

## A Good Friday prayer

Finding an intimate connection to Jesus Christ through prayer

From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah." Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him." And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

— Matthew 27: 45-50

Thinking about Jesus crying out from the cross on the original Good Friday reminds me of a sermon on prayer I heard years ago. Tonette and I were visiting a church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and the pastor was gone so the message was delivered that day by a professor from a Christian college in Illinois.

The professor told of how he had been called to a nursing home to minister to a resident in the last stages of his life. Seems as though the elderly man was not near his home church and was hoping to visit with a minister.

As they talked, the professor asked about his prayer life. Laying in bed, the terminally ill man pointed to an empty chair near the wall. He told the professor that since he couldn't get around, he would sit in his bed all day and talk to Jesus as though he was a dear friend sitting in that chair.

The old man talked to Him about everything. His thanks for the many blessings in his life, his aches and pains and fears of the unknown, and whatever else was on his mind at the moment — all were a part of his daily conversation with God.

What a wonderful description of prayer the professor shared with the congregation that Sunday morning. The dying man had found a way to connect to Jesus in a very real form.

More than 2,000 years ago, people longed to be close to Jesus. Children came running to him. The disciples loved being around him. The sick cried out to him. A woman who had been subject to bleeding for 12 years even reached out just to touch his cloak.

Because Christ is not physically among us today, many followers have a hard time feeling that same intimate connection with Jesus. All too often, we think of prayer only being observed in a place of worship, by clergy or around the dinner table.

What if we didn't just reach to God during services or before a meal or in a crisis? What if we connected with Him all the time? Most of us reach out to our family and friends multiple times a day via text or a call. Why can't we do that with Jesus?

In a world where social media is supposed to connect us all, why do so many feel lonely? Posts and tweets are great, but do people really understand what we are really feeling at that moment?

During the first presidential debate in Cleveland in August 2015, I

was asked what kind of impact God had on my life. First, I mentioned that I am a sinner and that it is only by the blood of Jesus Christ that I am saved. I try to do His will every day but it's not like God sends us an email with instructions on what we are supposed to do (it would be much easier if He did). No, instead God asks us to have a personal relationship with Him. Prayer is a way to help understand God's will.

Which brings me back to that sermon in Iowa. After describing the wonderful image of prayer, the visiting professor told us of how he received a call from the staff at the nursing home a few days after his visit. They thanked him for coming by to see their patient as he passed away during the previous night.



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Amazingly, the man who had been confined to a bed for some time had found the strength to get out of that bed and crawl across the room. When they found him in the morning, he was laying with his head on the seat of the chair — he had found his final comfort resting his head in the lap of Jesus.

As we observe Good Friday today and celebrate Easter on Sunday, I pray that each of us can find that comfort — here on earth and in heaven.

Scott Walker was the 45th governor of Wisconsin. You can contact him at [swalker@washingtontimes.com](mailto:swalker@washingtontimes.com) or follow him @ScottWalker.



SCOTT WALKER

## Once more, only lumps of coal in certain Christmas stockings

It was Christmas again this week and all the Democrats got in their stockings were two or three lumps of coal. Or maybe it wasn't Christmas, but Groundhog Day.

The earlier summary of Robert Mueller's findings was only a summary, after all, and everyone knew the actual report had all the good stuff. Mr. Mueller wouldn't let us down.

Ah, but he did. Great expectations dashed again. The Democrats, but for the dwindling number of grown-ups in the party of Jefferson, Jackson, Harry S. Truman and FDR, were so sure that Mr. Mueller would deliver the goods they had conferred sainthood on him, much like the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Barack Obama before he assumed office. Now some Democrats are looking for rope to deal with the special counsel, unless that other mob, the one still in pursuit of the president, has cornered the supply of hemp on their march to the hanging tree.

William Barr on Thursday had barely concluded his introduction to Mr. Mueller's eagerly awaited report before the two dozen Democrats running for president lined up for a turn as denouncer in chief. Pocahontas said Mr. Barr had "disgraced" the profession of politics for acting as "the personal attorney and publicist" for the president. Kirsten Gillibrand, not trusting her message to the twitterworks, called a press conference to denounce the attorney general's early-morning press conference as "a farce and an embarrassing display of propaganda" for the president.

Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey said "the American people deserve the truth, not spin from a Trump appointee." Sen. Kamala Harris of California said Mr. Barr's press conference "was a stunt, filled with political spin." David Axelrod, who managed two presidential campaigns for Barack Obama and a man who ought to recognize spin when he sees it, said the Mueller report "provides a conundrum for Congress by virtually inviting an impeachment probe around the obstruction issue."

The media wiseheads, who haven't learned much over the years of Mr. Mueller's investigation, were astonished anew at how ignorant everyone else is. Carl Bernstein, still trying to understand what happened to his Watergate fame, insists that clear evidence of the president's high crimes and misdemeanors is right there in the Mueller report but only smart, sophisticated people like himself can see it.

"It's here in substance," he said, "in nuance, in context and it is there for all people of good will in this country, if they are not so dug in politically or ideologically to process information and make some sophisticated judgments about the behavior of everybody I've mentioned here."

Chris Cuomo of CNN says there's "a ton" of collusion in the Mueller report and everyone with "a dose of shame" should read it. Mr. Cuomo thinks Mr. Mueller discovered "clever, secretive behavior" and delivered it by the ton and he "lays it all out" once you break the code. This is odd, because Mr. Mueller has a reputation for writing with the clarity cherished by the courts.

Hollywood woke up early Thursday and when everyone read the news that Mr. Mueller had failed again, the mass meltdown of the twinkies was on. Nearly everyone anyone had heard of and bit players, extras and faces in the crowd recognized the end of the world lurking just over the blue horizon. There was unanimous agreement that the time for gathering evidence was over and it was time to get on with the hanging. What was winning the House of Representatives about if not to act swiftly. Hadn't Nancy Pelosi herself said she was the constitutional equal of the president? Wasn't she one of the three branches of government she had heard about in high school?

One of the rare cool heads doomed to get no respect tried to tug everyone back to reality, a destination that few Hollywood Democrats would recognize. "Based on what we have seen to date," said Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, the leader of the Democratic majority in the House, "going forward on impeachment is not worthwhile at this point. Very frankly, there is an election in 18 months and the American people will make a judgment."

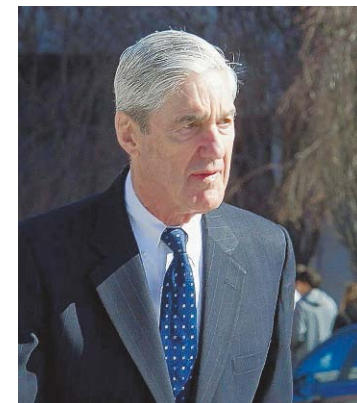
But that's so 20th century and besides, caution is not a popular sentiment with a mob, and Mr. Hoyer can expect rough treatment for truth-telling. Nothing is more dangerous than a mob with a length of rope and no one to use it on.

There's something terrifying about the reaction to the Mueller findings. What if, as some senior Democrats are saying, the president might win a second term after all? Then what? Not even calling out the National Guard could deal with the liberal hysteria. "Bring it on," says one twitthead, "we're ready and they can't even figure out which bathroom to use."

Wesley Pruden is editor in chief emeritus of The Times.



PRUDEN ON POLITICS BY WESLEY PRUDEN



Robert Mueller ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Restoring Notre Dame

Europeans line up to donate to the rebuilding of the cherished site

By Adam Brandon

Tragedy has befallen Notre Dame de Paris this week, but we can be confident that the 13th-century Gothic Cathedral will rise again from the ashes. The French government estimates that it will cost \$505 million to rebuild the interior and roof. Wealthy Europeans such as Francois Henri Pinault, owner of Gucci and Saint Laurent, and Bernard Arnault, owner of Louis Vuitton's parent company, among others have pledged close to \$1 billion combined as of Tuesday. The Walt Disney Co. has even promised to donate \$5 million toward the cathedral's restoration as well.

This massive influx in donations marks a triumph of free society and individualism, something we need more of if we are to preserve or — in Notre Dame's case — rebuild historical sites around the world. This is not to diminish the smaller donations toward Notre Dame's rebuilding efforts, but to highlight that extreme wealth is not a zero-sum game. Wealth benefits not only the rich, but society as a whole when it is invested and donated rather than taxed.

Governments across the world are already in debt and running massive annual deficits. They are not trustworthy stewards of financial resources. Higher taxes and government spending aren't the answer to society's ills, but policies that facilitate economic growth are. As we're seeing right

**In the 19th century, wealthy industrialists such as Cornelius Vanderbilt and Andrew Carnegie invested heavily in both philanthropy and the arts. Without them, we wouldn't have the universities that bear their names.**



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# A Georgetown renaissance

The staid Washington neighborhood regains its vitality with some old and some new restaurants

By Corinna Lothar

Georgetown is no longer the staid old lady of yore. She may not have the buzz of 14th Street, the trendiness of Shaw, Petworth or the H Street corridor, or even the cool of Columbia Heights, but the Georgetown restaurant renaissance is in full swing.

Sixty years ago, haute cuisine in Georgetown was the province of Place Vendome at the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and M Street, now long gone, replaced by a clothing store. A few old timers remain: Martin's Tavern, opened in 1933, where presidents from Harry S. Truman to George W. Bush came to dine, and John F. Kennedy proposed to Jacqueline Bouvier; Clyde's, opened in 1963; and La Chaumiere, the cozy French restaurant and neighborhood favorite since 1976.

Georgetown (named for King George II) was established in 1751, incorporated in 1789, as a tobacco port and shipping center. During the American Revolution, it served as a depot for the collection and shipment of military supplies. The town contained a textile mill, a paper factory and flour mills. After the Civil War, freed slaves created an African-American community in Georgetown, which became part of the federal city of Washington in 1871.

Georgetown fell into decline after World War I, but recovered with President Roosevelt's New Deal. It was not until after World War II that Georgetown became a center for Washington's rich and powerful. Senators, cabinet ministers, journalists and art collectors moved in.

With the turn of the 21st century, new dining neighborhoods flourished: 14th Street, Shaw, Petworth, Capitol Hill, and recently the Wharf project in Southeast. Georgetown no longer was the place to go, and many favorites closed, including fondly remembered Nathan's, Le Steak, Apana, Au Pied de Cochon and Bistro Francais, as well as Britt's cafeteria that was

open 24 hours every day. But Georgetown is regaining its former vitality and popularity with some old and some new restaurants from upscale elegance to casual diners. Among the former are the 1789 Restaurant (1226 36th Street), beloved by parents of Georgetown University students since 1960, although ties are no longer de rigueur; elegant steakhouse Bourbon Steak (2800 Pennsylvania Avenue) in the Four Seasons Hotel; and newcomer Reverie (3210 Grace Street), a nouveau American restaurant from chef Johnny Spero.

Less formal are Jose Andres' take on American classics at America Eats Tavern (3139 M Street); Cafe Milano (3251 Prospect Street, NW); and seafood restaurant Dyllan's Raw Bar (1054 31st Street).

Chaia Tacos (3207 Grace Street) re-imagines the taco with vegetarian fillings in house-made corn tortillas, accented with house-made salsas and toppings. The 1310 Kitchen & Bar (1310 Wisconsin Avenue) is the new restaurant in the recently refurbished Georgetown Inn, where local chef Jenn Crovato

has created a menu of "just straight forward good food." Guapo's (3050 K Street) on the Georgetown waterfront is part of a small local chain offering traditional Mexican fare in a casual setting.

Soon to open are Asian-inspired Bandoola Bowl (1069 Wisconsin Avenue) and Reren Lamien Bar (1037 Wisconsin Avenue).

High Street Cafe (1303 Wisconsin Avenue), opened in November 2018, is named for Washington as it was known until 1895. The restaurant is owned by Manuel Iguina, a native of Puerto Rico. It's an open, friendly restaurant, an affordable place serving good modern American dishes with Latin overtones. Mr. Iguina treats his guests as friends and wants to contribute to the well-being of the Georgetown community.

Start dinner with the restaurant's crispy goat cheese noisettes, creamy-on-the inside



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and crispy-on-the-outside bites, or tuna tartar which mixes sweet and salty with toasted sesame, mango and a touch of orange cream. Both are delicious. Best of all is the restaurant's take on roasted calamari, a succulent dish of tender calamari and mushrooms in a garlicky, herb-rich sauce, enhanced with a charred half lemon. Lamb meatballs, served on a bed of yogurt tzaziki, is excellent as well.

Main courses include a delicate dish of scallops with wild mushrooms, enhanced with a sherry cream and accompanied with spinach and saffron risotto. The Latin influence is strong in lobster mofongo, a seafood stew created around mashed plantains, and in a tasty fricassee of braised goat with green peas, carrots and fingerling potatoes.

Pizzas, made in the pizza oven in the open kitchen, are always on the menu. The lunch menu contains a variety of salads

and sandwiches, including a rich roast pork (lechon) sandwich with a pesto-like sauce of cilantro and herbs on crusty bread and excellent French fries. Be sure to leave room for the flourless chocolate cake.

Tuesdays are High Cafe's whole pig roast nights (lechon asada); on Thursdays evenings, there's live Latin music; Fridays is lobster and shrimp mofongo night; and Sundays will soon be Sunday supper club nights.

Georgetown offers a wide variety of cuisines, including French, Latin, American, Asian, Italian, classic and nouveau American, as well as a pretty tea room (Lady Camellia, 3261 Prospect Street), fast-food establishments and six bakeries, most of which offer not only very good bread and pastries, but light fare as well.

Corinna Lothar is a Washington writer, critic and frequent contributor to The Washington Times.

## Misleading Americans about the environment, again

California leads in loopiness, as Democrats everywhere blame America for the world's excesses

By Tammy Bruce

California's commitment to being the official clown car of the Democratic Party continues apace.

The latest absurdity is brought to us by legislation from the Democratically controlled state legislature seeking to ban all those little plastic toiletry bottles one finds in hotel rooms.

"We know we have an enormous problem with our world, we've become addicted to [plastic] and it's caused a major dilemma environmentally," said Assemblyman Ash Kalra, who introduced Bill AB-1162 in February," reported Fox News.

This urgent need for legislation is due to, of course, climate change. Plastic is, in fact, pouring into our oceans harming the ecosystem and destroying the lives of animals. But don't tell Democrats that the culprit isn't pesky Americans or the United States. No, it's actually the direct fault of five Asian nations, led by China.

Last year a headline at Forbes was, "5 Asian countries dump more plastic into oceans than anyone else combined." China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam are the culprits, according to a 2017 report by Ocean Conservancy and cited by the news magazine.

This is an awful problem, and not only will banning the tiny traveler size shampoo bottles from hotels in California not help, it does damage in that it sends a message to Americans that they're actually doing something to solve the problem when nothing could be further from the truth.

The solution, California says, is for hotels and resorts to install refillable dispensers in bathrooms. But one of the beneficial things of these tiny bottles is that you are met with the message that the hotel shower is not a spa. The tiny bottles themselves tell you to hurry it up. For a state with droughts you would think that would be an important message. But that would require thinking, which is in short supply these days in the Golden State.

Eventually, you know California will not be able to abide convenience and drug stores selling the travel-sized toiletries either.

As Americans are inclined to do, this might evolve into a new sort of entrepreneurship. I can't wait to see a man standing in front of hotel-approaching tourists, flinging open his trench coat revealing a myriad of tiny bottle toiletries for the reasonable black market price of \$10 each. Pantene shampoo & conditioner, the tiny Gold Bond hand cream, miniature Secret deodorant, and the handy-dandy Lilliputian version of Listerine. Tiny bottles for the tiny criminal lurking within you.

But it's not just California that has this inclination to mis-

lead people about American responsibility for the assault on environment.

Attending a meeting, I recently stayed at a major hotel chain in Washington, D.C. I arrived somewhat late the night before, and was happy with the idea of ordering room service for dinner. Yet, there was no room service menu. I turned on the television to look for the digital version. Not there either.

I called down to the front desk and they informed me in their commitment to being a green hotel chain and to help save the planet, they were using less paper and were no longer providing room service menus. They would, however, be happy to send someone up with a menu.

So here is a hotel that does not provide a room service menu

because of the paper involved (you know, to save energy and consumption), but is willing to send a staff person to use an energy-guzzling elevator to deliver the piece of paper they did not provide. To save the planet. Got it.

After this Kafka-esque experience of ordering a hamburger, I get the one-page menu, order and finally there's the "room service!" knock. I open the door and the porter has my food in a ... paper bag.

Not on a tray, but yes, in a paper bag. I ask him if there was a shortage of service trays. But no, I was informed this is how they deliver all their room service food ... in paper bags. Indeed, the next morning as I left my room to attend the meeting, there are torn and used paper bags in front of other doors waiting for collection by the room service staff.

All I could do was laugh, and hope George Orwell doesn't mind becoming an adjective. Here we have the bread and circus of "going green" — ridiculous virtue signaling that is not just irrelevant but absurd in the end. Asian nations continue to dump plastics into the ocean and now likely laugh as California, major hotel chains and politicians make fools of us all. It's like being told to dance as someone shoots at your feet. And we dance and dance.

Today's Democrats have made sure that their constituency is prepared for and expects to be blamed for the world's excesses. Americans are bad and selfish, we are told, and everything is our fault. The only difference? Everything is still our fault and now our hair won't be clean.

As long as we allow the liberal machine to spread the lie that the American individual, and this country as a whole, is the problem in the world, despots and dictators in other nations will continue to have a field day turning the environment into a dumpster fire.

Tammy Bruce, president of Independent Women's Voice, author and Fox News contributor, is a radio talk-show host.



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

## Brandon

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now in Paris, individual donors are more than capable of addressing societal problems without government coercion.

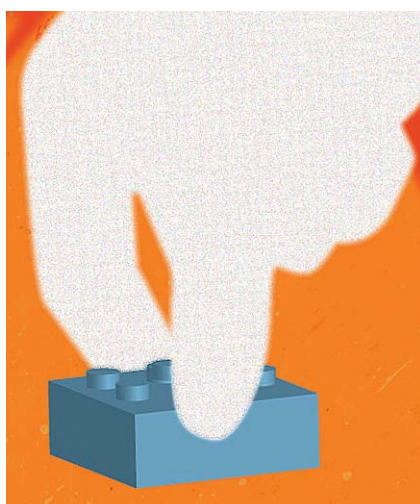
Since the Renaissance, when dramatic new artistic techniques were born, the free exchange of abundant wealth has contributed to flourishing art and culture. Take, for example, the patronage that was a hallmark of the Italian Renaissance. When wealthy bankers funded the artistic exploits of painters and sculptors the likes of Leonardo Da Vinci and Michelangelo. Without wealthy proponents of the arts, the world would look much different today.

Again, in the 19th century, wealthy industrialists such as Cornelius Vanderbilt and Andrew Carnegie invested heavily

in both philanthropy and the arts. Without them, we wouldn't have the universities that bear their names, and we would be without the advancements not only in art and culture, but in science and engineering.

Even in the case of government-run entities, wealthy donors have often made them possible from the start. Without generous support from James Smithsonian, founding donor of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., the case could be made that the everyday American's access to scientific and historical knowledge would be diminished. Just a few years ago, billionaire philanthropist David Rubenstein donated \$75 million directly toward repairing the Washington Monument following the 2011 earthquake. His donation accounted for half of the project's budget.

Nowadays, wealthy billionaires such



as Bill Gates and Warren Buffett have founded some of the most influential philanthropic organizations ever with their own money. Mr. Gates and Mr.

Buffett are way off-base when they call for higher taxes, but they deserve tremendous credit for their track record of charitable endeavors. At the same time, companies like Mr. Gates' Microsoft have made affordable computer software a reality, which has led to a more interconnected and prosperous world economy.

At a time when it's viewed as somehow "wrong" to be successful and make a profit, we should push back against such a warped narrative. Wealth has benefitted not only the arts and culture throughout human history, but free society itself. Wealthy societies are free societies, the evidence is clear.

Contrary to today's assaults in the media on profit-making, the wealthy business owners making contributions to Notre Dame's restoration deserve praise. Their efforts may also bring about a

renewed focus on historical preservation, not as a government directive, but by individuals taking it upon themselves to contribute more toward protecting cultural heritage sites around the globe.

We should commend charitable giving and philanthropy, and we could stand to encourage more of it. Government can't do everything and individuals can surely help. It's up to individuals, rather than bureaucracies, to ensure we can experience history for the centuries to come.

Just like the medieval Europeans did countless times in the wake of disaster, Notre Dame will be rebuilt. Thanks to the wealth inherent in free societies, Notre Dame will likely be rebuilt faster than it could have been in centuries past.

Adam Brandon is president of FreedomWorks.