SaintBOPNY.org)

**(ADDED SUNDAY: IT HAS JUST BEEN REPORTED THAT ARCH-BISHOP CARLO VIGANO HAS CALLED FOR THE POPE'S RESIGNATION. THE FORMER POPE'S DELEGATE TO THE UNITED STATES WAS, HIMSELF, ACCUSED OF ORDERING THE DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE IN THE ABUSE CASE IN THE MINNEAPOLIS/SAINT PAUL ARCHDIOCESE WHICH SAY THE RESIGNATION OF THE ARCHBISHOP THERE.**

DOCUMENTATION BELOW)

July 21, 2016. From the NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER ONLINE. The Vatican envoy to the United States quashed an investigation into alleged homosexual activity on the part of Archbishop John Nienstedt and ordered a piece of evidence destroyed, according to an 11-page memo unsealed Wednesday afternoon.

In the memo, Fr. Dan Griffith, then-Delegate for Safe Environment for the St. Paul-Minneapolis archdiocese, stated that in April 2014 Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the U.S., ordered two auxiliary bishops to have a St. Paul law firm quickly wrap its investigation and later that month instructed them to destroy a letter they had sent Vigano pushing back on his request.

The memo, dated July 7, 2014, was a part of numerous legal documents disclosed Wednesday following the conclusion of a criminal investigation into the archdiocese by Ramsey County prosecutors. The six criminal charges brought last summer were dropped after the archdiocese agreed to add an admission of wrongdoing to the civil settlement it reached with the county in December. No charges were brought against individuals, with Ramsey County Prosecutor John Choi saying there was insufficient evidence to do so against any one person.

The documents, though, give perhaps the clearest view to date into the until-now largely concealed investigation of Nienstedt, which explored allegations that he engaged in sexual misconduct with other adult males, including seminarians. In previous months, local media had obtained and reported on several of the allegations.

Griffith, who served as Delegate for Safe Environment from August 2013 through July 2014, was the liaison between the archdiocese and the law firm, Greene Espel, conducting the investigation. Together, his dual roles gave him a front-row seat to how the investigation emerged, unfolded and was ultimately abruptly wrapped.

I BELIEVE HE –FRANCIS- WAS TRULY CHOSEN THROUGH THE GRACE OF THE GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THAT HE IS THE ONLY ONE – **THE ONLY ONE**—WHO CAN EFFECT ANY TRUE CHANGE DESPITE THE FACT THAT AT LEAST TWO VATICAN OBSERVERS HAVE SAID THAT HE IS FIGHTING DEEPLY INGRAINED ARCH-CONSERVATIVES WHO WISH TO MAINTAIN THE CLOAK OF SECRECY AND DECEPTION.

**WHAT IS OUR STRATEGY??**

MY FATHER'S FIRST COUSIN—DON KANE—ALWAYS HAD TWO WORDS OF ADMONITION AND ADVICE TO HIS CHILDREN AND TO ANYONE WHO WOULD LISTEN:

**BE GOOD**

THEY ARE ON HIS TOMBSTONE. HIS WIFE PAT HAS THESE TWO WORDS:

**MERCY ENDURES**

THAT IS OUR STRATEGY. **BE GOOD AND REMEMBER THAT THE MERCY OF GOD ENDURES FOREVER.**

I HAVE ALWAYS FOUND TODAY'S GOSPEL --- THE END OF THE BREAD OF LIFE DISCOURSE -- PARTICULARLY PAINFUL AND TOUCHING.

AS THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS START TO DRIFT AWAY BECAUSE HIS TEACHING IS SO DIFFICULT, HE ASKS THE HEARTBREAKING QUESTION:

**WILL YOU LEAVE ME TOO??**

PETER, IN ONE OF THE TRULY GREAT MOMENTS OF HIS LIFE ANSWERS FOR THEM ALL:

**LORD... WHERE WOULD WE GO?? WE HAVE COME TO BELIEVE AND WE KNOW THAT YOU ARE THE CHRIST OF GOD.**

WE WILL CONTINUE TO TALK ABOUT THESE MATTERS AND TRY TO ADDRESS THESE CRIMES AND SINS. BUT FOR TODAY, I WILL JUST ANSWER THE QUESTION THAT CHRIST—THE BREAD OF LIFE ASKS US.

LORD... WHERE WOULD WE GO?? WE HAVE COME TO BELIEVE AND WE KNOW THAT YOU ARE THE CHRIST OF GOD. CHRIST IS OUR LIFE AND OUR HOPE.

**THAT IS OUR STRATEGY.**

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