

Daily Justice

Ted Cassidy, SM

Oct. 31, 2007

Yesterday someone on our Anti-Racism Issue Team, Ted Gorczyca, lamented with a deep conviction in his voice, on a conference call, that racism is an extreme problem yet the vast majority of people live ordinary lives without bringing this into consciousness or doing anything to correct the problem.

Everyday my head is bombarded with messages that speak of injustice, and yet I feel so small in being able to act on them. I read in Norman Solomon's book *War Made Easy* (pp. 224-5) that government officials use the doublespeak of George Orwell's book *1984* to say on the one hand that the USA wants to give the Iraq government independent democracy and at the same time will keep command of Iraqi armed forces. The "doublespeak" on our media news more and more appears to me to be pervasive, pounding us who listen and watch to give up dignity.

I read of the Israel lobby in Washington manipulating our congress representatives to the extent that this lobby's influence can't even be a topic of discussion for presidential candidates or really any congressional candidates. My gut tells me this is true about this lobby. My gut tells me our foreign policy is being manipulated. I feel like a shipmate on the Herman Melville whaleboat *Moby Dick*.

I need a language to deal with the denial and manipulation around me. Jacob Gapp teaches me a language. He struggled against the overpowering superego of the Nazi regime in his heart and spoke out where and when he could. He didn't get the language perfectly, but he managed to master the fundamental of not letting the negative power destroy his core humanity.

I feel in my gut the cry of a slave who is being deprived of freedom. I don't feel support of just dialogue and discussion. I feel shackled by the media and political powers around me.

Something in my gut recognizes that I possess a truth and some means to speak and cry out. My daily tasks are very much involved in justice matters through involvement in the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative, the Racial Justice Team

of the Camden Diocese, and helping to form a faith-based community organization here in Cape May County, N.J. and many other activities.

I sat at the Marianist directors' meeting on Oct. 7, 2007, and pondered when our Provincial, Stephen Glodek, asked for comments on our Province's Strategic Plan. I had just come the week before from a workshop on racism at the Mexican Cultural Center in San Antonio. We had learned how white dominance for the last 500 years has kept people of color in submission. As Steve spoke I didn't disagree with any of the strategies. They were well thought out and realistic. However it is what they did not have that tangled my heart and gut in sadness. The empathy of a Third World grandmother of color would express such a strategic plan with deep feeling, perhaps with a crying anguish, with a heart full of compassion for both the planners and the suffering it was designed to help.

In his article *Religious Life Today in the Church* Bro. Alvaro Rodriguez Echeveria, FCS, refers to Brazilian Jesuit Joal Cambric Libanion who said, "Deep down, it is Jesus' evangelical experience in relation to the Father, which leads to his salvific delivery on behalf of his brothers and sisters, especially the poor and humble. It is to allow God to occupy the place of our affectivity and allow Him to love through us. It is to allow ourselves to be seduced by Him, it is to make the sentiments of Jesus our own." (p. 3)

My daily justice, honestly, is existing in this in between state of realizing the almost overpowering injustice and seeking to do something prudent and practical about it. I do feel like the Third World grandmother. Jacob Gapp, thanks for giving us a language to show us that the basic turmoil in our true selves is not to be denied.

My daily task is to process and discern and most of all act in my world with the means I have as Jacob did.