

Priest delivers sermon of truth

Dear Ann Landers: While visiting an elderly friend of my mother, she asked me if I minded watching Mass on TV with her (I am not Catholic). I told her, "Certainly not. I will probably learn something."

The priest talked about the commandment, Thou shalt not kill. I was fascinated when he said that it is not necessary to use a gun or a knife to kill someone. He said, "You can kill a person's spirit by talking



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instead of listening or belittling and putting a person down, or by being indifferent to a person's needs — in other words, ignoring him or her."

I then thought of the lonely elderly

people I see day after day, who are simply existing in nursing homes. Their families pay the bills and give them gifts that they neither need nor want. They send fancy cards on special occasions when what these older folks hunger for are a few loving words written on a piece of paper or, better yet, a visit and a warm hug.

I looked at my friend and saw that her eyes were filled with tears as the

priest continued his sermon. I thought of the emotionally starved elderly whom nobody listens, making them feel as if they have outlived their usefulness. I then knew that my actions were right. This lonely elderly whom I was visiting was one of the victims. My heart went out to her. Ann, will you please broadcast this powerful message to your readers who may be guilty of killing a spirit without realizing it? Thank you, dear — A Devoted Reader.

Dear Devoted Reader: He delivered a sermon of truth if ever I heard one. Thank you.

ARTICLE FROM
MY SISTER

M A Deleine
Fillion's

GIVEN TO MARLENE

Dear Ann Landers: At U.S. Sen. Hubert Humphrey's funeral, President Jimmy Carter quoted Mahatma Gandhi as he listed the seven deadly sins. I'd love to have a copy. Can you find them? — A Fan

Dear Fan: Here they are: Wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice and politics without principle.

Write to Ann Landers care of the Winnipeg Free Press. If you request a personal reply, include a stamped self-addressed envelope.

LOS ANGELES TIMES SYNDICATE