

Extracted from St John Vianney September 11, 2011 Bulletin

9-11 By Carl Beyer and Friends

September 11, 2001. I could not have let the tenth anniversary of 9-11 go by without comment. Wow, ten years, and it seems like just yesterday when those tremendous acts of Evil were committed. A good friend of mine remarked the other day that most of the young kids fighting in the war on terror today do not even remember much of 9-11-2001. After all, an eighteen year old now in battle would only have been eight on 9-11-2001. The year when I was eight we had the highest number of casualties recorded during the Vietnam War, and I certainly have no recollection of being aware of that at eight. I have only vague memories of Vietnam War coverage on TV. Although, on the other hand, TV was only for our occasional entertainment, not the constant companion that media is to us today.

Let us not forget the tragic deeds committed by these cowards who killed the innocent people along with the so-called "guilty parties." We start with the 411 emergency workers - the "heroes" who died responding to these attacks. These heroes made the ultimate sacrifice, and may we pray that they were greeted in Heaven with full blessings.

The next number is 246 - the number of people killed on the airplanes, which included 40 people on United Flight 93, which may have saved a plane from crashing into the U.S. Capitol. A group seldom spoken of are the 200+ who chose to jump to their deaths rather than being incinerated on the upper floors of the buildings. TRAGIC! Sixteen truly innocent children were among those killed on the planes that crashed. 376 victims were foreign diplomats. Barbaric slayings, to say the least.

We know that Jesus admonished us to turn the other cheek, but we must not assume He meant by this that we should let evil prevail. It all comes back to His commandment, "Love Thy Neighbor." Do we honor Jesus' command if we Love our Neighbor by accepting his bad behavior? Are we to let one of our neighbors suffer harm done by another neighbor? Did the commandment mean that we should turn our neighbor's cheek? Or, are we our brother's keeper, and should we not fight against evil? The problem, as often is the case, is "the gray areas." If only everything were black-and-white, then the fight against evil would be SO much simpler. There are entanglements upon entanglements in our attempts to straight-forwardly fight evil. Often, the consequences of one action intended for GOOD results in unforeseen consequences which are quite contrary to the originally intended actions.

So, PRAY. And pray some more, for guidance. The fighting of evil is not a battle which we should take on alone. We are neither wise enough nor in any other way qualified to conquer evil by ourselves. Open the Bible and seek guidance; attend Mass and seek guidance, seek the counsel of those wiser and holier than ourselves; study history and past successes for guidance, and most of all, drop to your knees to find the greatest guidance of all from our Almighty Lord. And remember; to stand by and be complacent about evil is ITSELF evil. Sincere prayer to our Almighty Lord, with the right intentions, is always a worthwhile if not NECESSARY action in the fight against evil.

Remember the Confiteor: "I confess to Almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do; and I ask Blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord, our God." Yes, we say sincerely, "What I have failed to do." These are not meant to be idle words, but a pledge to action. But the question remains: What IS the appropriate action? I WISH I were the wise counsel to which you could turn, but, alas, I am not Him. So turn to the Lord for guidance.

But, today, most of all, remember. Do not let these 2977 souls be forgotten. They were just living their lives when the evil acts were done unto them and to their surviving families. As WE live our lives expecting to see the next day, so did these victims. The evil struck without warning. The ETA of our souls' journey from Earth to Heaven is not to be known to us. Prepare, and be prepared, to meet your Maker.

Go forth and remember. Go forth and talk with our youth about 9-11, and what it means to us and to our country. Go forth and fight evil. God Bless You All.