

Daily Meditation 07/11/2022

Political Hacks & Religious Quacks: Christofascism in SCOTUS

Good morning.

Today we meditate on the unsavory realities of the Christofascism that lurks behind many of the Supreme Court judges who were appointed and nominated, first nominated by an Opus Dei operative in the Federalist Society.

And I bring up the language of the latest Supreme Court Judge: "political hacks." She made a speech saying that they weren't. But I believe that's the first time in the entire history of the Supreme Court that a Supreme Court member has stood up to say "I'm not a political hack."

And I'm adding to that language and proposing that there's a lot of religious quackery, as well, that is playing out in these decisions of the current Supreme Court. And behind them, there is Christofascism.

These are strong words, but what they are doing to the country is far stronger--tearing it apart, not having interviewed any women, especially poor or black and brown women, about the implications of their decisions, even though 68% of Roman Catholics in America want to keep Roe vs. Wade. 68%. And five of these judges, six of them, claim to be Catholic--or, at least were claiming to be.

So they're in a minority of a minority, even in their own minority religion. And America is supposed to be religiously pluralistic, open to all traditions, including people who are not religious at all. And it seems to me that for a minority of a minority to propose their religious ideology, as they interpret it in a very minority way--not even other Catholics are on their side--this is asking for a whole country to come apart, to enter a period of chaos that is totally unneeded. There are so many other issues that require our attention today, including, of course, the love and saving of Mother Earth and all her creatures.

So, hard heads need hard hammers and to call religious quacks, religious quacks; and Christofascism, Christofascism; and followers of Opus Dei what they are, namely children of fascism. The fascist priest, Escriva, who manipulated to get himself canonized a saint in record time.... It's all beyond disturbing, but it is factual.

The woman who was in Opus Dei for 18 years and was a private secretary to Escriva, Father Escriva, who was a card-carrying fascist who praised Hitler, she said this. She said, "It boggles the mind. My

astonishment is infinite. It boggles the mind that anyone could call a person who praises Hitler a saint. My astonishment is infinite when I hear now that Monsignor Escriva is in the process of beatification."

Well, that was just the first step of canonization. That was before he got himself canonized. They changed the rules to get him canonized. There was no devil's advocate, and they did not allow her and other people who saw him daily for years to testify at his so-called canonization experience.

Here's a little list of some of the things that he stood for:

Clericalism, hierarchy, deep money and access to it in high places, questionable financial dealings, women as second-class citizens. Let me say that again. Women as second-class citizens, women as objects of abuse. He once, and this was testified to by several people, told one woman to pull up her skirt; she should be spanked.

This might echo some of Judge Alito's thinking in his document that destroys Roe vs. Wade, who went to a 17th century jurist--two of them actually--who trafficked in trials for witches and burning them at the stake. And Alito actually includes those references in his document with the Supreme Court. Symbol on the letterhead, no doubt.

Extreme right-wing politics, including support of Latin American dictator and torturers, such as Pinochet, and fascists such as Franco and Hitler himself. Anti-Vatican II. (I'm talking now about Father Escriva, the founder of Opus Dei.) Anti-liberation theology, anti-base communities, heresy-hunting crusades, an attitude of Father Knows Best, teaching his followers to not trust your conscience, obedience comes first. Obedience to him and his little hierarchy!

An ideology of submission, an ascetic spirituality of personal mortification and beating oneself regularly--kind of masochism. Anti-intellectualism. Bias in favor of totalitarianism, and anti-ecumenical.

So there is nothing of Vatican II in Father Escriva. In fact, people who know him say that he considered leaving the Catholic Church to become a Greek Orthodox because he so disagreed with Vatican II.

So this is some of the smoke and the smog that huddles around Christofascism in our time. And we cannot hide our heads in the sand about it. It is real.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.