

subsequently kill nine attendees, or a black man who will decide to kill five police officers.

We have home-grown nuts of every variety in our own culture. If we need to be afraid, why doesn't this scare us? Why do we continue to allow the mentally ill to purchase assault weapons, whose sole purpose is to kill another human being? I'm plenty scared about that.

I don't want to judge all Muslims by their worst example any more than I want to be judged by the worst of my fellow Americans. Demonizing others never solves anything; it only makes a bad situation worse.

Personally, I think befriending Muslim immigrants and welcoming them into our communities offers greater protection than keeping them out or demanding their patriotism. Kindness begets kindness. Friends don't usually shoot each other. Asking Muslims to bow to our Christian heritage makes no more sense than asking the same of our Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist or Native American populations.

I submit the best way to counter fear of "them" is to allow "them" to become one of "us."

Nancy Buck • Crestwood

Trump provides fodder for negative opinions

In response to the letter "Opinions are anti-Trump every day" (Feb. 7), I suggest that President Donald Trump has given fodder to these opinions as he conducts himself in a manner most unbecoming the office. He continues to be in campaign mode except that he has surrounded himself with other billionaires.

This defender of the little man will gut Social Security, and eviscerate human rights and environmental protections. What's positive about that? Last week, he rolled back protections put in place to avoid a repeat of the financial decline in late 2007. Who wins? Certainly not the little man.

There is something very sinister and scary about what's happening in this country. Be assured that most of us that voted for Hillary Clinton accept her loss

the following, which is taken from the Catechism Of The Catholic Church, the official book on the teachings of the Church: "For the Roman pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ, and as pastor of the entire church, has full, supreme and universal power over the whole church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered."

Catholics who oppose the pope may want to better understand the God-given authority the pope has in leading the church and the part they can play in following his leadership by helping him, rather than opposing him, as he strives to achieve the church's main goal: to help all get to heaven.

Rex Riordan • Crestwood

Resurrect the guarantee of the nation's first civil rights bill

Regarding "A mental health crisis.

A standoff with police. A mother in mourning" (Feb. 12):

Let us stop viewing the protection of our civil rights and our police officers as if these two goals are mutually exclusive. They are not. Solutions are more straightforward than the art of politics allows.

We need to construct the educational infrastructure to assure that the nature, scope and status of these two goals is embraced. This can be done by establishing the appropriate center in one university and/or law school in each state.

This is also the perfect time to resurrect and enforce the guarantee of our nation's first civil rights bill, wherein all citizens had the right to "equal benefit of all laws." Vetoed twice by President Andrew Johnson, his second veto was overridden in 1866 by a healthy majority in both chambers of Congress.

To make it perfectly clear, the next civil rights law should state that all citizens must have the same right to equal benefit of all laws, without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

Lou Horwitz • St. Peters

2/14/17

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St. Louis Post-Dispatch