

The Ketteler Legacy

February 2017

Speaking Truth to Power

In reflecting over the events of the past months, it becomes more and more evident that we as a nation are moving into a time where openly expressed hatred for someone or feeling free to misrepresent the truth about or disrespect for another is becoming common, mainly on social media. Sad to say it is becoming for many people the usual and acceptable way to interact with one another.

On social media lies (“alternate facts”) are becoming today’s truth; “fake news” is widespread; the press is attacked for reporting the facts; bullying is becoming more and more common; disdain of others who have different beliefs or ethnic backgrounds grows daily. We need only to look at history to see that these are the tactics used by dictators of the past, such as Hitler, Stalin, and Mussolini, to create a world of fear, hatred, and loss of freedom.

As Sisters of Divine Providence and Associates we must ask ourselves:

- What is our responsibility to each other and to our Nation?
- Are we willing to stand up for truth and justice even if we find ourselves criticized and mocked?
- Will we speak the truth against the present day evils?
- Will our lives reflect the Gospel Message of love to all those we meet?

We must not let fear or complacency prevent us from standing up to the evils and injustices of our time. We must be true daughters of Ketteler and Mother Marie.

*“To make us in the image of God – God gave us freedom.
Thereby humankind was enabled to reach its full dignity,
but it is also within our capacity to sink to the most degraded level.”*
(Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler)

“The idea [in a democracy] that for all our outward differences, we’re all in this together; that we rise and fall as one.” “Because it’s up to all of us to make sure our government can help us meet the many challenges we face .”
(President Barak Obama, Farewell Address 2017)

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