***Chesterton and the Pandemic***

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G.K. Chesterton, poet, essayist and philosopher, loved to use the paradox in his writings. Paradox he said is the truth standing on its head to attract attention. For example, “some say that Christianity has been tried and found wanting!” “But Christianity has never been truly tried,” said Chesterton in reply. What would he comment about today’s world were he still alive? He’d point out the paradox: In the age of Covid-19, God shows himself both first and loving. People today deserve chastisement as naughty children (the word naughty is too lenient) killing millions of unborn babies, preferring the unholy union of same sex partners rather than traditional marriage, the unconcern for the poor and needy, etc. God Himself will not spare the rod and spoil his children but like a loving father will lovingly spank his wayward children to give them a wake-up call and not to get even. Rather He wants to point out to them alternate ways of life. For example, to learn from the pandemic that stay-at-home mothers can home school their children and thus protect them from godless public schools, that husbands working at home via computers would help families be close knit. Out of love God hopes that we will learn these lessons from the pandemic,

But unfortunately, Chesterton is no longer with us and can no longer be our common-sense apostle to guide us in these troubled times. Fortunately, however, in San Francisco we have an outspoken religious leader, Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone. On May 1, 2021, he issued his first pastoral letter, “Before I Formed You in the Womb, I Knew You!”

It concerns the biggest problem in the U.S. today – not immigration or the economic recession we are headed for, but rather the slaughter of millions of unborn babies. To cooperate formally (willingly) in abortion is a very serious evil never to be permissible. Ordinary Catholics and Catholic politicians who are openly pro-choice are to be counselled and then if they remain adamant, denied the reception of Holy Communion.

More than just words, Archbishop Cordileone puts pro-life idealism into action for example by participating in projects like 40 Days for Life. He invites us all to follow his example.