Friends and Family ...  9/14/2024

I sometimes get asked about the type of feedback I receive on these updates. Typically, the actual response rate is in the 3-5% range which is pretty good considering that  I know the real number is multiples of that through other information and communications I receive. Here are some examples from the update I did a couple of weeks ago:

* *"Hi Bill, Labor day is always something special to me. Knowing the men and women who did so much for unions and the Labor movement. What they did give me was a great living wage and benefits. About the Democratic party. Although I am an independent, I was overjoyed and enthusiastic about moving forward, not back. As always, thank you for the great email writings you send. See you soon."*
* *"Greetings from Michigan, Bill ... Wishing you and Sandy a good Labor Day in this HOPE filled time. I appreciate this recent email and connections it makes. Recently I have been tuning into the Paralympics and watched the team work it takes for the track events with athletes who have low/poor vision. Impressive teamwork where the "helper" has to be faster than the Olympian in order to accomplish the goal. In your email, you also speak of PARTICIPATION. I am sending an attachment related to that opportunity in the city of Toledo, Ohio. I am an advocate for an inner city farm that has grown from a plot to a recognized USDA Farm. The vision of women growing up in the city has resulted in this beauty where neighborhoods had been destroyed as highways and red lining had its effects. Tom and I were able to add support to our advocacy by initiating an endowment in my Mom's name in support of this Farm. I hope you will take a look at the attachment. God Bless and keep well."*
* *"Bill, thanks for all your research and forwarding on your thoughts and the informative, insightful links to many valuable, thought-provoking perspectives!"*
* *"Hi, Bill. Thank you for your hopeful and uplifting emails. My outlook on the future of our nation’s politics and prospects for the future are as variable as the Rochester weather: sometimes brilliantly sunny, sometimes partly cloudy, and often gloomy. Your messages are a ray of sunshine. I know you are very busy with your anti-racism work but one of these days I’d like to have lunch with you to catch up on all your work and also discuss coming back to talk about the many initiatives in process in Rochester to move the community forward on the racism front."*

These comments and reflections inspire and inform me about my ministry ... my additional hope is that they do the same for you!

The first two attachments below are photos of "HOPE" that I thought you'd enjoy. The third contains some important updated information from Don Pryor about how to participate in the upcoming elections.

There are several informative election related links this week from Heather Cox Richardson and Robert Riech. I encourage you to go to their respective websites for some great perspective about our upcoming elections. Here are a couple of examples ....

* <https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/september-10-2024>
* <https://robertreich.substack.com/p/karl-roves-take-on-tuesdays-debate>

Some additional informative links:

* 'White Supremacy and American Christianity' ... <https://www.youtube.com/live/FA_dYNjyCHU>
* 'Our Local History' announcement ...  <https://www.facebook.com/arcurriclumproject/photos/exciting-news-our-local-history-is-thrilled-to-welcome-justin-murphy-as-our-new-/822301466722691/>
* Exploring Race Group weekly update ...  <https://exploringracism.org/update-week-ending-09-14-2024/>
* Fr. Richard Rohr on "Receiving God's Mercy" ... <https://email.cac.org/t/d-e-ektqll-tlkrtkjkyd-z/>
* A prayer for Leadership ... [https://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/blogs/posts/praying-the-news/418/a-prayer-for-leadership#](https://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/blogs/posts/praying-the-news/418/a-prayer-for-leadership)

Lastly, a couple of links that perhaps collide with Hope, but demonstrate how we have to be vigilant to preserve it ...

* Greatest insult of all to our Veterans  ... <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/veterans-group-targets-donald-trump-in-ad-over-greatest-insult-of-all/ar-AA1pRo2y?ocid=hpmsn&cvid=b9246f5ec9544aebac88961dd212e824&ei=102>
* Depravity defined and personified ... and this was written even before the debate this week ...  <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/forget-weird-this-word-says-it-all-about-the-gop-opinion/ar-AA1pUaUT?ocid=hpmsn&cvid=585c1fa39da0422dafbd80e6c4a03ed1&ei=16>

This mid-month update provides more information than normal but there is a lot going on impacting our upcoming elections... So remember to do all you can to get out the vote!

Peace ... Bill