

Don't be a flying monkey

Sept. 6, 2015

As I criss-cross the diocese to cover this or that event, I often hear murmurs about the world being in such sad shape.

But, is it really? I ask myself. Is the world *really and truly* in as bad of shape as everyone seems to believe?

Yes, I answer. *Yes it is. And to top things off, I'm talking to myself.*

At the top of the list is: 1) ignoring Christ's demand that we love unconditionally and respectfully the life of His children who are still in the womb, and 2) ignoring Christ's demand that we love unconditionally and respectfully the life of His children who are outside the womb.

And then there's ISIS. Having known Muslims, I've learned that there's a part in the Koran where *Allah* makes clear that killing innocent people, especially children, makes him *very angry*. *Hey ISIS people, check out Chapter 2, Verse 190, I dare you.* And while you're at it, check out the teachings of Jesus, whom your own religion dictates is *one of God's greatest gifts to all humankind*. (Koran, 3:49)

This is a group that *could* deplete the Wizard of Oz's entire stock of minds and hearts, their desires being only peaceful coexistence with all God's children, if only they were to accept a few simple truths.

Sadly, if people want to fight, they always will find a reason. There are those who will always prefer the ways of the evil flying monkeys.

Third, as Bishop John mentioned in his column on Page 1, race relations have taken a hit lately. It's not that things have gotten worse, it's just that the struggle has been put before us, thanks to the electronic public eye. Now that we know we have a problem, what do we do? We try to fix it! I mean, if you find out your gutter is filled with gook and the water is spilling over and flooding into your basement, you put on your work gloves, get on your ladder and clear out the gutter! (My wife just read this and said that for full disclosure, I must include the following: "In 15 years, I, David S. Myers, have never cleaned my gutters.")

If only fixing race relations were as easy as cleaning your gutters (if you clean your gutters). As I've mentioned before, I grew up with several refugees from African countries living in my home at different times. I'll never forget what Ishmael (yes, this is true) used to say to me when we'd sit in our basement playing Mastermind: "Oh, Dave, you are so stupid." And I'd laugh, knowing that he was instilling in me a sense of humility that would help me greatly in my years to come. Okay, actually I didn't think that at all. All I thought was, "Dang".

Fourth: At a session at the recent Stewardship Conference, I learned that there was a person (yep, this is true, too) who married a dolphin. *She married a dolphin!* This truly does laugh in the face of the sacrament of marriage. (As if this weren't enough, the dolphin didn't have a job and had absolutely no visible means of supporting a family. When asked by his future father-in-law what he wanted to do with his life, the dolphin splashed water in his face and made a high pitched, "EEE EEE EEE! EEE EEE EEE! EEE EEE EEE!" Ironically, scientists in animal behavior later determined this to mean, "I'd like to be a certified public accountant, or possibly a math teacher. I'm not really sure.")

Fifth (and far more serious), we've got this awful, rarely-talked-about sickness showing itself to us in the alleged crimes of a man who was held aloft by multitudes. Bill Cosby was my hero. Every Saturday morning I watched Fat Albert while eating my Cocoa Puffs. I had the albums and quoted from "The Chicken Heart that Ate New York City." And now? It's still difficult for me to process that level of depravity. Then there's Jared the Subway guy.

Please take this to heart: The easiest way for the devil to take an otherwise good person down is through sexual temptation. Porn is just a click away. Like drugs, porn is self-devouring. On Page 2 of this issue is a listing of several sources to help if you have an addiction, and to help keep this filth off your home computers, etc.... But, it takes more than that. It takes diligence-- and prayer.

Sixth: The presidential race, regardless of party affiliation, is always an achingly disappointing, head-scratching, mind-numbing affair filled with candidates who love the sound of their own voice but often say very little. And yet, we must remain vigilant! We must stand fast! In the words of one of our former vice presidents, "If we don't succeed, we run the risk of failure." That's so true.

The Good News ... actually, the GREAT NEWS ... is that there's A LOT of Great News! 1) For every bad guy, God's given us 100 awesome people 2) One of God's greatest gifts to us is joy and laughter; Seek out reason to use it! 3) The human race came with with easy-to-understand instructions 4) God will love us -- all of us -- unconditionally our *entire lives*, even when we make bad choices 5) As rough as life can get, thanks to God's gift of His Son, our Loving Lord Jesus, we can know that life is just a stepping stone to an eternal vacation with our best friend.

And that is indeed great news!