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July/August 2011

MAGAZINE



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Hell, a Salutary Thought

BY FATHER FRANCIS SPIRAGO



Several drinking buddies were together one evening. The conversation turned upon how long it had been since any of them had gone to confession. One of them made a bet that for a case of beer he would go to confession the very next morning. His buddies accepted the bet.

That morning, the drinking buddies went to church early to see if their friend kept his word. He showed up, and entered the confessional. Upon kneeling down, he said to the priest, "Your Reverence, I have not come to confess my sins, but for the purpose of winning a case of beer for a bet. As you can tell, my friends are here to see that I have done my part."

The priest was appalled. He solemnly warned him not to make a joke of the sacraments, and bidding him to remember that there was a just God who would not permit iniquity. The man answered, "I care nothing about that." The priest then spoke to him of death and hell, but the priest received the same answer, "I care nothing about that." Then the priest spoke to him with great solemnity, "You've done everything to win your bet. I cannot give you

absolution, but I can lay a penance upon you. For a whole month, every morning and night, you will repeat these words: 'There is a just God, but I care nothing for Him. I must die some day, but I care nothing about that. There is a hell for the ungodly, but I care nothing for it either.'"

As soon as the man left the confessional, he told his friends what happened. They agreed he must perform his penance before he could collect his bet. He promised to do that. He had barely repeated the prescribed words for a week before he began thinking about God, death and hell. Such were his thoughts that in two weeks' time he went back to confession in good faith, and acknowledged his past transgressions with sincere contrition. Needless to say, he did not mention the bet again to his former drinking buddies. ■

Adapted from Father Francis Spirago's *Anecdotes and Examples Illustrating the Catholic Catechism* (New York: Benziger Brothers, 1904), 219–220.

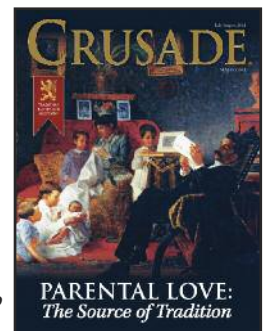
CONTENTS

JULY/AUGUST 2011

IN BRIEF	4
COMMENTARY	
Front Alley Abortions	5
CHRIST IN THE HOME	
The Father Who Doesn't Pray	6
COMMENTARY	
Defending the Citadel of Marriage	7
COVER STORY	
Parental Love: The Source of Tradition	8
COMMENTARY	
Dangerous Mushroom Democracies	12
ANF PROGRESS REPORT	
♦ 'The Most Beautiful May Crowning Ever'	13
♦ Protesting Blasphemy in Oakland!	13
♦ Will America Needs Fatima Be There for Our Grandchildren?	14
♦ Celebrating Mother's Day at ANF	14
♦ Join America's Largest Public Square Rosary Crusade!	15
♦ The Akron Good Friday Blasphemy	15
♦ America Needs Fatima's New and Larger Office In Hazleton, Pa	16
♦ 'Are You Scottish?'	16
♦ Arming 740,000 with the Rosary	17
♦ Our Readers Write	17
TFP IN ACTION	
Thousands March to Save Marriage in New York City	18
COMMENTARY	
There Are 23 'Genders'?!	19
TFP IN ACTION	
♦ Marriage Wins in Rhode Island	20
♦ Notre Dame Finally Drops Charges Against Pro-Lifers	21
COMMENTARY	
Czestochowa's Mysterious Image	22
BACK COVER	
The Value of Admirative Souls	24

Cover:

The Family of Adolfo A. Pinto
by Adolfo A. Pinto, 1891.



Jonathan Rashad

Page 12 Arab Revolutions: Democracy or Danger?



Page 19 There are 23 'Genders'?!



Page 22
Our Lady of Czestochowa

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THE AMERICAN TFP

The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) is an organization of lay Catholic Americans concerned about the moral crisis shaking the remnants of Christian civilization. Its origins date back to January 1971, when the first TFP members started to group around the publication *Crusade for a Christian Civilization*. It is a civic, cultural and nonpartisan organization which, inspired by the traditional teachings of the Supreme Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church, works in a legal and peaceful manner in the realm of ideas to defend and

promote the principles of private ownership, family and perennial Christian values with their twofold function: individual and social. The TFP's words and efforts have always been faithfully at the service of Christian civilization. The first TFP was founded in Brazil by the famous intellectual and Catholic leader Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira in 1960. His work inspired the formation of other autonomous TFP sister organizations across the globe, thus constituting the world's largest anticommunist and antisocialist network of Catholic inspiration.



IN BRIEF

IN BRIEF

Classical Music Deters Crime

In order to reduce crime, Portland, Ore., police officials are playing classical music in Portland's high-crime residential areas and at most light rail stops. The project manager, Lieutenant John Scruggs, heard of it working for businesses and says, "It's crime prevention through environmental design." The Pierce Transit in Seattle, Wash., credits classical music with cutting spending on vandalism-related repairs from \$3,000 between 2006 and 2007 to \$1,600 between 2007 and 2008. Seattle business owners near the classical music also say it deters drug dealing, loitering, public intoxication and fights.

Thousands Welcome Saint Thérèse to Jerusalem

On March 16, some 2,000 people welcomed the relic of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux at the Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem. Many climbed road maintenance equipment in order to get a view. To the sound of drums and bagpipes, a scout guard escorted the relic to the Cathedral of the Latin Patriarchate. Church banners, members of the Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries, priests, seminarians, religious and laity followed singing vespers.

Former Homosexual Protects Marriage

Greg Quinlan, president of Parents and Friends of Ex-gays (PFOX), spoke before the Maryland State Legislature in February 2011. Ex-gayTruth.com published his opening words, "I am an ex-gay. That means a former homosexual for those of you who don't understand the term 'ex-gay.' . . . 'There is no replicated, scientific study supporting any specific biological etiology for homosexuality.' That's a quote from the American Psychiatric Association May 2000. . . . Why does the government feel it necessary to accommodate a small sexual minority based on a sexual identity that has no basis in genetics or biology?"



When Abortion Is Criminal

Under the federal Unborn Victims of Violence Act, unborn children are recognized as legal victims of violent crimes. On April 12, a California man was sentenced to 12 years for stabbing his pregnant girlfriend and to 50 years to life imprisonment for killing her unborn child. On April 30, an Ohio man pleaded guilty to the attempted murder of his unborn child after he used a gun to force his pregnant girlfriend to an abortion facility. However, in both cases, the mur-

der of the child would have been legal if performed by an abortion doctor.

Blasphemous Image Smashed in France

In April, a blasphemous image by the American artist Andres Serrano was destroyed while on display at a museum in Avignon, France. The image showed a plastic crucifix in a glass of the artist's urine and was part of the exhibit titled "I Believe in Miracles." Five hundred Catholics protested outside the exhibit and the local archbishop asked for the image to be removed. On the second day of the exhibit, four youths entered the exhibit, restrained two security guards, destroyed the image with hammers and escaped.

No More Homosexual Classes!

A telephone survey by the polling company Wenzel Strategies found that 65 percent of Americans are opposed to courses targeting elementary students. The question was, "Do you believe elementary school children should be taught that homosexuality is a normal alternative lifestyle?" Only 22 percent agreed, 13 percent said they were unsure and 65 percent disagreed.

Gun Control Disguised as Treaty

In May 2011, Hillary Clinton announced that the Obama administration will be working with the United Nations to pass a new international small-arms treaty in order to combat "terrorism," "insurgency" and "international crime syndicates." "Ultimately, the U.N.'s Small-Arms Treaty is designed to register, ban and confiscate firearms owned by private citizens," says Kentucky Republican Senator Rand Paul.

Five Hundred Thousand Signatures in Two Weeks

In just two weeks, over 500,000 Poles signed a petition requesting a new ban to make Poland completely abortion free. Poland currently allows abortion when the mother's life or health is endangered by the continuation of the pregnancy, when the pregnancy is a result of a criminal act or when the fetus is seriously malformed. The Polish TFP-supported Citizen Legislative Committee is collecting the signatures and will submit them to the Polish government with a draft bill to remove the exceptions.





COMMENTARY

FRONT ALLEY ABORTIONS

BY JOHN HORVAT II

An argument feminists use to impose abortion upon our country is that women, especially poor women, are going to get abortions anyway. According to feminists, by providing “safe” facilities to these poor women, we can prevent them from resorting to shady back alley abortion doctors performing abortions in environments lacking minimal medical standards. Such operations, feminists claim, were often botched and lead to the mother’s or baby’s death, or both.

It may be true that legal abortion have diminished the inflated incidences of back alley abortions in America. However, this fact has exposed women, especially poor women, to the graver danger of the front alley abortion.

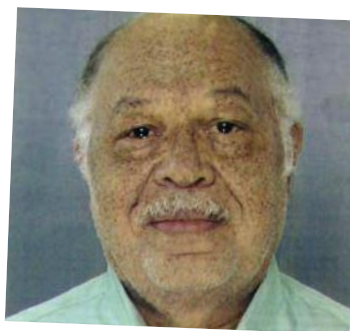
Front alley abortions take place in legal abortion mills that operate normally and are open to the public. They have all the appearances of a legitimate business. They even have nice sounding names like “Woman’s Reproductive Care” or similar misleading business names.

Government protects these establishments since abortion enjoys legal protection under law. They also have the slavish blind support of liberals and media who see these clinics as essential to “reproductive rights.” Funny how governmental regulating agencies are more interested in tanning salons than what goes on inside these abortion clinics.

Protected by that appearance, which gives them a very thin air of respectability and the force of law, some operators have used these clinics to commit the most horrible acts with impunity. What goes on behind the closed doors of these clinics can go far beyond anything in the back alley.

Of course, the most obvious case is Gosnell’s House of Horrors, also known as the Women’s Medical Society, a clinic operated in West Philadelphia by Kermit B. Gosnell, M.D. According to the district attorney’s re-

port, Gosnell staffed his unsanitary clinic with unlicensed personnel, let them practice medicine on unsuspecting patients without supervision, and directed them to drug patients heavily in his absence. In addition, he regularly performed abortions beyond the prescribed 24-week legal limit. Hence, when viable babies were born, Gosnell killed them by plunging scissors where the head joins the spinal cord. He also taught his staff to do the same. Meanwhile, government regulatory agencies turned a blind eye to many blatant violations of health codes and practices.



Dr. Kermit Gosnell and nine of his “house of horrors” abortion clinic employees were arrested in January for a mother’s accidental overdose, the murder of seven viable infants and an array of illegal medical practices.

Sadly, it seems Gosnell’s case is not the only one. Other houses of horror have been found. Just recently, the Texas Medical Board, for example, received complaints about the medical practices of 12 Texas abortion providers by a pro-life watchdog group who claim to have documented violations of state and federal abortion laws. These front alley clinics were chosen at random, and pro-life activists say that they found mishandling of private patient medical records, violations of consent laws, violations of the 24-hour waiting period required by law, improper disposal of biohazardous medical waste, the counseling of minors on how to flout

parental notification laws, and more.

This blatant disregard for any kind of regulation seems to be characteristic of front alley abortion mills, and the government’s failure to enforce the regulations as well. As the recent sting operations against Planned Parenthood have shown, many employees fail to report statutory rape to the authorities.

It is not surprising that behind the shield of the front alley abortion clinic some of the most horrific things still take place. The nature and the business of abortion is such that it brutalizes human sensibilities. In this sense, every abortion is a tragic denial of our humanity and will lead to that which is inhuman. ■

THE FATHER WHO DOESN'T PRAY

BY FATHER RAOUL PLUS, S.J.



CHRIST IN
THE HOME

Little Paul, who is only four-and-a-half-years old, is kneeling beside his bed saying his night prayers; they seem to be taking a very long time. "Haven't you finished your prayers?" asks his nurse. "Yes," answers the child slightly embarrassed. "Well, then, what are you doing now?" The child blushes, and murmurs timidly, "I say two of them every night—my own and papa's. I heard him refuse mama when she asked him to say his prayers; so now I am doing it for him."

Precocious, would you say? Maybe so. But have children not often startled us with their insight?

How foolish are those parents who believe they can fail in logic before their children! How little do parents know of the workings of those young minds and those young hearts! How little do parents know how these little ones can put to use what they hear!

Lady Baker, a convert, writes in *The House of Light* that when she was 11 years old, she overheard a conversation between her father and mother on the subject of religion. The father was saying, "I heard a good sermon today; it pointed out how the Reform was a great mistake and that England would have been much better off without it . . ."

"Be still," interrupted his wife in a scandalized tone, "be careful before the children."

"I was sent off to my studies," continues Lady Baker,

"and I heard no more of the conversation; but I took to dreaming over these strange words."

That very evening, while taking a walk with the maid, she asked to visit a Catholic church. From that date, she says, the desire was born in her to study the beginnings of the pretended Reform and to change her religion later should this study prove that what her father had said was true.

It may be that fathers have not lost the habit of prayer, thanks to God's grace, but it could easily be that they do not let their children see them praying often enough. To pray, and to let one's children see that one prays, are two different things. It is not enough to pray as an individual only. Their duty as head of the family is to pray in the name of the family, in the sight of the family and with the family. Boys must know that their father honors God. They must see that he conducts himself respectfully before Him. They must learn from his example the great duty of adoration and worship. Prayer, at least evening prayer, should be said in common. In many families where all gather together at the end of the day to honor God, it is the mother who leads the prayer until the time comes when each child will be able to take a turn. It would be much better if the father would take the lead. It is the function that belongs to him, a function that is almost priestly in character.

Should it ever happen that I have occasion to pass unfavorable judgment on a churchman or on some religious incident, though it could seldom happen that such an action would be my right, I must take care as to who is listening. Children don't miss anything. . . let me give that some thought. ■



Adapted from Father Raoul Plus, S.J.'s *Christ in the Home* (Colorado Springs, CO: Gardner Brothers, 1951), 241–243. *Christ in the Home* is a treasure chest of advice for Catholics on the practical and spiritual concerns of raising a family. To obtain a copy of *Christ in the Home* visit www.GardnerBrothers.com.

DEFENDING THE CITADEL OF MARRIAGE

BY JOHN HORVAT II



COMMENTARY

Liberals embrace a strange contradiction that allows them to change their position as it suits them. It was back in the sixties when they began their brutal attack on marriage. Feminists hated the institution because it “enslaved” women. Sexual liberation was extended to all consenting parties.

Everything was done to take away the prestige and esteem of this cherished institution. Soon it became fashionable for couples to live together. The results are now well known. We see the consequences of “free” love in the proliferation of single-parent households, no-fault divorces, abortions, contraceptive practices, sexually transmitted diseases and deviant sexual lifestyles of all sorts.

The only way marriage could defend itself valiantly was by not yielding, and insisting that it remain a permanent exclusive union admitting no others. Brave

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the agenda of “free” love suffers
restraint liberals find unbearable.
That is why they want to destroy
the citadel from within.*

That is why the same people who promote the sexual revolution are now extolling the “wonders” of homosexual “marriage.” These same people, who called marriage enslaving in the sixties, now insist upon their “right” to marry today. However, they have not changed their positions on abortion, contraception, divorce or “free” love. They still support these anti-marriage positions enthusiastically.

Liberals take this new position because they know that, as long as the sacred standard of indissoluble marriage waves from the citadel, society recognizes that morality still exists. As long as morality still exists, the agenda of “free” love suffers restraint liberals find unbearable. That is why they want to destroy the citadel from within. They seek to tear away the bonds of exclusivity that makes marriage a fruitful and permanent union of one man and one woman.

It is in the nature of the unbridled passions to accept no restraints and decry all morality. Thus, the new “defenders” of marriage will not be content until any and all sexual relationships, “genders” and lifestyles are accepted. That is to say, they will never be happy because unbridled sexuality never brings happiness but only frustration, anxiety and disillusionment. ■



Society still holds on to the sacred standard of marriage.

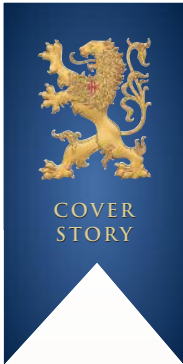
husbands and wives have resisted the “free” love onslaught of the sexual revolution and, though battered by the cultural war, the sacred standard of marriage still waves from the citadel despite the liberal onslaught.

Now it seems those who were so anti-marriage have become pro-marriage.

When marriage becomes an insurmountable obstacle for the sexual revolutionary agenda of “free” love, liberals have no problem of turning marriage into an institution to promote their agenda in the form of homosexual “marriage.”

PARENTAL LOVE: *The Source of Tradition*

BY PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA



Once upon a time, there was a young man torn by a critical conflict of affections. He loved his charming spouse with all his soul. Yet at the same time, he had profound affection and respect for his mother. However, relations between the women were tense. The enchanting but evil, jealous young woman conceived an unfounded hatred for the aged and venerable matron.

At a certain moment, the young woman put her husband against the wall. Either he kill his mother and bring her heart to the wife, or she would abandon him. After a thousand torments, the young man succumbed. He killed she who had given him his life. He tore her heart from her breast, wrapped it in a cloth and headed back to his house. Along the way, he tripped. Suddenly, he heard a voice, full of concern and affection, coming from his mother's heart asking him, "Did you hurt yourself, my son?"

With this allegory, the author Emile Faguet wished to emphasize the most sublime and touching aspects of maternal love: complete selflessness, entirely disinterested concern, and unlimited capacity to forgive. A mother loves her son when he is good. She does not, however, love him only because he is good. She loves him even when he is bad. She loves him simply because he is her son, flesh of her flesh, blood of her blood. She loves him generously even when he does not return her love. She loves him in the crib, when he is still unable to merit the love that is lavished on him. Whether he rises to the splendors of happiness or glory, or falls into the abysses of misfortune or even of crime, she loves him as long as she lives. He is her son and that is all that needs to be said.

This love, profoundly in accordance with the dictates of reason, is also present in parents. In its instinctive aspect, it is akin to the love for their offspring that Providence instilled, found even in animals.

To fathom the sublimity of this instinct, it is enough to say that the Son of God Himself compared His most tender, pure, sovereign, august, sacral and self sacrificing love for man (the greatest that ever

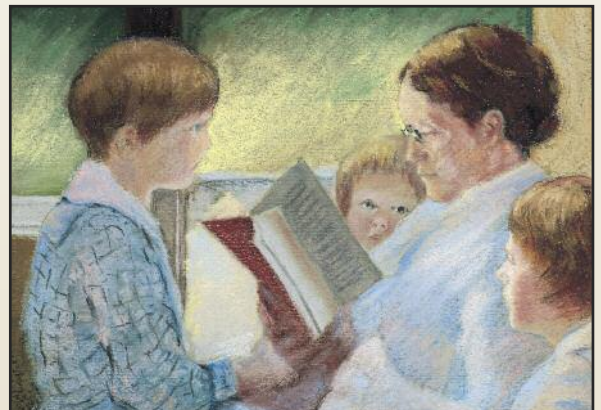
existed on earth) to animal instinct. Shortly before suffering and dying, Jesus wept over Jerusalem, saying, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, . . . how often would I have gathered together thy children, as the hen gathereth her chicks under her wings, and thou wouldst not?" (Matt. 23:37).

Parental Duties

Without this love, there is neither fatherhood nor motherhood worthy of the name. Therefore, he who denies this love in its sublime gratuity denies the family. This love is what leads parents to love their children more than others in accordance with the Law of God and to earnestly desire for them better breeding, better education, more stable life and true ascent in the scale of all values, including their social standing.

For this end, parents work, struggle and save. Their instinct, reason and the dictates of the Faith lead them to this. It is natural for them to desire to accumulate an inheritance so they can pass it on to their children. To deny the legitimacy of this desire is to affirm that a father is like a stranger to his own child. It is to disintegrate the family.

Inheritance is the rendezvous of family and property. It is not only of family and property but of tradition, as well. Indeed, the most precious of the forms of inheritance is not money. In fact, it is a common observation that heredity sets certain facial and psychological features that constitute a link between the generations in a family line be it noble or plebeian. Thus, in a certain way, the ancestors survive and continue in their descendants.



From parental love comes the desire to prepare children for life.

A family, conscious of its own peculiarities, must distill, in the course of generations, its own style of manners and domestic life, as well as a style of public action in which the original wealth of its characteristics may develop so that they can reach their most legitimate and authentic expression. This aim, achieved in the course of decades and centuries, is tradition. A family either develops its own tradition as a school of being, acting, progressing and serving one's country and Christendom, or it runs the risk of frequently generating maladjusted individuals who do not know who they are and who cannot stably and logically fit into any social group. What good does it do to receive a rich material inheritance from one's parents if one does not receive from them, at least in a seminal state, as in the case of a new family tradition, a moral and cultural patrimony? By tradition, of course, we mean not a stagnant past but rather the life that a seed receives from the fruit containing it. We mean a capacity to germinate in its turn and produce something new that is not opposed to the old, but rather the harmonious development and enrichment of it. From this standpoint, tradition melds harmoniously with family and property in the formation of the family heritage and continuity.

Honored Heredity

This is a principle of common sense. That is why we see cases where even the most democratic countries welcome tradition. There is something hereditary about gratitude. It leads us to do for the descendants of our benefactors, even after they have passed away, what they would ask us to do. The State, just as the individual, is subject to this law.

It would be a flagrant contradiction for a country to keep a pen, the glasses or even the slippers of a great benefactor in a museum as a sign of gratitude, but relegate his descendants to indifference and abandonment. Are not his descendants much more important than his slippers?

From this comes the consideration that good sense gives to the descendants of great men, even though they may be ordinary citizens. That is why, for example, all of Lafayette's descendants, the French military officer who fought for U.S. independence, enjoy the honors of



Lafayette's descendants enjoy the honors of American citizenship in gratitude for his help with the War of Independence.

American citizenship, regardless of their country of birth. This same principle also gave rise to one of the most beautiful historic moments of the Spanish Civil War. The Communists had captured the Duke of Vargas, the last descendant of Christopher Columbus, and were going to kill him. All the republics of the Americas united to ask clemency for him. They could not look on indifferently at the extinction of the lineage of the heroic discoverer.

These are the logical consequences of the existence of the family and its reflections in tradition and in property. Are they unjust and hateful privileges? No. As long as the principle that heredity does not justify crime nor prevent the rise of new values, it is simply a matter of justice, and of the best kind.

The Importance of Tradition Today

I received the following challenge as a greeting from an acquaintance I happened to bump into while walking downtown. "You proved quite well that tradition is an indispensable survival of the past in the present. But is tradition important enough for you to have placed it before property and family in the TFP triad?" The question amazed me. But looking at him, I realized that it would occur to many people. So I will answer it here.

Yes, tradition does constitute a high value of the spirit. In principle, it merits, from certain standpoints of course, to precede family and property. Furthermore, in our concrete circumstances, tradition has such an important a role that, as I see it, only one word could precede it. It is "religion." Indeed, tradition defends today the very premises of civilization, and above all, Christian civilization, the most perfect civilization.

Let me explain. Consider the decades following the Second World War. Innumerable changes in people's

It would be a flagrant contradiction for a country to keep a pen, the glasses or even the slippers of a great benefactor in a museum as a sign of gratitude, but relegate his descendants to indifference and abandonment.

According to Christian tradition and plain common sense, one of the essential goals of education is to form people for the struggle of life by making them acquire habits of effort and sacrifice.

way of thinking, feeling, living and acting occurred during this period. When analyzing these changes in an overall picture, it cannot be denied that with a few exceptions they are leading toward a situation violently opposed to all our spiritual and cultural traditions we have received. These traditions are still alive, but they are constantly being attacked by radical modifications. Obviously, these traditions will perish if no one stands up for them. But the end of these traditions would amount, as I see it, to a great historic catastrophe.

Below are a few examples showing how sophistic distortions of some very precious concepts are corroding some of our best traditions:

Goodness: According to the modern sophism, a good person never makes others suffer. Now, since effort causes suffering, only he who does not ask others for effort is good. Christian civilization modeled the peoples of the West in accordance with the principle that effort is the essential condition for the dignity, decorum, good order and productivity of life. If good is to abolish effort in all fields, doesn't this implicitly deprive life of the values that make it worth living? Doesn't such deformed goodness become the worst malefaction?

Love of children: According to this saccharine and flabby goodness, love of children amounts to sparing them every effort. People try to achieve this by thousands of techniques of instructing and forming children to lead lives without any sacrifice. Obstinate attachment to this idea has gone as far as condemning all punishments be-

cause they make the guilty suffer and eliminating awards because they may cause complexes in the lazy. According to Christian tradition and plain common sense, one of the essential goals of education is to form people for the struggle of life by making them acquire habits of effort and sacrifice. What is this love of children but a cruel ignorance?

Simplicity and unpretentiousness: One who prefers things that require neither much taste nor much effort is supposedly simple. Someone who feels good being vulgar is supposedly unpretentious. Simplicity and unpretentiousness progressively invade the manners of youths and adults. The rules of urbanity and good manners, the way of organizing one's home, receiving people, dressing and speaking, have become increasingly simple and unpretentious. Decorum, brilliance, quality, class and prestige are values of the spirit less accepted. However, since these values contain much of what is most precious in our legacy from tradition, life is becoming gray, noble impulses are withering, horizons are shrinking, and vulgarity is invading everything. The most refined selfishness is triumphing on the pretext of simplicity and unpretentiousness. Indeed, refined selfishness is the only refinement left to us.

Spontaneity, naturalness and sincerity: These attitudes supposedly lead one to avoid yet another form of effort: thinking, willing and restraining oneself. They would lead one to give free rein to sensation, fantasy, extravagance—in a word, everything. Thus, the excitement of modern entertainment stamps out books with their invitation to reflection. Ideas are becoming poorer and people's vocabulary suffers with them. In some circles, conversation is reduced to telling a few elementary facts with a few basic words. Entertainment is senseless jumping and yelling. There is much laughter without much reason to laugh. Any restraint in sexual matters is rejected even more than other restraint. Some people's sexual morality amounts to legitimizing all kinds of disorders in order to avoid "complexes." For them, modesty is the great enemy of morality. Liberalism is the way to normality.

Real love for children does not amount to sparing them every effort, but to educate and form them for the struggle of life by making them acquire habits of effort and sacrifice.



Open-mindedness: An “open-minded” person must accept everything. Bishops or governors, teachers or parents who do not endorse all the above absurdities are narrow-minded despots who want to maintain the yoke of taboos that have become untenable.

Someone may ask, “Aren’t you talking about the

*So much silence about the
fundamental values of culture
and of the spirit will lead them
to desert the earth.*

behavior of a few oddballs? Most people don’t think this way. Isn’t it true that most people are desolated and shocked at these excesses?” I agree they may be desolate and shocked. However, I hasten to add, they are also crushed and submissive.

All the advances of these attitudes over the past decades follow the same pattern: 1) a minority comes out with a crazy folly; 2) the majority shudders and protests; 3) the minority persists; 4) the majority gradually becomes accustomed, adapts itself and submits; 5) meanwhile, the minority prepares a new scandal; and 6) and this scandal will be equally successful.

Thus, the majority gradually enters this new world fascinated, fortified, hypnotized, like a bird in a snake’s maw.

So much reduction of refinement will make it disappear; so much shortening of clothing will make it vanish. So much silence about the fundamental values of culture and of the spirit will lead them to desert the Earth. So much fostering and unleashing of disorders will lead them to invade and submerge everything.

Is there any other way to prevent this than by fighting for our tradition, the bearer of all authentically Christian or even simply human values that this hurricane is destroying? ■



Nobility and Analogous Traditional Elites in the Allocutions of Pius XII: A Theme Illuminating American Social History

Since the eighteenth century, generations have been schooled in utopian principles proclaiming total equality as the guarantor of liberty and justice for all. The egalitarian myth of a classless society has been proffered as the unquestionable path mankind must travel to reach perfect social harmony. In *Nobility and Analogous Traditional Elites*, best-selling author Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira ambitiously argues the contrary. Drawing on papal and other classic sources, Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira demonstrates the natural necessity of social hierarchy. ■

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Dangerous Mushroom Democracies

BY JOHN HORVAT II

There are those who believe that democracies grow like mushrooms. They believe popular movements suddenly pop up and form governments after years of oppressive rule under cruel dictators. The West's role is to support these popular movements and everything will come out fine.

Unfortunately, such fantasy seems to have taken hold in North Africa and the Middle East. The so-called Arab Spring is said to herald a coming wind of Facebook-driven democratic movements that will give a voice to tech-savvy youth who yearn for freedom. But is that what will happen?

No one likes a tyrant and when there is a movement afoot to depose one, we naturally tend to sympathize with it. But democracies are not mushrooms. They do not just pop up. Like all important things in life, the mechanics of government are serious matters demanding great sacrifice, consensus and hard work. They demand a political philosophy, rule of law and social institutions.

So far, everything seems to be more of a Hollywood script than an exercise in nation building and statesmanship. The young revolutionaries who seem to have Tweeted their way to power in Egypt make it look so easy. They congregate in a famous square or

bridge brandishing banners in English in front of Western television cameras. The rag-tag "army" in Libya sees more action before Western media than Kaddafi's troops yet enjoys all the recognition of world leaders. Yemini protesters parade with classic Che Guevara posters as they chant their slogans and demands. Everything is done to make it appear like unstoppable popular movements are on the move.

However, many questions remain unanswered. With the breakdown of organized government, a power vacuum is always formed. In these undefined situations, the best organized wins.

In all the countries where upheaval has recently taken place, the best organized are the Muslim Brotherhood, *jihadi*st and Islamic movements with an agenda whose commitment to "democratic principles" clashes violently with the West's optimistic and naïve expectations. For these activists, mushroom democracy is a means toward an end.

In good faith, many of these protesters rallied against tyrannical strongmen, but they failed to exclude from their ranks those with equally tyrannical views who could easily turn their revolution into a change from one tyranny to another. In addition, these "democratic" movements seem to have no problems oppressing their Christian minorities and forcing *sharia* upon them.

How many times has the West tasted these deadly mushrooms! In post-World War II Eastern Europe, the organized communist parties overcame the Nazi tyranny with promises of democratic elections that ended in communist dictatorships. In postcolonial Africa, how many popular movements full of organized Marxist revolutionaries overthrew



Arab revolutionaries pander to Western media with English slogans and sensational images of burning vehicles.



With the help of social networks like Facebook, "uprisings" are becoming easy to organize throughout the Middle East.

colonial governments promising democratic elections in which they delivered elections characterized by one man, one vote?

How sure are we that the *jihadi*sts who are behind the present unrest will not deliver a similar solution?

Finally, we note the uncanny coincidence that these mushroom democracies never seem to thrive in communist countries, all of which seem to enjoy media immunity from harsh criticism despite undemocratic governments and proven disregard for human rights.

Before throwing ourselves headlong into the camp of so-called popular movements, we should see what they stand for and who is in charge. Otherwise we run the risk of supporting mushroom democracies, and certain types of mushrooms are extremely poisonous. ■



AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA.

July/August 2011

PROGRESS REPORT

'The Most Beautiful May Crowning Ever'

BY BARRY ROCHE

On May 18, five America Need Fatima volunteers traveled to the St. Elizabeth Elementary School in Rockville, Md., to assist with their annual May procession. Over 700 students, parents and faculty walked from the front of the school to the nearby church.

Four eighth graders carried a statue of Our Lady from the school to the center of the church, five crowned Our Lady, five announced the petitions before the Rosary and another five each lead a decade of the Glorious Mysteries.

Students from grades pre-kindergarten

to seventh were asked to bring a flower for Our Lady, and the response was overwhelming. Staff members commented that, outside of a flower shop, they had never seen so many flowers.

"Thank you America Needs Fatima for making this the most beautiful May crowning ever," announced school principal Mr. Vincent Spadoni. "This is a very Marian school," he said, "Since 2004, we annually hold our May crowning."

America Needs Fatima gave each participant a remembrance holy card of Our

Lady and distributed 600 Rosaries to those who did not bring their own. The eighth graders were rewarded with a miraculous medal for their hard work in leading the event. ■



Protesting Blasphemy in Oakland

Protesters gathered in front of the Oakland Museum in California on May 21, 2011, to peacefully protest the blasphemous photo depicting Our Lady of Guadalupe in a bikini. This act of protest and reparation drew friends and sympathizers from all over California to say, "We will not be silent! The honor of Our Lady will be defended." Over 40,500 protest e-mails were sent to the museum with the same message. The protestors stood together for two hours in public prayer and reparation to the Virgin Mary, praying the Rosary, chanting the Litanies and singing hymns. Responding to the beautiful invocations to the Holy Face of Jesus, the cry of "Lord, have mercy" from about 200 persons rose as one up to heaven. ■



Will America Needs Fatima Be There for Our Grandchildren? Join the Immaculate Heart Guild Today!

Like Mr. and Mrs. Jay Duncan of Conyngham, Pa., many want America Needs Fatima to be around for their grandchildren and beyond. So, please consider making a charitable bequest to America Needs Fatima when you write or amend your will.

You will be deeply satisfied to know that your generosity will help future generations to know, love and practice a message of such importance that God sent His Holy Mother to deliver it personally to us at Fatima in 1917.

Saint Louis de Montfort says that Mary, being the most gracious and giving of all pure creatures, never lets herself be outdone in love and liberality. As a holy man said of her, for an egg she gives an ox; that is to say, for a little that is given her, she returns a hundredfold.

And Saint Bernard says that “when you want to offer anything to God, take care to offer it by the most agreeable and worthy hands of Mary, unless it be rejected.”

Pass on Devotion to the Next Generation

To pass on devotion to Our Lady to the next generation ask your attorney to include in your will either of the two paragraphs below:

OPTION 1

“I give and bequeath the sum of \$_____ dollars to be used for the general purposes of America Needs Fatima, a special campaign of The Foundation for a Christian Civilization, Inc., a section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charity located at 1358 Jefferson Rd., Spring Grove, PA 17362.”

OPTION 2

“I give, devise and bequeath to America Needs Fatima, a special campaign of The Foundation for a Christian Civilization, Inc., a section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charity, located at 1358 Jefferson Rd., Spring Grove, PA 17362, for its general purposes all (or you can state fraction or percent) of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, whether real or personal.”

Fatima’s Echo to the Next Generation

Your bequest will help future generations live Our Lady’s Fatima message and you will also receive many spiritual benefits. Your generosity is not only appreciated by us, but, much more importantly, our Blessed Mother and her Divine Son. They are more interested than anyone in the restoration of society and the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

When you join the Immaculate Heart guild your intentions will be remembered perpetually in the daily Masses offered by ANF member priests, and your name will be framed on the Immaculate Heart Guild plaque in the Chapel of ANF headquarters. ■

Your help will make such apostolates possible:

- Home visitations with the Pilgrim Virgin statues of Our Lady of Fatima, reaching tens of thousands of families annually.
- Acts of reparation and protests nationwide to stop blasphemous attacks against the Sacred Persons of Jesus and Mary.
- Massive promotion of religious literature, books, medals and especially Rosaries.
- Thousands of Public Square Rosary Rallies annually.
- Outreach programs for high-school and college students.

Call (888) 317-5571 to learn more about joining the Immaculate Heart Guild.

Celebrating Mother’s Day at ANF

BY ROBERT RITCHIE

Each First Friday of the month, TFP/America Needs Fatima holds a program for its supporters at its headquarters in Spring Grove, Pa., consisting of a talk, followed by home-made brick-oven pizza and the Holy Rosary.

This May 6, two days before Mother’s Day, a special feature was added to the supporter program, which was a marvelous band presentation done by the TFP band, with a selection of music adapted for Mother’s Day and in honor of the mothers present at the event.

While the band played, matching

slides of mothers and Mother’s Day scenes were projected on a large screen, so the audience could follow the song and better perceive its meaning. The talk on this day was about “The Marvelous: Gate to Heaven,” which was well received by the audience and appropriately matched by a marvelous double rainbow that appeared in the sky after the talk and before the pizza dinner.

The Mother’s Day event ended with a special Rosary said for the intentions of all the mothers present. ■



Top: Enjoying brick-oven pizza and special Mother’s Day desserts. **Above:** Many of the band members are students from the Saint Louis de Montfort Academy.



Join America's Largest Public Square Rosary Crusade!

Those seeking to remove God and His Holy Law from our society fight on unceasingly. Abortion murders innocent unborn babies; the institution of the family is weakened by impure customs and threatened by the legalization of homosexual "marriage"; and the sexual revolution pervades popular culture especially in television, media, movies and the Internet.

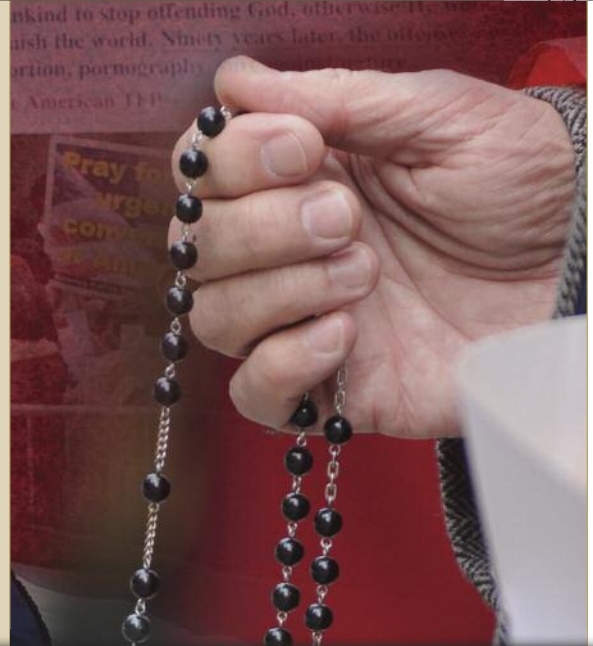
However, the worst consequence of this secularist offensive is the rejection of God. In doing so, we disdain His wise and loving action and we refuse His grace upon the citizens of our country.

And without His grace, how can we survive? How can our leaders properly govern our nation? From where will they get the wisdom and the strength to solve the great and complex problems that abound?

"What Can I Do?"

At Fatima, Portugal, in 1917, Our Lady made it very clear that the Rosary is the solution to our earthly problems.

Thankfully, Public Square Rosary Rallies have been growing annually! Let's keep it growing and use the rosary to bring our lives, our families and our nation back to God. Only the power of the Rosary can do this. ■



Call (866) 584-6012 to find out how you can be part of this Rosary crusade.

The Akron Good Friday Blasphemy

BY KENNETH MURPHY

On Good Friday, April 22, First Grace United Church of Christ in Akron, Ohio, held the blasphemous homosexual play *Corpus Christi*, which mocked Our Lord. The play deformed Gospel passages to portray Christ and the Apostles as degenerates.

Reparation

As Saint Veronica did during the Our Lord's Passion, 27 brave Catholics gathered to pray and offer reparation. A cold wet April shower did not dampen the singing of hymns or prayers, but instead displayed the seriousness and resolution of those present.

"This is the best way to observe Good Friday," said Christopher Henderson from Cleveland, Ohio. "We're doing a real 'Way of the Cross' by standing here and defending the honor of Our Lord Who will be crucified and mocked by this production."

Ten of thousands of America Needs Fatima members e-mailed or phoned the First Grace United Church of Christ to peacefully voice opposition to this insensitive attack. On Good Friday, America Needs Fatima members were also asked to make an act of reparation to the Sacred Heart.



Top: The rally of reparation outside the First Grace United Church of Christ. **Above:** Teenaged Joseph Jordan responds to an ex-Catholic heckler.

Three Hecklers

Three homosexuals, attempting to disrupt the rally, accused everyone of being covert homosexuals or abusing children. One former Catholic diabolically tempted 17-year-old Joseph Jordan to "leave the Catholic Church in order to freely enjoy all pleasures." Young Joseph retorted, "True happiness does not come from the pursuit of sin but in following Jesus and carrying one's cross." The ex-Catholic then began mocking the Rosary by crawling on the ground repeating, "Worship the goddess; holy goddess, worship the goddess."

The other hecklers, one dressed in a rainbow-colored jacket, verbally attacked the Church and held signs saying, "Jesus loves fags gays" and another saying "God is here and boy is she p***ed."

After 20 minutes of unsuccessful heckling, the rally continued without them for two more hours. The gathering ended solemnly with the *Consecration to Our Lady* by Saint Louis de Montfort and a procession with Our Lady to the sound of *Hail Holy Queen Enthroned Above*. ■



America Needs Fatima's New and Larger Office In Hazleton, Pa

BY MICHAEL GORRE

After renting the same offices for over a decade, TFP and America Needs Fatima's employees received a wonderful surprise. The office that includes the departments of TFP/America Needs Fatima's Customer Service, graphic design of *Crusade Magazine* and other printed materials, Web and e-mail campaigns, direct-mail campaigns and donor services, has now moved to a larger premises. While remodeling the two-story, red brick building, there were many difficult obstacles, including the theft of copper piping and the emergency repair of a leaky roof. However, the work was successfully finished and the building is perfectly suited to accommodate the expansion of TFP/America Needs Fatima, which has been growing each and every year. It now boasts over

200,000 members nationwide.

"This new office will definitely help us work more efficiently to further spread Our Lady of Fatima's wishes," says TFP/ANF graphic designer Miss Elizabeth Ferraz. "The ambience is wonderfully conducive to the work we do." Office manager Mr. Adrien Bohdal agrees; "Our new office is better equipped to spread the Fatima message, especially through the Internet and email. We look forward to winning more souls for Our Lady from here."

TFP/ANF's expansion is due largely to the faith and dedication of its members and donors. We ask Our Lady to bless them for their conviction that indeed America does need Fatima more than ever. ■



Top: All 14 office members outside of their new building. Above: Catherine Burnham works diligently in the donor service department.

CUSTODIAN'S CORNER 'Are You Scottish?'

BY ALEXANDER MCKAY

For a few months, I had the pleasure of volunteering with America Needs Fatima as a Fatima Custodian. My Scottish accent never failed to raise a question about my origins, but since my goal was to talk about Our Lady and not Scotland, I would deflect that interest and explain why I felt the work of America Needs Fatima is important. Now that I have returned to Scotland, I would like to share three of those reasons.

Like all Fatima Custodians, I realized the vast majority of whom we visit know very little about Fatima. Of course, they would recognize Our Lady but only a handful knew of Our Lady's request for prayer, sacrifice and amendment of life. After asking more senior Fatima Custodians, I learned that as time passes, fewer and fewer Catholics know the basics of the Fatima story.

Praying the Rosary

Saint Louis de Montfort promised that "Never will anyone who says this Rosary every day be led astray." At many visits, we have the joy of teaching people how to pray the Rosary and annually give out thousands of Rosary beginner booklets. At Fatima, Our Lady requested all of us to say the Five First Saturday devotion and a Rosary daily. Again, it is extremely rare for Custodians to



The young author, Alexander McKay, far left, while at a Fatima visit.

find people who habitually pray the Rosary, so one of main goals is to inspire them to do that.

Rekindling Devotion

Lastly, Fatima visits provided a way for hosts to expose their non-practicing or non-Catholic family members to the Faith. Many of these poor souls, who would never dare enter a Catholic Church, would not mind listening to a visitor to the house or observing the presentation. As a 19-year-old, I could talk more freely with young adults about the peer pressures to give into sin, and encourage them to follow the straight and narrow.

In this manner, Custodians visit over 3,000 homes annually. We all know that we are only simple tools in Our Lady's hands and all credit for any good we do goes to her. I pray and ask you to pray that Our Lady continues to use her faithful tools to reach more souls and especially those who are in most need. ■

*To schedule a Fatima visit
in your home, call (888) 460-7371.*



Arming 740,000 with the Rosary

Thanks to the assistance of Our Lady and the help of our volunteers, America Needs Fatima distributed over 740,000 rosaries for free since 2007. Hundreds of thousands of "How to Pray the Rosary" booklets and "15 Promises of the Rosary" holy cards have also been given to needy souls. America Needs Fatima would like to especially thank those who gave financial support to make this and our other campaigns possible. ■



Our Readers Write...



Distributing Rosaries

Your rosary is the only religious thing that touches my heart. It helped me remember what I was taught about Fatima and how a daily Rosary is expected from us. I'm very happy to receive it and I'll treasure it for the rest of my life.

A.N., San Diego, Calif.

I feel blessed that you've sent me such a beautiful Rosary. It reminded me of the promise of Our Lady for those who pray it daily and it gladdened my heart.

F.A., Maspeth, N.Y.

I am a pregnancy counselor at our local birth house and a client asked where the closest Planned Parenthood was. She was literally going to go there to have an abortion! I asked some pertinent questions. She cried. I hugged her. She left.

She had only given me three minutes to fight for her and her baby. There was nothing left for me to do, so I pulled out my beautiful new Fatima beads and prayed the sorrowful mysteries.

I left for home and later learned that the client had returned to our birth house to get an ultrasound and she is now choosing life.

I attribute this miracle to the rosary said on your very special anniversary beads.

C.M., Murrieta, Calif.

Boy's Summer Camp

It is always a pleasure to see all of you coming aboard the *U.S.S. Kidd* on July 4.

Your bagpipes were excellent as well as your drummers. To see future generations taking pride in their country gives us great hope for this wonderful country's future. We're fortunate to be citizens of a country where democracy is the norm and we will always need great leaders to



keep our freedom.

We wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you again next year and in the years to come.

M.D., Executive Director of the U.S.S. Kidd, Veterans Memorial, Lafayette, La.

Crusade Magazine

Thank you, *Crusade Magazine*. The recent article on music hit home as I ran a music school in New Jersey for over 40 years and I have witnessed the near complete collapse of music in the United States and in the world. I consider it a harbinger of extremely bad times ahead. Meanwhile it is refreshing to read of the commitment of your followers.

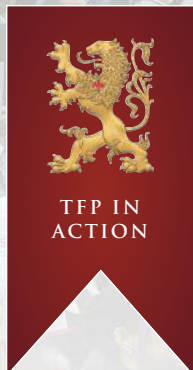
J.P., Maple Shade, N.J.

I'm a 28-year-old Catholic theologian and journalist in Poland. For many years I have been reading each *Crusade Magazine* on your Web site and think it's wonderful. You are doing very good and have an important publication.

M.T., Goluchow, Poland

I enjoy reading your magazine very much. I especially enjoyed the issue that had the article "Abort Children, But Spare Bin Laden?!" about the protest at George Washington University by TFP Student Action.

E.K., Blue Springs, Mo.



Thousands March to Save Marriage in New York City

BY WILLIAM STOVER

When the sun rose on the morning of May 15, American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) members were already at work, preparing for the day's activities. Soon, our vehicles were rolling to Bronx, N.Y., where our purpose was to join a march for traditional marriage organized by State Senator Ruben Diaz (D-Bronx) and other pro-family leaders.

Under a light drizzle, we disembarked at 149th Street and Third Avenue, and assembled the Holy Choirs of Angels Corps marching band. Invited to lead off the march, we positioned ourselves accordingly. Soon, thousands of traditional marriage supporters surged forward to the sound of *God Bless America*, holding signs that read, "Adam + Eve = Family" and "Don't Change Marriage."

As the TFP band played stirring marches and patriotic music, people lined the streets and leaned out of windows to see the parade. Although a few passersby were quite vocal in their opposition, the overall response was positive.

After marching the twelve blocks to the Bronx County



Courthouse located on the Grand Concourse, a lineup of speakers addressed thousands of people from the courthouse steps, voicing their commitment to the cause of marriage. *The Star-Spangled Banner* was sung followed by *God Bless America* by the TFP band. In his speech, Senator Diaz mentioned how he had received death threats from pro-homosexual advocates for simply defending the institution of God-ordained marriage. Other speakers included Father Peter West, associate director of Priests for Life, and Brian Brown, president of the National Organization for Marriage.

Our banner, visible to the thousands of people assembled, boldly proclaimed, "God's Marriage = One Man + One Woman." Our flier, *10 Reasons Why Homosexual "Marriage" is Harmful and Must Be Opposed*, written in English and Spanish, was very well received.

For the good of the family, let us continue to pray that more souls will stand up and peacefully oppose the homosexual agenda, especially in its latest effort to impose homosexual "marriage" in New York State. ■



The march was organized by State Senator Ruben Diaz (D-Bronx).



The TFP brass, bagpipe, fife and drum band helped animate the event.



The march travelled 12 blocks to the steps of the Bronx County Courthouse.



COMMENTARY

There Are 23 ‘Genders’?!

BY JOHN HORVAT II

In matters of human sexuality, there are male and female. It is an established biological fact. It is from this fact that comes the family, which assures the continuity of the human race. From the family comes society and the State, which works toward the common good and perfection of our nature. There is nothing complicated about this obvious fact. It is simply the way things were, are and shall be.

However, there are those who claim this classification is an artificial societal construction. Humans, they maintain, are not made male and female. Rather, in matters of sexuality, we should all be free to reject the “gender” identity forced upon us and adopt whatever “gender” we want. We are no longer male or female but can choose to be one or the other, both or neither.

Thus, we have seen the proliferation of behaviors and conditions that now qualify as sexual categories. Sexual identity now applies to how one perceives oneself or even how one can surgically change oneself to fit that perception.

What began as a short list referring to homosexual, bisexual has now expanded to include a LGBTQI “community,” adding transgender, questioning one’s identity and intersexed to the list.

However, that is not the end of the story. Once the floodgate is opened to give official status to any kind of sexual behaviors, there is no limit to the sexual identities that can appear. For example, the Australian Human Rights Commission has come up with a listing of 23 “genders” that it feels need protection under the law.¹ On this list, beyond the “standard” LGBTQI listing, one can find transsexual, androgynous, agender, cross-dresser, genderfluid, genderqueer, intergender, neutrois, pansexual, pan-gendered, sistergirl and other classifications that are best left unmentioned.

What is clear from the listing is that the whole sexual identity debate, which accuses traditional society of artificially constructing sexual roles, is itself artificial, counterfeit and bankrupt. Advocates of this unre-

strained sexuality cannot restrain their fevered imagination in expanding the new categories that must be “protected” to the point of the ridiculous and absurd. They are likewise very creative in manufacturing a whole list of phobias, such as biphobia or transphobia, for those who disapprove of these aberrant behaviors.

Such findings are really not new. They are unfortunate logical extensions of the sexual liberation movement of the sixties. Back then, any kind of “free” love between a man and women was made socially acceptable. Now, any other kind of sexual relationship must be accepted and protected.

The only thing that is not tolerated is the insistence

that male and female define human sexuality. It is rejected that a natural law and a corresponding morality limits and regulates the strong sexual instincts so that society might perpetuate itself through the family. Es-

entially, this position holds that the ways of expressing sexuality are unlimited and that each one might define one’s own unique sexual category beyond the current 23 and counting “gender listing.”

One day, when common sense will again prevail, one might hope that all will return to the beginning when God created male and female. ■

Sexual identity now applies to how one perceives oneself or even how one can surgically change oneself to fit that perception.

Note:

1. Australian Human Rights Commission, “Protection from Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation and Sex and/or Gender Identity, Discussion Paper,” http://www.hreoc.gov.au/human_rights/lgbti/lgbticonsult/discussion_paper.html (accessed May 16, 2011).



MARRIAGE WINS in Rhode Island

BY JOHN RITCHIE

After a remarkable victory for God's marriage in Maryland, young TFP members pushed forward to Rhode Island, where traditional marriage was also under assault. Up to 17 volunteers traveled thousands of miles, visiting dozens of cities and college campuses to proclaim the truth that God's marriage equals one man and one woman. Finally, on April 26, Speaker of the House Gordon Fox, an open homosexual, said the bill redefining marriage did not have enough support to become law. The following day, it was announced that Kathy Kushnir, the leader of the executive director for Homosexual Marriage Equality Rhode Island, would resign.

At the Feet of Our Lady

At the end of the Rhode Island caravan for marriage, we had the privilege of visiting the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima that was touring churches in Rhode Island. After such an intense campaign, we were able to pray at her feet and sing the *Salve Regina* in thanks giving for the victory.

"Are you with TFP Student Action?"

asked a woman crossing the church parking lot. "I'm following your tour, watching the videos, seeing what abuses you endure and I truly admire what you are doing. Your valor makes us so happy. And we love the bagpipes," she said. "There may have been 250 people yelling at you today at Brown University, but I want you to know that there are many more families like ours supporting you and praying

"...I want you to know that there are many more families like ours supporting you and praying for you. There are a lot of people following behind your tall banner."

for you. There are a lot of people following behind your tall banner." Gathering her children around her, the woman continued, "These men are real Catholic men. They do



Busy city intersections provide an opportunity to engage passing cars while distributing flies.

what all Catholics should be doing. They are Catholic heroes. They stand on the street corners [for traditional marriage] and endure being spit upon and get things thrown at them. We need to give them our prayers and our thanks."

Ivy League "Tolerance"

What we faced at Brown University, an Ivy League university in Rhode Island, had the flavor of a religious persecution. As we campaigned peacefully, about 250 frenzied, rabid pro-homosexual students gathered to scream, spit, taunt, insult, assault and even attempt to destroy our traditional marriage banner. Only with supernatural protection, and a strong police presence, did TFP volunteers manage to complete the campaign without serious injury.

On the Front Lines

As we strolled onto campus, the silence was shattered by a long, loud "Nooooooo, not at Brown!" After raising the American flag,



Left: TFP Student Action at Brown University. **Middle:** Rhode Island's majority enthusiastically embraced the state wide tour. **Right:** Thousands of "Ten Reason fliers" informed the public why marriage must be protected.

TFP standard and banner, dozens of students gathered to take in the sight and snap photographs on their cell phones. Also visible was a large rainbow flag hanging from a campus building.

Suddenly, we heard a loud ripping noise. I looked up and saw a student crashing through our traditional marriage banner in his attempt to destroy it. Running at top speed, he flung himself into it and ripped one side loose. Some students watching from a distance approvingly cheered this act of violence. Then two women kissed in front of our banner to the onlookers' applause. "Why are you here?" students asked. We politely told them how the TFP was on a state-wide tour defending traditional marriage. They would just stand there, in a daze, and repeat the question, "But why are you here?"

Is Pedophilia Next?

In a debate, TFP volunteer Mr. Danniell Pribble mentioned how the acceptance of homosexual vice leads to the acceptance of pedophilia. In fact, during a recent session in Canadian parliament, experts claimed that pedophilia is a "sexual orientation."¹

"What moral grounds do you stand on to oppose pedophilia, once you've accepted homosexual behavior?" asked Mr. Pribble. "You're right," answered a student. "I don't have any substantive objection with pedophilia."

Students repeatedly approached our members with, "You're very brave for coming here." Watching the out-of-control behavior of dozens of pro-homosexual students, a gentleman on the sidewalk remarked, "They want tolerance. But they can swear, spit and scream all they want . . ."

Why Does YouTube Censor TFP video?

The frenzy, the yelling, the spitting and the violent attempt to destroy our banner was captured on video and soon posted on TFP Student Action's YouTube channel. However, YouTube swiftly removed the video, without warning or explanation. What prompted this reaction is still unknown, but the video was reposted at www.TFPStudentAction.org and is available for all to see. ■

Note:

1. Fortieth Parliament, Third Session, Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, Testimony of Dr. Hubert Van Gijsegheem (February 14, 2011), <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=4959361&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=40&Ses=3&Int=3742801> (accessed May 11, 2011).

Notre Dame Finally Drops Charges Against Pro-Lifers

BY KENNETH MURPHY

On May 5, Indiana prosecutor Michael Dvorak dismissed the criminal trespass charges against almost all of the "ND88," the faithful pro-lifers arrested when they entered Notre Dame's campus in peaceful and prayerful protest as the university bestowed honors on pro-abortion President Obama at their 2009 commencement.

Mr. Dvorak dropped the charges as part of an agreement between the Thomas More Society and the University of Notre Dame.

"This is a big step forward and a victory for the pro-life cause," said Mr. Tom Brejcha, president and chief counsel of the Thomas More Society and a 1965 Notre Dame graduate. "Those who share pro-life convictions may differ on tactics and approaches, but they best serve their sacred cause when they work together to secure the common good for all human beings, born and unborn alike, rather than carrying on as courtroom antagonists."

Mr. Tom Dixon, a South Bend, Ind., attorney and Thomas More

Society special counsel, had led the defense over the last two years, during which the parties engaged in vigorous litigation, including extensive discovery proceedings.

"Hats off to the Thomas More Society and their team of lawyers. They did a fine job defending the pro-lifers who were persecuted unjustly for nearly two years," said TFP Student Action Director John Ritchie. "I think all the e-mails, telephone calls, withheld donations and prayers played an important role in the outcome as well." TFP Student Action also collected over 20,000 protest petitions, urging Father John Jenkins, president of Notre Dame, to drop the charges.

"We must pray that leadership at Notre Dame will consistently oppose the culture of death in all its facets, from abortion to homosexual 'marriage,' and resist ongoing pressure to recognize pro-homosexual student groups and activities which offend God," said Mr. Ritchie. "Catholic moral values are more important than football." ■

Czestochowa's

MYSTERIOUS IMAGE



BY VALDIS GRINSTEINS



COMMENTARY

Tradition tells us that Saint Luke, a capable painter, in responding to the requests of many Christians who wanted to preserve a remembrance of the Blessed Virgin Mary after her elevation into Heaven, painted her sacred face on an oak table, near which Our Lady used to sew and pray.

Some time later, when the Romans dominated Jerusalem and were destroying many churches, Divine Providence protected the icon from falling into the pagans' hands. The relic, carried to Constantinople by the Empress Saint Helena, hidden by the Christians, always received divine protection, especially when Constantinople fell under the dominion of the non-believers for centuries.

In its constant pilgrimage, we find the image, in 802, in the chapel of the Belz, in White Russia. In those days, there were many marriages between members of the Byzantine and Russian nobility, so the icon was probably given as a wedding present in one of those marriages.

In the second half of the fourteenth century, Louis, the Hungarian king of Poland and Hungary, annexed White Russia to his realm and the Belz Castle was given to Prince Wladyslaw of Opole (now Silesia). During that time, Ruthenia was invaded by Tartars, and in one of those invasions, the Belz Castle was besieged by them. The defense became increasingly difficult and the defenders threatened to capitulate.

Prince Wladyslaw was praying before the altar on which the picture of Our Lady rested, begging for her assistance when an enemy arrow struck the Virgin's face, leaving a scar. The ancient chronicles say, broad daylight turned into dark night. Fear seized the Tartars. The prince, sallying forth with his knights to the open plain, routed the Tartar hordes.

Our Lady Picks Czestochowa

On seeing how insecure Belz Castle was, and wishing to avoid the possible destruction of the beautiful icon, Prince Wladyslaw decided to transport it to Opole, in Silesia. And so he put the image in a splendid carriage drawn by six chargers, and began the long voyage to the land of his birth. But when they arrived at Czestochowa, the powerful horses stopped and would not budge! Prince Wladyslaw, perceiving this as a sign from heaven,

went to the little chapel of the village that was on top of the hill of Jasna Góra (Bright Mountain), where he gave himself up to prayer. He was overcome by sleep. Our Lady communicated to him her desire in his dreams: Her image had to be venerated on Jasna Góra.

Without any delay, the picture was enthroned solemnly in the little chapel while Prince Wladyslaw ordered the construction of a church of greater dignity and scale in that place, and a monastery beside it. Later, in 1382, he requested 16 Hungarian friars of the Pauline order whom he charged with the care of the relic.

The happy news soon spread all over the country and the historian Jan Dlugosz, who lived at the time, reports that pilgrims began to stream into Czestochowa from all the territories of the Polish-Lithuanian kingdom, as well from Bohemia and Moravia.

The Attack of the Hussites

Good Friday night in 1430, a band of Czech Hussites, commanded by a Polish noble, also a Hussite (in nearby Silesia, this heresy had gained many followers among the nobles) attacked the sanctuary and killed five religious, seized the golden vessels and the Church's ornaments, some relics and Our Lady's image, and loaded them in a cart. The chronicles of Jasna Góra tell us that immediately after descending the hill, the horses stopped and would not move. Then, one of the heretics, cursing the painting, hurled it to the ground so hard that it splintered into three pieces but the faces of Our Lady and of the Infant Jesus remained whole. In the face of this, one of the Hussites unsheathed his sword and struck the right side of Our Lady's face twice, and when he raised his sword for the third blow, he fell fulminated by a bolt of lightning. His companies fled in terror, but the chiefs of the band were caught and put to death by the sword. So profaned by the heretics, and abandoned in the midst of the slime, the holy painting was found by the Paulist friars. When they bent over to pick up the holy painting, the friars saw a spring of crystalline water open underneath it and washed the holy painting. In that place, at the foot of Jasna Góra, was placed a wooden cross, and later the Church of Saint Barbara was built there. In the interior of the temple, the spring continues to gush the miraculous water sought by the pilgrims and famous for the cures of eye diseases.

The Miraculous Scars

The painting was then taken, at King Wladyslaw Jagiello's request, to Krakow to be restored. The best Polish artists dedicated their talent to the task, but a miraculous fact occurred. Once the restoration was completed, the paint that covered the scars left by the sword ran off! Italian artists who were later tried to restore the painting found that same phenomenon occurred with them. Finally, it was decided to make a copy of the original picture on a new canvas, preserving the wounds. This picture, however, is fixed to the original wood, which is



To protect the image, the monastery of Jasna Góra became a fortress and defended itself from many enemies.

considered to be a relic. (There are three known copies of the picture done at the end of the fourteenth century, for the churches of Glogowek in Silesia, of Lepoglaw in Croatia and of Sokal. None of them show the wounds in Our Lady's face because they were made before the Hussites' attack.)

As a consequence of that attack, King Wladyslaw Jagiello nearly declared war on Bohemia. What kept him from declaring war were the Polish nobles involved. Those nobles, however, were severely chastised, and the historians of time report that all of them died violently in the year following the holy place's profanation.

Jasna Góra Becomes a Fortress

Later, toward the end of the sixteenth century, King Zygmunt III, in order to give greater security to the sanctuary, built strong walls about it with four bastions constructed according to Dutch techniques, surrounded by a moat, and provided a garrison maintained by the kingdom. Thus, Jasna Góra took on the aspect of a fortress. Against its walls in the following century, an invasion of the Swedish heretics would fail.

Replacing the rustic and primitive little church, there now rose a majestic one, with a high wooden tower. The work of its construction, in which King Wladyslaw Jagiello personally participated, lasted from spring until October for many years. In 1690, the tower burned and, falling on the nave, did great damage. In its place a new tower was built of wood, which was also destroyed by fire. In 1906, the present even more imposing tower of bricks and mortar was inaugurated. In that year, Pope Saint Pius X elevated the church, whose nave holds nearly 4,000 people, to the rank of basilica. ■



Empress Saint Helena brought the image of Our Lady of Czestochowa from Jerusalem.

Prayer to Our Lady of Czestochowa

Holy Mother of Czestochowa, Thou art full of grace, goodness and mercy. I consecrate to Thee all my thoughts, words and actions, my soul and body. I beseech Thy blessings and especially prayers for my salvation. Today, I consecrate myself to Thee, Good Mother, totally, with body and soul amid joy and sufferings to obtain for myself and others Thy blessings on this earth and eternal life in Heaven.

Amen.

Prayer intended for private recitation only.

THE VALUE OF ADMIRATIVE SOULS

BY NORMAN J. FULKERSON

Before landing on Iwo Jima, the men depicted here in bronze gazed up at Mount Suribachi and relished a seemingly impossible idea. "Wouldn't it be great to raise an American flag up there?" one of them said. Father Charles Suver, a Jesuit priest sitting nearby, quickly remarked, "You get it up there and I will say a Mass underneath it."

Twenty Marines, with rifles locked, loaded and ready, guarded the priest as he fulfilled his end of the bargain at midday on February 23, 1945. As Father Suver said Mass, he could hear enemy soldiers talking in nearby caves. Inquisitive Japanese, as if momentarily paralyzed, gazed with curiosity at the scene. An unfamiliar religious ceremony was being celebrated under their noses while the American flag flapped at the sky above.

Those who take time to contemplate the Iwo Jima flag-raising monument are filled with admiration, a virtue that is increasingly difficult to practice in our materialistic modern world. It was, after all, admiration for a heroic act of defiance that moved the Marines to crown Mount Suribachi with the American flag. It was likewise admiration that

compelled Father Suver to enter courageously into the jaws of death to unite the selfless sacrifice of those Marines with our Lord's holocaust on Calvary. To think it was the first Catholic Mass ever celebrated on the island!

And finally, it was admiration that inspired the legendary U.S. Marine Colonel John Ripley to recognize the spot as being sacred. "To the Marines," he said, "this is Lourdes." Colonel Ripley is considered one of the foremost historians on Iwo Jima, and during almost fifteen visits to the island, chose to sleep on the summit of Mount Suribachi. Like the Marines pictured below, Colonel Ripley was an admiring soul and such souls have a unique ability of drawing others along the path of admiration.

Over 22,000 Marines were either killed or wounded during the entire month-long clash. Besides the horrific carnage, however, something else remained after the dust settled over the battle for Iwo Jima: the brilliant admiration of six exhausted Marines as they raised the American flag. Their heroic act will be an object of admiration for as long as there is an America, for such is the value of admiring souls. ■



AMBIENCES,
CUSTOMS AND
CIVILIZATIONS