

VALLEY NEWS

Forum, Feb. 11: Random act of kindness

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Don't demonize opponents

Of all the ills affecting our society, one of the most harmful is our growing inclination to demonize our political opponents. In his column for the *Valley News* ("What to do about tainted money," Feb. 6), Randall Balmer criticizes Catholic groups for taking money from "far-right" organizations, which he associates with "some of the most radicalized extremists on the right." He includes in those "far-right" categories the Cato Institute and the Federalist Society. Whether or not one supports Cato's emphasis on individual freedom, or the Federalist Society's approach to legal interpretation, casting one's political opponents as being beyond the pale adds poison to our unhealthy political discourse. What our community needs is more people explaining the moral and wise underpinnings of views from across the broad political spectrum — so we can understand, value and even learn from those with whom we disagree.

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