

**Father Fred's Homily on the 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time  
October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

(Reconstructed into paragraph form from an outline)

“Jesus, Master, I want to see” All of his life he was blind and longed to see. How novel, how ironic, that this man wanted to see- to be free of blindness, yet so many of us twenty centuries later want to choose blindness-a blindness of the heart and soul which often allows us to be free to do things that offend God.

Pope Benedict calls it secularism and neo-paganism. We are all in danger of paganization. It is an attitude that isolates God and that detaches God from our everyday life or compartmentalizes Him inside a church on Sunday. The new paganism is a form of deliberate blindness. It sneaks up on us because it pervades our culture. Catholics and all Christians can - and are - affected by this chosen blindness. Instead of us bringing light to the secular world we somehow allow our eyes to be clouded by the world. We embrace this new cultural paganism in which moral relativism drifts downward toward no moral compass at all.

Yes, we Catholics are guilty of this. Even many priests and possibly a few bishops have been sucked into it. Appeasement, cooperation, and accommodation with pagan values is a gradual thing. “Live and let live.” “Toleration” are catch phrases for paganization. “It’s the way things are – what can you do?” Many will say. And then what? If there are no moral values the next thing that goes will be judicial laws that protect us because they were based on the moral law. If there is no right or wrong (The pagans would say “feelings”) then all authority, rationality, morality and purpose for life goes out the window – leaving only the tangibles like food, money, sex and material possessions. Neo-pagans may or may not attend church, but if they do - church does not affect their lives.

Pagans care not about the future. They fundamentally do not believe in an afterlife. So it is the here and now that matters. We Americans are in a process of rapid paganization. We are in a culture where God is shouted down for something else. (Like the crowd in front of Pilate calling out: “We want Barabbas”)

So then what? Russian writer Fyodor Dostoyevsky wrote: “Without God, anything is possible.” We Americans regularly drink the false “Cool Aid” from television. The news network reporters predominately are not practicing any religion and have the same left leaning political bent. Television shows try to mainstream and normalize immoral or bizarre behaviors. Be they mystery shows, police shows, soap operas, MTV, that idiotic survivor show where people sit around in their underwear eating bugs and trying to swindle others off the show, even the decorator channel, --and don’t get me started on the so called “ History Channel”. I am told that next fall there is a new comedy TV series called “The new Normal” I am willing to bet it will be new but not normal. What we see in the media, we accept as normal, OK, and “the way it is”. Then there are the movies....where nudity is the new normal. So far the only safe viewing is EWTN, ESPN, the Weather Channel and my personal favorite – the Food Channel! The nation’s news source to a large degree is from the Associated Press which is slanted way to the left of center and dominated by the same folks who dominate other media. And how’s this for creeping paganism: AARP, and organization that is supposed to help seniors, is a supporter of abortion rights! Don’t they get it? If unwanted unborn children can be terminated at will, whose next? Unwanted expensive older citizens! Hello? The word is paganization!

There is also a dangerous pattern if you look at world history. When any Federal or Central government takes precedence and takes over the personal welfare of the populace, e.g.: Socialism, there is an equal push against organized religion – indeed faith in general. For one to succeed in power, the other must be sidelined or vanquished. There is a direct connection between Socialized government and the paganization of that culture. Marx said that religion is the opiate of the people. In the US, the most powerful religious block is the Catholic Church. If it can be divided or sidelined or weakened, the foot is in the door for the next step.

Pagans are not worried about religious freedom or the rights of Catholic hospitals universities or welfare programs like Catholic Charities. They want the crucifixes out of hospitals and colleges and the values those symbols represent to be silenced. After all, religion is the problem they would say.

Pagans are not concerned about changing our religious and cultural values – like marriage. They are totally comfortable with redefining marriage as between two men or two women. Never mind the sacred scriptures in Genesis, second chapter: “For this reason a man shall leave his mother and father and be united to his wife and they shall become one flesh.” Never mind Natural Law. Marriage has always been a cultural institution as well as a Sacrament. Now we all know that we should never discriminate against people who have a same sex attraction. We know that same sex couples have been together since before the days of ancient Rome. It is a free country, The moral issues aside; people are free to live as they please. But the rest of the population should also not be discriminated against as well. The long term agenda is to mainstream these values and force everyone to say that is the same thing as male-female marriages and force the churches to

acknowledge the same. I recently heard that in France they have outlawed, as a legal term, the words “father” and “mother” from any legal written material, such as birth records, so as not to offend same-sex parents. So far at least, you are currently free to call yourself the king of Spain or the Queen of England-just don’t force me, by the rule of law, to say that - when I know better!

You will recall I am sure, the big issue over the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant chain owner who came out publically against same sex marriage? How the mayors of LA and San Francisco and NY and Chicago wanted to outlaw his company from having stores in their cities. Imagine, the mayor of Chicago, who just ended that teacher strike where the teachers were getting 76 thousand dollars a year and wanted more money and the 8<sup>th</sup> graders in that city can’t read or do math anywhere near grade level, and Chicago’s unbelievable murder rate and the mayor is more worried about Chick-Fil-A coming into his city because the owner supports natural marriage. You think we are not being paganized?

Besides, that last time I checked, you need a rooster AND a hen to have fertile eggs or else NOBODY gets chicken!!!

Most importantly, pagans do not care about abortion. Scripture says to us “Thou shalt not kill.” But the original translation is “Thou shall not murder.” Abortion is a planned murder. Pagans have no problem with abortion for any reason at any stage of the pregnancy. It could be the wrong time for a baby, or the baby might be the wrong sex, or might not be perfect or not enough money in the bank, whatever. Pagans support things like partial birth abortion where the almost born child’s head is punctured at the back of the neck and its brains are vacuumed out. A veterinarian would not do that to an unwanted dog!. Or if

another procedure is used and the baby survives, it is left on a shelf to die.

Guess what? If you haven't heard – these very issues lay before us in this election on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Freedom, marriage and life will be forever changed after that date. Catholics can not check their Christianity and leave it in the car when they go in to vote! Some may. God help them! You vote for a candidate, you “buy the ranch-the whole ranch” and everything that candidate stands for. If you buy a house you buy the entire package: you can't say I don't want the kitchen or the driveway. No, you buy it all: freedom of religious expression for Catholics or lack thereof, same sex marriage, abortion on demand-everything. I thank God that our bishop has spoken the truth to us on these issues. I am at a loss for words how any Catholic, much less a priest or bishop could vote for those values and still think they do not offend God by supporting evil. It is easy and convenient to forget that someday when we breathe our last, this too will come up in our personal judgment.

I pray that we choose sight, not blindness. For God's sake, for America's sake and for your own sake-  
**DON'T VOTE LIKE A PAGAN !**

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Paragraphs three and four, though not an exact quote, is paraphrased from an excellent book Of All That Is, Seen and Unseen, by Gerard M. Verschuuren