Book sees Christian faith as heart and soul of economic reform

By Joseph O’Brian
Staff Writer

“RETURN TO ORDER: FROM A FRENZIED ECONOMY TO AN ORGANIC CHRISTIAN SOCIETY” by John Horvat II, York Press (York, Penn., 2013);

One of the most famous quotations by the famously quotable G. K. Chesterton serves as both a warning and a compliment and an encouragement for the despairing. “The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting,” he writes in his book “What’s Wrong with the World.” “It has been found difficult, and left untried.”

The fuller context of this famous quip shows that, as far as Chesterton was concerned, men first began to leave the principles of Christianity “untried” at the Church’s greatest moment in history.

“The ideals of the past failed not by being outlawed (which must mean over-lived), but by not being lived enough,” Chesterton writes. “Mankind has not passed through the Middle Ages. Rather mankind has retreated from the Middle Ages in reaction and rout.”

It is this same sense of medival potential unfilled by modernity that informs John Horvat’s “Return to Order: From a Frenzied Economy to an Organic Christian Society.”

In an ordered and organic style suitable to his thesis’s claim, Horvat identifies the cause of the seemingly cyclical boom-and-bust pattern which has plagued capitalism throughout history. In pointing out how and why the “rule of money” has led to such serial market crises, the author coins a term which should be vital currency in any discussion of economic improvement – frenetic intemperance. This tendency among individuals and market forces, Horvat explains, “a restless, explosive, and relentless drive inside man that manifests itself in modern economy by 1) seeking to throw off legitimate restraints; and 2) gratifying disorderly passions. It tends to form an economic undercurrent whose action can be likened to that of a faulty accelerator or regulator that takes an otherwise well-functioning machine and throws it out of balance.”

Moreover, Horvat writes, frenetic intemperance, “is not specifically an economic problem but a moral and psychological one deep within the soul of modern man that manifests itself in the economy. ...”

In a convincing way to our modern economic problems, John Horvat’s “A Return to Order” renews Chesterton’s challenge to put Christianity to the test in the open market of ideas.

First Expressions Photography

Continued from Page 10

number of subjects she can fit into her viewfinder – big families and small were needed to enlist her services. With larger families, she has a basic strategy that guarantees success.

“If it’s a large family ... I socialize with the children, goofing around with them,” she said. “But then I tell the parents beforehand to be continually looking at the camera and smiling, because you never know when the kids will be ready.”

Each photo shoot is guaranteed, Luebke said. More than a business, Luebke said, First Expressions is an attempt to capture on film the dynamics involved in the miracle of life – whether it’s the “first expressions” of a newborn or a family comfortable with itself and its quirks.

“When I take a photo of a child,” she said, “I see that a child is a product of a love between husband and wife. I can capture it on film, but I can’t describe it. I see how precious this life is. When you see in someone’s soul through their eyes, I love to capture the expressions on their eyes and faces to see who these people are.”

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