

Lyceum 100! And counting – July 3, 2025, Neighborhood/Parish Lyceum – a forum to Think, Discuss, Share, and Learn from one another. **Your input is welcomed - Iron sharpens iron.**

“The 1826, in Connecticut, a farmer named Josiah Holbrook started a school for ‘the general diffusion of knowledge and raising the moral and intellectual taste’ of Americans. In those days, the opportunities for higher education were limited to those venerable old universities that had long served the upper crust. Holbrook’s vision was to make learning – practical, liberal, and humane – available to working people of all kinds. He named his school the Lyceum, after the garden where Aristotle once taught his students philosophy.... We need to go deeper than the superficial fights that characterize public life. We need to return to the first principles and meet each other there as human beings.”– Nathan Beacom, Plough Magazine, Autumn 2023, p. 9.

The following quotations are worthy of reflection, discussion, and action relative to our inherent human dignity, worth, rights, and freedoms; in addition, some of these quotations identify the sinful side of our human nature, thinking distortions, and the evil tendencies of the heart. Some of the quotations celebrate “DEI” =diversity, equality, and inclusiveness which, in some circles, are being dismantled, forbade, and illegal. “DEI” is Latin for the genitive case, meaning “of God.” Thus, the phrase, we are made in the imago Dei – “in the image of God.” God has a message for us in the use of the genitive case, DEI, which is to embrace, respect, and honor others including all of God’s creatures. Nevertheless, we continue to build the Tower of Babel as an affront to God which continues to propagate our original sin.

-Roger J. Vanden Busch

1. “There are, in every age, new errors to be rectified, and new prejudices to be opposed.” Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)
2. “I am in plainer words, a bundle of prejudices – made up of likings and dislikings.” Charles Lamb (1775-1834)
3. “Everyone is a prisoner of his own experiences. No one can eliminate prejudices – just recognize them.” Edward R. Murrow (1908-1965)
4. “If we believe absurdities we shall commit atrocities.” Voltaire (1694-1778)
5. “No one has ever been a Black hater, a Jew hater, or any other kind of hater. Nature refuses to be involved in such suicidal practices.” (Harry Bridges (1900-1990)
6. “One may no more live in the world without picking up the moral prejudices of the world than one will be able to go to Hell without perspiring.” H.L. Mencken (1880-1956)

7. 7. "Sometimes prejudice is like a hair across your cheek. You cannot see it, you cannot find it with your fingers, but you keep brushing at it because the feel of it is irritating." Marian Anderson (1897-1993)
8. "Prejudice blinds, ignorance retards, indifference deafens, and hate amputates. In this way, some people disable their souls." Mary Robinson (1944-)
9. "You can tell the ideals of a nation by its advertisements." Norman Douglas (1868-1952)
10. "The country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in." Theodore Roosevelt (1858 – 1919)
11. "God teaches the birds to make nests, yet the nests of all birds are not alike." Duwamish Proverb
12. "Take only what you need and leave the land as you found it." Arapaho Proverb
13. "A people without faith in themselves cannot survive." Hopi Proverb
14. "They made many promises, so many I cannot remember, but they only kept one. They promised to take our land, and they took it." Red Cloud (1822-1909)
15. "White people are trapped in a history which they do not understand; and until they understand it, they cannot be released from it." James Baldwin (1924-1987)
16. "We are citizens of one world; we are all of one blood. To hate someone because he was born in another country, because he speaks a different language, or because he takes a different view on a subject, is a great folly." John Comenius (1592-1670)
17. "There is no room in this country for hyphenated Americans." Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919)
18. "Immigrants of color never have been fully assimilated into U.S. society. They instead join a racially stratified society with deep inequalities that will forever deny them the opportunity available to their white counterparts to be fully integrated into the national community." Kevin John (1958-)
19. "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free. The wretched, refuse of your teeming shore, send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me." Emma Lazarus –Statue of Liberty
20. "All the people like us are We. And everyone else is They." Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

21. "America, it would seem, is miraculously both singular and plural, organized and scattered, united, and diffused." Henry Kariel (1924-)
22. "I wish you had a religion, Peter...Oh, I do not mean you have to be Orthodox or believe in heaven, hell, purgatory, and things. I just mean some religion. It does not matter what...just to believe in something!" Anne Frank
23. "We have just enough religion to make us hate. But not enough to make us love one another." (Jonathan Swift (1667-1745)
24. "A believer is a bird in a cage; a freethinker is an eagle parting the clouds with tireless wing." Robert Ingersoll (1833-1899)
25. "Anti-Semitism is noxious weed that should be cut out. It has no place in America. William Howard Taft (1857-1930)
26. "(The Jew) always talks about the equality of all men, without regard of race or color. Those who are stupid begin to believe that." Adolph Hitler (1889 – 1945)
27. "The First Amendment has erected a wall between church and state. That wall must be kept high and impregnable." Justice Hugo Black (1886-1971)
28. "In the United States, we have the richest mix of ethnic groups, of racial groups, of global experience that the world has ever known, and it is this richness of this mix that yields our incredible creativity and innovation. We have not even begun to experience the real potential of our fantastic human resource mix – our competitive edge in the global economy." James Naisbitt (1929-)
29. "We are now at the point where we must decide whether we are to honor the concept of a plural society which gains strength through diversity or whether we are to have bitter fragmentation that will result in perpetual tension and strife." Justice Earl Warren (1891-1974)
30. "The energy of the Irish, Germans, Swedes, Poles, and Cossacks, and all the European tribes – and of the Africans and of the Polynesians – will construct a new race, a new religion, a new state, a new literature." Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)
31. "We are not fighting for integration...We are fighting for recognition as human beings." Malcolm X (1925-1963)
32. "Commandment Number One of any truly civilized society is this: Let people be different." David Grayson (1870-1946)
33. "Pluralism is the greatest philosophical ideal of our time." John Dewey (1859-1952)

34. "A nation without the means of reform is without the means of survival." Edmund Burke (1729-1797)
35. "Be the change you want to see in the world." Mohandas K. Gandhi (1869-1948)
36. "We are all Americans who, because of our cultural heritage, contribute something unique to the fabric of American life. We are the like the notes in a chord of music – if all the notes were the same there would be no harmony, no real beauty, because harmony is based on differences, not similarities." Rosa Guerrero (1934-)
37. "At the start of the twentieth century, over 98 percent of Black people in the United States were native born- a much higher percentage than for whites. Black people are as American as you can get." (Marguerite Wright)
38. "Come from where it may, racism divides." Jose Marti (1853-1895)
39. "Most of the people I meet in America are compassionate. Why is it that individually we can be so compassionate and collectively we can be so harsh? I do not have an answer to that." Jonathan Kozol (1936-)
40. "The sad truth is that most evil is done by people who never make up their minds to be either good or evil." Hannah Arendt (1898-1989)
41. "As long as you keep a person down, some part of you has to be down there to hold him down, so it means you cannot soar as you otherwise might." Marian Anderson (1897-1993)
42. "If we were to select the most intelligent, imaginative, energetic, and stable third of humankind, all races would be represented." Franz Boas (1858-1942)
43. "In a democracy the majority of citizens are capable of exercising the cruelest oppressions upon the majority." Edmund Burke (1729-1797)
44. "Washing one's hands of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless means to side with the powerful, not to be neutral." Paolo Freire (1921-1997).
45. "America is a vast and quarrelsome family, a family rent by racial, social, political, and class division, but a family nonetheless." Leonard Pitts (1957-)
46. "Male supremacy has kept woman down. It has not knocked her out." Claire Boothe Luce (1903-1987)
47. "I am just a person inside a woman's body." Elayne Boosler – contemporary

48. "And in the new code of laws...remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could." Abigail Adams (1744-1818)
49. "The limits of my language are the limits of my world." Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951)
50. "Culture is the medium through which children fashion their individual and collective identities." Henry A. Giroux (1943)
51. "People call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat or a prostitute." Dame Rebecca West (1892-1983)
52. "There is no difference between being raped and being run over by a truck, except afterwards men ask if you liked it." Marge Piercy (1936-)
53. "Whatever women do they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good." Charlotte Whitton (1896-1975)
54. "The Glass Ceiling hinders not only individuals but society. It effectively cuts our pool of potential corporate leaders by half. I deprive our economy of new leaders, new sources of creativity." Lynn Martin (1939 -)
55. "What is enough? Enough is when somebody says, 'Get me the best people you can find,' and nobody notices when half of them turn out to be women." Louise Renne (1937-)
56. "I cannot understand any discussion of gays and lesbians as if they were something immoral or unsatisfactory. They are just doing what nature wants them to do." Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983)
57. "God loves homosexuals as much as he loves everybody else." Ryan White (1971-1990)
58. "If marriage can keep you in touch with your past, your emotional self, and your humanity, the notion that this should be any less true for gay or lesbian couples than it is for heterosexuals is absurd." Derrick Bell (1930-).
59. "If what we think is right and wrong divides still further the human family, there must be something wrong with what we think is right." William Sloan Coffin (1924-)
60. "You don't have to be straight to shout straight." Barry Goldwater (1909-1998)

61. "I believe all Americans who believe in freedom, tolerance and human rights have a responsibility to oppose bigotry and prejudice based on sexual orientation." Coretta Scott King (1927-2006)
62. "The greatest of evils and the worst of crimes is poverty." George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)
63. "Of all the preposterous assumptions of humanity over humanity, nothing exceeds most of the criticisms made on the habits of the poor by the well-housed, well-warmed, well fed." Herman Melville (1819-1891)
64. "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." Franklin Roosevelt (1881-1945).
65. "Men in search of a myth will usually find one." Pueblo Indian Proverb
66. "Wealth is a power usurped by the few to compel the many to labor for their benefit." Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)
67. "I hold it for indisputable, that the first duty of a state is to see that every child born therein shall be well housed, clothed, fed, and educated, till it attains years of discretion." John Ruskin (1819-1900)
68. "Governments exist to protect the rights of the poor and minorities; the loved and the rich need no protection." Wendell Phillips (1811-1884)
69. "Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare, social justice can never be attained." Helen Keller (1880-1968)
70. "The point is, we are all one great big family, and any one of us can get hurt at any moment...We should never walk by somebody who is in a wheelchair and be afraid of them or think of them as a stranger." Christopher Reeves (1952-2005)
71. "Progress, far from consisting in change, depends on retentiveness...Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to fulfill it." George Santayana (1863-1952)
72. "If our brothers and sisters are oppressed, then we are oppressed. If they hunger, we hunger; If their freedom is taken away, our freedom is not secure." Stephen Vincent Benet (1898-1943)
73. "I am not broken! I am not broken! I am a representative of the diversity of humans." Norman Junc (contemporary)

74. "All governments treat disabled people badly. They all see us as a burden. All governments, whether capitalist or socialist, have separated us from the rest of society. Until we are businesspeople, politicians, community leaders, people of all levels of society, we will be marginalized and segregated." Joshua Malinga (contemporary)
75. "Learning to read was, for slaves, not an immediate passport to freedom but rather a way of gaining access to one of the powerful instruments of their oppressors: the book." Alberto Manguel (1948-)
76. "Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself." Chinese Proverb
77. "Until lions have their historians, tales of the hunt will always glorify the hunter." African Proverb
78. "The wise person can see a question from all sides without bias. The foolish person is biased and can see a question from one side." Confucius (551-479 BCE)
79. "The question should never be by who is right, but what is right." Glenn Gardiner (contemporary)
80. "Ideals are like stars you will not succeed in touching them with your hands, but like the seafarer...you choose them as your guides and following them you reach your destiny." Carl Schurz (1829-1906)
81. "How many goodly creatures are there here! How beauteous humankind is! O brave new world that has such people in it." William Shakespeare (1564-1616)
82. "One who gains strength by overcoming obstacles possesses the only strength which can overcome adversity." Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965)
83. "Democracy is a way of life...a vibrant, living sweep of hope and progress which constantly strives for the fulfillment of its objective in life- the search for truth, justice, and human dignity." Saul Alinsky (1909-1972)
84. "Wrongdoing can only be avoided if those who are not wronged feel the same indignation at it as those who are." Solon (640-558 BCE)
85. "You see things; and you say, 'Why?' But I dream of things that never were, And I say, 'Why not?'" George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)
86. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly." Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929 – 1968).

87. "One of the most successful institutions in American society in deal with racial integration has been the United States Army. At the other extreme...public schools are among the most segregated associations in the country." Eugene Y. Lowe, Jr.
(contemporary)
88. "When health is absent, wisdom cannot reveal itself, art cannot become manifest, strength cannot be exerted, wealth is useless, and reason is powerless." Herophilus, 300 BCE
89. "The future depends on what we do in the present." Mahatma Gandhi, Indian nationalist leader.
90. "Obstacles do not have to stop you. If you run into a wall, do not turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it." Michael Jordan, U.S. basketball player
91. "Vision: the art of seeing things invisible." Jonathan Swift, Irish poet.
92. "You cannot depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus." Mark Twain, American writer, and satirist.
93. "You will never find time for anything. If you want time, you must make it." Charles Buxton, American writer
94. "People see only what they are prepared to see." Ralph Waldo Emerson, American philosopher, and poet
95. "You must do the thing you think you cannot do" Eleanor Roosevelt, American humanitarian, and diplomat
96. "People are just about as happy as they make up their minds to be." Abraham Lincoln, 16th U.S. president
97. "The door to freedom is education." Oprah Winfrey, American television personality and actress
98. "Knowing is not enough. We must Apply. Willing is not enough; We must Do." Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German poet, and novelist
99. "Unless you change how you are, you will always have what you have got." Jim Rohn, business philosopher
100. "Hitch your wagon to a star." Ralph Waldo Emerson, American philosopher, and poet