



Plugs in the Ears, Cell Phones in the Hands, and Eyes looking Down.

"I didn't see her (the eleven year old girl who died from injuries sustained while crossing the intersection looking for Pokemon.) All I heard was a thud and then a scream. That's all I remember. Honestly: I didn't see her. I didn't."

That scenario is one of my fears as I watch Freeport's young boys and girls (our future) going to and/or coming from school all wired up and connected with ear plugs in their ears, cell phones (last year's Christmas gift) in their hands, and their eyes looking down while parents drive through STOP-signs with ear plugs in their ears, cell phones in their hands, and their eyes looking down. Perhaps the September-signs on our streets now need to read: **School's Open: Pay Attention!**



Distracted Pedestrians



A Growing Problem!

You and I know that the cell phone epidemic is not limited to automobiles or pedestrians. The cell phones are everywhere: restaurants, bathrooms, elevators, hotel lobbies, parking lots, school buses, libraries (where they actually have "quiet rooms" because of all the noise in the library), boats, the beach, airports, airplanes, the railroad, theaters, supermarkets, hospitals, ... Yes, cell phones are intruding into every corner of society, even our own *absolutely beautiful church* where two Sundays ago, I had to ask no less than four people more than once to please "turn off your phone". And that was DURING MASS!

At present, an acceptable vaccine has yet to be discovered for the cell phone epidemic. Restrictions such as "hands free while driving" are regularly ignored and are very often challenged as an infringement of civil rights. Rights? No one has the right to be **careless** when crossing the street, **negligent** when driving an automobile, **rude** when in a restaurant, **insensitive** when outside of someone's home, **inconsiderate** when on the train, **irresponsible** when at work, **disrespectful** when in church, ... And if we think that we do have that right then perhaps *we have become depraved like the people God brought out of the land of Egypt who so quickly turned from the Way pointed out to us* (cf. Exodus XXXII:7-8).

In fact, many of us in America have turned from the Way that we promised to follow after 9/11/01. We promised not to take our families for granted, to say "I love you" to our spouses and our children before heading to work, to show greater respect to our Police Officers and Firefighters, and a greater appreciation for America. We promised to look up (not down), open our ears (not plug them), and to raise our hands for prayer (not for selfies). It's time America to put away the phone: God is calling!

