

1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19

Psalms 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20

John 1:35-42

The President is asking people from Norway to move to the United States. Let me tell you about people from Norway. Historically, these are the Vikings, the Vandals. First, they raped and pillaged northern Germany, then moved on to France, the beginning of the Dark Age. Then they moved on to Britain and Ireland. Finally, they conquered Sicily and southern Italy.

Today, Norway is one of those countries that basically runs the United Nations, has from the beginning, and wants to tell the US what to do and how to act. Norway is entirely populated by unreformed socialists who believe in 90% tax rates for rich people, and who think normal people are entitled to unlimited free health care, guaranteed basic income, legally mandated six weeks of paid vacation each year, pensions equal to what workers make, and many other benefits. Why would they want to come here?

The President also doesn't want people to come from places like Mexico, Haiti, El Salvador, or any country in Africa. He says these are "poophole" countries.

I will only point out that more than half of the priests currently active in the Diocese of Pueblo are from these "poophole" countries.

Why are we having all these people from poophole countries come here, anyway?

- 1.) They are our brothers and sisters in need.
- 2.) They are often fleeing war, violence or famine.

- 3.) There are children among them.
- 4.) The Old Testament commands us to care for the “alien.”
- 5.) Jesus insists that Christians welcome the “stranger.”
- 6.) Jesus commands Christians to love one another.
- 7.) We will be judged on how we care for the stranger, the widow, and the orphan.
- 8.) They come bringing hope.
- 9.) It’s the right thing to do.
- 10.) That’s who Christians are.

One more reason: Jesus himself was from a “poophole” place. Nazareth was a minuscule town of 200 to 400 people, where people lived in small stone houses, and, say archaeologists, garbage (that is, poop) was dumped in the alleyways. “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” says Nathanael when he hears where the Messiah is from.

God, in other words, came from a “poophole” place. And he pointedly asked us to welcome him whenever he appeared as a “stranger,” or as one of our “least” brothers and sisters. That’s why we have all these people come. Because Jesus came.

Reports of recent disparaging remarks about African countries and Haiti have aroused great concern. As our brothers and sisters from these countries are primarily people of color, these remarks are especially disturbing. All human beings are made in the image and likeness of God, and comments that denigrate nations and peoples violate that fundamental truth and cause real pain to our neighbors. It is regrettable that this comes on the eve of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and could distract from the urgent bipartisan effort to help Dreamers and those with Temporary Protected Status. As a vigorous debate continues over the future of immigration, we must always be sure to avoid language that can dehumanize our brothers and sisters.

They are proud of the countries from which they have come, and they are deeply grateful for the opportunity to be citizens of this nation. They seek to contribute to the United States as a society. They believe in education for their children, and parents often work two or three jobs to make that education possible.

The United States is a nation of immigrants, and historically an immigrant Church, from the poorest countries of Europe and the world, and both have benefitted greatly from those welcomed here.

We are a nation of immigrants, who have made America great. We continue to be enriched by the gifts they bring to our shores.

President Trump is channeling Archie Bunker without the charm. The president's remarks are disappointing and likely are an effort to soothe his critics after holding a bipartisan meeting on Tuesday where he signaled a willingness to sign comprehensive immigration reform into law, an effort the US Catholic Bishops support.

The president's remarks lay bare the true motivation of those who want to close the doors of our nations to immigrants and hopefully his remarks have also discredited the restrictionists' position and freed Congress to move ahead and ignore the restrictionists. They have pretty much revealed themselves for what they are.

As Emma Lazarus's poem on the Statue of Liberty suggests, these are precisely the immigrants that become the best and the brightest in our country. Countries have, historically, brought us the best because they come looking for the promise of America and are ready to seize the opportunities that America offers.

I would hope that Catholics are reminding their Congresspeople of the need for immigration reform that is humane and one that doesn't

punish innocent people, doesn't divide families, and doesn't create chaos in our own communities that would lose these people and in the countries where they would be sent to.

These are shocking and shameful comments from the President of the United States. There is no other word one can use but 'racist'.

You cannot dismiss entire countries and continents as 'poopholes', whose entire populations, who are not white, and therefore not welcome, and then privilege people from countries whose entire population is white, without being racist.

The issue is more than vulgar language. It's about opening the door to humanity's worst side, about validating and encouraging racism and xenophobia that will potentially disrupt and destroy lives of many people.

The president also failed to clearly condemn the anti-Semitic and racist actions of white supremacists in Charlottesville at a rally in Virginia last August.

The future of Dreamers and other refugees and migrants should not be used as a bargaining chip to negotiate the most severe and restrictive immigration and security measures possible. These are human beings, not commodities.

People forced to flee war or persecution, and needing asylum, should be given protection by whichever country they are in, irrespective of race, religion, ethnicity or place or country of origin.

A poophole nation is one where people are afraid that there isn't enough for me and you, so I'm getting mine because who cares about you. A great nation is filled with people who know that God always

provides more blessings to people who are generous and courageous and hopeful. A Christian nation is filled with people and policies which are patient, kind, loving, joyful, peaceful, faithful, gentle, obedient to Jesus and his immaculate Mother.