

Bishop Jaime Soto – Homily for Lobby Day April 27, 2010

La gritería rencorosa en el foro político ha subido bastante mientras el bienestar y la concordia social siguen deteriorándose. Esta tendencia recriminatoria ha producido medidas maliciosas como la sucedida en el estado de Arizona, azotando a los inmigrantes como chivas expiatorias por los problemas que inquietan a la sociedad americana.

En estos días, los gritos reprobatorios han sido lanzados con nueva ferocidad: “Salgan de aquí, ilegales.” “Criminales”, otros dicen. “Terroristas.” En medio de la agitada turbación social, algunos nos animan a responder con otros desprecios adversarios. “Racistas.” “Facistas.” “Intolerantes.” “Nativistas.”

Es alarmante cuando el discurso social está medido más por su volumen que por su contenido.

No es solo la controversia sobre la presencia de los inmigrantes en este país. Recuerden el duro debate sobre la reforma de salud. El acuerdo logrado por nuestros representantes dejó al margen a los niños no nacidos y a los indocumentados. Los más vulnerables fueron los más indefensibles.

Esta lógica chueca todavía resuena en los pasillos de nuestro capitolio. Mientras los legisladores aprueban recortes que aumentan la miseria de las familias mas vulnerables, se mantienen resolutos en la aplicación de fondos para proveer el acceso al aborto. ¿Qué sentido distorsionado de salud sacrifica la vida inocente del niño para el bienestar fiscal del estado?

Las voces de los sin defensas se pierde en el desafinado y desconcertante alarido entre nuestros representantes estatales que presenciamos hoy en día. Tan fácil para nosotros caer en lo mismo, perdidos entre las pocas opciones el foro político nos presenta. Tan fácil buscar los culpables y endemoniarlos. Como consecuencia, nuestra voz no será tan diferente. Igual resonará nuestro lenguaje con un tono lleno de amargura y represalia.

Por eso, antes de encaminarnos al capitolio es justo y necesario levantar nuestros oídos para escuchar la voz buen pastor, quien nos dice hoy, “Mis ovejas escuchan mi voz y yo las conozco. Ellas me siguen, y yo les doy la vida eterna.” (Jn. 10.27) No estamos aquí trayendo ninguna otra voz, sino sola la voz del buen pastor, la voz de justicia, concordia, respeto, y paz. Para que seamos mensajeros eficaces de esta voz salvadora, es importante que estemos

primeramente atentos y dóciles al pastor que nos guiará por los caminos de la vida y la verdad. Su voz es confiable. Su amor es incansable. Su verdad es sensata y saludable para todos.

“My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” The steady, confident, and reassuring voice of the Lord Jesus still speaks to us. He calls us each by name. He knows each one of us. He hears our pain and he knows our worries. He never tires of calling us because he is the way, the truth and the life. Before we go over to the Capitol this day, let the voice of the Good Shepherd echo in our hearts. Let his words settle in our brains. His voice reminds us of who we are. He clears the confused, cluttered clamor of partisan politics so that we can see the way, truth and the life for the people of California.

The life of California depends on recognizing the dignity of life for all Californians. This dignity is not defined by state government. This God-given dignity defines the purpose of state government. Our social covenant should enable the life and liberty of the human person, not eliminate or exclude those who don't fit in.

The truth for California is found in recognizing what binds us together as one people. The power and industry of this State is found by weaving together the sincere hopes and honest ambitions of our diverse communities. When we ignore or dismiss the truth of the human person, we deny the true goodness that can make California great.

The way for California is discovered in recognizing the life and the truth that each person can bring to the table of hope.

The perplexing problems of California are not an excuse to obscure who we are and all the good that we can do together. For this reason, we come to the table of the Good Shepherd where he places before us the way, truth, and the life that can save California. We first listen to him so that when we go to the Capitol we can speak of what we know and believe. This has to be first in our hearts. We must make it first in California. Our life, our safety, and our welfare are assured when our social covenant pursues the life, safety, and welfare of all.

What distorted sense of health care can exclude the weak and frail while funding the desperate, hopeless act of abortion? What kind of society makes prisons the crucible for expanding an angry, violent generation while universities close their doors to the earnest aspirations of our youth? How can so many fields lay fallow and family tables remain empty? How much longer will our public discourse be measured by its volume and not by its content?

We know this is not our calling. We know that we can do better. We are not persuaded by a polemic that claims to be pragmatic. We are not intimidated by problems that are portrayed as too complex. With hope and confidence we bring the voice of reason and responsibility that we heard from the Good Shepherd. We recognize his voice because we are first of all his brothers and sisters. We know his voice and we follow him. So when we go into our meetings, may all know that we are the followers of the Good Shepherd. May they know that we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Let us together pledge that:

We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
They will know we are Christians by our love

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love

They will know we are Christians by our love