

October 6, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

### The Cat and the Mouse

On Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> in Las Vegas a terrible tragedy occurred. A man filled with hate and heavily armed with weapons of death tried to kill as many people as possible at a country music festival. It was the largest mass murder in the United States since the tragic events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

Everyone wonders why a man who was an accountant in life, enjoying retirement in Nevada, blessed with wealth and possessions, a brother and an elderly mother would do something like this. He had a good education and a white collar career. He had a family. His spare time was spent in the glitter of fabulous Las Vegas. It doesn't seem he had a worry in the world.

His brother told us that the man who did this dastardly deed had no political or religious affiliation. We know that politics today is so poisonous that it can drive people to the edge of sanity. He was free from that. But when I heard that he had no visible faith that made me think. Bishop Curlin would say many times, "I don't know how people survive without faith."

In his book, *Made For Love, Loved By God*, the author, Fr. Peter Cameron, wrote that everyone has a void in their lives that can only be filled by God. When a person lives their life treating God as if he doesn't mean anything, then this void can only be filled with things such as: possessions, pleasures, power and prestige. These are never enough. There is a still an emptiness which has to be filled. If God is not allowed into a person's life, then it follows that something less than God and his goodness will take possession of our hearts.

In Holy Rood House in Scotland visitors will find a work of rare and fragile embroidery completed by Mary Stuart. She is better known as Mary, Queen of Scots who was beheaded by her own cousin. She was a Catholic Queen in a land overwhelmed by Protestant revolution. Embroidery was a common past-time of hers and she chose her figures carefully and gave them meaning. Among the figures she stitched are a cat and a mouse. Queen Mary must have imagined herself as a cat chasing down all the mice in her kingdom. Suddenly she became the mouse under the watchful glare of the cat.

The murderer of October 1<sup>st</sup> had no God or religion. On the 32<sup>nd</sup> floor of Mandalay Bay he fired down upon 22,000 country music fans late at night. His heart was filled with hate. He himself allowed that to happen. He made the choice to keep God out. He was that cat that night and his victims were the mice. But remember there is someone else more powerful who looking for souls to devour. Those who do evil will become the mouse under the watchful glare of the cat. "The devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). May God grant Eternal Rest to all his victims and health to those who were injured that night.