

“Make Good Choices”

This weekend, as the Faith Community of St. Thomas More, we take time to recognize and congratulate, the graduates among us.

May and June are months of transition for many. grade school, high school, and college graduations take place. These ceremonies become moments of reflection in which many in our society realize the completion of one phase of their lives and the beginning of new challenges and experiences.

As part of this collective reflection, I would like to encourage our graduates, and indeed all of us, to recommit ourselves to “make good choices.”

In our world today, there is so much hatred. Oftentimes this hatred is even espoused in the name of religion, and in the name of God. This hatred is fueling so much of the unrest in our global village.

As Catholics, we proclaim a God who is Love. There can be, for us, no room for hatred in our lives. Indeed a major tenet of all religions is the proclamation of a God who chooses for love and not hatred.

People who believe in love and not hatred, no matter what religious background they claim, will need to be more vocal in their daily lives about what motivates them as human beings. This motivational Love must be proclaimed not just from pulpits and at Church meetings, but in the marketplace, in the office, at home, in schools, and in our neighborhoods. This Love must be more verbal and visible and it must pervade all of everyday life.

If it doesn't, hatred will continue to take center stage. We who believe in Love must make choices. Hopefully, they will be choices that keep Love center stage in our world.

I share with you two thoughts/poems taken from the book, “Kiss of God.” This is a compilation of poems and thoughts written by fifteen-year-old Marshall Stewart Ball:

-Choices Are Yours-

*The now I give to a good thinker.
Go to feelings that give good to others.
You make the choice to think good or bad.
Real true thoughts go to happy givers.
Begin now to make good choices.*

Marshall, who began writing when he was five years old, cannot speak, cannot walk independently, and does not possess the fine motor skills or strength to use a computer without assistance. This remarkable child also says to us: “*Twenty years in the future we see a world that has a time of harmony. Perhaps man will become loving. Answers need to come about how people see God. Realizing a good God will bring harmony.*”

We, people of religion, need to reclaim our heritage. Regardless of our Faith Tradition, we need to once again realize a good God. It is that realization that will lead to harmony, in our Churches, in our homes, in our neighborhoods and the world around us.

May we make the choice for a good God!