



WEEKLY LETTER FROM MONSIGNOR KEN

Among the many torturous traps that Kevin Mcallister sets for the two robbers, Harry and Marv, in *Home Alone*, there is the scene where he escapes from the second floor of his house on a zip line to his tree house. Kevin manages to trick his would be assailants into following him by shimmying along the rope. After they get half way, he brandishes a pair of hedge clippers. The bandits hurry back, but not before he cuts the rope sending them crashing into the wall of the house.

That's one of many slap stick moments that contribute to the movie's entertaining appeal. However, in real life, cutting a rope that's a life-line would be cruel. Who would do that?

Let me tell you.

In recent years, there have been a multitude of fiercely debated and controversial topics. They are mostly framed as issues of compassion. Who cannot feel for a young woman with an unexpected pregnancy; a young boy or girl who struggles with their identity; a young couple struggling to get pregnant? Actually, I don't know of anyone who would lack sympathy for someone caught in any of those cases. However, it is important to take a step back and look at the bigger picture. Beyond each individual circumstance and the choices presented, there is a broader issue that cannot be overlooked. That bigger concern is the reality of what I call the manipulations by the grand deceiver. Each of the circumstances I referenced offer a temptation to sever ties: the connection between mother and child, the connection between sexuality and reproduction, the connection between biology and identity. Beyond that, the ultimate temptation is to sever a connection with God. It goes back to the Garden of Eden. What was the serpent's temptation? "You will be like gods." The invitation is to push God out of the picture so that one can be and do whatever they want. The trick is to convince someone that they would then be in charge. Not! In the small print, it states the devil will then be in charge.

I don't think anyone, with some exceptions, involved in any of the issues debated these days ever consider any of this. They are victims themselves of misinformation and deception. They need compassion and understanding.

However, as a society we need an awakening. We must be compassionate, but connected, connected to life, to humanity, and to God. It is sadly ironic in the battle for life, those of us on the side of respect life, strive to champion being human. In a devilish inversion, we become accused of being inhuman. Our first parents who succumbed to this temptation, lost paradise. I fear we could do the same.

In the conclusion of a very challenging and thorough book, *The Transhumanist Temptation*, author Grayson Quay writes:

"He should have called it Hell. Hell is the site of the final divorce between desire and eudaimonia (Greek for wellbeing or human flourishing). It's where humans, if the state to which they've degraded themselves is worthy of the name, are left free to make their own meaning, craft their own identity, chase their own bliss, and live their own truth—forever. The results are not joy and empowerment but suffering and bondage. And if we believe the serpent's promise and embrace transhumanism the same fate awaits us in this life."

"But the snake said to the woman: 'You certainly will not die!' God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, who know good and evil.'" (Genesis 3:4)