

Colloquī

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A journal for restless minds

Celebrating Death

Such Evil this way comes

Deacon's Diner

Food for a restless mind

Colloquī is a Deacon's Corner weekly journal. Its mission and purpose: to encourage serious discussion, to promote reasoned debate, and to provide serious content for those who hope to find their own pathway to God.

Each week Colloquī will contain articles on theology, philosophy, faith, religion, Catholicism, and much more.

Be forewarned! Articles may and often will contain fuel for controversy, but always with the express intent to seek the Truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help us God.

Celebrating Death

Such Evil this way comes

Once there was a land so blessed by God; from sea to shining sea her abundance the stuff of legend, her demeanor a welcome beacon for those longing to be free. Free from the heavy yoke of oppressive government, of tyrant, dictator, emperor or king. Free to worship Almighty God as their faith allowed. Free to succeed or fail on their own merit, neither asking for a handout nor demanding what they had not earned. Free to live morally, free to love truly, free to pursue happiness, free to be — all souls equal in the eyes of God.

Once there was such a land; alas, it is no more, all now but a distant memory.

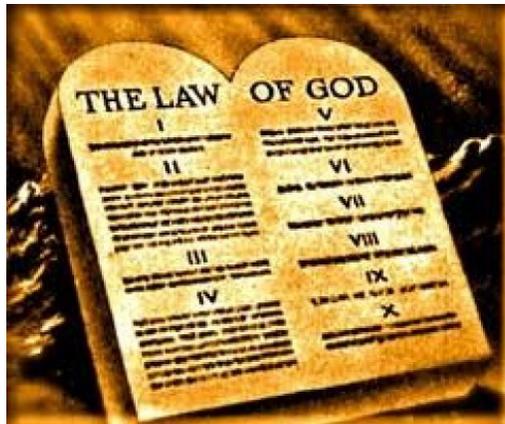
Perhaps, it was a mere fairy tale, a mythic legend now sunk beneath the weight of sinecure and hubristic license.

Fading memory too often loses what reasoned truth made it a memory; too carelessly forgotten are the ancient rhymes from souls long absent this earthly coil. Their voices cruelly silenced by the clamorous clattering clangoring chatter of such evil, which of late, this way comes.

Such evil will not be minded of such salutatory salubrity that echo still from graves of far better reason; far better for evil to bury reason and truth be-

neath the cover of mutable promises and vacuous pleasures.

Once there was a "new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that



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all men are created equal." That nation has lost its way, tossed its moral compass to the wind, and found God inconvenient.

Liberty, freedom, morality, ethics, justice, reason, truth, life and love — all that is good and of God — no longer hold meaning; such notions now replaced by evil and of Satan: subjugation, restraint, immorality/amorality, selfishness, injustice, unreason, "my/your truth," death and hatred.

Whether it is mere apocrypha or something rightly attributed to Albert Einstein, it is inarguably true that evil does not exist or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is the same as darkness and cold, a manmade word created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil; evil comes from man's denial or ignorance of God. It is the same as the cold that comes when there is no heat or the darkness that comes when there is no light.

Should you have ever wondered how a virulent moral virus could have so infected a nation with a willingness to kill millions, you could, of course, look beyond our borders to the madness of Hitler, Stalin, Mao, and other modern genocidal totalitarian tyrants. Jacob Howland, in his review of Soviet Jewish writer Vasily Grossman's dissident novel *Life and Fate*, described just such totalitarian madness.

For the totalitarian State is something like an extremely heavy metal, and its nucleus — the point where all ideological, technological, and administrative forces converge

and achieve maximum concentration — is a death camp.

Vasily Grossman depicts a perverse Last Supper in which Adolf Eichmann, on an inspection tour of a camp, is presented with a table of wine and *hors d'oeuvres* placed in the center of a gas chamber. Howland relates:

Ukrainian witnesses interviewed by Father Patrick Desbois in *The Holocaust by Bullets* testified that the men of the *Einsatzgruppen* banqueted next to the pits where Jews were being shot.

The biblical God nourishes soul and body alike — literally, in the case of the communion wafer. Totalitarianism reverses this relationship. Like some primitive, malformed Titan, the State, Nietzsche's "coldest of all cold monsters," feeds on human lives.

We read of such abhorrent evil and we cringe — that is, those of us who are still holding on to some small measure of our humanity — asking ourselves how can some men not only commit such heinous cruelty and so obviously celebrate and enjoy actively engaging in such evil. And yet, such cruel inhumanity and pernicious evil cannot be relegated to the archives, for such evil is with us still.

Just as John the Baptist said of the Christ, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30) so also is it with God and Satan, Good and Evil. When God who is Good is decreased (in our heart, mind, and soul) Satan and Evil must increase.

Recent events have shown how drastically our dependence on God has fallen. In Albany, New York, Governor Cuomo, a faux-Catholic, on the

46th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision, signed a law which effectively allows for infanticide — another name for post-birth abortion.

Robert P. George, Senior Editor for Touchstone magazine, reacted with disgust and horror — much as all with a shred of human decency have done.

Until a few minutes ago, I had never felt physically ill as a result of watching something on television. But the video footage of New York legislators applauding and cheering the monstrous late-term abortion bill they passed yesterday on the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* literally nauseated me. The sheer inhumanity of applauding an act licensing and facilitating the killing of six, seven, eight, even nine month babies — babies who could be delivered and survive; babies with fully formed faces, eyelashes, fingernails; babies who hear and are familiar with their mother's voice — turned my stomach. What kind of people are we? How can so many be utterly blind to such gross and manifest evil? These people were cheering. They were *cheering*. Where did this fanatical commitment to ensuring that the lives of children in the womb count for nothing — indeed less than nothing — come from? How did this contempt for human life insinuate itself into people's hearts?

And in answer to the question, James Kushiner, *Executive Director of The Fellowship of St. James*, offered this response, "the ancient enemy who seeks to devour men. And no nation is immune, no, not one. No time for sleeping." We have been sleeping for far too long, steadfastly refusing to awaken from all too pleasant dreams.

There is much, too much to digest, to try and distill in one or two brief essays, but it is of so grave a matter that I must therefore endeavor to give it all the space and ink it so deserves. These — are indeed — the times that try men's souls, and perhaps as well they should, try God's patience. Colloqui will, over the coming weeks, focus on the current crisis, this "virulent moral virus" which is devastating our great nation and the world writ large. Bear with me, gentle reader, as I attempt to slog my way through the muck and mire of what once was that shining city upon a hill.

Some seven years ago, two erstwhile Postdoctoral Fellows, Alberto Giubilini, PhD in Philosophy, and Francesca Minerva, PhD in Law and New Technologies, Bioethics, published a paper in the March 2, 2012 issue of the *Journal of Medical Ethics* (JME) under the title: "After-birth abortion: why should the baby live?" In the abstract, the authors wrote:

Abortion is largely accepted even for reasons that do not have anything to do with the fetus' health. By showing that (1) both fetuses and newborns do not have the same moral status as actual persons, (2) the fact that both are potential persons is morally irrelevant and (3) adoption is not always in the best interest of actual people, the authors argue that what we call 'after-birth abortion' (killing a newborn) should be permissible in all the cases where abortion is, including cases where the newborn is not disabled.

I will, over the coming weeks, write much more of this horrific bit of

bioethical pseudo-scientific compost but will, for the moment, leave ill enough alone. After all, there is only so much swill one can swallow in one sip between the lips.

The only difference between a baby moments before leaving the womb and a baby outside the womb is documentation. A birth certificate and Social Security card are issued to a child within weeks of birth. This paperwork is necessary to make the child an official citizen of the United States, but they cannot actually confer biological personhood status. Personhood may be recognized by words on a page, but the words cannot make a person. Besides, I've been reliably informed that undocumented people are still people and deserve all off the same rights as those of us with documentation.

I've also been told many times that undocumented people have the right to cross through barriers and over borders in pursuit of life and liberty. Planned Parenthood even says that the undocumented "have the right to live." I totally agree with this sentiment. All people have the right to live. And I certainly would not support summary execution of immigrants on the southern border. It's fortunate that no one has ever suggested such a thing.

But there is, you might say, a different southern border that is quite often protected by violent means. Undocumented infants who are trying to cross the border of the birth canal in hopes of a better life are routinely stabbed, poisoned, crushed, and dismembered for doing so. The murder of these migrants is especially egregious because, unlike the type from Central America, they really have no choice but to leave their homeland.

To be continued.

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Food for a restless mind

For those restless minds that hunger and thirst for more. Each week this space will offer a menu of interesting and provocative titles, written by Catholic authors, in addition to those referenced in the articles, for you to feed your restless mind.

BOOKS

Thoughtful Theism

Fr. Andrew Younan

Emmaus Road Publishing
2017, 200 pages.

To Change the Church

Ross Gregory Douthat

Simon & Schuster
2018, 256 pages.

Mere Christianity

C. S. Lewis

C. S. Lewis Pte. Ltd.
1952, 228 pages.

PERIODICALS

First Things

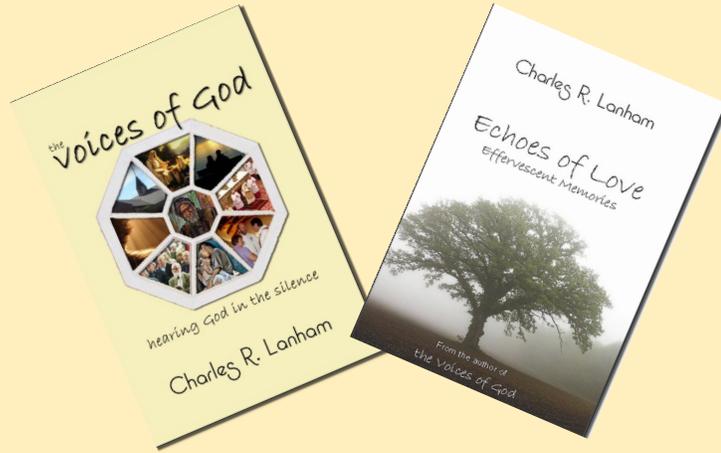
Institute on Religion and Public Life
Editor: R. R. Reno
Ten Issues per year.
www.firstthings.com

Touchstone

A Journal of Mere Christianity
Editor: James M. Kushiner
Bi-Monthly.
www.touchstonemag.com

Catholic Answers Magazine

Share the Faith, Defend the Faith
Editor: Tim Ryland
Bi-Monthly.
www.catholic.com



Books are available on **Amazon.com** or from the author's web site at:

deaconscorner.org

Deacon Chuck Lanham is an author, columnist, speaker, and a servant of God.

He is the author of **The Voices of God: Hearing God in the Silence**, **Echoes of Love: Effervescent Memories** and is currently writing his third book **Without God: Finding God in a Godless World**.

Each issue of **Colloquī** can be viewed or downloaded from

<http://deaconscorner.org>.

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