

May 5, 2020

I want you to know that I am troubled by Governor Holcomb's announcement yesterday that houses of worship can resume normal activities this Thursday but then added in the fact that recommendations in place for weeks now, should still be observed by those over 65 and maybe masks are a good idea and maybe distancing should be observed and maybe there should be no contact, etc.

Either there is a sound basis for what we have been doing or there isn't. Houses of Worship of any kind should not become our new casinos.

The whole thing stinks to me and doesn't sound very convincing and it doesn't reflect what appears to be data based on science that the premature relaxing of restrictions will inevitably lead to increased contamination and infection and death.

His earlier suggestion that Indiana has sufficient hospital and medical resources, likewise, sounds like wishful thinking. How could he be so confident?

Basic Christian ethics seeks the common good with a definite and intentional decision to care for the most vulnerable. Jesus is not stronger than a virus and claims to the contrary are simply blasphemy.

There are several well-known tales in the Old Testament, where a supposed special friend of God is saved from harm because God favors them. Daniel in the lion's den and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are just two of those stories but when you get to the New Testament no such thing happens.

When Jesus is hanging crucified the crowd waits expectantly for God to rescue him but that doesn't happen after the Gospels had clearly taught that being God's son does not make you immune to suffering, pain, and loss in the stories about the temptations by the devil in the desert.

The "for profit/political" model of Christianity that has found its way into Catholicism operates with a kind of smug superiority that puts itself above ordinary people making "faithful Christians" exceptions to the messy aspects of life in the flesh.

Real Christianity defers and serves and trusts and doesn't need a building to worship God through Christ, as Matthew's Jesus teaches dramatically teaches, "whatsoever you do to the least, you do unto me."

In a communication from Bishop Mc Clorly yesterday, he indicated that he understood and appreciated the complexities and risks of opening and that he was not inclined to put anyone at risk, not simply those who would go to Mass but everyone else as this disease is still dangerous and undeterred by the politics and false piety of the times.

On Thursday, the Bishop will respond with his plan for us going forward so be patient, please, and remember that we have an ethical and moral responsibility to everyone to try and keep people safe and save lives.

I wonder where the usually extremely vocal and absolutely sure of themselves "right to life" folks are in all of this.

The idea that some people are expendable and not as valuable as other people is a perennial lie that haunts civilization, I pray that we do not become believers in that lie.