



About the signs around the church...

To protest the divisiveness surrounding the 2016 elections, a Chicago neighborhood was in search of a sign to place in their windows. It was a third grader who came up with the simple, peaceful “Hate has No Home Here” slogan. Obviously, there was a real hunger for simple and peaceful as this sign can now be found in several countries. Besides, how could this childlike message do anything other than bring us closer together? Easy. Call it partisan. I guess someone was offended that they were called haters by someone that’s not “us”? Open your eyes! And to borrow a phrase “he who has ears listen (to the news)” There IS hate and people are dying because of it! Isn’t a message of no hate still a good message? But then, the pharisees cried foul when Jesus hurled a challenge of love and mercy at them (actually I think his words were a lot more harsh!) and they responded with an attempted stoning and eventual crucifixion.

Yes, I get it. This sign has since been used in partisan bickering, but so has the Ten Commandments, the cross, religion, Life, morals, and probably even apple pie! (you know, original sin and all...) Should we scrap these as well because someone made them partisan? Is a message of non-hate off the table because one team used it against the other team?

The devil declared Jesus as the Christ. Does this make him NOT the Christ?

We the church have been guilty of using Christ as a front for horrendous violence. Should Christ NOT be proclaimed?

The cross has been used to message hate. Should the cross NOT be held high?

The message of No Hate has been used against another. Should hate NOT be denounced?

It’s obvious that The Kingdom, though present, is not anywhere near fulfilled. Jesus used Love as the deadliest weapon against hate and we declare it a win. Yet today, listening to leaders of our land hate seems to be winning the battle. It seems that Love has been tamed, hate has not. Sin is real. Hate is real. It must be called out, because only when hate is gone love can reign

So, is the sign a protest? Yes, it was created to be.

But then so was the gospel.

I stand by the message and pray for those who cannot understand it.

I decided to translate “hate has no home here” (please excuse the very weak translations: I used Google Translate) and was wonderfully amazed at the visual beauty of all the different languages. If the written word can be so beautiful why is it so many people can't see the beauty of the people who speak the words? Words can unite if we let them.

توجمه نلكنناك

恨這裡沒有家。

мржња овде нема куће

ความเกลียดชังไม่มีบ้านที่นี่

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жек көрүү бул жерде үйү жок.

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نفرت اینجا خانه ندارد

വിദ്വേഷത്തിന് ഇവിടെ വീടില്ല

憎しみはここに家がありません

ਅਪ੍ਰਿਯ ਅਹੀਂ ਕੋਏ ਘਰ ਨਈ

у ненависти нет дома здесь

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नफरत का यहाँ कोई घर नहीं है

And in case you still can't understand the message, I've translated it into Texan:

Ain't no hatin' here ya'll

Christ's Joy and Peace,

Fr John

Link to the Chicago Tribune 2017 article about the sign

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/sc-hate-has-no-home-here-posters-0201-20170202-story.html>