

May/June 2012

# CRUSADE<sup>®</sup>

MAGAZINE



TRADITION  
FAMILY AND  
PROPERTY<sup>®</sup>



THE FEAST OF  
**CORPUS CHRISTI**  
IN TOLEDO

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## The Painter Who Gave Bad Example

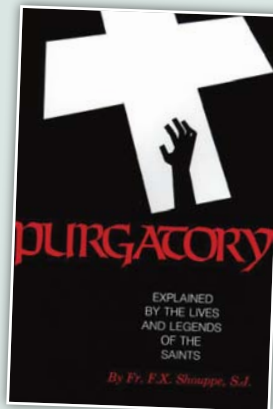
A LESSON FROM REVEREND F.X. SCHOUPPE, S.J.



A painter of great skill and otherwise exemplary life had once made a painting not at all conformable to the strict rules of Christian modesty. It was one of those paintings which, under the pretext of being works of art, are found in the best families, and the sight of which causes the loss of so many souls. However, renouncing this pernicious style, he confined himself to producing religious, or at least perfectly irreproachable, pictures.

While painting a large picture in the convent of the discalced Carmelites, he was attacked by a mortal malady. He died in pious sentiments, and a few days later a religious saw him appear in the midst of flames, sighing piteously. "What!," he asked, "have you to endure such pain, after leading so good a life and dying so holy a death?"

"Alas!" replied he, "it is on account of the immodest picture I painted years ago. When I appeared before the tribunal of the Sovereign Judge, a crowd of accusers came to give evidence against me. They declared they had been excited to improper thoughts and evil desires



by my picture. As a result of those bad thoughts, some were in Purgatory, others in Hell."

"Then the Blessed Virgin and the saints, whom I had glorified by my paintings, took up my defense. Because of this the Sovereign Judge declared that I should be exempt from damnation; but He condemned me to these flames until that picture is burned so it can no longer scandalize anyone."

"I beg of you," said the sufferer to the religious, "go in my name to the owner of the picture and conjure him to burn

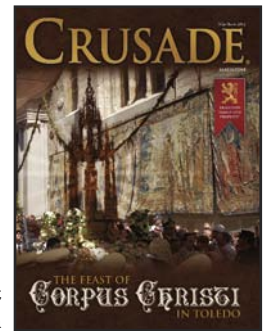
it. If he refuses, woe be to him!"

The religious hastened to do what the poor soul had asked. On hearing these things, the owner cast the painting into the fire and spent the remainder of his days in penance for having ordered and kept that immodest picture in his house. ■

Adapted from Rev. F.X. Schoupe's *Purgatory* (Rockford, IL: Tan Books, 1973), 95-97.

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The largest  
Eucharistic procession

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## CRUSADE

**Editor:** C. Preston Noell III

**Associate Editors:** John Horvat II, Michael Drake, Michael Whitcraft

**Photography:** Gary Isbell, Michael Gorre, Kenneth Murphy

**Foreign Correspondents:** Charles E. Schaffer, Austria; José Carlos Sepulveda, Brazil; Philip Moran, United Kingdom; Benoit Bemelmans, France; Beno Hofschulte, Germany; Juan M. Montes, Italy; David Nash, South Africa; Felipe Barandiaran, Spain

## 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

## Hungary's New Constitution

In January, Hungary approved a new constitution by a two-thirds majority. It opens with the phrase "God bless the Hungarians" and changes the country's name from "The Hungarian Republic" to simply "Hungary." It defines marriage as the union of one man and one woman; stipulates that life starts at conception; and breaks with the egalitarian "one man, one vote" rule to allow future legislation to provide a second vote to mothers with minor children. It also caps national debt at 50% of GDP and refers to Saint Stephen's Holy Crown "as the embodiment of the constitutional continuity and unity of the nation."

## Matthew 24:9

A comprehensive study by the Pew Forum has found that over 100,000 Christians are murdered annually because of their faith. Out of the world's 197 countries, 131 openly persecute Christians. Most of them are either officially Islamic or Communist. Among the top twenty oppressors are countries such as China, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Syria, Pakistan and Cuba. "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall put you to death: and you shall be hated by all nations for My Name's sake" (Matthew 24:9).

## Bullying Homosexualists

Tennessee State Senator Stacey Campfield was denied service and thrown out of The Bistro restaurant in Knoxville because of his recent politically incorrect comments on the health risks of homosexual behavior. In a radio interview Senator Campfield said that "someone who is not a homosexual, someone who is not an IV drug user, someone who is not sleeping with someone who is one of those things" is not likely to contract AIDS. One of the Senator's sources was a Center for Disease Control report which found that the rate of HIV cases among homosexuals is more than 44 times that of heterosexual men and more than 40 times that of heterosexual women



even though homosexuals make up less than two percent of the general population. After being thrown out of the pro-homosexual-only bistro, Senator Campfield posted on his blog that it was "just another example of the open-minded tolerant left. They claim tolerances for divergent points of view. . . until someone actually has one."

## No More Indoctrination

The new conservative government in Spain has announced its decision to dissolve a mandatory pro-

homosexual public school program. The class was designed to "revise the student's attitude towards homosexuality." Pro-family organizations have been fighting the program for years, gathering over 55,000 signatures and sending roughly 1,000 protest emails daily. Jaime Urcelay, president of Professionals for Ethics, called the announcement "a joy that compensates many years of effort and struggle."

## Defend us in Battle

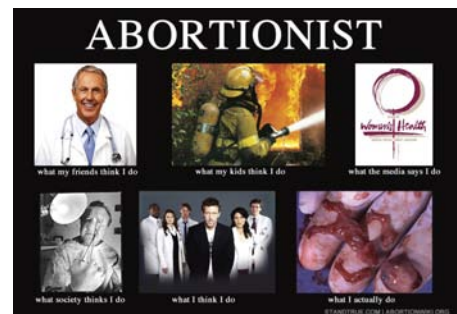
Most Rev. Daniel Jenky, Bishop of Peoria, Ill., took the excellent initiative of ordering the prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel, composed by Pope Leo XIII, to be recited during all Sunday Masses celebrated in his diocese. He has asked his priests to announce as the prayer intention "for the freedom of the Catholic Church in America." Bishop Jenky wrote in a letter to his parishes that, "It is God's invincible Archangel who commands the heavenly host, and it is the enemies of God who will ultimately be defeated."

## Largest 40 Days for Life

On Ash Wednesday, the largest ever 40 Days for Life campaign was launched with locations in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australia. From February 22, 2012 to April 1, 2012, the campaign organized prayer vigils of 40 days outside of a record-breaking 258 abortion-providing locations. Since its inception in 2005, this campaign has saved thousands of babies and helped close numerous abortion facilities.

## Facebook Hypocrisy

In January, Facebook reinstated and apologized to the abortion advocacy group, Women on Waves, for removing a picture giving step-by-step instructions for a do-it-yourself chemical abortion. Only a month later, Facebook censored the picture below that Priests for Life posted. The image creator, Bryan Kemper, told Lifesitenews.com that "Facebook will allow girls to learn how to do an abortion themselves at home with no doctor's supervision, and encourages them to lie when obtaining the drugs necessary. But they will not allow them to see what an abortion looks like."



# AVOIDING SIN

BY FATHER RAOUL PLUS, S.J.



CHRIST IN  
THE HOME

Since God is always present in the soul of the baptized person—provided that person has not driven Him away through mortal sin—with what respect should he treat not only his soul but also his body!

Mothers always dress their little ones in a beautiful white dress for their baptism. This is to show that later they ought never to cover their souls with stains of sin. If muddy spots on lovely white material is ugly, how much uglier are sin stains on the soul!

That is also why the priest, after bringing God into the soul of the tiny baby by saying, as he pours the water, “I baptize thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,” hastens to add the injunction, “Receive this white garment and carry it undefiled to the Throne of God.” The whiteness of the garment symbolizes the purity of the soul.

When we have to appear before God at the end of our lives, what will He ask us? “Have you been faithful? Have you always respected the beautiful virtue of purity? Or is your soul stained by sin? Have you committed sins? Mortal sins? At the moment death struck you down, did you have Me in your heart or had you driven Me away as if you wanted nothing more to do with Me?”

“You drove Me away? Ah, well, since that is how it is, I want no more to do with you: I too will drive you away, begone!”



Is it important to be free from sin?

*“Have you been faithful?  
Have you always respected the  
beautiful virtue of purity?  
Or is your soul stained by sin?  
Have you committed sins?”*

It is just as a father might call before him his child who had insulted him or tried to kill him; he would say, “I no longer look upon you as my son. You are not worthy to remain in the house. Get out! I will never speak to you again; I will never love you again!”

How dreadful to be driven away by God because we tried to kill Him with sin in our soul; because we tried to drive Him away. . . to drive Him, God who is so good, from our heart!

We must indeed pray that such a thing never happens!

If we want to die without stain of sin upon our soul, we must live without staining our soul by such ugly defilements. Now since God dwells within our soul and since our soul is enclosed within our body, then we must also keep our body pure. We must never use it to commit sin. We should always look upon it as a kind of church in which God dwells. What would we say of naughty boys who would throw pebbles into the window of the parish church or mud from the street on the decorations or the altar inside? It would be an insult hurled at Jesus Who stays there in the tabernacle so we can go to Him to tell Him that we love Him and that we are happy to be with Him.

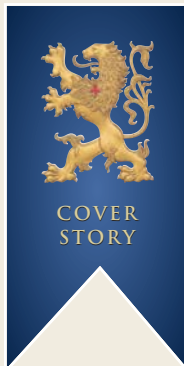
A little baptized child is like a church, but a living church. ■

Adapted from Raoul Plus, S.J.’s *Christ in the Home* (Colorado Springs, CO: Gardner brothers, 1951), 237–239. It is a treasure chest of advice for Catholics on the practical and spiritual concerns of raising a family. To obtain a copy, visit [www.GardnerBrothers.com](http://www.GardnerBrothers.com).



# THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI IN TOLEDO

BY FELIPE BARANDIARÁN



*ACCORDING TO AN ANCIENT* Spanish proverb, there are three Thursdays that shine more than the sun: Holy Thursday, Ascension Thursday and Corpus Christi.

The morning is bright. I climb the steep slopes of the city on foot, panting. My car has been left by the river. If driving around Toledo is usually a complex task, on Corpus Christi it is impossible, since the city's narrow streets are closed. I am short of breath because the city is located on top of a steep hill, defended by the Tagus River and medieval walls.

As I walk, I join many other Toledo residents

and visitors who, like me, hasten to attend the grand procession.

Although the winds of vulgarity that sweep today's world have banished the good habit of dressing better on Sundays and holy days, today, everyone in Toledo wears their best. Every lady is dressed in some new garment and I watch them, enchanted, as they show one another their outfits for this special occasion.

As I approach Zocodover Square, the nerve center of the small town, I hear a volley of mortars high up, indicating that the Pontifical Mass is over and the procession is beginning to exit the cathe-



First communicants with their church banner.



Residents adorn their homes with flowers.



The whole city of Toledo turns out to pay homage to the Holy Eucharist.

dral through the Llana door.

People are stationed throughout the entire route. Only those participating in the actual procession—half of Toledo—and some guests have been able to attend the Mass inside the cathedral.

Impatient but quiet, the “other half” of Toledo stands right up against the walls in order to clear the way for the procession.

The road is dotted with wet sand and aromatic plants (lavender, rosemary and thyme), and the balconies are adorned with rich, embroidered veils and flags, colorful shawls, garlands, lanterns and cheerful flower baskets.

As a sign of respect, and to protect the Blessed Sacrament, traditional white canvas awnings made by weaver’s guilds cover the streets and extend from one house to another.

Now I can see Civil Guards on horseback, leading the procession. Behind them march the City Hall drummers and the Civil Guard band. Then, the “beadle” follows dressed in black, carrying a staff the same height as the monstrance in order to make sure there is proper clearance. He insures no mishap will hinder the splendor of the procession. This grave gentleman is followed by a fifteenth century processional cross, a gift from King Alfonso V of Portugal.

Displaying my press card, I walk quietly in the opposite direction of the procession. The whole itinerary is protected by cadets of the Infantry Academy, a legendary institution that defended the Alcazar fortress in the 1936 war against communism.

The procession forms two parallel lines, the priors in the center, chaplains and dignitaries of each guild preceded by their corresponding standard and carrying a staff, medal or element that distinguishes them from the other members.

I pass by the Gardeners’ Guild. They are followed

*The procession forms two parallel lines, the priors in the center—chaplains and dignitaries of each guild preceded by their corresponding standard and carrying a staff, medal or element that distinguishes them from the other members.*



The mounted Spanish *Civil Guard* leads the procession.



Spanish boys wear sailor suits for their First Communion

by boys and girls who have made their First Communion, groups of the Lay Apostolate and Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, more than twenty brotherhoods with their respective banners, the Hospitality of Lourdes and third-order members of religious congregations.

With the rhythm of its instruments, the City Council music band draws tears of emotion. I press forward, as I want to get to the door of the cathedral. There is little room. The wonderful symbiosis between the public and the procession, teeming with life, brings a sublime order of calm and poise to the city.



Royal Brotherhood of Noblemen of Illescas



Spanish soldiers escort the King of kings



Knights of Isabel the Catholic



Each parish church carries their banner



Toledo's ceremonial mace-bearer



Knights of the Holy Sepulcher



The Lourdes Volunteer Nurses



Colorful family flags and banners hang from apartments

I can now see the women religious of apostolic life, the Knights of the Order of Malta, the Chapter of the Mozarabic Knights and of the Holy Sepulcher, the Noblemen of Illescas, the Knights of Corpus Christi and others who proudly display their distinctive crosses on their capes.

The seminarians, the regular and secular clergy, the Brotherhood of the Holy Charity and the famous Cross of Mendoza pass by with the acolytes and the Chapter leader.

Luckily, I am already facing the cathedral, next to the military company, which forms the line of honor. From the outer walls hang 48 huge seventeenth century Flemish tapestries with Eucharistic allegories, woven especially for this celebration.

The famous Toledo monstrance, commissioned to Enrique de Arfe, a great 16th century silversmith, by Cardinal Cisneros is about to cross the threshold of the Llana door. I feel people around me holding their breath. The thrilling silence that precedes the monstrance's appearance gives way to an apotheosis of applause, only drowned out by the roar of the 21 firing guns (honoring the Body of Christ) and the solemn ringing of bells. The military formation salutes the Blessed Sacrament as the band furiously plays the Royal March. Through the cloud of incense that envelops us, the Blessed Sacrament slowly advances. God is with us!

The rich Gothic monstrance, made with over 400 pounds of silver and almost 40 pounds of gold, is mounted on a carriage with flowers and escorted by the cadets of the Infantry Academy. Following it is the second part of the procession, which includes the highest dignitaries: the Archbishop Primate and his entourage, the regional and provincial authorities, the City Mayor with his staff and the university faculty. Closing the procession is the Honor Guard of the Infantry Academy, with its flag and music band.

*I feel people around me holding their breath. The thrilling silence that precedes the monstrance's appearance gives way to an apotheosis of applause, only drowned out by the roar of the 21 firing guns (honoring the Body of Christ) and the solemn ringing of bells.*

The monstrance stops at a small podium set up at the crowded Zocodover Square and a speaker delivers the great ser-

mon of Eucharistic praise. When he finishes, the crowd accompanies the procession back to the cathedral, devoutly chanting the popular hymn of adoration:

Let us all sing to praise the Love of loves,  
O come sing to the Lord,  
God is here indeed! Come o ye adorers,  
To worship Christ the Redeemer!  
Glory be to Jesus Christ!  
Bless the Lord, heaven and earth.  
Honor and glory to Thee, O King of Glory,  
Forever love of Thee, O God of love!

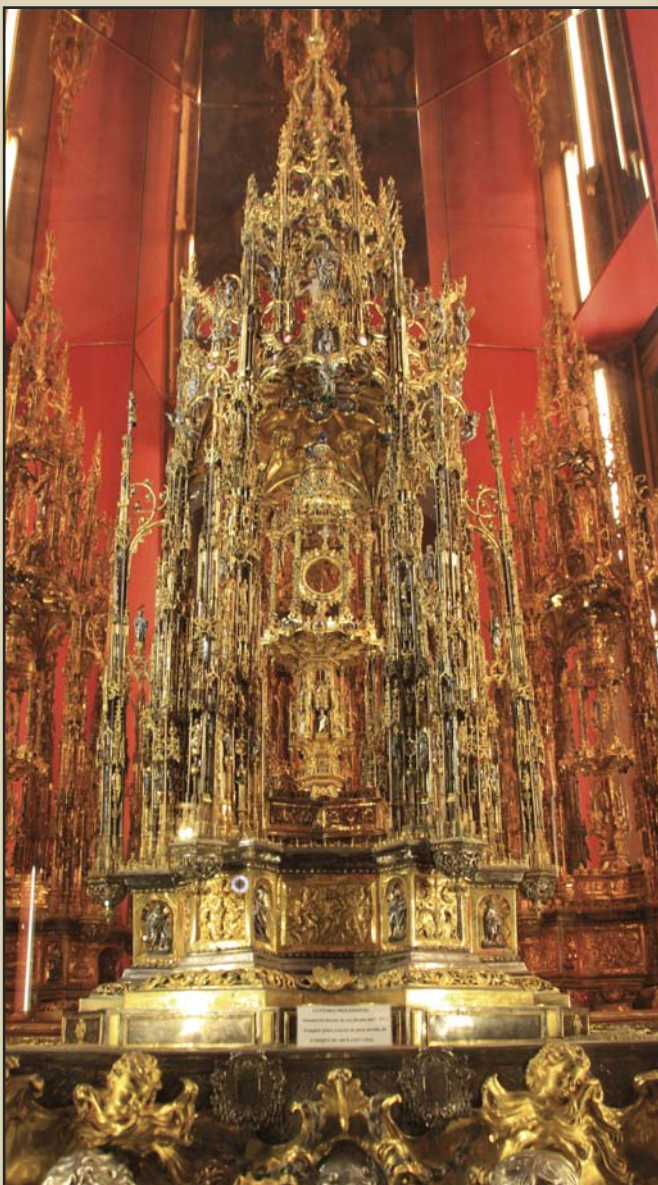
Indeed, the sun shines in Toledo, but He who makes the sun shine is elevated in the monstrance, and that's why the Blessed Sacrament dazzles far more as He passes through the streets of Toledo! ■



**Above:** The Blessed Sacrament



**Right:** Each Marian organization dresses uniquely.



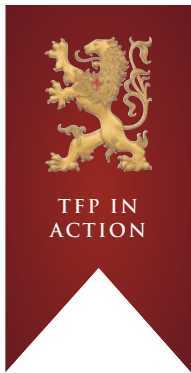
## CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION IN TOLEDO

Corpus Christi is Toledo's most important festival and one of its oldest. Although its exact date of origin is unknown, it is recorded as having been celebrated in the fifteenth century. This solemn religious procession is celebrated on the feast of Corpus Christi and is presided over by the Archbishop of Toledo, cardinal primate of Spain. The city's historic streets, especially decorated for the occasion, provide the backdrop for this striking procession. The highlights are the Monstrance, a priceless work of craftsmanship in gold and silver and the distinctive and traditional retinue of followers made up of the different religious fraternities and guilds as well as civil authorities.

Five weeks before the religious procession, the route is decorated with awnings, wreaths and lanterns. The day before, walls, windows and balconies are adorned with antique pennants and tapestries from the sixteenth and seventeenth century, and the ground is strewn with aromatic herbs of rosemary, thyme and lavender whose scent pervades the festive atmosphere of the days following. The procession begins at mid-day as the bells of Toledo begin to peal. The procession leaves the cathedral, bearing the Monstrance and accompanied by the religious guilds in order of antiquity.

It is the only day in the year when the monumental and rich monstrance, the procession's heart which is normally displayed in the Cathedral Museum, is taken out and paraded through the town.

The Monstrance dates from 1515 and weighs 350 pounds. The interior of the Monstrance, one of the most exquisite jewels of Christianity, was made with the first gold brought from America. A second exterior monstrance, made in silver and later bathed in gold, protects the first one. To this gold and silver, pearls and gems are affixed and it is in the design of a Gothic tower. ■



# CONFRONTING RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN AMERICA: NEITHER APOSTASY NOR DHIMMITUDE!

Every single U.S. Catholic bishop—100% of America’s dioceses—has strongly denounced the religious persecution expressed in the rules promulgated January 20, 2012, by Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS), in connection with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, popularly dubbed “Obamacare.” Other major religious figures like Dr. Albert Mohler quickly followed suit.<sup>1</sup>

## Christians Should Fight Back, Not Apostatize

Indeed, according to these rules, health plans are obliged to provide “all Food and Drug Administration-approved contraceptive methods [and] sterilization procedures,”<sup>2</sup> some of which are de facto abortifacients.

The rules provide for a religious exemption which is so narrow that it excludes, for example, most Catholic health institutions. As a result, the ruling puts at risk the quality of healthcare in America since, according to the 2009 American Hospital Association Annual Survey, Catholic institutions comprise some 12.7 percent of the nation’s hospitals. Every year, some 5.6 million people are admitted to these medical facilities.

However, not only Catholic organizations, schools and hospitals are affected by this HHS ruling but all Catholic employers. With such very limited exemptions—the survival of which is uncertain given the growing judicial activism—it is fair to say that the HHS edict affects all God-fearing Americans.

The bishops highlight that the new HHS rules place Catholics in a dilemma: either violate their consciences and the divine mandate to preach the Gospel to all

peoples (Mark 16:15), or stop providing healthcare coverage thereby incurring heavy penalties. As for the first option, the bishops state: “We cannot—we will not—comply with this unjust law.”<sup>3</sup> However, the second option is also unacceptable since penalties may prove to be “so large they could drive some Catholic employers out of business.”<sup>4</sup> These fines imposed on those refusing to violate their consciences are tantamount to reducing God-fearing Americans to a state of dhimmitude.

Rejecting these two unacceptable alternatives, the protesting American bishops are proposing a third one. They are calling upon all Catholics and men of good will to vigorously engage in the political process to reverse this unjust government diktat that subverts the First Amendment rights of all. They ask Americans to put their muscle behind the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act bill introduced in Congress (H.R. 1179, S. 1467).

The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property (TFP) takes the issue further and urges all Americans to



A TFP caravan toured New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

address the root problem and abolish socialist “Obamacare” altogether.

## Secularism and Socialism

As many bishops have noted, the ideology that lurks behind this measure is secularism. It is hostile to religion and denies the spiritual life and the supernatural.

This secularism, which hails from the Enlightenment philosophies of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, naturally develops into socialism, which is presented as man’s complete liberation from all submission to divine authority.

In fact, socialism not only rejects God, but

*continued on page 12 . . .*

## DHIMMITUDE

In this statement, we use the term “dhimmitude” analogously.

Dhimmitude is the status of subjection applied to Christians and Jews in the countries conquered by Islam. “Adult male dhimmis were required to pay a tax on their income and sometimes on their land. Restrictions and regulations in dress, occupation, and residence were often applied.” [John L. Esposito, s.v. “Dhimmi,” in *The Oxford Dictionary of Islam* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003) pp. 67-68.] Although in general, at present, the taxes have been abolished, Christians in Muslim countries continue to live in a state of constant restriction and persecution.

*Cf. Robert Spencer, ed., The Myth of Islamic Tolerance: How Islamic Law Treats Non-Muslims (Amherst, N.Y.: Prometheus Books, 2005).*

# On the Road to Repeal Obamacare

BY JOHN RITCHIE

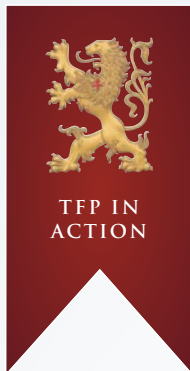
Since the Obamacare debate first erupted in 2009, TFP Student Action has been opposing it with statements and campaigns. For many Catholics, however, the real and imminent danger of state run healthcare only became fully apparent on January 20, when Catholic institutions were ordered to violate their conscience. Responding to this new socialist threat, a team of twenty-two TFP members took to the streets.

During the months of February and March two “caravans” travelled throughout the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan to call for the repeal of Obamacare. These groups, or “caravans,” drove from city to city to reach out to the man on the street.

## “On campaign 24/7”

Armed with slogans, signs, fliers, banners and solid arguments, the caravans traveled to college campuses, downtown areas and busy intersections. They distributed tens of thousands of fliers with the TFP statement, *Confronting Religious Persecution in America*. This statement helped Americans understand that socialism and secularism are the root problems behind the January 20th contraception and abortifacients mandate.

Not content with only campaigning on the official caravan stops, the members never missed an opportunity to discuss Obamacare with fellow Americans. “On campaign 24/7”



became the TFP volunteers’ motto as they talked about the issue with people at unexpected locations—gas stations, restaurants, supermarkets, and hotels. Many times just the sight of large group of properly dressed men was enough for store managers, check-out clerks and fellow commuters to start up a discussion.

## Three-Step Response Plan

When presented with the right arguments 95% of the public recognized

that it is time to repeal Obamacare, but many complained that they didn’t know what to do. The TFP flier gave them three good suggestions.

**Pray:** The flier arms Americans with the Saint Michael prayer and offers a free Saint Michael chaplet and prayer guide.

**Educate:** The flier gives five hard-hitting reasons to abolish Obamacare. It not only illustrated how the law is contrary to Catholic teaching, but also how it violates every American’s God-given rights.

**Pledge:** The flier invites every concerned American to sign a pledge to fight Obamacare at [www.TFP.org/pledge](http://www.TFP.org/pledge).

Over 30,000 fliers were distributed.



Protesting Planned Parenthood at Auburn Hills, Michigan

Top: Smile, you survived abortion!  
Center: At Kent State University in Ohio  
Above: Getting drivers to take a stand  
Left: TFP volunteers distribute fliers in Manhattan, New York.



In the Bronx, New York



Support from University of Pittsburgh students



Leafleting parking lots in Ohio

olutely carrying His Cross to Calvary, and Mary Most Holy, who followed her Divine Son in that culminating struggle that purchased our redemption.

Marked with the sign of the Cross, all Catholics must devote their lives to

bearing witness to Truth and strive, without compromise, to uphold the faith in the public square. This is the meaning of the commitment assumed by all at baptism and a consequence of the honor of being Christian.

The struggle is all the more imperative because the very freedom of the Catholic Church in our country is at stake, along with all the other legitimate freedoms that socialism destroys.

We must legally and peacefully fight for our rights everywhere. We must participate in rallies and demand that our elected political leaders respect our religious rights. We must fight with a supernatural conviction and courage that comes from grace obtained through prayer, the sacraments and sacrifice.

### Under the patronage of Saint Michael the Archangel

Most Rev. Daniel Jenky, bishop of Peoria, Ill., took the excellent initiative of ordering the prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel, composed by Pope Leo XIII, to be recited during all Sunday Masses celebrated in his diocese. He has asked all his priests to announce as the prayer intention “for the freedom of the Catholic Church in America.”

“It is God’s invincible Archangel who commands the heavenly host, and it is the enemies of God who will ultimately be defeated,” the bishop said in a January 24 letter to the Catholics of his diocese.<sup>5</sup>

Bishop Jenky’s request inspires us to

*Marked with the sign of the Cross, all Catholics must devote their lives to bearing witness to Truth and strive, without compromise, to uphold the faith in the public square.*

replaces Him with the State. For socialists, the State is almighty, all-knowing and absolute. Unlike Divine Providence, which governs men lovingly, respecting their true freedom as children of God, the socialist State is dictatorial and totalitarian. It is a police state.

The new anti-religious rules implementing “Obamacare” are a natural consequence of this law’s socialistic and statist inspiration. In face of the almighty State, neither individuals nor institutions, whether civil or religious, have true freedom.

Since the State is considered to be the source of everything, human liberties are seen as mere “concessions” that the State can take away as it pleases.

### Broaden the Fight: Abolish “Obamacare”

For this reason, in spite of the abject failure of socialism wherever it was tried, “Obamacare” entrusts the State with healthcare in America.

Accordingly, while we ardently support our bishops’ struggle for the sacred freedom to practice God’s Commandments and the various well-meaning legislative bills introduced, we insist on the only true and enduring solution: eliminate socialist State control over healthcare.

### We Must Fight in a Spirit of Faith

Our models are Our Lord Jesus Christ, res-

place this campaign to abolish “Obamacare” under the patronage of the glorious Archangel and we encourage all Americans to recite the prayer daily.

We also ask the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Immaculate Conception and Patroness of the United States, to intercede for us in this great struggle. ■

#### Notes:

1. Ben Johnson, “Southern Baptist leader: Obama Contraception mandate ‘is not only a Catholic issue,’” LifeSiteNews.com, Feb. 2, 2012, www.lifesitenews.com/news/southern-baptist-leader-obamacontraception-mandate-is-not-only-a-catholic, accessed Feb. 2, 2012. Dr. Albert Mohler is president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

2. “Affordable Care Act Rules on Expanding Access to Preventive Services for Women,” Aug. 1, 2011, www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/2011/08/womens-prevention08012011a.html, accessed Feb. 2, 2012.

3. Most Rev. Dennis M. Schnurr, Jan. 25, 2012 letter to the faithful of the Cincinnati archdiocese, at www.cincinnatiocations.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/hhs-response.pdf, accessed Feb. 2, 2012.

4. Archbishop José H. Gomez, “A Time for Catholic Action and Catholic Voices,” Jan. 25, 2012, First Things, www.firstthings.com/onthesquare/2012/01/a-time-for-catholic-action-and-catholic-voices, accessed Feb. 2, 2012.

5. Kevin J. Jones, “Contraception mandate prompts Peoria bishop to instate St. Michael Prayer,” Jan. 27, 2012, EWTN News, www.ewtnnews.com/catholic-news/US.php?id=4749, accessed Feb. 2, 2012.



# AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA.

May/June 2012

PROGRESS REPORT

## Every Month for 60 Months

BY BARRY ROCHE

On May 13, 2007, Edward Ritchie from Northeast Ohio, realized that people were forgetting Our Lady's request to pray the Rosary. Taking matters into his own hands, he made a small sign saying, "Our Lady of Fatima asked us to pray the Rosary" and prayed the Rosary on a busy Cleveland intersection.

### Every Month

The following month Edward was able to get six friends to join him and a Rosary group was born. Each month, Edward Ritchie and his friends stood on the street corner for the public vigil. By December the strong prayer group had grown to over 70. This ensured that every month without fail there was a group of between 30 and 70 people at each Rosary.

Even in December 2009, when Cleveland was in a state of emergency due to adverse winter weather, three people stood in a foot of snow to continue the Rosary. The following month fifteen people, including a lady in a wheelchair, joined the Rosary on one of the coldest days for Cleveland. That year Mr. Ritchie moved out of state but the Rosary group picked a new leader and the Rosary continued every month without fail.

### Almost Cancelled

As with all things for Our Lady, the devil is allowed to throw down obstacles to test Our Lady's devotees. On Friday, February 17, 2012, because of scheduling conflicts, it seemed that no one could be at February's Rosary the next day. The sad news was emailed around that unless someone could lead that Rosary, the continuity of 56 months was going to be broken.

February 18th was Edward Ritchie's 76th birthday. Not only had he already made plans for the day but he was 400 miles away at a rally for Traditional Marriage in Annapolis, Maryland.

Edward was tired from the trip to Annapolis and looking



The Cleveland area Rosary Rally has continued every month for five years.

forward to taking it easy on his birthday, but he knew there was only one way the Rosary Rally in Cleveland was going to continue. He called a friend in Harrisburg, Pa., and together they decided that the Rosary must continue. On the day of his birthday, he awoke at 3 am, and at 5 am he met his friend, Leo Fitzgibbons, in Harrisburg.

The two of them then drove to Cleveland together and during the trip they called some of their friends there to let them know that the Rosary was going to continue. Fifteen of those friends, perhaps inspired by the sacrifice of Leo and Edward's eight-hour journey, joined them for the Rosary.

### More Important than Ever

Several people at the rally commented that the monthly Rosary Rally in Cleveland must never stop. Firstly, after successfully completing their monthly Rosary Rally, no matter what, for five years, it is clear that where there is a will, there is a way. Secondly, more than ever America needs blessings and guidance from God; what better way is there to attain that than to pray in public the most powerful prayer that a lay American can pray? ■

To find a Rosary Rally in your area, please call (888) 317-5571.



# Rally against Pro-Abortion Speakers

BY WILLIAM STOVER

On January 28, 2012, dozens of America Needs Fatima and TFP Student Action volunteers, in union with local pro-lifers, converged on the University of Scranton to defend innocent life.

In defiance of perennial Catholic teaching, and in direct opposition to their Bishop, Most Rev. Joseph Bambera, the university chose to invite several pro-abortion speakers to their Ready to Run conference.

Undaunted by cold temperatures and sporadic high winds, we set up our first campaign along the main roadway near the university. Passers-by were immediately attracted by the presence of the TFP's trademark Holy Choirs of Angels band. In response to our "Honk Against Abortion" signs, passing drivers demonstrated their support quite loudly.

As the designated hour approached, we marched—banners, bagpipes, and all—to the Rosary Garden adjoining the Cathedral. There we joined pro-life leaders, current students at the University of Scranton, alumni, and over a hundred faithful Catholics. After addresses by rally organizer James Burke, TFP Student Action director John Ritchie and several local clergy, the assembled group joined together in a prayerful recitation of the rosary, for an end to the scourge of abortion.

During the speeches, John Ritchie unfurled a long scroll containing the names of over 8,000 concerned pro-lifers who contacted Fr. Kevin P. Quinn, S. J., the president of Scranton University. "Despite the 8,032 emails, hundreds of phone calls and dozens of letters, Fr. Kevin did not respond once to the concerns of the pro-life movement," said John Ritchie.

After a blessing and a resounding send-off by the TFP band, the rally dispersed. For us, however, the day was not yet complete. Measured by a steady drum beat, we marched from the cathedral to Brennan Hall, where the pro-abortion speakers were being given a forum. Forming up outside on the green, we held signs: "What would St. Ignatius Say?" and "Fr. Quinn: We need Catholic role models, not pro-abortion speakers;" and "Thank you, Bishop Bambera."



The names of 8,032 protestors who e-mailed the university



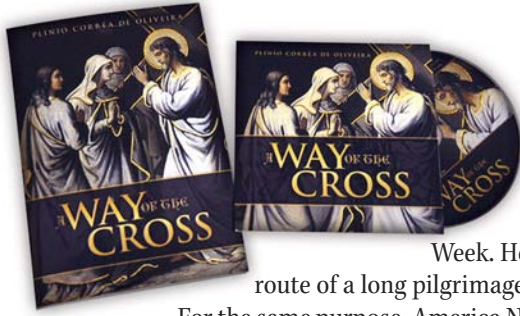
Many University of Scranton students and local pro-lifers joined the protest.



Distributing pro-life literature



Bishop Bambera asked the university to cancel the pro-abortion speakers.



## Over 100,000 Ways of the Cross

It is believed that Saint Francis of Assisi started the “Way of the Cross” devotion so that those who could not go to the Holy Land would still be able to honor the events of Holy Week. He encouraged people to erect fourteen scenes depicting Christ’s Way of the Cross along the route of a long pilgrimage and gave them prayers to say at each “station.”

For the same purpose, America Needs Fatima has sent over 100,000 copies of “A Way of the Cross” CDs and meditation booklets to needy families. The booklet provides beautiful images of the stations, while the accompanying audio CD provides the inspiring meditations and prayer instructions. ■

## Our Lady in 15 Million Homes!

Since 2002 America Needs Fatima has been sending beautiful pictures of Our Lady to people all across America. The goal? ANF wants a beautiful picture of Our Blessed Mother to be in every home. Thanks to the generosity of those who donate towards this campaign, we have been able to send an average of 1.5 million pictures of Our Lady every year since 2002.

To those who receive these pictures Our Lady seems to be giving one special grace—the grace to be inspired to have more devotion to Her. Here are some testimonials showing how Our Lady is truly giving this grace to everyone who re-

ceives them:

“Not only did I receive the picture of Our Lady of Fatima but I have framed it and hung it on my wall. After two months, I started reading the story of Fatima and I have since begun to say the daily rosary. Best wishes for your efforts to spread the Faith and devotion to our Blessed Mother.” *T.S., Kingsville, Md.*

“I must inform you that I’m not Catholic, but the photo of Our Lady of Fatima is beautiful and I love it.” *L.D., Tavares, Fla.*

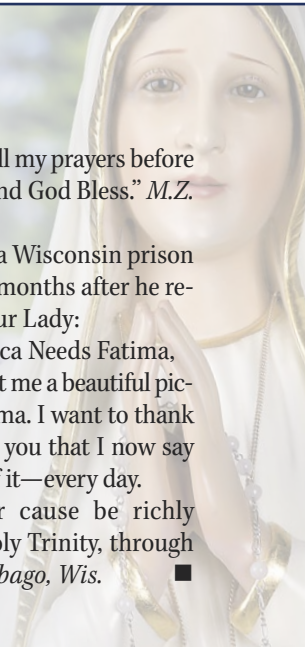
“I am a college student and I too love the blessed Mother. But this photograph is absolutely, breathtakingly beautiful and it

has inspired me to say all my prayers before it too. Peace in Christ and God Bless.” *M.Z., Champaign, Ill.*

Lastly, an inmate of a Wisconsin prison sent us this reply a few months after he received the picture of Our Lady:

“Dear Staff at America Needs Fatima, A while back, you sent me a beautiful picture of Our Lady of Fatima. I want to thank you very much, and tell you that I now say many prayers in front of it—every day.

May you and your cause be richly blessed by the Most Holy Trinity, through Our Lady.” *M.L., Winnebago, Wis.* ■



## GUSTODIAN'S

CORNER

### Entrusting Friends to Our Lady

BY KENNETH MURPHY



When options and words have run out, it is often time to put everything in the hands of Our Lady. At a recent Fatima visit, my host, Mrs. Lasap, did just that after finding that she could not answer all the questions of a non-Catholic couple who were her friends.

One spouse in this couple was Buddhist and the other was Baptist, and Mrs. Lasap felt that she was not able to adequately answer all of their questions about Catholicism and Our Lady. However, with a strong confidence in the Blessed Mother, she went to [www.ANF.org](http://www.ANF.org) and purchased a small statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

After having the statue blessed, she gave it to her friends with these instructions: “I can’t answer all of your questions, but I know Our Lady can. Ask Our Lady all of your questions, and if you don’t convert within one year please give this statue back.”

As Mrs. Lasap had hoped, Our Lady took care of her two friends’ objections and within the year they both converted to Catholicism. They kept the small statue of Our Lady and were both at the Fatima presentation which Mrs. Lasap organized. After the visit they purchased a full size statue of Our Lady. ■

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



# Our Readers Write...



## Child of Mary

My wife and I would like to become *Children of Mary* members. We would be proud and honored to have our names on the Mary memorial plaque and we lift our hearts and minds knowing that Fr. Kevin will be saying Holy Mass for us. We find it a privilege and honor to be part of America Needs Fatima. It is really amazing how things have changed for us since you brought Our Lady to us. It has really brought peace into our home.



*T.C., Belleville, Mich.*

I am so proud to be a *Child of Mary*. I have received your most beautiful poster and lapel pin of Our Lady of Fatima. I thank you wholeheartedly and most sincerely.

Being a brother who has taken a vow of poverty, I do not have personal funds. But I am sent a small stipend every month, and will be able to make my *Child of Mary* offering from that.

Know that my prayers are with you daily for the success of your ministry work for Our Lady of Fatima. In my prayers and sufferings I am united with all those who are actively involved in making known the urgent requests of Our Lady.

*D.L., Alfred, Maine*

## Rosaries

I would like to thank you for the Rosary booklets and beads you sent me. I relearned the rosary and now pray it every day. Knowing how much good it has done me and how close it brought me to Our Lady, I got my son to start saying it too. He had been looking for a job for six months with no luck until he started praying a daily rosary. My niece also prays it and now she is less confused about religion.

*P.E., San Antonio, Texas*

I just want to thank America Needs Fatima for the happiness, joy, and love that I have received since learning more about Our Lady. I love all the rosaries that you sent me and made a daily rosary part of my life.

I have been a Catechism teacher for 30 years in my parish and I have shared your rosaries with all the children and tried to make it a part of their lives too.

*M.V., Fresno, Calif.*

Thank you for the lovely blessed rosaries. They have been in use since I received them. I love hearing about Our Lady through wonderful people like you.

*F.S., Chelmsford, Mass.*



## Traditional Marriage Campaign

On behalf of Delegate Don Dwyer and all of us involved in defending marriage in the Maryland Legislature, I want to thank you for making the trip to Annapolis to visit our legislative offices and share the *Ten Reasons Why Homosexual "Marriage" is Harmful and Must be Opposed* flier.

Your personal presence and the succinct message of this material can be very persuasive in shaping the vote on same-sex "marriage," as you know.



The presence of your group at the prayer vigil and the marriage rally this past month is testimony to your commitment to this work, which provoked the invitation to come back again to work with legislators.

We are confident that you made a difference. We hope that the day was important to you as well. Let's continue to stay in touch.

Constitutionally yours,  
Don H. Dwyer  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Deputy Minority Whip

# Thank you!



Time and again, ANF members have shown how they care for the important work of spreading Our Lady's Fatima message. Our special thanks are owed to those who donated towards the new van for our Fatima Custodian Kenneth Murphy. Because of you, Our Lady's Custodian now has a reliable and sturdy van to take her statue to the thousands of families that are still waiting to see her. May she reward and keep you always.



# TFP at CPAC: Stop Obamacare's Religious Persecution!

BY JAMES BASCOM

When Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius promulgated new rules on January 20, just days before the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., requiring all health insurance plans under "Obamacare" to include contraception, abortifacients, and sterilization serv-

ices, it marked the flashpoint of a process that historians may one day call the "War on Religion."

We are witnessing a culture war that has been building up for years, even decades; a war between socialism and its greatest obstacle, the Catholic Church, the only institution whose Magisterium consistently denounces socialism, its tenets, and the culture of death.

Nearly every Catholic Bishop in the United States, as well as many political leaders and organizations, both Catholic and non-Catholic, have made statements expressing their rejection of the Obamacare mandate, which forces those who oppose contraception on moral grounds to violate their consciences or pay heavy fines. The mandate does not only target Catholics, but every God-fearing American.

Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, in his speech at CPAC, exclaimed that "Thanks to President Obama, we are all Catholics now."



**Above:** Showing videos of campaigns **Right:** TFP has been a longtime co-sponsor of CPAC, America's largest political conference.



**TFP's message resounded with many of CPAC's attendees.**

As the conflict escalated, TFP Student Action volunteers attended the annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington, DC. With more than 11,000 conservative activists, students, politicians, and concerned citizens in attendance over a 3-day period, CPAC is the largest annual conservative political conference in the country.

"Our booth was really, really busy. Lots of people wanted to know what they could do to oppose Obamacare," said TFP volunteer Thomas Schneider. During the event TFP volunteers distributed approximately 4,000 copies of its statement, calling for the repeal of Obamacare. ■

## A Counter-Revolutionary Afternoon in Louisiana

BY ELIAS BARTEL

Not every day can concerned Catholics get together and discuss the crisis facing the Church and society. However, Tradition, Family and Property—Louisiana managed to put together a full day of talks and Catholic conviviality at its annual regional conference held in Lafayette on February 11. Topics were varied and well received by the more than fifty TFP friends and supporters who came from all over the state as well as from Texas.

The event was held at TFP-Louisiana's headquarters in Lafayette on a brisk Saturday afternoon. The spacious grounds and the main building provided an ideal atmosphere for plenty of good conversation and refreshments.

All the talks centered on the need for Catholics to unite and fight against the cultural assault upon what remains of Christian civilization. In his talk, "The Fight for Tradition, Family and Property: Where Do We Go from Here?" American TFP Vice President John Horvat defined the fight by



**Top:** More than fifty attended the conference. **Bottom:** TFP vice-president John Horvat's talk contrasted individualism and the Catholic mentality.

contrasting the individualist mentality that destroys tradition, family and property with the Catholic mentality that promotes these three values. Mr. Michael Drake took a more psychological approach, showing how true

happiness can be found in the Counter-revolutionary struggle.

Speaking about Counter-revolutionary activism, TFP-Louisiana member Cesar Franco gave a report on the organization's activities in 2011, especially its defense of the Personhood Amendment in Mississippi. TFP speaker Byron Whitcraft issued a call to action in face of the rash of what he called blasphemy terrorism. In addition to blasphemous movies, plays and "art," Mr. Whitcraft also listed the horrific defacing and smashing of Catholic statues and other sacrileges that are becoming increasingly more frequent.

As the afternoon drew to an end with wine and cheese and much conversation, Dr. Thomas Schneider gave a short, impromptu talk with slides on his recent pilgrimage to Quito, Ecuador, to visit Our Lady of Good Success. As evening approached, all left recharged and inspired to defend the Church and Christian civilization. ■

For information about attending a regional conference in your area, please call (888) 317-5571.



# A Muslim's Remarkable Conversion to Catholicism

BY LUIZ SÉRGIO SOLIMEO

The fascinating autobiography of Mohammed Moussaoui, who narrates his conversion from Islam to Catholicism, shows, on the one hand, miracles of grace and of human correspondence, and on the other hand, the terrible harshness of Islamic mentality and persecution of Christians. The book's title, *The Price to Pay*, summarizes well what this privileged soul had to go through in order to be faithful to the call of grace. After his conversion, he took the name Joseph Fadelle.<sup>1</sup>

## A Muslim from an Important Family

Fadelle belonged to one of Iraq's most important Shiite Muslim families, the Mousaoui clan. As head of the clan, his father was a kind of judge and solved disputes between clan members. He also had great wealth and prestige.

In 1987, Mohammed, 23 years old and single, was drafted into the Iraqi army, then under Saddam Hussein, during the war with neighboring Iran. He was sent near the border with Iran, housed in a room with a Christian, and became indignant at such an "insult."

## The Challenge: Do You Understand the Koran?

However, the Christian, called Massoud, was older than him and welcomed him with kindness, so that little by little his prejudices began to fade. Fadelle conceived a plan to convert him to Islam. One day, when Massoud was absent, seeing among his books one titled, *The Miracles of Jesus*, he became curious and began reading it. He had no idea who it was, because in the Koran Jesus is called Isa; but he was delighted to read about miracles such as the one during the Wedding at Cana, and was attracted by the figure of Jesus.

Still intending to convert Massoud, he

asked him if Christians also had a sacred book like the Koran. Surprisingly, Massoud refused to show him the Bible and asked if he had read the Koran, an offense to a Muslim. He simply replied he had. Then came a new, embarrassing question: "Did you understand the meaning of each word?"

This question pierced his mind like a fiery dart, since according to Islam what matters is not to understand the Koran, but just to read it. Seeing his embarrassment, Massoud proposed that he read the Koran again, this time trying to understand each sentence; and then he would lend him the Bible.

## Disenchantment with the Koran and a Mystical Dream

Mohammed accepted the proposal that completely changed his life. As he tried to understand the meaning of what was written in the Koran, he realized that much of it was absurd and meaningless. A consultation with an imam failed to solve his doubts

and he became increasingly disenchanted with the book of Islam.

It was as if scales fell from his eyes and he began to see what the Koran really said. Having finished this meditative reading, he concluded that this book could not be of divine origin.

Then a mystical episode took place, which prepared his conversion. He dreamed he was in a meadow on the edge of a creek and saw on the other side a very imposing, extremely handsome man. He tried to jump to the other side, but remained still in the air until the mysterious person took him by the hand and said, "In order to cross the creek, you need to eat the bread of life." Then he woke up.

## Conversion Shock: Jesus is the Bread of Life

No longer thinking about the dream, he got Massoud to loan him the Holy Gospels and opened it on the Gospel of Saint John. At one point, he was deeply moved to find the mysterious words of his dream: "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall not hunger" (John 6:35).

Mohammed, now Fadelle, recounts: "...It was as if a bright light suddenly illuminated my life in a whole new way and gave it all its meaning. I had the impression of being drunk, even as I felt in my heart an indescribable feeling of strength, an almost violent, passionate love for this Jesus Christ of whom the Gospels speak!"

## The Price of Conversion: Death

His conversion was complete, total and lasting. He wanted Massoud to help him become a Christian, but met with resistance. According to Islamic law, a Muslim who leaves Islam and becomes Christian should be killed along with those who led to his conversion.

At any rate, Massoud taught him to pray



Joseph Fadelle (photographed from behind to conceal his appearance) lives in hiding in France.



Under Islamic law, those who leave Islam are to be executed.

and the two spent their free time reading the Gospels and praying.

Massoud had been released from the army while Fadelle was on leave and could no longer be found. Shortly after, Fadelle too was discharged and returned to his parents' house.

### Years of Trial

For Fadelle, that was the beginning of a great ordeal that would last for years, requiring unparalleled loyalty.

As Massoud had recommended, he sought to conceal his conversion from his family, while avoiding, under various pretexts, to participate in their Muslim prayers. He tried to approach the Christians, but they were afraid due of the climate of persecution in which they lived. Finally he succeeded, through a Christian friend, to attend a church; but the eagerly awaited baptism had still not happened.

Time went by and in 1992, his father had him married to a girl from the same social environment, and naturally a Muslim, called Anwar.

After the birth of a son, Fadelle, who continued to attend church secretly, met a foreign missionary who agreed to prepare him for baptism. But one day, his wife, who did not understand where he went every Sunday, asked if he had been going to see another woman. Caught by surprise, Fadelle replied he was a Christian and attended Sunday Mass.

### Wife Converts

His wife was totally shocked and locked herself in her room. Later she took their son to her mothers' house. Fadelle then realized he was in danger. She would tell her family and he would be sentenced to death. Miraculously, however, his wife said nothing and agreed to go back home. Even more, she asked Fadelle to explain what Christianity

was. He employed the same method Massoud had used and asked her to reread the Koran trying to pay attention to the meaning of its words. She was really shocked, especially with the way the Koran deals with Muslim women.

After reading the Gospels, Anwar secretly began attending Church with her husband and taking religion classes.

### Threats of Death and Imprisonment

In 1997, a major episode took place in Fedelle's life. His family finally realized he had taken a distance from Islam. When the couple went to church, his brothers searched his home and found the copy of the Bible. Questioned, his young son, crossed himself as he had learned from his parents.

The next day, Fadelle was taken to his parent's house on an urgent pretext. He was beaten by his brothers and uncles in the presence of his indignant father, who furiously accused him of being a Christian. His own mother shouted, "Kill him and cast his body in the sewer!"

Fadelle was then taken by a cousin to one of Saddam Hussein's political prisons to be tortured in order to reveal the name of the Christians who had "corrupted" him. For three months he was severely tortured, lost almost half his weight, and then was released. The family pretended it had all been a mistake, but put one of his sisters in his house to watch him.

### Flight from Iraq, Baptism

Finally, in April 2000, after many vicissitudes, the couple and their two children managed to escape to Jordan, where he realized his longed-for dream of being baptized, along with his wife. He took the name John (but became known as Joseph) and she, Maryam.

### Assassination Attempt

However, realizing he had fled, his family started looking for him and eventually found him in Jordan. In December of that year, four siblings and an uncle managed to lure him to a deserted place where, after a brief argument, they demanded that he apostatize and tried to execute him for leaving Islam.

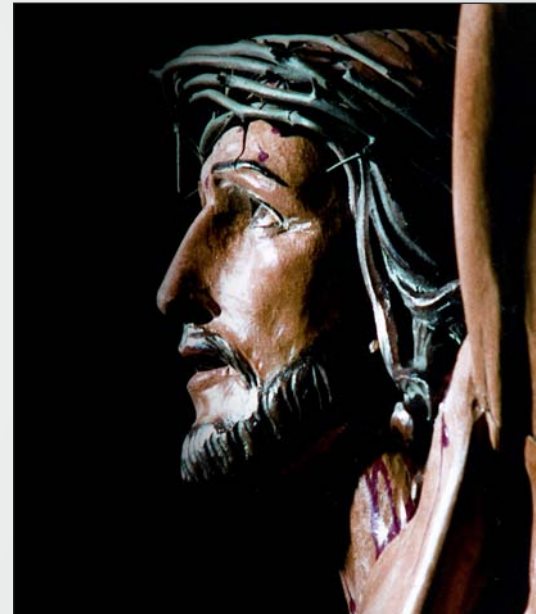
Miraculously, despite being shot at point-blank range, the bullets narrowly missed him and he heard an inner voice telling him to run. At some distance away, a

bullet hit his ankle and he fell in the mud, fainting. His attackers thought he was dead and fled. Fadelle was taken by a stranger to a hospital and later treated by Christian doctors in his home, but Church authorities ordered him to leave Jordan in order not to endanger the Christian community. He took refuge in France, where he lives to this day.

### The Beauty of a Righteous Soul

The way Fadelle was attracted by Catholicism shows how his soul had a profound righteousness and how his adherence to Islam was merely the result of circumstances of birth and family. Once in contact with the truth, he was ready to accept it even at the cost of losing all the comforts and privileges of a high social position and suffering terrible persecution.

His and his wife's conversions show how



"I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall not hunger." (John 6:35)

Muslims can convert and how many of them actually yearn, though unknowingly, for this "bread of life," which is Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us pray for these souls and for Christians so harshly persecuted in Islamic countries. ■

### Note:

1. Joseph Fadelle, *Le Prix à Payer*, L'oeuvre Editions, Paris, 2010. Unfortunately, the book has not been translated into English.

# WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH FACEBOOK?



BY JOHN HORVAT II

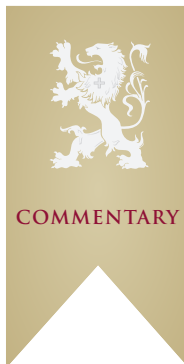
At first glance, Facebook seems to be an incredible affirmation of individual self-esteem and social well-being. Here, on one site, an individual can put online all those unique details, accomplishments and events that make the user so different from everyone else. At the same time, the user is free to share this unique profile with everyone by “friending” a world of people on the world’s most popular social networking site.

That is the theory at least. In practice, it appears that Facebook is having an opposite effect. A recent study at Utah Valley University called “They Are Happier and Having Better Lives Than I am” reports that heavy use of Facebook is making users sad. Published online on December 2011 in the journal, *Cyberpsychology, Behavior and Social Networking*, it found that people who socialize more with friends in cyberspace than in real life are more likely to report they are unhappy.

Why the sadness about Facebook? Because the postings on the site often do not correspond to reality. People tend to portray only the good or impressive side of their lives. Facebook photos generally depict smiling, cheerful people having good times, conveying a sense of intense happiness. People who constantly frequent Facebook are left with the impression that the intensive happiness of their “friends” is real and thus think their friends are much happier than they are.

And they are sadder as a result. They feel compelled to put on their own show of happiness on their own pages and a vicious circle is begun where all seem to put up the items that impress or convey intense happiness.

Sociologists Hui-Tzu Grace Chou and Nicholas Edge interviewed 425 students, asking them whether they agreed or dis-



agreed with such statements as “Many of my friends have a better life than me,” and “Life is fair.” They also asked the students about their Facebook usage, including how many “friends” they had on the network—and how many of those friends were really people they knew.

“Those who have used Facebook longer agreed more that others were happier, and agreed less that life is fair, and those spending more time on Facebook each week agreed more that others were happier and had better lives,” wrote Chou and Edge. “Furthermore, those that included more people whom they did not personally know as their Facebook “friends”

agreed more that others had better lives.”

The problem may now become even worse since Facebook’s new Timeline profile system will give users even greater opportunities to look happier than they looked before. The Timeline Profile features a magazine page-like format with blown up pictures and highlights from Facebook members’ lives.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has also noted the same lack of happiness with social networking. They are calling the new condition “Facebook Depression.” The disorder is precipitated by anxiety over status updates and checking out the virtual lives of others who appear happier on Facebook and Twitter. Seeing pictures of friends or rivals having fun or appearing intensely happy can cause distressing feelings of inadequacy in individuals with low self-esteem and trigger deep depression for some users.

Far from affirming individuality and self-esteem, the social network user feels compelled to conform to an image that will please others. In such cases, social networking serves not to enhance a person’s social skills but rather leads the user to have fewer real friends and become immersed in a lonely, yet virtual, crowd. ■



# PARENT'S CALL OF DUTY

## THE NEED FOR PARENTAL WISDOM IN CHILDREN'S VIDEO GAMING

*Elizabeth Woolley is the founder of the Online Gamers Anonymous organization and is an outspoken opponent of addictive video games. Mrs. Woolley has been interviewed by the Catholic Herald Citizen, CBC, CBS, and the BBC. She has travelled internationally to speak at conferences on the dangers of gaming. In 2002, she started a website to warn society about the "dark" side of gaming and to provide help and counseling for those who are already addicted to video games.*

**Crusade:** Could you please explain why you founded Online Gamers Anonymous?

**Mrs. Woolley:** In 2000, my son Shawn became addicted to an on-line video game called Everquest. Within three months he quit his job, got evicted from his home, and was up all night playing. Despite our efforts to help him get his life back together, he committed suicide only a year and a half after being introduced to the game.

Shortly after Shawn's suicide, I did an interview with the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and that's when I realized how many families are being broken up and suffering like us. In 2002, I founded the Online Gamers Anonymous site so these people would have a place to go and know they are not alone.

I want to warn people that these games can take control of their lives just like drugs or alcohol. Some gamers told me one can become addicted in less than 24 hours. Once a gamer has gone from social gaming to addicted gaming, he can't go back. Games can be a drug of choice and needs to be looked at that way.

Our website, [www.olganon.org](http://www.olganon.org) spreads research on how gaming affects children, stunting their mental growth and social development, and helps to warn parents. We host several meetings a week where addicted gamers can talk and support one another to turn their lives around and also have a very active forum where



Shawn Woolley committed suicide eighteen months after becoming an addicted gamer.

different topics are discussed.

**Crusade:** Do you have any tips for parents who have video games in the house?

**Mrs. Woolley:** The biggest key is to make sure that your child's life is balanced. Children cannot be raised on just one activity otherwise they will run into difficulties. Even if the child protests. It is your job as parents to say "no" and guide him towards other activities.

Being a parent isn't easy, but trust me, there was life before video games, and as parents we have to find or make activities to give our children besides sitting them in front of a screen. That means getting them into sports, social events, and educational activities. Alternatives need to be presented. If the child says he doesn't want to leave the game, you have to set limits, otherwise he will develop problems.

**Crusade:** Who can get addicted and what are the consequences?

**Mrs. Woolley:** Anyone can get addicted. Colleges recognize that video games cause a huge percentage of their dropouts. Many now bring in counselors to deal with excessive gaming. Some are asking students if they play games before offering a scholarship. They know they might be wasting a scholarship on a gamer. I know

several parents who lost their college funds to their gaming children this way.

Many teenagers being pulled into these games are actually geniuses. They are very intelligent and highly motivated. Proof of this is that many games require hours of tedious effort, concentration and patience. It is very sad to see how all this brilliant mind power is being wasted.

Besides considering how these games are affecting their personal lives and education, we should imagine what could be happening if these very capable people were solving the real problems of society. Instead, video games have become a big part of the dumbing-down of our society.

Fully grown, hard-working adults also get addicted. I know several who had a job and house but lost it all to the games. An extreme case is of a man in Florida who lost his job and had to start living on the street. Now he has a restaurant job and makes just enough to get himself to the gaming café, where he spends the rest of the day. When the café closes he sleeps on the street and does the same the next day.

Many fathers leave their families to spend more time gaming. They don't care about their children, because all they feel they can do is play.

Grown women tend to play social games like Farmville, SIMS and Second Life because they like to do things with others. This often leads to problems because married women end up leaving husband and family, neglecting their real children, to be with someone in the game. There are many examples of this. An extreme case is the Korean couple who let their real child die of malnutrition because they spent all their time taking care of a virtual baby.

**Crusade:** Most video games give children a sense of worth and accomplishment. What's wrong with that?

**Mrs. Woolley:** One of the main dangers is precisely that it is so very easy to get worth and accomplishment from a game. And if you don't succeed or like what you did you can just restart until you get it right. Well, real life isn't like that. Real life isn't easy and you don't often get do-overs. So the child grows disappointed with real life and ends up by quitting in real life. He says, "This is too hard," and runs back to the games.



Video games should never be considered "baby sitters."

This poses a huge danger to the child's social life. Instead of satisfying his desire for things like worth and accomplishment through social interaction, he obtains it through the game. Then he fails to get the experience he needs in real life, especially by suffering and learning how to deal with the bad as well as the good times. Real life isn't easy for anybody, but allowing a child to use games as a drug to escape reality is not going to teach him how to cope with real life.

I could see this in my son. In the game he could easily do whatever he wanted and feel like he was accomplishing something. In the mean time, he was not spending time nurturing his real life, so there was nothing there to sustain him. He no longer cared about the future and advancing in his real life. If most of your time is spent in games there isn't enough time to enhance real life education, skills or friendships. Anyone who wants real accomplishment needs to get out of gaming and get working in real life.

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**Crusade:** What would you tell parents who use video games to help entertain their children?

**Mrs. Woolley:** I have seen a lot of reckless behavior by parents because they want to use games as baby sitters.

Unfortunately, a lot of it is because many are gamers themselves.

Firstly, giving children a game to get them out of your hair is not being a good parent. Be with your children in real life! I know of a father who taught his 3-year-old child to play World of Warcraft with him because he felt that if he could get his child addicted to it then he could interact with him through the game. I let parents know that gaming with your child is not interacting because almost no words are being exchanged; the child's only communication with anything is through the controls.

Secondly, I recommend parents not allow any child under 16 to play games connected to the Internet, period. You never know who they are playing against, and pedophiles are figuring out ways to connect with children through these games. Somehow, because it is inside the home, parents think it is safe; but it isn't. Giving them Internet games is like putting them in a public bar by themselves.

Also, many times parents tell me they can't help but give what their children want and they don't seriously

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look at what is in the game. These games can have sexually explicit material, cursing, drug use, senseless violence and destruction. If this stuff was in a movie, the violence alone would make it R-rated. Most of the Christian families I talk to would never hand their children an R rated movie, but they allow them to interact with violent games. This is very damaging.

**Crusade:** What if the games are non-violent and not online?

**Mrs. Woolley:** Just because it's non-violent and not online doesn't mean it cannot be harmful. That would be like saying it's alright for kids to be handed non-violent drugs. Again, video games should be viewed as possible drugs and no one should be allowed to become addicted to them.

We really find that when a gamer crosses the line from having the choice of playing to being compelled to play, his mind has actually been rewired by the gaming. He is no longer playing because he wants to but because he has to. Then he starts hating the games but cannot stop. And then, as his life breaks down, he goes into a vicious circle of feeling guilty and having highs on the games, only to plunge back down and return to the game where it all starts again. And while tapping away at controls he becomes dehumanized, giving less importance to his senses, not going outside, getting exercise or sunshine eating good food; he turns into a human shell.

I also believe that more research has to be done but there is already enough information on how gaming affects especially the young, stunting their mental growth and social development. That's one thing that startled me about my son. He stopped talking to people, including to me, his own mother.

Before getting into this game he was just like the rest of us. He had a future, plans, friends, and a job. After he became addicted it was like a light in his mind

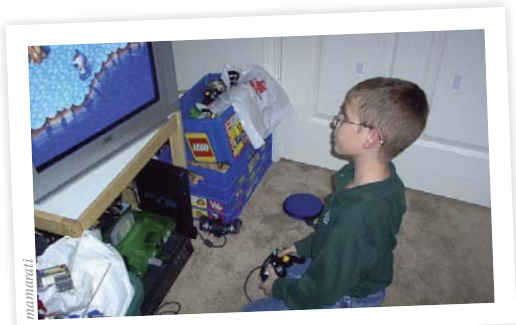


How much precious time and opportunities are lost through video games?

was switched off. He no longer cared about how he would spend his real life; he no longer saw a real future; and he had no more goals or principles. He just stopped thinking about reality and became depressed. His whole personality changed and he became anti-social. That's why I always say these games can rewire the brain and a gamer can change and become a different person. My son's friends were astounded by how much he actually changed.

**Crusade:** Could you give an example of how some parents intervened too late?

**Mrs. Woolley:** One of the boys I knew was a 15-year-old from Canada called Brandon. He was playing a game called *Call of Duty* and his parents were struggling with him to quit, as they knew it was causing problems. Brandon attached far too much importance to being a very powerful person in this game and wanted to stay in it because of all the fake power and attention he was getting. In 2008, his parents finally decided to put their foot down and took the game from him. Brandon ran away from home and a few weeks later some hunters found his dead body about seven miles from the house. It seems he jumped from a tree. ■



Many children sneak out of bed to play video games.

This interview can be found online at [www.TFP.org/VideoGames](http://www.TFP.org/VideoGames) with these further questions:

- *Could you share some more stories from your son's addiction?*
- *Have addicts talked to you about the gaming buzz causing emptiness in real life?*
- *What non-addictive games do you recommend for families?*

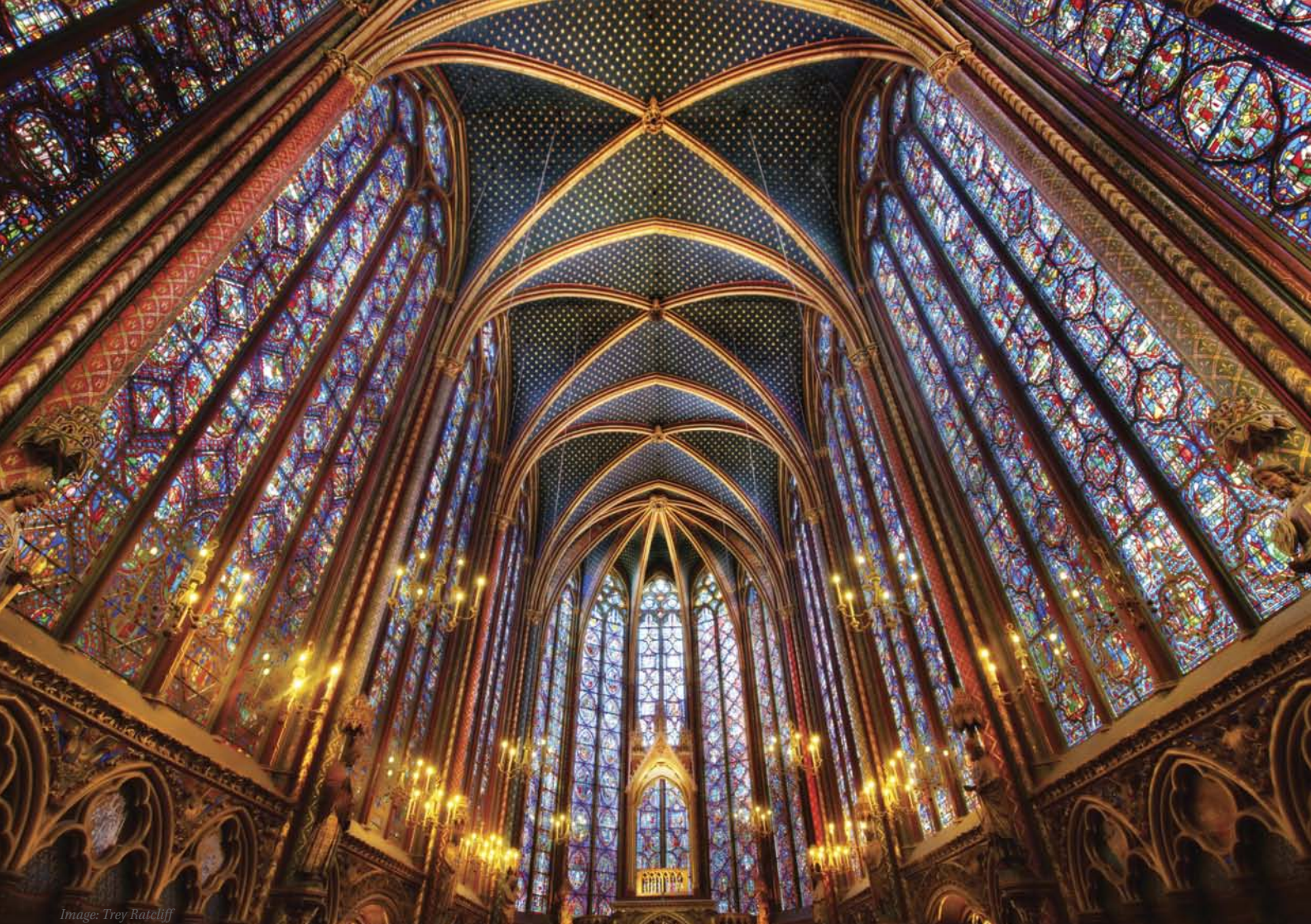


Image: Trey Ratcliff

# FAITH *carved in* STONE

BY PROF. PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA

**B**uilt by King Saint Louis IX of France, the Sainte Chapelle reflects an extraordinary innocence of soul. We could call this chapel the Chapel of Innocence because a soul must be profoundly innocent to conceive this.

The chapel is a masterpiece of temperance. It causes enthusiasm without agitation, without overpowering sensations and without producing anything intemperate. The enthusiasm the chapel instills is recollected and prayerful while still being beautiful and magnificent.

We can say that each stained glass window is a prayer,

each stone is a prayer, and each Gothic arch is a prayer, surrounding the center of prayer: the altar, where the Holy Sacrifice of Calvary is renewed. Above the altar is a reliquary to display the crown of thorns of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Walking barefoot, asking pardon for his own sins, Saint Louis IX carried the relics with great devotion from the border of France to Paris. He displayed the contrition of the innocent. As king, he represented his people and asked God to also pardon their sins.

Innocent traits are also noticed in the tall, elevated forms that reach upwards. A tremendous balance is achieved that is so calm, so serene, and so reflective.

The integrity of this work of art is sufficient to make this chapel a masterpiece. Each detail is enchanting. What color are the windows? They are the sum of colors; a mixture of all colors. Their design varies from window to window. However, the colors form a whole, the designs form a whole that contain immense variety and immense harmony. It has movement and harmony. It has stability, and at the same time, agility. It is the Sainte Chapelle. ■