A Few Related Thoughts…

***The Truman Show***

“Live free or die. Death is not the worst of evils.”

--American Revolutionary War General John Stark

Religious freedom: “the most fundamental of human rights, in terms of the very first of man’s duties: the duty of directing himself towards God.”

--Pope John Paul II, ***Message for World Day of Peace***, 1988

“Whatever anguish of spirit it may cost, I am willing to know the whole truth—to know the worst and to provide for it…. Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”

-- Patrick Henry, American Revolutionary War leader

“Only in freedom can man direct himself toward goodness… The dignity of man rests above all on the fact that he is called to communion with God. [Man] cannot live fully according to truth unless he freely acknowledges that love and entrusts himself to his Creator.”

--Vatican II, ***Gaudium et Spes (Joy and Hope)***, 17, 19

“The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for.”

--***Catechism of the Catholic Church***, #27

“Let me be a free man. Free to travel. Free to stop. Free to work. Free to choose my own teachers. Free to follow the religion of my fathers. Free to think and talk and act for myself.”

--Chief Joseph, Nez Perce Tribe

[Freedom:] “a necessary condition for seeking man’s true dignity, and for adhering to that dignity.… No human authority has the right to interfere in the conscience of any man.”

--Bl. Pope John Paul II, ***Message for World Day of Peace***, 1991

“You never find yourself until you face the truth.”

--Pearl Bailey, U.S. Special Ambassador to the U.N.;

Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient; entertainer

“The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. There is no true freedom except in the service of what is good and just. The choice to disobey and do evil is an abuse of freedom and leads to ‘the slavery of sin.’”

--***Catechism of the Catholic Church***, #1733

“Cowards die many times before their deaths.

The valiant never taste of death but once.”

--William Shakespeare, ***Julius Caesar***

“Even if you are a minority of one, the truth is the truth.”

--Mahatma Gandhi

“*Conform?* It is a word found only in the vocabulary of those (*You might as well conform*, they say) who have no will to fight—the lazy, the cunning, the cowardly—because they know they are defeated before they start.”

--St. Josemaría Escrivá, ***The Way***, #54

“Every human person, created in the image of God, has the natural right to be recognized as a free and responsible being. All owe to each other this duty of respect.”

--***Catechism of the Catholic Church***, #1738

“The splendor of truth shines forth in all the works of the Creator and, in a special way, in man, created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26). Truth enlightens man's intelligence and shapes his freedom, leading him to know and love the Lord.”

# --Bl. Pope John Paul II, Veritatis Splendor (The Splendor of Truth)

“You have made us for yourself, O God. Our hearts are restless until they rest in you!”

--St. Augustine’s ***Confessions***

“The history of a man’s relationship with God is the story of how God calls him out, takes him on a journey and gives him his true name. Most of us have thought it was the story of how God sits on his throne waiting to whack a man broadside when he steps out of line. Not so. He created Adam for adventure, battle and beauty; he created us for a unique place in his story and he is committed to bringing us back to the original design. … There comes a time when you have to leave all that is familiar, and go on into the unknown with God.”

--John Eldridge, ***Wild at Heart***

“To me, the real centre of the film is the loss of reality. I think now [in the media] there’s so much acting and re-enacting, and dramatized news broadcasts and cops with cameras, and society viewing it all second-hand. As Bill Gates recently said, ‘We may soon never need to leave our armchairs,’ as if that were a good thing!”

--Peter Weir, Director of ***The Truman Show***

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”

--Attributed to Mark Twain

“Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase—just take the first step.”

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

# For further reading…

St. Josemaría Escrivá, “Freedom, a Gift from God,” in ***Friends of God*** (New York: Scepter, 1989), #31-56.

Vatican II, ***Gaudium et Spes*** (***Joy and Hope***), #17, 19, 22.