

## Homily 4th of July 7-5-15 (Lindsay)

If you study the prophets in the Old Testament there is one thing that is nearly always a constant: the prophets were not welcomed and they were not loved. Why is that? A prophetic voice isn't a voice that predicts the future. Some of the prophets did that, but that isn't the point. What the prophets were doing was calling the people back to the truth, crying for a change of course, crying for repentance. Jesus was the greatest of prophets. Remember He is priest, prophet and king. His role as prophet was the primary reason He was crucified. People don't appreciate being told they are doing what is wrong and evil, that they need to change their ways. It is in our human nature, a residue of original sin. Even a small child doesn't appreciate being told 'no', a fact any parent will readily testify to. Yet, a good parent doesn't allow a child to play with matches, gorge on cake and cookies 15 minutes before supper or do any number of destructive or stupid things. A good parent says 'No' quite often. Is it easy? No. But who said it would be easy?

I noticed that in the Economist magazine there was a cover story last week calling for the legalization of doctor administered suicide for people that don't wish to go on living. This is a profoundly atheistic, despairing stance to take. The principal assumption of this position is that human beings have no ultimate destiny other than the grave and since the grave is our lot, then why

not avoid pain towards the end by putting people to sleep as if they were dogs? The only difference between a human being and a dog is that the human is self conscious and has a higher degree of intelligence than the dog. This is the underlying argument in the so called same sex marriage debate. Marriage isn't a holy thing, a Sacrament ordained by Almighty God for the preservation of the human race, but a mere social construct that can be molded into whatever shape that is desired by the latest fashion. That isn't true, cannot be true, and will never be true.

Our bishops of the Catholic Church are being tested as they haven't been tested in a long time. Bishop Michael Olson just issued a pastoral letter that is available on the Ft Worth Diocese website. We will put into next week's bulletin. I urge each of you to read it and ponder it. The bishops are the modern Isaiahs and Ezekiels. They will receive the same amount of love and respect that those great prophets received in their time, that is very little. But it is our duty to love and respect our bishops for standing up for the Truth, with a capital 'T'. The Knights of Columbus, world youth day, and other Catholic groups and organizations are needed more than ever to help bishops, priests, and deacons stand firm against the tide of despair and nihilism that is the hallmark of modern society.

In the amazing love that God has for humanity, he enters into a covenant with each of us. The plan of salvation is the story of fulfilled covenants and regular invitations to be a part of God's family.

But oftentimes, humanity—that means each one of us—think we know better. We see the invitation to be a part of God's family, but we choose instead to live as orphans, and to follow paths of darkness. We rebel.

God could respond to our rebellion with severe punishment, devastating neglect, or divine indifference. In moments of rebellion, however, God sent, and sends us, prophets. They are a witness to us of God, his covenant, and of our invitation to be a part of his family. This is the role our bishops have today. They aren't out to win a popularity contest, to do the easy thing, to go along with what is popular and win them plaudits from the commentators. They would be guilty of dereliction of duty if they did that. They must stand for the truth if they are to stand for anything. And so must we.