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PRESENTED TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS' GUILDS

CHICAGO, ILLNOIS

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(GREETINGS TO HOSTS, GUESTS, FRIENDS, ETC.)

I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH FOR YOUR INVITATION TO SPEAK AT THIS MEETING. IT HAS BEEN MY PRIVILEGE AND PLEASURE THROUGH THE YEARS TO HAVE COUNTED AS CLOSE FRIENDS AND TRUSTED COLLEAGUES MANY MEMBERS OF THE CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS' GUILDS AROUND THE COUNTRY.

AND I CHERISH THE AWARD YOU GAVE ME IN SAN DIEGO SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

YOU'RE NOT PERFECT -- NONE OF US IS! -- BUT OVER THE YEARS I HAVE FOUND THAT CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS, AS A GROUP, SEEMED TO MAINTAIN A MORE COMPELLING SET OF ETHICAL STANDARDS TO GUIDE THEIR MEDICAL PRACTICE THAN MIGHT BE FOUND AMONG PHYSICIANS IN GENERAL.

WE SEEM TO HAVE ARRIVED AT MANY OF THE SAME CONCLUSIONS. AND THAT'S WHAT COUNTS. OUR ETHICS, AFTER ALL, COME FROM THE SAME JUDEO-CHRISTIAN CONSENSUS. AND MANY OF THE POINTS OF DISAGREE- MENT WE MIGHT HAVE HAD DISAPPEARED SINCE JOHN XXIII.

SO I FEEL VERY COMFORTABLE IN THIS AUDITORIUM BECAUSE I KNOW THAT ON CERTAIN VERY IMPORTANT ISSUES WE SHARE SIMILAR VIEWS...

ABOUT THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE, FOR EXAMPLE...

AND THE NECESSITY TO PRACTICE MEDICINE WITH AS STRONG A LEAVENING OF DECENCY AND MORALITY AS WE HAVE OF GOOD SCIENCE...

AND WE SHARE SIMILAR FEELINGS, I BELIEVE, ON WHAT WE ARE OBLIGED TO DO -- ON OUR OWN AND AS WELL AS THROUGH OUR INSTITUTIONS -- TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS WORLD IS A SANER, HEALTHIER PLACE WHEN WE LEAVE THAN IT WAS WHEN WE CAME IN.

I HAPPEN TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH A MORAL PERSPECTIVE MUST ALSO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF ANYONE'S MEDICAL PRACTICE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR PARTICULAR CONFESSIONAL PREFERENCE.

I LIKE TO THINK THAT I PRACTICED THAT WAY FOR SOME 35 YEARS AS A PEDIATRIC SURGEON.

I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT SUCH SENTIMENTS HAVE AN "OLD FASHIONED" RING TO THEM. I SUPPOSE THEY DO, BUT I OFFER NO APOLOGIES. QUITE THE CONTRARY.

OUR RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS RECOGNIZE THE CREATOR AS THE AUTHOR AND THE GIVER OF LIFE AND WE, THEREFORE, HOLD THE LIVES ENTRUSTED TO US IN A PRECIOUS STEWARDSHIP. AND WE ALSO HAVE THE OBLIGATION NOT TO DEMEAN LIFE.

I SOMETIMES DEARLY WISH THAT MANY MORE OF MY YOUNG COLLEAGUES IN MEDICINE -- OF WHATEVER RELIGIOUS PERSUASION OR SOCIAL CLASS -- WOULD NOW AND THEN RECALL SOME OF THE FUNDAMENTAL ASPIRATIONS OF THE HUMAN RACE -- THINGS LIKE CHARITY, LIKE LOVE FOR THE STRANGER, LIKE THE CHERISHING OF EVERY BEATING HEART -- AND THAT THEY WOULD INVOKE THEM MORE FREQUENTLY AND MORE CONSISTENTLY AS ASPIRATIONS THAT STILL APPLY TO MEDICINE.

OUR PROFESSION MUST BE DRIVEN BY SOMETHING WITH MORE DEPTH AND SUBSTANCE THAN FEE SCHEDULES, FACULTY APPOINTMENTS, AND JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS. IF NOT, THAN IT IS NO PROFESSION AT ALL BUT THE COMMONEST OF TRADES.

THE SUBJECT OF ASPIRATIONS CAME TO MIND WHILE I WAS AT HARVARD LAST WEEK, TAKING PART IN A SYMPOSIUM, ONE OF MANY PRESENTED DURING HARVARD'S GRAND 350TH BIRTHDAY PARTY.

AS A DARTMOUTH GRAD, I WAS DELIGHTED TO HELP THEM CELEBRATE.

I WAS REMINDED THAT THIS COUNTRY WAS SETTLED BY A BAND OF PEOPLE WHO NAVIGATED BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE OLD WORLD AND THE NEW AT LEAST A CENTURY BEFORE THE INVENTION OF THE QUADRANT AND THE SPRING-WOUND CLOCK.

HOW ON EARTH DID THEY DO IT, STANDING ON THE DECKS OF THEIR BOBBING LITTLE SHIPS, SEARCHING THE STORMY NORTH ATLANTIC SKIES FOR THE SUN, MOON, AND STARS?

THEY HAD VIRTUALLY NO TECHNOLOGY TO SAIL WITH. INSTEAD, I BELIEVE THEY HAD A HUMANE INTUITION, A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY, AND A STERN, TENACIOUS FAITH.

AND I THOUGHT TO MYSELF THAT THERE'S A LESSON HERE FOR MEDICINE. TODAY PHYSICIANS HAVE MORE TECHNOLOGY THAN MAY BE GOOD FOR THEM...BUT LESS THAN THE TENACITY OF FAITH THEY NEED...THAT FAITH -- SMALL "F" -- WHICH IS THE COMPASS OF OUR PROFESSIONAL CALLING.

FOR THESE ARE DIFFICULT TIMES FOR THOSE OF US IN MEDICINE. SO MANY QUESTIONS OF A SERIOUS SOCIAL NATURE HAVE BEEN "MEDICALIZED" AND WE ARE CALLED UPON MORE AND MORE TO MAKE A RESPONSE. DRUNK DRIVING AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY ARE TWO THAT COME IMMEDIATLEY TO MIND.

ANOTHER IS VIOLENCE...ESPECIALLY VIOLENCE WITHIN THE FAMILY.

A YEAR AGO I CONVENED A "SURGEON GENERAL'S WORKSHOP ON VIOLENCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH." I HAD BECOME CONVINCED THAT THE ANNUAL TOLL OF - PAIN AND DEATH -- PARTICULARLY AMONG WOMEN AND SMALL CHILDREN -- COULD NO LONGER BE TOLERATED IN A CIVILIZED NATION SUCH AS OURS CLAIMS TO BE. FURTHERMORE, THAT TOLL HAS A MAJOR IMPACT ON MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH IN OUR SOCIETY.

RALLYING SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING WITHIN THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY HAS BEEN AN ARDUOUS TASK, BUT IT IS MEETING WITH SUCCESS NEVERTHELESS.

I THINK OUR COLLEAGUES IN MEDICINE, NURSING, PSYCHOLOGY, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND ELSEWHERE ARE COMING AROUND TO THE NOTION THAT THEY CAN IN FACT DO MORE FOR THE VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AND CAN ALSO PLAY A MORE SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE.

IT'S NOT A SIMPLE PROBLEM BY ANY MEANS. WHO AMONG US REALLY ENJOYS INTERVENING IN THE LIFE OF THE FAMILY? CERTAINLY NOT I.

BUT WHO AMONG US CAN TURN AWAY FROM A CHILD WHO IS BEING BEATEN OR SEXUALLY ABUSED?...

WHO AMONG US CAN TURN AWAY FROM A WOMAN WHO HAS BEEN BATTERED AND TRAUMATIZED BY SOMEONE WHO PROFESSES TO LOVE HER?...

AND WHO AMONG US CAN TURN ASIDE FROM AN ELDERLY PARENT WHOSE FINAL YEARS ARE BEING REDUCED TO MONTHS -- MAYBE EVEN WEEKS OR DAYS -- OF UNRELIEVED TERROR AND PHYSICAL ABUSE?

TWENTY YEARS AGO WE DIDN'T KNOW VERY MUCH ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS. THEY HADN'T YET REGISTERED ON OUR PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS. IF WE IGNORED THE PROBLEMS OR DIDN'T SEE THEM, MAYBE WE COULD BE EXCUSED.

BUT NOT ANYMORE. THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 4 MILLION OR MORE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EACH YEAR IN OUR SOCIETY. THEY INCLUDE THE MOST VULNERABLE OF OUR CITIZENS...INFANTS, OLD PEOPLE, PREGNANT WOMEN, AND HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS WE'VE NOT ONLY LEARNED MORE ABOUT THE PROBLEM, WE'VE ALSO LEARNED MORE ABOUT THE THINGS WE IN MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH CAN DO ABOUT IT. MANY OF THOSE THINGS, BY THE WAY, ARE DISCUSSED IN THE REPORT OF LAST YEAR'S WORKSHOP, WHICH HAS BEEN GETTING WIDE CIRCULATION, ALSO.

AS I INDICATED A MOMENT AGO, I'VE BEEN PLEASED TO SEE A GROUNDSWELL OF SENSITIVITY, COMPASSION, AND POSITIVE ACTION DEVELOPING WITHIN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN REGARD TO THIS ISSUE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE.

AND I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INVITE THE GUILDS AND ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTED AT THIS MEETING TO EXPLORE WAYS TO HEIGHTEN THEIR OWN MEMBERS' KNOWLEDGE OF -- AND PROFESSIONAL ATTENTION TO -- THIS CRUSHING PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM IN AMERICA TODAY.

A SECOND ISSUE WHICH HAS ARISEN TO TEST OUR FAITH AS CITIZENS... AS PHYSICIANS...AND AS HUMAN BEINGS IS THE ISSUE OF PORNOGRAPHY.

THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN A CONCERN OF MINE FOR MOST OF MY PROFESSIONAL LIFE...WELL BEFORE MY APPOINTMENT AS SURGEON GENERAL AND CERTAINLY IN THE YEARS SINCE THEN.

AT ONE TIME, THE PUBLIC'S CONCERN WAS FOCUSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON BOOK STORES AND MOVIE THEATERS THAT SPECIALIZED IN PORNOGRAPHY. BUT TODAY'S HUCKSTERS OF PORNOGRAPHY HAVE INVADED CABLE TELEVISION, POPULAR MUSIC, TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS, AND THE WHOLE NEW FIELD OF HOME VIDEOS. THROUGH THESE NEW TECHNOLOGIES THEY'VE EXPANDED THEIR MARKETS OF SLEAZE AND TRASH...AND WORSE.

DESPITE THIS, WE TEND TO GIVE PORNOGRAPHY A LOW PRIORITY IN THE OVERALL SCHEME OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS. BUT TO IGNORE THE EVIDENCE WOULD BE TO MAKE A CONSCIOUS DECISION NOT TO SEE PORNOGRAPHY AS A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER TO AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH. AND I BELIEVE IT IS.

THE DEGREE TO WHICH IT HAS BECOME A SERIOUS SOCIAL PROBLEM CAN BE SEEN IN THE RECENT REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S COMMISSION ON PORNOGRAPHY.

IT'S A LENGTHY REPORT AND I WILL GLADLY CONFESS THAT I DID NOT READ THE WHOLE THING. BUT I'M FAMILIAR WITH ENOUGH OF THAT REPORT TO KNOW THAT WE NO LONGER CAN SAY THAT PORNOGRAPHY IS HARMLESS AND WE SHOULD FORGET ABOUT IT...WHICH IS WHAT THE LAST COMMISSION SAID BACK IN 1970.

BY THE WAY, THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN EQUALLY CONCERNED WITH THIS ISSUE AND THEIR REPORTS HAVE BEEN AS LONG AND, IF ANYTHING, EVEN MORE CONDEMNATORY.

OUR COUTNRY'S 1970 REPORT WAS WRONG. AND NOW WE KNOW -- WITH A LITTLE BIT MORE PRECISION -- JUST HOW WRONG THEY WERE.

BUT PORNOGRAPHY'S EFFECTS UPON PUBLIC HEALTH WERE NOT REALLY ADDRESSED DIRECTLY BY THE LATEST COMMISSION REPORT. I KNEW THAT WOULD PROBABLY BE THE CASE, WHEN I TESTIFIED BEFORE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S COMMISSION IN JUNE 1985.

HENCE, I SUGGESTED TO THE COMMISSION THAT THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE MIGHT TAKE A LOOK AT THE LINKAGE BETWEEN PORNOGRAPHY AND HEALTH, IF THE COMMISSION MEMBERS THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL. THEY AGREED THAT IT WOULD AND THEY PROVIDED THE SUPPORT FOR OUR MODEST BUT, I THINK, USEFUL ACTIVITY THIS PAST SUMMER.

I CONVENED A "SURGEON GENERAL'S WORKSHOP ON PORNOGRAPHY AND PUBLIC HEALTH." I CALLED TOGETHER 20 OF THE BEST PEOPLE I COULD FIND...RESEARCHERS AND CLINICIANS...PEOPLE WITH NATIONAL AND EVEN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATIONS...AND ASKED THEM TO DO SEVERAL THINGS IN THE COURSE OF THE TWO-DAY WORKSHOP:

FIRST, WHAT DO WE KNOW WITH SOME DEGREE OF CERTAINTY ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF PORNOGRAPHY UPON THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF OUR PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY UPON YOUNG CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS?

SECOND, WHAT KINDS OF THINGS DO WE STILL NEED TO KNOW...IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT IS OUR RESEARCH AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE?

AND THIRD, AS PROFESSIONALS IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICINE, WHAT DO WE THINK OUGHT TO BE DONE NEXT, EITHER BY OUR COLLEAGUES IN RESEARCH AND CLINICAL PRACTICE OR BY OUR GOVERNMENT?

AS IT HAPPENS, THE PARTICIPANTS GAVE THOUGHTFUL ANSWERS TO THESE THREE QUESTIONS AND ACQUITTED THEMSELVES VERY WELL. WITH THEIR HELP I BELIEVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST WAS SERVED IN A TIMELY AND VITAL MANNER.

I WON'T REPLAY ALL THE DISCUSSION THAT OCCURRED, BUT I WILL SHARE WITH YOU THE FIVE STATEMENTS OF CONSENSUS THAT DID EMERGE:

FIRST, QUOTE -- "CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRODUCTION OF PORNOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE ADVERSE, ENDURING EFFECTS" -- UNQUOTE.

THIS KIND OF THING WAS REGARDED BY THE PARTICIPANTS AS SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE, "PURE AND SIMPLE." THEY NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THE CONNECTION BETWEEN INVOLVEMENT IN THE PRODUCTION OF PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIALS AND SUBSEQUENT INVOLVEMENT IN CHILD PROSTITUTION.

DR. MIMI SILBERT REPORTED TO US AT THIS WORKSHOP THAT JUVENILE PROSTITUTES, FOR EXAMPLE, "TRAPPED IN A SELF-DESTRUCTIVE CYCLE, FEEL THEMSELVES TO BE OUT OF CONTROL OF THEIR LIVES. ESSENTIALLY THEY HAVE DEVELOPED A CHRONIC DISORDER AS A RESULT OF THEIR VICTIMIZATION AND AN INABILITY TO SEPARATE THEMSELVES FROM THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN ORDER TO RE-ESTABLISH A POSITIVE LIFE."

SECOND, THE PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT -- QUOTE -- "PROLONGED USE OF PORNOGRAPHY INCREASES BELIEFS THAT LESS COMMON SEXUAL PRACTICES ARE MORE COMMON" -- UNQUOTE.

THIS SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE, SINCE THE CONCLUSION IS THE SAME THAT OCCURS WHEN WE TALK ABOUT VIOLENCE AND OTHER ANTI-SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: REPEATED EXPOSURE TO THEM -- VIA TELEVISION, FOR EXAMPLE, OR MOVIES SUCH AS THE SO-CALLED "SLASHER FILMS" -- TENDS TO BUILD UP THE IMPRESSION THAT PEOPLE ARE CARRYING OUT SUCH ANTI-SOCIAL ACTIVITIES MORE OFTEN THAN IS ACTUALLY THE CASE.

THIRD, QUOTE -- "PORNOGRAPHY THAT PORTRAYS SEXUAL AGGRESSION AS PLEASURABLE FOR THE VICTIM INCREASES THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE USE OF COERCION IN SEXUAL RELATIONS" -- UNQUOTE.

I'M CERTAIN THAT THIS KIND OF PORNOGRAPHY IS THE CAUSE FOR MUCH OF THE RAPE THAT OCCURS TODAY. IMPRESSIONABLE MEN -- MANY OF THEM STILL IN ADOLESCENCE -- SEE THIS STUFF AND GET THE IMPRESSION THAT WOMEN LIKE TO BE HURT, TO BE HUMILITATED, TO BE FORCED TO DO THINGS THEY DON'T WANT TO DO OR APPEAR TO BE FORCED TO DO THINGS THEY REALLY DO WANT TO DO. IT'S ANOTHER FALSE STEREOTYPE...ANOTHER VICIOUS KIND OF MYTHOLOGY...BUT THIS ONE ALMOST CERTAINLY LEADS TO THE PAIN AND EVEN DEATH OF VICTIMIZED WOMEN.

FOURTH, QUOTE -- "ACCEPTANCE OF COERCIVE SEXUALITY APPEARS TO BE RELATED TO SEXUAL AGGRESSION" -- UNQUOTE.

THIS CONSENSUS STATEMENT, ALONG WITH THE PREVIOUS ONE, COMPLETES THE CIRCLE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE. IN OTHER WORDS, IF A MAN SEES A STEADY STREAM OF SEXUALLY VIOLENT MATERIAL IN WHICH THE VICTIM SEEMS TO BE LIKING IT, HE BEGINS TO GET THE IDEA THAT COERCION AND VIOLENCE ARE ACCEPTABLE IN SEXUAL RELATIONS.

BUT THEN, SAID THE WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS, HE WILL VERY LIKELY TAKE THE NEXT STEP. HE WILL CONVERT THIS ATTITUDE INTO HIS OWN BEHAVIOR. IN OTHER WORDS, HE WILL BECOME THE PERPETRATOR HE HAS BEEN READING ABOUT OR WATCHING IN PORNOGRAPHIC FILMS AND VIDEOS.

FIFTH AND FINALLY, QUOTE -- "IN LABORATORY STUDIES MEASURING SHORT-TERM EFFECTS, EXPOSURE TO VIOLENT PORNOGRAPHY INCREASES PUNITIVE BEHAVIOR TOWARD WOMEN" -- UNQUOTE.

THIS IS OBVIOUSLY IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVE BY CONTROLLED EXPERIMENTS. IT'S DIFFICULT TO ACCUMULATE HARD DATA ON PORNOGRAPHY BECAUSE OF THE OVER-RIDING ETHIC THAT PREVENTS US FROM DOING HARM TO HUMAN SUBJECTS IN RESEARCH. NEVERTHELESS, THIS FIFTH CONCLUSION IS SAFE ENOUGH TO DRAW FROM THE FEW EXPERIMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN DONE.

I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY, BASED ON THESE CONSENSUS STATEMENTS, THAT PORNOGRAPHY DOES STIMULATE ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR THAT HAVE GRAVELY NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FOR SOCIETY. THOSE OUTCOMES IMPAIR THE MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, AND PHYSICAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS -- THAT'S CLEAR ENOUGH -- AND MAY THUS CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE MORBIDITY BURDEN IN OUR SOCIETY.

WHAT'S THE RESULT OF ALL THIS? I CAN'T SAY THAT THE WORKSHOP HAS CAUSED THE GOVERNMENT, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, OR EVEN THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE TO STEER A NEW AND MORE ACTIVIST COURSE AGAINST THIS EVIL INLFUENCE IN OUR SOCIETY. BUT I CAN SAY THAT THE RECORD IS NOW A LITTLE CLEARER AND A LITTLE LESS AMBIGUOUS, WITH REGARD TO THE PRESENCE OF PORNOGRAPHY IN AMERICAN LIFE.

AND I WOULD ADD, STRICTLY FROM A LAYPERSON'S POINT OF VIEW, THAT THE ISSUE WE TAKE WITH PORNOGRAPHY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT OUR SOCIETY HAS NEVER PERMITTED, MUCH LESS CONDONED, SPEECH OR WRITING THAT WAS RECOGNIZED AS ENDANGERING THE LIFE OR DIMINISHING THE WELL-BEING OF ANY CITIZEN.

THE LAWS RELATING TO LIBEL, SLANDER, AND TO CONSPIRACY TO DEPRIVE A PERSON OF HIS OR HER CIVIL RIGHTS SEEM TO STEM FROM THE SAME IMPULSE THAT HAS GUIDED MANY OF US THROUGHOUT THIS EFFORT TO DEAL WITH PORNOGRAPHY...PARTICULARLY CHILD PORNOGRPAHY AND SEXUALLY VIOLENT PORNOGRAPHY.

THIS MATERIAL IS BLATANTLY ANTI-HUMAN...ITS APPEAL IS TO A DARK AND ANTI-HUMAN IMPULSE...AND THE RESULTS OF ITS DISSEMINATION HAVE BEEN INJURIOUS TO THE PHYSICAL, MENTAL, AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH OF OUR CITIZENS, YOUNG AND OLD, FEMALE AND MALE ALIKE.

WE MUST OPPOSE IT AS WE MUST OPPOSE ALL VIOLENCE, HATE, AND PREJUDICE. AND IF THAT IS SOMEHOW UN-AMERICAN...WELL, IT'S NEWS TO ME.

THESE ARE INDEED DIFFICULT AND TROUBLING TIMES FOR THE CONCERNED PHYSICIAN, AS THEY ARE TROUBLING FOR THE CONCERNED CITIZEN OF WHATEVER CALLING. MANY OF US, I KNOW, LONG FOR SOME MYSTIC AGE WHEN A PHYSICIAN'S CONCERN WOULD BELY TO TREAT AND CURE AND HEAL.

THE WORLD IS ASKING A GREAT DEAL OF US THESE DAYS...BUT WE ARE, IN TURN, ASKING MUCH MORE OF OURSELVES.

IN THAT SPIRIT, LET ME CLOSE MY REMARKS TODAY WITH THIS EXCERPT FROM THE WRITINGS OF ST. PAUL, WHO REMINDED THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS, AS HE REMINDS US YET AGAIN TODAY, THAT...

"WE WRESTLE NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES, AGAINST POWERS, AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD, AGAINST SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES.

"WHEREFORE TAKE UNTO YOU THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD, THAT YE MAY BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND IN THE EVIL DAY, AND HAVING DONE ALL, TO STAND."

ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR INVITATION TO COME AND STAND WITH YOU TODAY AT THIS IMPORTANT MEETING.

THANK YOU.

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