

# An Easter reflection: would Jesus drive a tank?

During this holy time of Easter, we Catholics are called on to reflect and "participate" in the sacrifice Christ made for the forgiveness of our sins and his triumphant defeat of death through resurrection. Let us pray that our reflections and sacrifices are true to Christ's example.

We are not called on to simply acknowledge God's gift of Christ's sacrifice, but to emulate it. During Lent, in addition to abstinence from meat and other luxuries, may we consider what we have supported in our hearts, and with our words? There is nothing in the New Testament that validates a solution including preemptive violence against other human beings, or even peace and liberation through violent force—even if that solution appears to be "working."

Christ teaches a third way, different from flight or fight. He shows us how to love our neighbor as well as our enemy. In the Easter season, during this time of war, let us consider this question: Would Jesus drive a tank?

✉ Mary Flock Lempa, *Forest View*

# Perspective on 'poverty'

I read with great interest the story of the five Poor Clare nuns in the Archdiocese of Chicago home (TCNW, March 30). While I think it is wonderful that these sisters have committed themselves to a life of prayer and seclusion for the needs of the world, the article story stopped short of explaining why five women need a \$4 million home. (aka monastery).

I think I have a whole new perspective on the vow of poverty embraced by religious communities.

✉ Joyce Kosinski, *Niles*

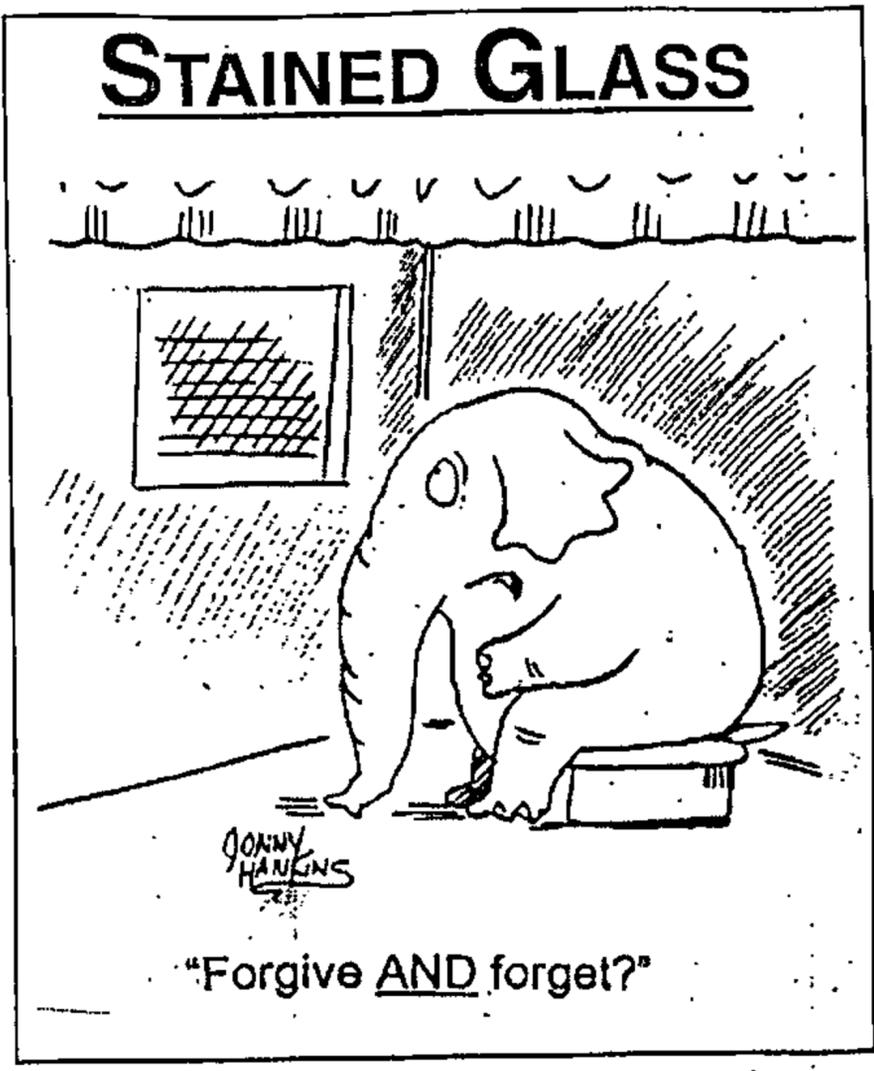
# Time for ending myths and truth-telling in war

This administration has shaped the news as no other in memory. That 50 percent of the public believe a myth—that Saddam was connected to the Sept. 11 attacks—is proof of this. Another myth is that Saddam was a great danger, a heavily armed enemy capable of attacking his neighbors and the United States.

The truth is that he had no navy and no air force to speak of. His army was severely weakened in the 1980s war with Iran, heavily damaged in Gulf War I in 1991, and, with the subsequent embargo, was unable to replace parts or be resupplied. Despite this, the public believes Saddam was a serious threat to our security.

These myths have weighed heavily in helping the Bush administration secure a blank check with Congress and the American people. Could they have attacked Iraq without the use of these emotional myths? I doubt it.

Let's not forget the old adage: "In war, truth is the first casualty."



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# Does the U.S. have right to go after every despot?

First let me say that I am a veteran of military service, and I completely support our armed forces in Iraq. Their job is to follow orders of their commanders, and that is what they are doing, and we all need to pray for them.

I am still wondering if I am missing something in our country's quest to squash Iraq. Did not the United States provide some of these chemical and biological weapons to Iraq because it was fighting Iran, which we were then at odds with? And as of this writing we have not found any so called weapons of mass destruction, for which we mounted a preemptive strike.

What gives the United States the right for this preemptive strike? Do we have to go after every despot in the world, and are we going to go after Syria?

Furthermore it seems the Christian Coalition, backbone of the Republican Party, fully favors this conflict.

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