

Sir Winston Churchill

By Father John Catoir JCD – 1/18/18

The Prime Minister of Great Britain, Sir Winston Churchill, has been called the greatest person of the twentieth century. His personal courage inspired his nation, and the world, to triumph over the military might of the Nazi regime. Adolf Hitler, the tyrant who set out to dominate the world, surrendered, and later committed suicide in a Berlin bunker.

Churchill was victorious as he said he would be. He was a great leader. But great leaders are not necessarily perfect human beings. He drank too much; he was coarse and crude. He called the German leader, Hitler

He suffered the ordinary ailments of aging. He was overweight and arthritic, and his emotional life was not entirely free of self-doubt and fear.

But always true to himself, he brushed aside all the negativity, and bravely continued to chant his battle cry: "Victory at any cost." Churchill successfully changed the course of history.

Nevertheless, he had many women critics who considered him vulgar; a man of poor taste. Bessie Braddock wrote, "Winston, you're a disgusting drunk." He replied, "Bessie my dear, you are ugly and disgusting, but I shall be sober tomorrow and you will still be ugly and disgusting."

Another critic, Lady Nancy Astor wrote, "Winston, if you were my husband I would poison your coffee." He replied, "Nancy, if you were my wife I would drink it."

But his real opposition came from within his own party. Those who feared losing the war wanted to appease Hitler, and make a deal to avoid the loss of life. Churchill, with a will of iron, screamed, "WE SHALL NEVER SURRENDER!" It was a cry that became a national mantra.

Speaking to his own unruly Parliament, he would shout at the top of his lungs, "Do you want to see the Nazi Swastika flying over Buckingham Palace." "NEVER!" They shouted back. "NEVER!"

“The Darkest Hour” is a wonderful film, which depicted Winston at his weakest. Overwhelmed by superior Nazi forces, and fiercely opposed by many within his own party, Churchill stood tall and fought back.

He ordered a flotilla of private yachts into service to sail out and save the British troops stranded on the beaches of Dunkirk. The generals scoffed at the idea, ‘It would take a miracle.” They were all afraid of the German bombers, and thought it would be a disaster. Had Sir Winston had gone mad?

He defied them and ordered the rescue anyway. Miraculously, the heavens cooperated. The weather was too cloudy for the German Air Force to attack. Therefore from May 26th to June 4th, 1940, a fleet of 850 privately owned boats crossed the Channel, and successfully brought back more than 338,000 British and French troops.

There are many times in History when God intervenes. This was one of them. The outcome of World War II was undoubtedly change because of it. God’s responded to the faith and courage of a prayerful people. Churchill was elated as he lit up cigar and had a stiff drink.

It’s important for us to take inspiration from the courage of great leaders, in spite of their human faults.

Here’s the lesson: by the grace of God all things are possible. If you stick to achieve your goals, and with the help of God, you’ll be grateful for all eternity.

May the Lord be your strength and your joy.