

## **The Rest of the Story**

29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 21, 2018

The late Paul Harvey was noted for his punch line the rest of the story.

Here is one written by him in 1993.

If I were the devil . . .

I would gain control of the most powerful nation in the world;

I would delude their minds into thinking that they had come from man's effort, instead of God's blessings;

I would promote an attitude of loving things and using people, instead of the other way around;

I would dupe entire states into relying on gambling for their state revenue;

I would convince people that character is not an issue when it comes to leadership;

I would make it legal to take the life of unborn babies;

I would make it socially acceptable to take one's own life, and invent machines to make it convenient;

I would cheapen human life as much as possible so that the life of animals are valued more than human beings;

I would take God out of the schools, where even the mention of His name was grounds for a lawsuit;

I would come up with drugs that sedate the mind and target the young, and

I would get sports heroes to advertise them;

I would get control of the media, so that every night I could pollute the mind of every family member for my agenda;

I would attack the family, the backbone of any nation.

I would make divorce acceptable and easy, even fashionable. If the family crumbles, so does the nation;

I would compel people to express their most depraved fantasies on canvas and movie screens, and I would call it art;

I would convince the people that right and wrong are determined by a few who call themselves authorities and refer to their agenda as politically correct;

I would persuade people that the church is irrelevant and out of date, and the Bible is for the naive;

I would dull the minds of Christians, and make them believe that prayer is not important, and that faithfulness and obedience are optional;

I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money;

I guess I would leave things pretty much the way they are.

And how true this has become over the last 25 years. Our country, our community, our families and our church are in serious need of a wake-up call. We need to be aghast of some of the things that are allowed to go on in and around our lives. We need to be ashamed of some of the things we have said and done. But the devil does not need to be the author of the rest of our story. "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help." His grace and mercy are with us. With Jesus we can make a difference. We can make sure that we put God first in all we do. We do not have to put up with what is going on around us for another minute. We can take time to vote. We can take time to pray. We can take time to speak up and not be silent. We can root out the evil in us and around us. It is time to say that enough is enough. We cannot take the easy way out. But it will not be simple as James and John were taught in the Gospel today. "Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." We remember our shepherd and servant, Bishop Cistone as an example of that service and dedication. We can be part of God, rather than the devil, writing the true rest of the story for our nation, our community, our family and our church. Begin today writing the rest of the story!