



SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

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Dear Candidate for Confirmation,

Carl Marx, the founder of Communism, called religion “the opium of the masses.” He believed that religion inspired people, especially the poor, to simply accept things as they are. I wonder if Carl Marx ever really knew a Catholic or had ever really studied the history of the world. The Catholic Faith is in no way a drug that encourages people to accept the status quo. It is rather a force that motivates Catholics to think beyond themselves and to change the world.

At one time, the Roman Empire was a place filled with much evil. For example, the ancient Romans practiced, infanticide. When a child reached the age of eight days, he or she would be presented to his or her father. If the father literally turned his back on the child, the child would be tossed out into street to die of exposure. This great evil ended because of the Catholic Church’s teachings on the value of life.

According to some historians, the city of Rome at one time had more slaves living in it than free people. Eventually slavery also came to an end in the Roman Empire because of the Catholic Church’s teaching of love for one’s enemies and that all people were made in the divine image.

One last example, of how Catholics have influenced the Roman Empire is how the practice of gladiatorial games came to an end. Sadly these games were considered some crude form of entertainment. These games were eventually banished because of Catholic moral teaching.

The Catholic Faith has inspired countless people throughout the ages to change the world. Mother Teresa, Dorothy Day, and Damian Molokai, are just a few saints who spent their lives making the world a better place and in the process, they inspired countless others to follow their example.

“Be who you were created to be, and you will set the world on fire,” are words from St. Catherine of Sienna that I hope you will take to heart as you prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. The following requirements are meant to assist you in your effort to grow in your faith and to become a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

Thank you and God bless,

Rev. Thomas M. Pastorius

Fr. Tom Pastorius