

My Two Cents Worth

By: Joseph Andalina

The Devil is out there...and he is busy

The words of Polly Sykes, as she mourned the murder of her 15-year old son, Demetrius Griffin Jr. last September.

Another child killed by the “devils” out there. Murdered and dumped in a trash can and burned beyond recognition. It is beyond comprehension. And it is beyond what anyone can imagine a mother going through.

I have, as many police officers, have experienced this pain when parents have identified the remains of their children at a morgue or funeral home. Trust me, if you haven't, it is painful. It is dreadful and haunts you. To think what the parent is experiencing is...like I said, incompressible.

It is why most of us have some level of PTSD, isn't it? What could a 15-year old boy possibly do to be butchered in this manner? It is like sane human beings are powerless to stop the carnage, the brutality, the horror. Just in Chicago there are over 500 murders this year.

Also, as John Kass from the *Tribune* has written, there are over 3,000 attempted murders... and not shootings as the press likes to call them. They are attempted murders, not shootings. And these stats only reflect Chicago. Add up all the others in a country seemingly gone mad.

Without detracting from this, reality is the incorrect meme of cops targeting minorities. The hatred spewed out by some activists and the press wholeheartedly denouncing every move a cop makes has put a community in danger when those of us who want to help the people are cautious about doing so. The truth here is not to look for answers why someone would mutilate a young boy — it should be to stop it from happening.

I have no answers. Been around the block many times and I only know that tough, aggressive policing is the only thing that can possibly help, and prison or that other penalty thing you have read from me often.

You can send cops aplenty to training as how to defuse and reduce confrontations but that does nothing to stop the depraved from preying on one another. Who is going to stop the a-holes from being a-holes? It's like putting a leash on a Great White Shark.

These are two different issues. Let's not confuse them. People need to be safe, secure, and have their children grow up, not to be destroyed the way Demetrius has been. Send our finest out there and give them the tools, the confidence, and the support to help put an end to this.

Yes, the devil is out there...and he's very busy. We must confront him.

Vita é bella