

## **Islamic Terrorism**

**by: Father John Catoir JCD -6/20/17**

Did you know that Islamic Jihadists killed 90,000 Christians in the year 2016? Is Christ really calling us to turn the other cheek? I don't think so!

Jesus spoke Aramaic, which is a language of exaggeration and hyperbole. "Love your enemies," is an ideal beyond our understanding. Forgive them, yes, after they've been defeated, but don't shower them with gifts while they're in the act of killing your children.

Aramaic is a language that has only one word for "enemy." In the Latin Vulgate translation of the original text, there are two words for "enemy." The Latin: "inimicus," which refers to a personal enemy; and "hostis publicus," which means public enemy.

In private matters, Jesus asks us to avoid the use of violence, but he never told us to leave our children defenseless before an attacking public enemy.

The concept of a just war was developed by St. Augustine, and was designed to help us protect the innocent from brutal killers. Therefore, we have the right to mount a defense against the vicious attacks of Islamic Jihadists.

Catholics all over the world didn't hesitate to take up arms against Hitler when he was tearing up Europe in the 1940's. So too in the 1500's, when the Muslim Jihadists of the Ottoman Turkish Empire attacked Europe, Pope St. Pius V didn't hesitate to call on the Catholic League of European maritime states to stop and defeat the invaders.

Sailing under the banner of Our Blessed Mother, the Catholic coalition succeeded miraculously in sinking the superior Ottoman Armada.

Having been the pastor of Our Lady of Victories Parish in Paterson, N.J., for a brief time, I became familiar with the fact that every Catholic Parish named "Our Lady of Victories," all over the world, is dedicated to the memory of Mary's intercession in defeating the Islamic Jihadist Armada in the sea Battles of Lepanto in 1571.

I was once a pacifist. I interpreted the words: "Love your enemies," literally. I imagined that Jesus was commanding us to be non-violent in all circumstances. But I was in conflict because down deep I knew that someone like Hitler had to be stopped.

While in this state of confusion, right after graduating from college in 1953, I was drafted into the Army, and soon became an MP at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. I began feeling guilty about carrying a loaded 45.

After a difficult discernment process, I went to my company commander. "Captain," I said, petrified that I might end up in prison; "I am a Catholic pacifist, and my conscience will not allow me to fire my weapon at any human being."

To my complete and utter surprise, he paused for a moment and said, "Don't worry about it. We're in a peacetime situation here, and you won't have to fire your weapon at anyone. Carry on as you normally would." With a great sigh of relief, I replied, "Yes Sir," saluted, and happily left the room.

I was very young then. Now, after years of prayer and study, I no longer believe in absolute pacifism. I have come to understand that Jesus permits us to defend ourselves against all public enemies.

Muslim Jihadists, beware. God bless us, each and every one.