

Saints and sinners: What today's world needs ...

What this world needs ...

It's something we don't talk much about at this low point in the world's history when the operative words in our vocabularies are words like cruelty, hatred and suspicion.

Yet without a spirit of reconciliation, both in our personal lives and in our national life, civilization is doomed.

At the end of World War II, Willard Sperry, the dean of Harvard Divinity School, preached a sermon on reconciliation in which he told this story:

"During the war, the little native villages along the coasts of New Guinea were raked by Japanese bombs and reduced to ashes.

"A year or so after the war, a company of native Christians in the village of Gona met with the priest who had been a prisoner of the Japa-

nese for three years.

"They had raised a sum of money to rebuild their school. At a point during the meeting, one of the church wardens got up and said, 'I think God would be happy if we sent half of our offerings to the Japanese and used half for our school. We shall then be helping these people who spoiled our country to be better people so that they will be helping ones, not spoiling ones. That is what I think God wants us to do because we are his children.'

"To which the assembly replied, 'These are good words and we shall do so.'"

Can you imagine this happening anywhere today?

What this world needs ...

Albert Schweitzer laid aside distinguished careers in music and theology to study medicine



george plagenz

• saints & sinners

and become a doctor to the natives in darkest Africa.

His reverence for life, his hatred of cruelty and his almost childlike tenderness endowed him with a goodness that is in steadily shorter supply in our world:

"When some poor moaning creature is brought to me with an inflamed appendix or strangulated hernia, I lay my hand on his fore-

head and say, 'Don't be afraid. In an hour's time you will be put to sleep and when you awake you won't feel any more pain.'

"When the operation is finished, I watch for the sick man's awakening. Scarcely has he recovered consciousness when he stares at him and exclaims again and again, 'I've no more pain.' His hand feels for mine and will not let it go.

"The African sun is shining through the coffee bushes into the dark shed as we black and white sit side by side in the room and fell that we experience the meaning of the words, 'And all ye are brethren.'"

What this world needs ...

If we are to preserve the beauty of the Earth (if indeed we are to preserve the Earth), we must become better stewards of this world's bounty.

In his book "Time Wars" (Simon & Schuster, 1988), Jeremy Rifkin recommends that we look at the Iroquois Indians.

"American culture," he says, "has always been fixed on the present and the near-future. The Iroquois is quite different.

"As an Iroquois explains the process, 'We make sure every decision relates to the welfare and well-being of the seventh generation to come, and that is the basis by which we make decisions in council. We consider: Will this be to the benefit of the seventh generation?'"

How will the "generation to come" grade our stewardship of the environment — global warming, waste dumps, acid rain, careless disregard of our limited natural resources?

What this world needs ...

Grand juries unlikely to indict bishops who supervised abusive priests

By Rachel Zoll

AP Religion Writer

As prosecutors turn to grand juries to investigate sex abuse by Roman Catholic clergy, church observers are wondering whether the ultimate target of criminal charges will be a cardinal or bishop who mishandled molester priests.

Several legal experts say that successfully prosecuting a church leader for protecting abusers would be a formidable task, since attorneys would need to prove that a bishop meant to help offenders commit crimes. The details revealed since the abuse crisis erupted in January do not support that theory, they say.

Yet the possibility remains that a prosecutor who found a case within the statute of limitations would bring charges in the current atmosphere of

public outrage over the scandals.

"They're elected officials and they're responsive to the electorate," said Robert M. Bloom, a professor at Boston College Law School.

"One could argue they've convened a grand jury for political reasons. One could also argue they are looking to make sure that there are no other priest predators out there."

As the molestation crisis intensified this year, prosecutors began speaking publicly of their anger over church leaders' failure to report many abuse claims to civil authorities. Grand juries have been convened in nine states to investigate priests and dioceses.

In Cincinnati, Prosecutor Michael Allen subpoenaed Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk in April, but excused him after the archbishop's lawyers provided prosecutors with undisclosed evidence

they had demanded. The archdiocese's chief record-keeper, Chancellor Rev. Christopher Armstrong, did testify.

Among the most aggressive prosecutors has been Massachusetts Attorney General Thomas F. Reilly, who convened a grand jury after Boston Cardinal Bernard Law acknowledged allowing a pedophile priest to stay in church work.

Law's admission put every U.S. diocese under scrutiny. At least 300 priests have been taken off duty over allegations of sexual abuse, but most of the claims are years old and outside the statute of limitations.

Reilly has been investigating whether Boston church officials committed any crimes by transferring molester clergy from parish to parish. He has recently indicated criminal charges are unlikely, but he could seek a court

order, under the state's civil rights law, to force changes in how the Boston Archdiocese handles abuse claims.

"In criminal prosecution, you need intent," said Cary Edwards, a former New Jersey attorney general. "The church seemed to have its head in the sand. It was a bad moral act. But the institution was in denial that this was a criminal act."

G. Robert Blakey, a professor at the University of Notre Dame Law School, said if he were a prosecutor, he would also search for a means to hold the bishops criminally accountable. But he said there's no apparent way it could be done.

On the charge of aiding and abetting a crime, the prosecutor would have to prove that the bishop intended to transfer the offender to help him molest children. Although many prelates were

guilty of bad judgment and arrogance, Blakey said, it appears they shuttled errant clergy among parishes to stop — not facilitate — the priests' wrongdoing, even though that strategy failed.

A criminal negligence charge also would be difficult to prove, since church leaders tried to stop the offender by sending him to treatment, Blakey said.

And for a conspiracy charge, the pros-

ecutor would have to prove that the bishop and the priest agreed that the clergyman could molest children — another unlikely scenario, said Blakey, who wrote the federal anti-racketeering law.

"The harm these administrators have done by moving these people is incalculable," Blakey said. "But if you wanted to indict a bishop, you'd have to have a theory about how the bishop helped the priest."

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Calvary Gospel Church

Bible Baptist Church

Pastor: Don Crutcher

Fifth & Broadway

899-7368

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Worship Service: 10 am

Evening Service: 6:30 pm

Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Calvary Gospel Church

Pastor: Rev. Steve Rains

Fourth & College • 899-3605

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am

Morning Service: 10:30 am

Evening Service: 6:00 pm

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Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of the Nazarene

Pastor: Matthew Delp

Third & Caldwell

899-2080 or 899-3797

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am

Worship Service: 10:50 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First Baptist Church

Pastor: Bud Chester

Fifth & Center • 899-3450

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am

Morning Worship: 10:30 am

Evening Worship: 6:30 pm

Tuesday: Mens' Prayer Group: 6:00 am

Thursday: Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail

Pastor: Arlin Cochran • 785-332-2888

Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am

Worship Service: 11 am

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Pastor: Loren Strait

Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233

Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups,

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899-3631

Pastor: Rev. Janet Hernandez

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am

Worship Service: 8 am and 10:30 am

Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398

Minister: Tony Kafka

Youth Minister: Doug Bean

Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am

Sunday School: 10:45 am

Wednesday:

Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm

Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 899-6161

Pastor: Scott Grimshaw

Sunday: Sunday School: 8:45 am

Worship Service: 10 am

Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Kanorado United Methodist Church

Pastor: Leonard Cox

399-2468

Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am

Worship Service: 10:15 am

Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400

Pastor:

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am

Morning Worship: 11 am

Evening Worship: 6 pm

Wednesday: Call for location

Grace Fellowship Church

104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423

Pastor: Bob Snyder • Residence: 899-0134

Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Worship Service: 11 am

Youth Group at Gattshall's at 5:30 pm

Adult Bible Study 6 pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center

899-2115 or Rectory 899-2114

Priest: Father Charles Schneider

Deacon: Gretchen Talitha

Adult Forum: Sunday: 8:30 am

Morning Prayer: 9:30 am 1st & 5th Sundays

Holy Eucharist: 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays: 9:30

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Church of Jesus Christ

of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO • (970) 664-2470

Sacrament Meeting: 9:30 am

Sunday School: 10:45 am

Priesthood/Relief Society: 11:30 am

Word of Life Foursquare Church

223 E. 10th

899-5250

Pastor: John Coumerilh

Sunday: Worship Celebration &

Kids' Church: 10:30 am

United Methodist Church

Brewster:

Pastor:

Worship Service: 10:45 am CST

Sunday School: 9:45 am CST

Winona:

Minister: Rev. Bob Winters

Worship Service: 9 am CST

Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo

Spanish Speaking Church

Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.

1601 Texas • 899-5275

Daily Prayer: Sunday thru

Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm

Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

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307 W. 13th • 899-7205

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4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment

Mass Schedule:

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Sunday: 10:30 am

Spanish Mass:

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