“BE PREPARED!” “

Theme” of Fr. Jim Blazek’s Sunday August 10 Homily—Summary by Dr. Michael raham  
Current overall “political” conditions in the USA 🇺🇸portend for  
continued rising trends in Domestic Abuse/Violence - especially the propagating by our government of highly publicized “authorized violence“ against “the enemy within.”  
  
 “Official cruelty” including  the  disruption of families  seem to be the “core strategies  of the quickly expanding  “ICE enforcement army” - reminiscent of the “SS units” of certain notorious prior failed authoritarian regimes.  
  
The result ?  - extreme  chronic apprehension & a pervasive foreboding regarding the potential for abrupt  arrests resulting in   “disappearance-detention - deportation” - resulting also in loss of jobs & property, disruption of children’s education nutrition and safety - which all add up to a milieu  
for blaming & battering behind closed doors!  
  
Meanwhile, current  federal government leadership has recently drastically cut or terminated virtually all of the 694 NIH funds & government grants related to health related research, disease prevention, & proactive treatment of a broad spectrum of health conditions & diseases.    
  
Programs currently  discontinued (due to suspension of funding and firing of most competent leadership) include most ongoing and new mental health, domestic violence intervention, addiction treatment, disease prevention, vaccine research, & vaccine implementation programs in the USA - plus the cancellation of extremely cost effective emergency nutrition, vaccination, malaria abatement, HIV treatment, and maternal health AID programs world-wide!  
  
  According to several national academic infectious disease experts, our CDC is no longer issuing trustworthy vaccination guidelines - as their “expert“ “Boards” have been fired and largely replaced by non-expert vaccine skeptics  - so insurance companies are beginning to discontinue coverage of certain vaccines - including Covid - as they are only required to cover vaccines for which their are current expert approved guidelines.  
  
Some clinics & pharmacies reportedly are now charging $100 out-of -pocket for the most recent - but already outdated - Covid vaccine.  
  
  Meanwhile, reportedly there are  now NO new Covid vaccines in the pipeline - since RFK, jr very recently canceled all “warp-speed” mRNA vaccine research, manufacturing,  
& issued cancellation of government approval of this safe, and rapid category of Covid  vaccine re-engineering.  
  
COVID treatment  programs are also no longer subsidized - as they were during the recent Pandemic.  For example Pfizer’s previously federal government  subsidized 5 day PAXLOVID Covid treatment medication is now priced at $1500 - with most insurance no longer covering more than about 40% of that cost (if they cover Paxlovid at all!).    
  
My co-pay for my recent prescribed 5 day course of Paxlovid was $684.52 (to treat the Covid that my wife and I  likely  “caught” at a recent funeral service at Holy Cross.)  
  
    Nutrition supplementation  (SNAP) programs for low income persons are also being attenuated, as is Medicaid coverage.    
  
    Legal “Green Card’s” &  
other long term authorizations for non-citizens to reside & work &  
own property & attend school in the USA  are commonly being abruptly canceled even if they have been residing, working, and paying taxes in the USA for many years - or often decades!  
  
Non-insured individuals and families will not likely be getting vaccinated - or effectively treated  
where indicated if they become infected  - so as to not call attention to themselves by local ICE battalions - which will soon number over 10,000 ICE officers  
with authority to “arrest without warrant” , detain “without bond”and then soon thereafter  “disappear” anyone they think looks or sounds like a non-citizen who doesn’t have anyone of authority coming to their rescue!   
  
All this is while certain preventable infectious diseases including new variants of Covid are trending upwards in prevalence in much of the USA, as commonly occurs early in the new “school year.”  
  
This gloomy situation portends that we do need to:  
  
“ BE PREPARED”   
  
for a likely significant increased prevalence of “domestic violence” - along with a likely paradoxical decrease in “domestic violence victim/survivors” seeking access to remedial DV services- including in Lake County!  
  
Soon I will outline a reasonable suggested HC DV Awareness & Prevention Program for national DV Awareness Month -  realizing that “we cannot fix everything” and that our main mission is to   
“increase awareness.”  
  
Thank you all!