

"Go, teach all Nations"

Sample Letters to a Newspaper

Always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in you, yet to do so with gentleness and reverence.

1 Peter 3:15

MISTAKEN EQUALITIES

Some inequalities are worth preserving:-

Truth does not equal error.

Beauty does not equal ugliness.

Good does not equal evil.

God does not equal the Devil.

Choosing those second alternatives makes for unhappy living, isolation from others and social disintegration. The nobler choices are the basis of science, philosophy, art and ethics. A Religion that upholds natural morality and asserts the evil of murder, adultery, theft and lying, might be harder to practise but is more practical. Indeed, it underpins civilization and real freedoms, and avoids the horrors of Hitler, Stalin, Mao and Polpot.

There is a piece of trickery in elementary algebra that proves that two equals one. Actually, it is a fraud, a cheat, even a lie. Similarly, by chopping a square into two triangles and two quadrilaterals, and rearranging them, it is possible to deceive the unwary that $64 = 65$.

Similarly, it is neither helpful nor truthful to ignore the different wiring of the brains of men and women — or of their reproductive organs. Experience and modern science agree. It is not bigotry to say so, nor is all discrimination evil.

Mistaken equalities are handy for rabble-rousing soap box oratory.

Before today's aggressive promotion of atheism and amorality, marriage always involved male and female, even if aberrations like concubines and harems were tolerated. True equality is not getting just anything you want but respecting differences. That's fair!

BEST BET ON GOD

SOME AGNOSTICS, atheists and other irreligious persons would like everyone to convert to them and thereby ensure peace in the world — reversing our Gospel of converting others to God and Godliness.

A good test of any religious or non-religious faith is which is the most noble in its teaching and practical results. The more noble the teaching, the harder it will be to practise — and the more shocking the failures. Not surprisingly, people struggle with Christianity. We have to love our enemies and those who hate us, and alas, sometimes we find ourselves even hating our friends!

Pascal, who gives his name to air pressure in tyres, was given to gambling. He reckoned it was best to bet on God since we would never know if we were wrong! At least, that's a starting point for enquiry.

SANTA CLAUS

NICHOLAS of Myra was a fourth century saintly Christian bishop in what is now modern Turkey.

He was famous for the small bags of gold he gave to three maidens as the dowries they needed for honourable marriage.

Thus he became the patron saint of children and of giving them presents. In eastern Europe, children are given presents on his feast day, 6th December.

For English speakers, such presents developed into Christmas presents on 25th December, with parents acting for St Nicholas, Santa Claus, "Sinter Claus" in Dutch. A bishop is a "father in God", so he is called "Father Christmas".

Far from being a rival to the Baby Lord Jesus, he reminds us of God's supreme Christmas present to mankind, Jesus Christ, His Son and our Saviour.

MAKING MOTHERS

NOTHING is the same as matrimony. While the word "marriage" comes from the making of a husband, "matrimony" says more, for it means the making of a mother.

Only a woman can be a mother. Only a man can make her so. One young man's proposal of marriage was, "Can you hear the pitter patter of little feet on the floor?"

No substitute is possible for matrimony. Nothing has equality with marriage.

It's one of God's greatest inventions. It's a living symbol of His union with creation, with humanity, and with His Church. It's a symbol which makes His purpose present from generation to generation.

Without such a vision, the people perish.

GOOD AND EVIL

ACCORDING TO the old Sunday School chorus, "The best book to read is the Bible".

So, once upon a time a boy I know wagged Sunday School by pretending to be sick. He offered to sit in the wintry sunshine and read the Bible, starting from Genesis. Genesis means the Beginning.

Genesis was chock-a-block with good and evil, ranging from the noble to the obscene, from God to the Devil:

Some was inspiring. Let there be light. Increase and multiply and fill the earth. Tend the Garden and keep it. Not good for man to be alone. Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed but a few days because of the greatness of his love. Lots of parental affection.

On the other hand there was murder, slavery, masturbation, rape, sodomy, fornication, prostitution, incest, polygamy, theft, lies, false witness, false pretences, sibling rivalry, jealousy. Wow!

And life in society. Big government, centralized

economy. A high-rise tower, fire, flood, famine. Tragic infertility. Remarkable obstetrics and animal husbandry. Sharp bargaining, even with God!

Actually, it's just like today. All that's missing is abortion and euthanasia, where we have sunk lower.

However we are also far better off, with a Saviour from sin, His moral code and power-packages to live Godly lives.

INTELLECTUAL MARXISM

ARE THE elected politicians of our democracy gradually legislating civilization out of existence?

Are we to be trapped in a *Nineteen Eighty Four* scenario of totalitarian domination by governments?

Is total promiscuity the latest sop for a *Brave New World* without religion and its morality; without marriages and its families, and with children unplanned, unwanted bi-product?

Democracy never was enough. After the 1989 fall of Russian communism, Solzhenitsyn, that true patriot, said democracy would not suit the Russian people because what they needed was a dictator who would be responsible to God and to his conscience.

Read Dr Paul Kengor's 2015 book, *TAKEDOWN, From Communists to Progressives, How the Left has sabotaged Family and Marriage*. Its back cover is headed "Exposing the Radical Movement to Redefine Family and Marriage". It traces the Neo-Marxism take-over of academics and education and its morphing into Freudian-Marxism.

Good Old Father Jim

by Mrs Michele Vieira

for the celebration on 26th September, 2015,
of his Golden Jubilee of Priesthood and 80th Birthday.
Tune: *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

FR JIM has been a priest for 50 years today
He has taught us all to worship God
and how to kneel and pray
He has written books and handouts,
lots of letters every day:
Our priest is Fr Jim

CHORUS

Glory be to God for good old Fr Jim (thrice)
He is our beloved priest.

2. He grew up out at Beecroft,
went to school at Homebush High
He learnt to read and write at school,
to add and multiply
He went to Sydney uni. then on to Sydney seminary
He learnt to be a priest.

3. As Fr Jim he went to work
in service of Our Lord
In Penrith, Ryde and Naremburn,
his priestly life outpoured
With weddings, Baptisms, confessions
and his preaching — no-one was bored
They all loved Fr Jim

4. When families came to see him

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all upset and all distraught
For they sent their kids to Catholic schools
but the faith there was not taught
So he wrote his catechism and his Confirmation kit
And taught them in the park

5. When it was heard that teachers
did not know the truth to teach
He started courses for them all
so the children they could reach
With the truths of our great Catholic faith
through timeless recipes
Of passing on the faith

6. The Newman Centre blossomed
out of this apostolate
It's grown and grown in spreading truth
in books and pamphlet (*pronounced pamph-el-et*)
With statues, pictures, rosary beads,
advice all given free
The faith is passing on

7. Homeschooling next became the grounds
for Fr Jim's advice
Encouraging the mums and dads to try was no surprise
He's our unofficial chaplain,
champ -i -on for all our needs
He helps us teach our kids

8. He retired from active ministry
and moved to Tarlo town
He never stopped his priestly work
but grew in high renown
Answering letters by the dozen,
providing all our spiritual needs
He continued being God's priest

9. These days he goes more slowly,
walks with staff and hat and boots
He tells us all the stories of his childhood and his roots
He drinks a pint of tea each meal,
lights fires with just one match,
And prays for us each day

10. We hope he lives upon this earth
for decades yet to come
Still sharing the faith, encouraging us —
the kids, the dads and mums
To persevere, to do our best to be God's holy ones
He still serves God today.

What's his Apostolic Agenda?

ANSWER: Activating the lay apostolate.

- Writing *Handouts* from his Daily Log Book of Ideas.
- Researching answers for letters, faxes, phone calls.
- Writing Letters to the Editor of the *Goulburn Post*.
- Getting *New Boys Go Bush Again* into print.
- Recreation writing of *New Boys' Bush Rescue*.
- Major revision of *Heart Speaks to Heart* prayer book.
- Completing how-to-teach *Catholic Family CatechIST*.
- and talking and listening to young and old.

Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.

Father James Tierney