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November/December 2012

MAGAZINE



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Saint Maximilian Kolbe:

THE IMMACULATA'S PERFECT KNIGHT

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A Child Stricken at the Altar

BY FATHER FRANCIS SPIRAGO



A little girl received Communion with her companions. No one noticed anything strange about her, but when she had returned to her pew, she suddenly fell to the floor. She was hastily removed from the church and means were taken to resuscitate her, but she lay for a long time perfectly motionless.

The doctor came but could not determine what the trouble was. When Mass was over, the priest also came to her; when he spoke to her, she opened her eyes at once and said, "Father, I purposely made a bad confession this morning. When I went to confession there was one great sin I was ashamed of and neglected to tell." Having said these words, the child turned over as though in great agony and breathed her last.



Never should we, out of human respect or otherwise, receive communion without first confessing all mortal sins committed since our last confession. Whosoever is in a state of grace, let him approach. Whosoever is not, let him repent.

"Therefore, whosoever shall eat this bread, or drink the chalice of the Lord unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and of the blood of the Lord. But let a man prove himself: and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of the chalice. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh judgment to himself, not discerning the body of the Lord." (1st Corinthians 11:27-29) ■

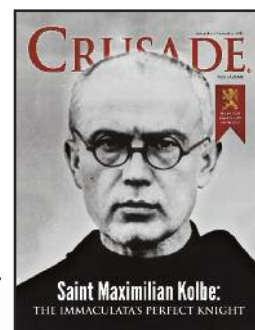
Adapted from Father Francis Spirago's *Anecdotes and Examples Illustrating the Catholic Catechism* (New York: Benziger Brothers, 1904), 241-242.

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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 earliest 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

Eat Chicken for Marriage

In an interview on The Ken Coleman Show, Chick-fil-A President Dan Cathy said, “I think we’re inviting God’s judgment on our nation when we shake our fist at Him and say, ‘We know better than You as to what constitutes marriage.’” Because of this comment the mayors of Boston and Chicago vowed to ban new Chick-fil-A franchises and the Henson Company pulled its Muppets from a marketing deal with the company.

August 1st was declared Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day by former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and hundreds of thousands of marriage supporters traveled over an hour in many cases to eat chicken. Record-setting sales were made, and while official numbers were not released, one franchise indicated that they experienced almost half

a year’s profit. In retaliation, pro-homosexuals tried to organize a “Same Sex Kiss In,” but very few occurred.

In September, Joe Moreno, a radically pro-homosexual Chicago

alderman, claimed that Chick-fil-A reversed its practice of donating to pro-marriage groups, but Chick-fil-A quickly reassured its customers that nothing had changed.

Dr. Regnerus’ Study Upheld

Dr. Mark Regnerus made headlines in June when his study was published in the widely respected journal *Social Science Research*. According to his findings, children raised by homosexual parents are more likely than those raised by married heterosexual parents to suffer from poor impulse control, depression and suicidal thoughts; require mental health therapy; identify themselves as homosexual; choose cohabitation; be unfaithful to partners; contract sexually transmitted diseases; be sexually molested, especially while under the care of a female couple; have lower income levels; drink just to get drunk; and smoke tobacco and marijuana.

After the report was published a pro-homosexual blogger accused Dr. Regnerus of fraud and demanded a full investigation, a cry quickly picked up by main stream media. The University of Texas at Austin hired a consultant who had formerly run the Office of Research Integrity at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The consultant was hired to oversee the pre-in-

vestigation, which in August cleared Dr. Regnerus of all accusations of academic misconduct.

Another Chinese Bishop Disappears

The consecration of the new auxiliary Bishop of Shanghai agreed upon by both the Holy See and the Chinese Communist government, had a very unexpected outcome. Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin refused the imposition of hands of Bishop Zhan Silu, an “official” bishop of Mindong affiliated with the anti-Catholic dictatorship and not recognized by Rome. He also refused to receive Holy Communion from the hands of this illicitly ordained prelate.

In his homily, Bishop Thaddeus, who had previously been a member of the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association, said: “It is not proper to hold any other position anymore, so, from this moment of consecration, I will no longer be a member of the Patriotic Association.” The congregation applauded the bishop and became emotional before his act of courage. But Bishop Thaddeus disappeared right after the ceremony. The regime claims he “went to rest because he suffered from physical and moral exhaustion”—an excuse that implies some form of psychological intimidation or even imprisonment.

Honoring the Assumption

On August 15, the small town of Carey, Ohio, held its largest procession in honor of the Assumption. The procession has been happening for over 40 years, but this year it exceeded a record breaking 6,000 attendants. The procession goes from the basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation to a nearby park containing a 75-foot-high memorial topped with an 18-foot-tall, gold-colored statue of Our Lady and Infant Jesus.

In Clyde, New York, the practice of an Assumption procession had slowly lost its religious aspect and turned into a secular festival but a small group of determined Catholics was able to turn that around.

Since 2008, they carried a statue of Our Lady and a banner saying, “The Assumption of Mary—August 15th—The Origin of the Festival.” This year the organizers of the festival asked for the statue of Our Lady and banner to lead the parade. Applause from the crowd greeted Our Lady when she appeared as the new head of the parade.



A Mother to Her Son

BY FATHER RAOUL PLUS, S.J.



CHRIST IN
THE HOME

At twenty years of age Leon Thomas fell into a crisis not uncommon in youth whose friends have loose morals. He stopped being a Catholic. He was wretchedly unhappy not only because of the very direction he was taking but because willful pride and involuntary confusion prevented him from breaking with doubt to return to the path of light.

His mother saw her son's soul clearly and wrote to him:

"How is it, my dear child, that you do not write to us? I feel heavy-hearted because of it for I am sure that you do not realize what is taking place in your poor soul; all kinds of things are conflicting within it—it is ardent, but lacks the nourishment proper to it; you turn from one side to the other and you cannot tell what really bothers you.

"Ah! poor child, be calm, reflect. It is not that you feel your future lost or compromised; at your age one cannot have established his future or despaired of it. Do you think your work or studies do not show sufficient progress? Why? Perhaps because you want to do too many things at once; you are too impatient. No, it is not that? Your mind is willing enough but your heart and your soul are suffering; they have so many yearnings that you are scarcely aware of, and their unease and suffering react upon your mind sapping from it the necessary strength and attention.

"You are suffering, you are unhappy. I feel all that you experience and yet I am powerless to console or encourage you. Ah! That we might have the same convictions! Why have you rejected the faith of your childhood without a profound examination of your reason for and against it? The statements of those whom faith irritates or who have no religion for lack of instruction have made an impression on your young imagination; but nevertheless your heart needs a center that it will never find on earth. It is God, it is



One of the greatest sufferings for a mother is to see her child leave the faith.

the Infinite you need and all your yearnings are driving you there. You belong to that select number of elect to whom God communicates Himself and in whose regard He is prodigal of his love once they have consented to humble themselves by submitting to the obscurities of faith."

What a frightening duty mothers have! To bring forth the bodies of their children is a beautiful mission; to rear their souls is an even greater mission.

What anguish for a mother when a grown child, a son in early manhood or a daughter in early womanhood cuts loose from faith, and considers God lightly! If ever she feels that she has lost her hold over her son or

daughter, it is when she sees them follow the paths of doubt or fall under the spell of the intoxicating enchantments of flirtation.

A mother must continue to bring forth her children all her life. In this sense they are always her little ones. Not that she makes them feel their bonds of dependence any longer but that she watches over them. And she prays! Except for a brief reminder from time to time, the clear statement of her hopes joined to the definite but loving message of the father, an occasional letter in which true religious principles are recalled, the chief role of a mother whose adult child has strayed is prayer, patient waiting and sacrifice—the persevering effort to become a saint.

What if she were to die before she sees the return of her prodigal? What if the child were to die before she has seen him "return"? She should not be discouraged. Can we know what will take place in the last moments of the child's life? Can we know the value of a mother's tears? Saint Monica prayed and her son Augustine converted; but Monica had to first become a saint. ■

Adapted from Raoul Plus, S.J.'s *Christ in the Home* (Colorado Springs, CO: Gardner Brothers, 1951), 310–312.



Saint Maximilian Kolbe: THE IMMACULATA'S PERFECT KNIGHT

BY MICHAEL GORRE

Having selected ten prisoners to die in the starvation bunker to serve as a lesson for an escaped prisoner, Nazi SS Captain Karl Fritsch was about to leave Auschwitz concentration camp's Block 13 when the unimaginable happened. Prisoner 16670 stepped out of formation. A murmur spread through the lines of prisoners. Facing the 47 year old prisoner, Fritsch demanded, "What do you want, you Polish dog?"

The prisoner, Father Maximilian Kolbe, OFM Conv., removed his cap and said, "I want to die in the place of one of these men." "Why?" came the terse inquiry. Aware of the Nazis' desire to exterminate the weak and infirm, Father Maximilian replied, "I am an old man, sir, and good for nothing." Captain Fritsch then asked him in whose place he wanted to die. Pointing to Sgt. Francis Gajowniczek, one of the condemned, Father Maximilian said, "For him, the one who has a wife and children." The camp secretary crossed out 5659 (Sgt. Gajown-

iczek's number) and wrote down 16670.

To offer one's own life ranks atop the most generous of human acts. Saint Maximilian asked to die a slow and hope-crushing death not only to save the life of one man, but above all to provide spiritual aid to the nine other condemned men. This, however, was the pinnacle of a life of heroic sanctity, one entirely dedicated to the Immaculate Virgin Mary.

The Two Crowns

Born in 1894, Raymond Kolbe (as he was called before taking the religious name Maximilian) was born in a Poland divided between Austria, Germany and Russia. He was a lively, intelligent and mischievous child. On one occasion, young Raymond got into big trouble. He wanted his own pet bird, so he secretly, without his parents' permission, bought an egg and tried to incubate it in his neighbor's chicken coop. The Kolbe family was poor, and unauthorized expenses were not tolerated. So the spanking was very severe, but what most affected Raymond Kolbe were his mother's words: "Tell me, my son, what is ever going to become of you?"

These words from his good mother impressed the 10-year-old Raymond. He became very serious and began spending more time in prayer before the little altar to Our Lady of Czestochowa the family kept in their modest home. He also began spending his free time at church.

One day while praying in church asking Our Lady to show him what would happen

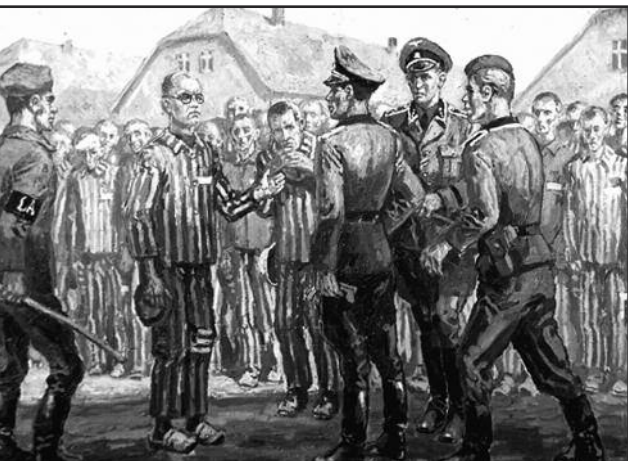
to him, Our Lady appeared. She held a crown in each hand, one white and the other red. The white one symbolized a life of chastity and the red one meant he would die a martyr's death. Our Lady asked him which one he wanted. To which he responded, "I would like both of them." Our Lady smiled and disappeared.

Physical or Spiritual Battlefield

At the age of thirteen, Raymond joined a Franciscan minor seminary where he exhibited qualities befitting a great mathematician or military officer. During his free time, Raymond even drafted a strategic defense plan for the city of Lwow which was so brilliant that it would have made a staff officer of the Imperial Austrian Army green with envy. His mathematics professor is on record as having said, "It is a pity that this young man, so richly gifted, should become a priest."

The devil, foreseeing what a great enemy he would have in this young man, did all he could to derail his vocation. The day before he was to be professed as a novice, Raymond was plagued with doubts about his vocation. He felt he was not worthy to be a religious and thought his talents were more suited for the military. He had vowed to fight for Our Lady and now he was in doubt on which battlefield (the spiritual or the physical) she wanted him to fight.

At this time, Poland was not a free country—Protestant Germans and schismatic Russians dominated large parts of it. No doubt, Raymond Kolbe desired the freedom of his country. And what about that red crown Our Lady had shown him? How would he become a



Saint Maximilian Kolbe's heroic sacrifice not only saved a life, but helped ensure eternal life for the nine condemned men.

martyr in a monastery?

He was so convinced he should join the military, that he even convinced his older brother Francis, a novice with him. They were about to knock on the superior's door to inform him of their decision when the doorbell rang. It was their mother Mrs. Maria Kolbe. Raymond was taken aback by the timing of her visit. The words they exchanged helped Ray-



Saint Maximilian's good mother, Mrs. Maria Dabrowska Kolbe.

mond clear his doubts. Our Lady, in the person of Mrs. Kolbe, had intervened. She wanted him in the front lines of the eternal, spiritual war. He entered the Franciscan order the next day and took the religious name Maximilian.

Recognizing Friar Maximilian's intellectual talents, the Franciscans chose him to study philosophy and theology in Rome. He would spend the years 1912 to 1919 in Rome. In 1915, he received his degree in philosophy from the Pontifical Gregorian University. In 1918, at the age of 25, he was ordained a priest. One year later, he received his doctorate in theology from the International Seraphic College.

Foundation of the Knights of the Immaculata

The founder of the TFP, Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira, a great admirer of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, once stated: "In periods of great crises, there are two kinds of men, those who give in and are overwhelmed by the crises and those who resist and change the course of history."

While in Rome, Friar Maximilian was confronted by the great crisis plaguing the Church and the world. He could have tried to avoid confronting the crisis, become a priest and go about his ministry peacefully and devoutly. Yet Friar Maximilian chose a religious name that was very fitting, settling for nothing less than the maximum effort. He would say: "We have no right to rest as long as a single soul is Satan's slave."

Sometime before his ordination, the 23-year-old friar founded the *Militiae Immaculatae*, which translates to Knights of the Immaculate on October 16, 1917, three days after Our Lady performed the miracle of the sun in Fatima, Portugal.

The first words of the *Militiae's* founding document are: "She shall crush thy head" (Genesis 3:15). "Thou alone [Mary] have crushed all heresies in the whole world" [Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary]. "Purpose: Pursue the conversion of every person living in sin, heresy, schism and especially Freemasonry, and the growth in holiness of all persons, under the sponsorship of the Blessed Virgin Mary Immaculate."

Rather than "Knights of the Immaculata," Friar Maximilian could have chosen a title like "Association of the Little Devotees of Mary Immaculate" or "Little Lambs of Mary." In themselves, there is nothing wrong with these other titles; however, when declaring war on the enemies of the Church, one needs to evoke the thirst for combat. One must call forth the knights, the soldiers, the lions of Our Lady!

The Spiritual War

After Father Maximilian received his doctorate in theology in 1919, he returned to Poland and was assigned to teach in a seminary in Krakow. However, he suffered from tuberculosis which weakened him so much he could not speak loud enough to be heard by his students. His physical movements were extremely slow and everyone made fun of him. He was called the "dreamer" because he spoke of grand plans of conquering nations for Our Lady while in such a weak state of health. Yet, behind all the wheezing in his lungs and the slowness of his step was a soul on fire for the glory of Our

Lady, and she was testing his fidelity and perseverance.

Father Maximilian dreamed of publishing a magazine that would counteract the influence of the Church's enemies and promote devotion to Our Lady, as well as provide a newsletter for his growing Knights of the Immaculata movement. In 1922, Poland was a free country, but the Polish people struggled financially. The very first issue of Father Maximilian's magazine, *The Knight of the Immaculata*, had a little notice on it saying, "Due to a lack of funds, the regular appearance of this review cannot be guaranteed."

Father Maximilian was not a shy person, but had great difficulty begging for money. His superiors had warned him that he needed to beg for the money to publish his magazine because the friary



The cover of the first issue of *The Knight of the Immaculata*, published in 1922. Note the swords piercing two snakes and a book with "Heresy" written on it.

would not continue paying for its expenses. So he went to a print shop to ask for a donation of paper. He entered, pretended to be looking at some pencils, bought a couple of them and left without having asked for anything!

Meanwhile, the Polish currency was devaluating so fast that the money he collected for the second issue was al-

most worthless. His fellow Franciscans criticized him for taking on more than he could handle. Frustrated, he went to the altar of Our Lady to beg her for the money he needed to do her work. Low and behold, when he looked up, he saw an envelope on the altar. On the envelope was written "For Thee, my Immaculate Mother." Inside was exactly the amount of money he needed. His superiors were so impressed that they let him use the money for the magazine.

The Knight of the Immaculata was not just a pious magazine: it was hard-hitting and profoundly Catholic. Not content to give his readers only positive stories and meditations on Catholic truths, he used the magazine to guard the Catholic faithful from ideological dangers and heresies, lurking like wolves ready to eat souls.

From an ambitious 5,000 copies for each of the first two editions of the *Knight of the Immaculata* magazine in 1922, it grew to a circulation of 800,000 copies by 1938, a number that is enviable even by today's standards. And this does not count the several other smaller publications Father Maximilian started for children, youth and for the working class.

Demonstrating the root cause of the fruitfulness of his apostolic work, Father Maximilian would assemble all 327 production and editorial staff members of the Knight of the Immaculata magazine and spend one entire night in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and to Our Lady the day before the presses began rolling. They were crusaders doing their vigil of arms before battle.

Hated by Freemasonry

The devil and his agents were not happy with this Franciscan priest and his highly influential magazine. The influence and prestige of his publications was so great that they rivaled and surpassed secular publications. Anti-clerical liberals controlled much of the secular press, including the newsstands and the paper factories.

With the exception of the first few issues, Father Maximilian wisely printed his publications using his own presses, even though they were very old. That way, the anti-clericals could not shut him down easily. So they arranged for no supplier to sell paper to him. With no paper, there could be no publications.

"No paper in Poland? No problem," was Father Maximilian's reaction. By this time, his monastery,* which he began to call the "City of the Immaculata," had a railway running right up to its print shop, the base of the Knights of the Immaculata. While the anti-clericals were rubbing their hands with glee, Father Maximilian secretly rolled in a shipment of fresh paper from Russia. Imagine their shock as they saw the

True Devotion to Mary taught by Saint Louis de Montfort. He consecrated himself as a slave and all his work belonged to Our Lady.

One story illustrates the level of trust he had in Our Lady. His print operations and the number of friars who had signed up to help him began to bulge at the seams of the monastery at Grodno where he was first set up. Father Maximilian decided to ask a local nobleman, Prince Drucki-Lubecki, for a gift of land in a place called Teresin near Warsaw. Father Maximilian brought a little statue of Our Lady and planted it on the property as if to claim it for her. A problem came up, however.

Prince Drucki-Lubecki had just one condition for the donation of the land:



Above: Saint Maximilian's "knights" prepare *The Knight of the Immaculata* for distribution. Right: Saint Maximilian wrote for the magazine and other publications while maintaining a voluminous correspondence.

Knight of the Immaculata magazine shining in the newsstands!

The anti-clericals then announced a boycott of the *Knight of the Immaculata* from the official newsstands. Father Maximilian, the unstoppable crusader, decided to set up his own newsstands and sold more magazines than ever before. Realizing they could not compete, the anti-clericals let his publications back on the official newsstands.

Confidence in Our Lady

Devotion to Our Lady was one of the main pillars of Father Maximilian's spirituality. He promoted a method of devotion as profound as the method of

the Franciscans were to promise to say Masses for him in perpetuity. The Franciscan superiors refused to accept the donation with this condition. The prince was flustered by their refusal and withdrew his offer. Just as he was saying goodbye to Father Maximilian, the nobleman said, "I understand you left a statue of Our Lady on the property. What do you want me to do with it?" Father Maximilian replied, "You can leave it. It will be the monument to Our Lady who failed to keep her promise." And he added that he would return in three days for a final answer.

Shock and guilt came over the Catholic prince upon hearing these



The statue of the Blessed Virgin on the land donated by Prince Drucki-Lubecki.

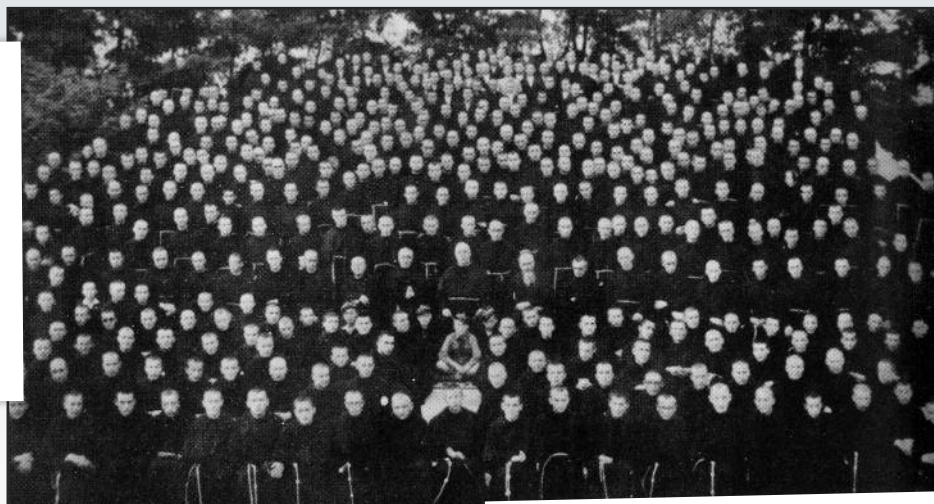
words and his conscience was troubled. He was unable to work or think straight during those three days. So when Father Maximilian returned, the prince gave him the property he needed with no strings attached.

Word War II explodes

By 1938, Father Maximilian had 700 friars involved in his Knights of the Immaculata apostolate at the new “City of the Immaculata” in Niepokalanow. He had started up seven more publications, including a daily newspaper. The total combined circulation of his eight publications was 1.2 million just in Poland. He had also started publishing in other languages, including Japanese. Twice he went to Japan personally and became the first Westerner to print a Japanese language publication without Japanese help. He also had plans to launch publications in Arabic and Hindi. A radio station began broadcasting from the “City of the Immaculate.” An airport was being built to provide air transport between other cities and speed up the publications’ deliveries. Father Maximilian never took credit for any of it.

Just as the apostolate of the Knights of the Immaculata was reaching these heights, World War II exploded. Poland was overrun by the Germans from the west and the Russians from the east. Once again, Catholic Poland was enslaved, this time by two of the most evil satanic powers ever known to mankind: Nazism and Communism.

The City of the Immaculate was ordered to be evacuated. Father Maximilian sent most of the 700 friars to safer friaries or to their families and remained



A group photo of the 700 friars who joined Saint Maximilian at Niepokalanow, the City of the Immaculate.

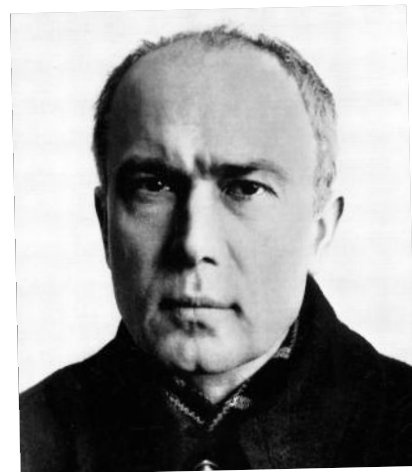
with only fifty-five of his “knights” who had asked to stay with him. In the middle of September 1939, the Nazis deported Father Maximilian and all but two of the remaining Franciscans at Niepokalanow to Amititz concentration camp in Germany. There, the friars endured brutal treatment, cold and hunger. In November, they were transferred to Ostrzeszow concentration camp in Polish territory through the help of the new Catholic commander of Amititz. Then, as Father Maximilian predicted, they were released in December 1939.

The Nazis, aware of Father Maximilian’s tremendous influence in Poland, tried to win him over by offering him German citizenship because his family name was of German origin. Knowing full well how much easier life would be for him if he accepted, Father Maximilian refused and declared “he always was and would always remain a son of Poland.”

On February 17, 1941, four Nazi officials arrived at Niepokalanow and arrested Father Maximilian again, this time for good. He was interned in Pawiak Prison near Warsaw. At Pawiak, many of his followers came and offered to take his place. The Polish prison personnel did everything they could to alleviate his sufferings and tried their best to prevent him from being moved.

Auschwitz

They failed. On May 28, 1941, Father Maximilian entered one of the most notorious Nazi death camps: Auschwitz.



One of the last known photographs of Saint Maximilian Kolbe. Though marked by suffering, the saint’s steady, penetrating gaze denotes a soul of grand horizons.

Set up by order of Heinrich Himmler of the Gestapo and run by the SS, it was capable of gassing to death and then cremating 3,500 people a day.

Father Maximilian suffered greatly at Auschwitz. He was not a healthy man. He suffered from lung problems and came down with pneumonia. Yet, each time he saw the camp doctor, Father Maximilian recommended some other prisoner to go to the sick bay.

One can imagine how many devils swarmed an infernal place like Auschwitz. The guards picked on Father Maximilian, submitting him to humiliations and beatings. Each time, he would accept the beatings without complaint or anger. He told a prison mate: “Don’t lose heart. Everything that we suffer is for the Immaculate. Even in something like this, we have to be for them—he



Above: The infamous sign above the entrance to Auschwitz reads "Work will make you free."

Right: The railway entrance to Auschwitz concentration camp.



nodded toward the Nazis—confessors of Mary.”

Risking the firing squad, Father Maximilian heard confessions and preached. Twice he was able to say Mass secretly, using smuggled hosts. In a place where men were driven to despair and to extreme levels of selfishness in order to survive, Father Maximilian continually sacrificed himself for the good of others.

Then came the fateful day in early August 1941, when the prisoners of Block 13 were rounded up and Captain Karl Fritsch chose nine victims for the starvation bunker. The tenth victim, Prisoner 16670, would go of his own free will.

During his short life, Saint Maximilian Kolbe was a true shepherd of men, one who never hesitated to leave the ninety-nine sheep in order to find the one that was lost (Luke 15:4). Instead of cries of despair and agonizing moans, the sounds that emanated from that dark starvation chamber were those of hymns to Our Lady and the steady cadence of Hail Mary's. Like a general who leads his soldiers from the front and refuses to leave the scene of battle until the last soldier is withdrawn, Father Maximilian remained the sole conscious man after ten days of starvation. Imitating Our Lord Jesus Christ who stretched His arms forth to accept the Cross, Saint Maximilian stretched his emaciated arm towards



Saint Maximilian and his fellow Franciscans were imprisoned and deported by the Nazis at the onset of World War II.

the executioner who injected him with carbolic acid. It was August 14, 1941, the eve of the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven.

The memory of Saint Maximilian Kolbe's heroic death brings with it his heroic and holy life. His death was the apex of a life of epic combat, a life of a true Knight of the Immaculate Virgin. The Nazis, enemies of the Church as they were, fell into Saint Maximilian's trap. By dying the way he did, Saint Maximilian's life and everything he stood for was amplified well beyond what millions of newspapers or thousands of radio stations could do. ■

**Father Kolbe built the monastery from the ground up, always owned it, and was always in charge of it, but he was lightly collared by his superiors.*

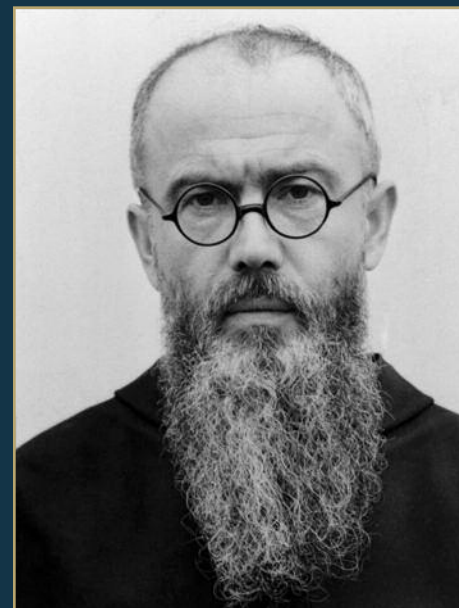
Novena Prayer to SAINT MAXIMILIAN

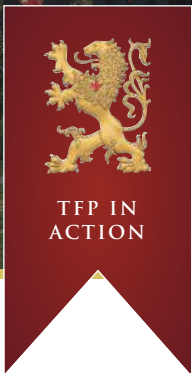
O Lord Jesus Christ, who said, “greater love than this no man has that a man lay down his life for his friends,” through the intercession of Saint Maximilian Kolbe whose life illustrated such love, we beseech you to grant us our petitions. . . (here mention the requests you have).

Through the Militia Immaculata movement, which Maximilian founded, he spread a fervent devotion to Our Lady throughout the world. He gave up his life for a total stranger and loved his persecutors, giving us an example of unselfish love for all men—a love that was inspired by true devotion to Mary.

Grant, O Lord Jesus, that we too may give ourselves entirely without reserve to the love and service of our Heavenly Queen in order to better love and serve our fellow-man in imitation of your humble servant, Maximilian. *Amen.*

(Say 3 Hail Marys and a Glory Be)





Cutting the RED RIBBON

The Saint Louis de Montfort Academy in Herndon, Pa., was founded 17 years ago as a private boarding school for boys. It encompasses the junior high and high-school grades and is staffed by American TFP members. Author Damien Murphy, from Ireland, has attended the school for three years and is now in 10th grade.

BY DAMIEN MURPHY

On August 22nd, Saint Louis de Montfort Academy opened its doors for the 2012-2013 school year with several improvements and the inauguration of a newly constructed classroom building dedicated to Our Lady of Good Success.

The opening ceremony was overseen by the renowned EWTN host Father John Trigilio. In his inspiring speech, Father declared that the improvements would help the Academy's effort to form the next generation of "Catholic men." "This school," he continued, "is a perfect correspondence of faith and reason. The modern world is desperate for practicing Catholics to defend our Holy Faith in our increasingly materialistic world." He also thanked the donors and laborers for making it possible.

Following his eloquent speech, Father did the honors of cutting the ribbon. A few prayers were said on the porch and then each room inside was blessed with holy water. Refreshments ensued for all those who gathered, anxiously awaiting to see the completed project.

This brand new school building has the sole purpose of providing more appropriate and distinguished classrooms. In the main building, which formerly provided both the classrooms and boarding rooms, old classrooms have been transformed, principally, into bedrooms and bathrooms for the expanded capacity of newly accepted students from across America and around the world. The reason for separate build-



Father Trigilio cuts the red ribbon.



The headmaster Ted Huereña gives a short speech to the students' parents and his fellow TFP members.

ings is very simple: Saint John Bosco taught that there is a time and a place for everything. When studying, study hard; when playing, play hard; above all, when praying, pray hard. In this way, everything is done well. The separation of building functions favors this end.

The most important upgrade, though, was a new chapel. With the increasing enrollment, the previous chapel seemed to shrink each year and it was time for an upgrade. The new chapel is now three times wider and longer with a new wooden floor. Because this is where the King of Kings visits, it is important that it be the best room of all.

Following Father Trigilio's good advice, the current and future students should recognize how much is owed to those who made this work possible. On behalf of all the students, I thank each of you from the bottom of my heart. May Our Lady bless all your undertakings. ■



After the ceremony, the students' families toured the building and enjoyed a light lunch.



EWTN host Father Trigilio blessed each room.



In addition to the new classrooms for each grade, a large computer room was also made.



COMMENTARY

Playing Games with Our Wars and War with Our Games

BY JOHN HORVAT II

The object of war is very simple: victory. The combatants engage in a very physical struggle to resolve a crisis that more diplomatic means have generally failed to solve. It is a battle where the stakes are high and the life or death of men and the future of nations is in play.

The means employed to secure this victory are many. Nations make use of big assets such as tanks, aircraft and aircraft carriers. They make use of technology which includes all sorts of radars, drones, smart bombs and other devices.

However, when push comes to shove, what really decides the outcome of battle is the man on the field. Modern warfare has yet to find a substitute for the infantry soldier who slugs it out with the enemy and is disposed to make the ultimate sacrifice of his life.

In normal times, everyone recognizes that the task of hand-to-hand combat is best done by fighting men trained in the art of war. It is a biological fact that men have the stamina, strength and mindset needed and, if victory is the goal, men should be employed. That is all there is to it.

But these are not normal times; what everyone used to take for granted is now up for grabs. There is a concerted push by liberals who decree in the name of equality that women and men are equal in combat. These same liberals, many of whom will never experience a bullet fired in anger, are rushing to push women into the line of fire. They are demanding that women be thrust into combat, and anyone who dares oppose such a decree is labeled hopelessly sexist. And if the chances of victory are diminished (and soldiers unnecessarily die), so be it!

While the military is rung through the sexist ringer, there is another game in town that is left unscathed by the left and liberal media. The screams for equality are curiously absent.

That game is sports. The object of sports should be very simple: healthy competition. It is a very physical contest to distract and entertain. There are no high stakes involved beyond mere com-

mercial interest or personal prestige.

And yet, as the Olympics are played, no one dares to point out that these international games enjoying all kinds of prestige and praise are absolutely "sexist." The whole affair is divided right down the middle into the categories of men and women. No one has suggested that nations field non-sexist teams where men and women compete together in any field.

The reason why is obvious. The biological fact is that men and women are physically different and if the competition were left to all comers, save some exceptional Amazon, men would win all the competitions where stamina and physical strength are needed. Indeed, one can go over the lists of Olympic records and verify that in these categories the men's records are all well above those of women.

Olympians know this biological reality. They don't play sexist games with their games. In fact, they employ all the seriousness of war to gain victory. They train unceasingly. They study every possible advantage. Unfortunately, some even resort

Olympians. . . employ all the seriousness of war to gain victory. They train unceasingly. They study every possible advantage.

to steroids and other performance enhancers to gain the victory—and commercial endorsements. These latter athletes have turned what should be a source of entertainment and healthy sportsmanship into a savage and commercial enterprise.

It seems the world is upside down. War is war and sports are sports. Why must the double standard of sexist politics get in-between? Isn't it time we stopped playing games with our wars and stopped playing war with our games? ■



AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA®

November/December 2012

PROGRESS REPORT

Our Experiences... Recruiting Rosary Rally Captains

Over 100 America Needs Fatima members from across the country, Canada and Ireland generously volunteered their time to recruit Rally Captains at the Rosary Rally Crusade Office in Rossville, Kansas. Without their dedication, having over 9,000 Rosary Rally Captains sign up and commit to a Public Square Rosary Rally on October 13, 2012, would never have been possible. Below, some of them share their experiences from volunteering and recruiting the Rosary Rally Captains.

My experience as a volunteer here in Topeka, Kansas, has brought me with many blessings. I've been deeply inspired by the many other Catholic volunteers. We became quick friends. It is a good feeling to be able to invite many people from all over the United States to become captains for the more than 9,000 Public Square Rosary Rallies.

I have great memories of praying the daily rosary on our way to the office as well as daily Holy Mass and Holy Hour. I do not want to leave out our Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as well as the Divine Mercy Chaplet on our way back to the apartments.

It's great being here and sharing in others' devotions. Being here is like being on a retreat with an active side of spreading the Holy Rosary. I thank God for bringing me here!

Mr. Bruce Chuff from Columbus, Ohio

I think Our Lady is calling us to do great deeds in this time of trial in our country today. It is easy to say that we are too busy to set aside time to pray the rosary daily, but I believe that there is no greater weapon for our cause today than



From the left to right: Clare from Kansas; Barbara from Texas; Donna, Mary and Bridget from Louisiana; and Karen and Ed from Florida.

the Rosary, which Our Lady asked us to pray daily. That's why I feel so blessed to come to Kansas to promote the rosary. The people I have met, worked for and laughed with made this feel more like a spiritual retreat than work. I know Our Mother has truly enriched and blessed my life and I am confident that she will continue to pour out her blessings as she has promised she would to her faithful children. She is waiting for all of us with open arms and coming here to Kansas has brought me closer to her. It was not a sacrifice, it was a true gift!

Mrs. Patience Francis from Front Royal, Virginia



Mrs. Mary Connor traveled from Ireland to recruit captains for the over 9,000 Public Square Rosary Rallies.

It has been an honor and a privilege to volunteer at America Needs Fatima. Just knowing that I am a part of such a great organization that is doing God's work, brings so much meaning to my life and makes me stronger physically, mentally, and most especially spiritually. This experience has been more like a journey; a pilgrimage and a retreat. I am surrounded by loving, caring, devout Catholics, whether they be the other volunteers, the Slobodnik family,



Over 100 America Needs Fatima volunteers helped to call and recruit the captains who led the more than 9,000 Public Square Rosary Rallies.

or Andrew, our driver. I will definitely volunteer again, and again, and again.

Mr. Nahid Youssef from Troy, Michigan

I am truly blessed and privileged to be working for the Master's Mother at America Needs Fatima. It astounds me how Jesus called me to serve Him in His mission of saving souls. I feel thoroughly fulfilled working with the ANF team and volunteers—people totally dedicated to the mission of touching lives across countries and a vision of populating heaven.

At ANF, I am nourished spiritually with the daily Eucharist, adoration, rosaries and chaplets of Divine Mercy. There is a bonding... a love that flows right from the heart of our beloved Mother into everyone here which is so refreshing. It's wonderful to meet people from different

countries and and even more special is that all who come are folks who have a deep love for Jesus and His Mother and the purpose of serving God.

Also, I am very grateful to our sponsors who make it possible for us to be here and feed us with generous spreads and enjoyable weekends. May the Lord and Mother Mary bless them abundantly.

Mr. Charmaine Grace Correa from Toronto, Canada

My daughter and I have been coming out to Kansas to help Our Lady for three years now. What an honor it is! The people we meet from all across the country, our host family the Slobodnik's, their friends, the office staff members and our wonderful driver Andrew, took us under their wings and treated us as family.

If you volunteer for next year, believe me, as much as you may love your home and family, you just will not want it to end. Many say, including my daughter and I, "we want to live here."

Believe me, once you have gotten a taste of this beautiful piece of heaven, you will return every time you have the chance to get another slice of heaven. It will change you and bring you into a deeper union with Our Lord and Our Lady.

Mrs. Diana Herron from Cincinnati, Ohio

I do believe that this country can be turned around if enough people get out



Volunteers having dinner after seeing the inspiring film, "For Greater Glory."

Here is an approximate tally of the volunteers' efforts.



86

Telephone volunteers &

43,865

calls made by volunteers



105

Days of volunteer effort to recruit Rosary Captains



140,354

Hours spent at the phones



33,876

Messages left on answering machines



1,795

Lunch and dinner plates prepared for volunteers



1,460

Mass attendances



315

Pots of coffee made



*Back row, from left: Thomas from Florida, Charles from Pennsylvania, and Theresa and Patience from Virginia.
Front row, from left: Margaret from Pennsylvania, Barbara from Massachusetts, Grace from Virginia and Jess from New York.*

there and pray to Our Lady to change America. That's why I became a caller . . . plus I should include that I was a bit curious as to what goes on behind the scenes of ANF. I found a truly uplifting

The Slobodnik family had fun and educational outings for us to join—some in Kansas City and some in Topeka. They opened their home up to us and made us feel like family. I ended up staying for

experience which I can't say enough about.

I was greeted at the airport by Andrew, the driver for ANF. He brought three other volunteers and I to our apartment in Topeka. The apartment was set up meticulously. It met all of our needs. Everything we needed or wanted had been anticipated.

Mr. Bernard Slobodnik, who takes care of the volunteers, was always right there for any questions we had.

an extra week and still didn't want to come home. I wanted my family to volunteer too. I am very grateful to have been called and have already volunteered to come back again next year.

If you join me you can bet that it will be an equally uplifting experience and you will see miracles happening everyday. Our Lady will be blessing you before you ever leave your home town to go there.

*Mrs. Donna Suarez
from Iowa, Louisiana*

To help recruit captains for the 2013 Public Square Rosary Rallies, please call Bernard Slobodnik at (888) 460-7371, extension 310.

Another Successful Battle Against Blasphemy

BY DR. JOSE MARIA ALCASID

When I first arrived at the Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles, accompanied by some of my dear friends and coworkers, two young ladies sat on the steps in front of the church waiting for us to arrive. Relief was clear on their faces when they saw us holding our rosaries as we exited the van, prepared to take a stance against the blasphemous *Corpus Christi* production that was being performed that Saturday, August 24, 2012.

We quickly set up and began praying. Not long after we had started, a man approached me and asked if we were protesting the play. The man, who I discovered was the show manager, asked the often rehearsed: "Have you seen the play?"

to which I answered, "I don't have to take cyanide to know it's poison! Would you?" He smirked and excused himself.

The show manager acted quickly, because soon after my talk with him, police officers arrived to monitor us. Yet by twos and threes, people continued to join their voices with ours in peaceful, prayerful rejection of blasphemy. Some of those who had joined us had been "called to arms" through Robert Ritchie's email alert while others had seen us by chance and paused to stand and defend the Holy Family's honor with us.

Since the church is in a residential area, many saw our group and raised their thumbs or nodded their heads in encouragement and enthusiasm. Once again, Our Lady and Her infant Son blessed us with another uneventful and peaceful protest! ■



Locals appreciated the peaceful and legal nature of the protest and took note of the theater's action.



To keep up-to-date on blasphemies and protests please sign up for Robert Ritchie's e-mail alerts at www.ANF.org/Alerts

OUR LORD IS CRUCIFIED AGAIN

BY JACK BURNHAM



I'm deeply pained to tell you that Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who suffered the torture-death of crucifixion in order to redeem mankind, was blasphemed at the Edward Tyler Nahem gallery in mid-Manhattan, New York City.

The gallery hosted Andres Serrano's notorious "P*** Christ" which shows a beautiful crucifix immersed in Serrano's bodily fluid.

This is particularly offensive to Catholics, since the Crucifix is a sacramental of our Holy Mother Church, a display of Our Lord only to be held with love and veneration.

In contrast to the widespread condemnation of the YouTube film which very recently attacked the founder of Islam, Mohammed, only a few condemned this attack on Catholicism. Perhaps this media bias and the silence and indifference of many Catholics has encouraged the promoters of anti-Catholic blasphemies.

promotion of anti-Christian hate speech.

A large banner asked: "Will God bless a nation where taxpayer money funds a blasphemy like P*** Christ?" This concern was echoed by some lawmakers who questioned the right of the federally funded gallery to house the exhibit even if it was in a "private" gallery.

America Needs Fatima also hosted an e-mail protest which has, to date, sent over 20,000 e-mail protests to the gallery's curator, Walter Robinson. According to The Huffington Post, Walter admires Serrano's audacity: "When it comes to the global stage of the spectacle, many are called but few are chosen, but those who are [chosen], like Serrano. . . are to be admired." However, Walter Robinson has discovered that Catholics do not share his views and we will never take this insult lying down. ■

Values Voter Summit 2012

BY JAMES BASCOM

The mainstream media loves to take relatively inconsequential events and make earthshaking interpretations about them from a leftist perspective. The "Occupy Wall Street" movement, whose one-year anniversary was yesterday, is one of them. Based on the *New York Times*' and CNN's news coverage, one might be led to think that a second American Revolution with nearly universal popular support was underway.

Not so regarding the conservative movement and its latest major event, the seventh-annual Values Voter Summit. Held at the prestigious Omni Shoreham hotel in Washington, D.C., on September 13-14, and drawing more than three thousand social conservative activists from across America, the media was more interested in Oc-

cupy Wall Street's 1-year-anniversary.

Organized by the Family Research Council and the American Family Association, the Values Voter Summit has grown into the nation's foremost social conservative political conference, drawing speakers such as vice-presidential nominee Paul Ryan, presidential candidate Rick Santorum, and many others. The American TFP, along with dozens of other organizations, was an official exhibitor.

At VVS, the growing liberal onslaught for same-sex "marriage" is increasingly seen as the most dangerous cultural threat faced by conservatives today. "Same-sex 'marriage' is today what abortion was in the 1970s and 80s" one participant told TFP member Thomas Schneider. "It is the leading edge of the culture war. They know they have lost the abortion war, but they are side stepping it and pushing homosexuality." Another activist said, "If you accept homosexuality, abortion naturally comes with it." ■





Our Readers Write...



TFP Student Action

I can't tell you how many times I watched this video of those brave guys defending Traditional Marriage and how they handle the opponents of Traditional Marriage. How nasty those opponents can be, but they do not have an argument because the truth is not in



them. One cannot argue with the truth.

How I wish the campaign would come to New York. I'd be standing right by them cheering them on. I am so proud of them and very, very impressed with their gift of courage and fortitude.

P.L., Brooklyn, New York

I do think your group is made up of saints who will one day be known in our church history.

N.R., Altoona, Illinois

Thank you for all you are doing defending moral values and real marriage.

My husband, three teenage daughters and I have been watching the videos and we are very impressed how brave you are. I very much liked the one at Berkeley University. For my daughters it is a completely new vision. Please continue with this wonderful crusade.

H.C., Fremont, California

Your marriage report gives me chills and tears. I have watched your videos and commend you for your courage and I don't know what I can do to help but I am ready to put my life and reputation on the line. Wish I could help by stand-

ing out there with you young, brave men. I am amazed over and over again to see and hear the vile reactions of many people. I will try to remember to pray, every single day, for protection and courage to remain strong.

J.S., Lancaster, Ohio

You men are heroes and we remember you in our rosary daily. Now, when we ask Saint Joseph at the end of our rosary to pray for us, we will ask him to pray for you, this cause, and the preservation of Traditional Marriage. Be sure to contact us when in Michigan, we will feed you a meal.

B.P., Ann Arbor, Michigan

America Needs Fatima

I absolutely love ANF and Robert Ritchie for everything. Mostly for being peacefully proactive, well informed and loving protectors of everything good. Infinite peace, blessings and love to you all.

K.S., New York, New York

Because of ANF's publications, I have been saying a daily rosary and I can't tell you how much that practice has changed my life. God bless you all who promote Our Lady of Fatima. God wants us to know Him through Her.

N.C., Northfield, Minnesota

Hurray for America Needs Fatima! I joined the Public Square Rosary Rally for the first time and now I love the rosary and say it daily. Praise God! He is working overtime.

J.R., San Antonio, Texas

If ever America needed Fatima, it is surely today. Our top industries have been nationalized, abortion is legally rampant, Obamacare will not only perpetuate abortion but add another heinous crime—euthanasia—to its plan,

our President has declared us a non-Christian nation, and he, along with Harry Reid, Pelosi, and their radical entourage, are bent on destroying the country our Founding Fathers established and turning it into a government-controlled/citizenry-enslaved socialistic nation. Obama has mandated irreligious regulations to Catholics and other Christians, our constitution has been discarded, same-sex marriage has been espoused by our President and many federal judges, and God, under Whom this country was created, is being orchestrated out of our society.

Historically, America is finished.



Only God and Our lady could save us if we but turn to them. As one well versed in history, and realizing that history repeats itself, corruption has created a cadre of supporters who are willing to relinquish their liberty for daily support without responsibility, indicating that, like Rome, we will fall. . .

God bless you for all you do. And may He, through Our Lady of Fatima, bless America.

A.B., Covington, Louisiana



TFP IN
ACTION

“WAKE UP, AMERICA!”

Inspired by the teachings of the Holy Catholic Church, TFP Student Action is a group of young volunteers who soldier on the front lines of the culture war. They travel far and wide by caravan to publically stand and pray for the restoration of the values of Christian civilization. These are the stories of the Student Action Volunteers during their most recent caravans that spanned Minnesota, Maryland, Maine and Rhode Island to fight against the implementation of homosexual marriage.

Minnesota

The Minnesota air was warm that early September evening, but winter was in the back of everyone's minds as we went about setting up in the lakeside campsite, our home for the next week and a half. Usually we would squeeze our bodies and our travel cases into the somewhat cramped conditions of a van, but this time, we traveled in the motor home we were able to purchase with the donations of America Needs Fatima supporters. The motor home made the twenty hour trip much more comfortable for our small group, and we were grateful for it.

We all had butterflies in our stomachs that night. . . it is not uncommon for the street campaigns to quickly become liquid magnets for intolerance, sometimes paired with violence. Ignoring our nerves, we cooked dinner and got a good night's rest before officially starting the tour.

Our fears of that first night were not unfounded. During one of our peaceful protests, we were approached by a man. He had passed us and parked a bit up the street, then proceeded to engage opposing traffic with handwritten signs. It was only after a few



A group photo of all three caravans with their eight vehicles.

minutes that we realized he was carrying a holstered side-arm. At that point, we became a little tense and closed the campaign immediately. Thanks be to Our Lady, nothing came of the incident, but it was the first time any TFP campaigns were approached by a counter-protester visibly wearing a gun.

As we continued our tour, stopping here and there to set up our banners and signs and pray the holy Rosary, we found the people of Minnesota have a much-divided opinion on homosexual marriage. In some places there was an overwhelming show of support, while in other places people were less than happy with our stance. Because of the division, there is a very good chance that traditional marriage will be valiantly defended in this state.

May Our Lady help with the reaction of the good against the machinations of the evil, and may she give us victory against homosexual marriage!

—Joseph Jordan, TFP Student Action

Maine and Rhode Island

Our caravan started off well in Maine, with loud honks and thumbs up signs giving us a great boost of enthusiasm. This wonderful start was only a foreshadowing of the support we were to receive!

As we travelled throughout Maine and Rhode Island, the honks and thumbs up paled in comparison to the vocal support we received. One man said, “At least somebody knows the truth!” Another shouted at the top of his lungs, “I’m honking! One man, one woman!” when somebody from



the traffic booed him, he continued, "It's an abomination!" Many people were against homosexual marriage, especially the youth. During one campaign in Rhode Island, children walking back from school were saying, "Honk! Honk! Honk!" It was all very encouraging, and gave proof that these people are fed up with the immorality that is being pushed on them.

The majority of people in Maine and Rhode Island were for traditional marriage. There were, however, a few who came out and showed the the hidden face of the homosexual agenda, not only making obscene gestures at us, but making them in a manner dangerous to us.

For instance, during one of the campaigns a car

Maine



Rhode Island



drove up to the curb and the occupants loudly and aggressively booed our peaceful, praying campaign. Then, the woman driving made a gun with her hand, motioning as if pulling the trigger at TFP volunteer Danniell Pribble. At another point, a passing car swerved onto the curb and tried to hit caravan member Joseph Lee, who was holding a "Honk for Traditional Marriage" sign. Thanks be to Our Lady, Joseph jumped out of the way and was unharmed.

But all of the curses and abusive behavior displayed towards us was nothing compared to the blast of horns in support and friendly comments from those in favor of traditional marriage. We will always continue to fight immorality, and we will never be discouraged!

—Zachariah Long, TFP Student Action

Maryland

Nine TFP volunteers descended on the state of Maryland for a 10-day caravan to campaign for Traditional Marriage in the "Land of Mary." From the beginning we expected the issue to be quite heated, and this expectation proved true from day one.

We encountered opposition on every side in our campaigns. One of our protests was near an onramp to one of the interstate highways coursing through Baltimore, with huge amounts of traffic coming from multiple directions. The atmosphere became tense as cars coming from one direction seemed to have nothing but support, while those coming from another had almost nothing but contempt. One aggressor even forcefully threw a rock at us, narrowly missing Saint Louis de Montfort Academy student Francisco Shibley. The heavy rock split in two upon hitting the concrete a few feet away from him as he continued to pray. Nearby was housing for a university, and counter-protesters emerged holding handmade signs. Standing on opposite sides of the street, we prayed the Rosary while the opposers unsuccessfully tried to get motorists to honk for them. Our bagpiper played a martial tune as we concluded that day's campaign and proceeded to our vehicles, thankful to Divine Providence for protecting us and giving us calm in an otherwise very tense situation.

Though surrounded with opposition, our trip to Baltimore also yielded some of the most greatest for traditional marriage I have yet seen. After honking enthusiastically, one woman asked from her car, "Can I join you?" She proceeded to park nearby and hold one of our signs, shouting to all those passing, "Wake up America! Wake up America!" The reaction from motorists was overwhelming, nonstop honks in support of marriage. After encouraging us in our campaign, she again reiterated the seriousness of her support, "If I don't have something to die for, I don't have something to live for."

Thus concluded the Maryland caravan, but the battle to defend America from the homosexual revolution continues. May God and His holy Mother strengthen all who defend the sacred institution of marriage, and may He grant protection to this land from the homosexual agenda.

—Ben Broussard, TFP Volunteer

Maryland





TFP IN
ACTION

Calling Young Men to Chivalry

BY JOSEPH JORDAN

The eleven-day TFP “Call to Chivalry” program was not your average summer camp. The event, held at Saint Louis de Montfort Academy, invited over forty young men to take up the banner of purity and heroism and follow the example of the saints and heroes of Poland and Lithuania, the historic theme of this year’s camp.

Informative Talks

“My favorite part was being around pure young men like myself,” said Joseph Becker, a camp participant. “It was inspiring and the talks gave me inspiration.”

Among the many Catholic heroes mentioned was Saint Maximilian Kolbe, a true model for our times as he experienced the acute persecution of the Catholic Church. His life spanned World War I and ended early in WWII in the Nazi concentration camp of Auschwitz as a martyr.

Saint Maximilian’s life is especially pertinent as the government of the United States assaults the freedom of the Church with the HHS Mandate. In fact, even under persecution, Father Kolbe wrote articles against socialism and communism and distributed his maga-

zine to over one million Poles.

Along with talks about King Jan Sobieski, Saint Andrew Bobola and other great leaders, a presentation was given on the four last things: death, judgment, heaven and hell. Saint Alphonsus insisted that if men kept the four last things constantly in mind, more souls would be saved.

This year’s camp had an added bonus. Maciej Maliczek, a TFP member from Poland, spoke on the Siege of Jasna Gora. It is one thing to hear a talk, but quite another to hear it from a person who’s life is affected by the events of which he speaks.



Above: Father Joseph Orlowski took care of the sacramental needs of the boys. *Right:* A healthy breakfast starts the day.



Adding to the medieval character of the camp, Roark Mitzell gave a riveting two-hour

demonstration on the history of Western swordsmanship. He ended with a jug-cutting session where each spectator tested the blade of their choice. “This is better than fireworks,” remarked one young man.

The art of falconry was another presentation. Michael Dupuy, an expert in the field, showed the boys his hawks and explained how the birds of prey are trained to hunt.

Challenging Activities

“I liked learning of the chivalry of the saints and how I can be chivalrous,” said camp participant Isaac Lind.

The overnight hike in the mountains challenged both body and spirit, but was met with lots of enthusiasm. The boys carried tents, sleeping



The overnight hike covered a beautiful part of the Appalachian Trail.



The participants were able to touch the hawks during the presentation.



Camp participants discover the effectiveness of swords against water jugs.



Touring the Gettysburg museum.



Camp participants are encouraged to challenge their limitations.

bags, and all that was needed to cook meals. As night fell, the aroma of well-seasoned steak wafted through the air and the boys gathered around to pray grace. How delicious. Then a story about big game African hunting was read as the glow of the campfire flickered faintly on enthralled faces.

Sunrise: A hearty breakfast greeted the young campers and prepared them for the long 13-mile trek to the other side of the mountain. It was unforgettable.

Another activity: The high ropes course. Climbing a thirty foot rock wall is not easy, especially when one of your fears is that of heights. Once again, the young men overcame the obstacles. The zip line, cargo net, rock walls, and Burma Bridge were challenges that had to be conquered (with the protection of a safety line). This allowed camp participants to conquer their fear in a safe environment.

Great Expectations

The "Call to Chivalry" camp came to an end with its traditional Medieval Games and Banquet. The time had passed so quickly. However, many of the boys expressed their wish to attend Saint Louis de Montfort Academy for the upcoming school year or return for another camp.

Everyone departed with a greater admiration for the spirit of Chivalry, ready to apply what they had learned. If the holy virtues of knighthood live on in the souls of these young American men, we can consider the "Call to Chivalry" camp a great success. ■

Parts of the obstacle course can only be mastered with teamwork.



The candy-filled treasure chest surrounded by the winning team.



A group photo around a statue of Our Lady of Graces at the TFP headquarters.



Exciting indoor games.



Will the medieval castle cake survive?



Dodge ball: a favorite during the medieval games.



The Truth About DADT

Retired Lieutenant General Benjamin R. Mixon's last assignment was as Commander, United States Army-Pacific, (2008-2011). Just prior to this, his combat assignments included tours of duty as Chief of Plans, 101st Airborne Division, Desert Shield and Desert Storm (1990-1991); Chief of Staff, CJTF 180, Operation Enduring Freedom (2002-2003); and Commander, 25th Infantry Division, Task Force Lightning and Multi-National Division-North, Operation Iraqi Freedom (2006-2007); operational oversight, J3 U.S. Southern Command, Haiti (2005).

His awards and decorations include the Army Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Star, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Saudi Arabia-Kuwait Liberation Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge, the Combat Action Badge and the Philippine Legion of Honor.

Crusade: After serving our country honorably for 35 years, you retired on May 1, 2011. What was your last assignment?

General Mixon: Commander, United States Army-Pacific, I was in command of all Army Forces in the Pacific Region, including Alaska, all of which totalled 45,000 soldiers.

Crusade: What prompted you to pursue a military career?

General Mixon: My father was a career soldier

who influenced my decision, but I wanted to serve my country and the military seemed like the best place for me to accomplish that goal.

Crusade: What experience or event in your military career stands out the most for you?

General Mixon: My three deployments into combat—Gulf War, Afghanistan and Iraq—were seminal events for me, especially Iraq, where I commanded all forces in Northern Iraq. The dedication and sacrifice of our soldiers and families during that period was incredible and will stay in my memory forever.

Crusade: Shortly before retirement you wrote a letter to the editor of the Stars and Stripes against the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell [DADT]. What was your motivation for doing this and what were the consequences?

General Mixon: I had spoken to hundreds of soldiers of all ranks and it was clear to me that they wanted to have a voice in this controversial decision, so I decided that as a senior officer I would communicate to them through the Stars and Stripes about



General Mixon (left) with *Crusade Magazine's* correspondent Norman Fulkerson.

how they could be heard; that is, through their chain of command and elected officials.

Crusade: After clearly identifying yourself as being opposed to the repeal of DADT, did soldiers share their own misgivings with you?

General Mixon: They did and I received dozens of e-mails thanking me for my words of advice and public stand. Unsolicited, there were countless soldiers in my unit that thanked me as well as family members.

Crusade: Do you feel their concerns were taken into account? Were they able to speak out freely on this issue? Why not?

General Mixon: I do not believe their concerns were addressed. We witnessed their views, at the so-called town halls, being suppressed. The survey that was done was slanted and the results were inaccurately reported. Most alarming, it was uncovered during a Department of Defense Inspector General report that a senior official involved with the survey was drafting the results before the survey was completed. It is very telling that very few, if any, outside experts were called to testify before Congress and that the vote for repeal was done during the lame duck session of Congress.

Crusade: Some servicemen say that the repeal of DADT has gone through without much problem. Do you agree with that assessment?

General Mixon: I believe it is too early to tell. For sure we are seeing problems with illegal wedding ceremonies being done in military chapels violating the Defense of Marriage Act, and the recent reversal of long standing policy governing the wearing of uniforms at political events like the San Diego pride parade. These activities and the special recognition being given to soldiers during Pentagon ceremonies highlighting their sexual preference will certainly have an adverse effect on our military.

Crusade: What are your thoughts on the decision by the Secretary of Defense to allow active duty servicemen to march in a homosexual parade in uniform?

General Mixon: This was an unnecessary and poor decision. It speaks of the extremes to which this Administration will go to accommodate a special interest group and force a radical social agenda on the military. This could have far reaching effects if other groups ask for a similar exception and are



Lieutenant General Mixon (3-stars) has seen action in four major conflicts.

turned down. The Department opens itself up for criticism on the one hand and manipulation by the LGBT community on the other.

Crusade: What do today's Armed Forces need most?

General Mixon: They need the support of the American people to ensure, during these turbulent economic times, and with the threats of budgetary sequestration, that they will be well funded to defend the nation and that veterans are cared for. Beyond that, Congress must pass legislation that protects the religious freedoms and moral conscience of our service members who desire to serve but do not agree with the homosexual agenda and lifestyle.

Crusade: What is the most positive aspect of today's armed forces?

General Mixon: The dedicated and selfless men and women who serve our nation continue to amaze me. It speaks volumes that since the terrorist attacks of 9-11 that less than one per cent of the entire American population has served in the Armed Forces. On the one hand, those that served should be honored. On the other hand, you have to ask yourself what it says about the nation when so few serve.

Crusade: How do you see the future of the Armed Forces?

General Mixon: Under current drawdown plans the Armed Forces may be the smallest it has been since the end of World War II. The verdict is still out whether this size force, with the capabilities it has, can meet the defense requirements for the nation and maintain America's preeminent position in the world. I sense that we are potentially in decline militarily and that, coupled with our economic weakness, threatens the America that has been the inspiration to the world. ■



Seeking the Joy of CHRISTMAS

The state of world events is so uncertain that it is impossible to know the conditions in which we will celebrate Christmas or what the New Year will bring. This will be a Christmas in which Americans are filled with uncertainty, trials and insecurity.

One could rightly ask: "Is it proper to have these concerns during Christmastime? Shouldn't we have only consolations, joys and satisfactions during this season?"

To answer this question, we should consider the first Christmas night. Saint Joseph and, above all, Our Lady were filled with inexpressible joy in the grotto in Bethlehem.

However, before the Child Jesus was born, they suffered affliction. They had spent the night seeking a dignified place for Our Lord's birth. Saint Joseph was humiliated seeing that his spouse would have to deliver the Christ Child in a stable where animals ate. While there could not have been a more stupendous event that evening, neither could there have been humbler surroundings.

The manger was all Saint Joseph and Our Lady had to offer the Child Jesus. Thus, the evening was filled with unfathomable joys, but also had its sufferings.

Although the Christ Child knew that Providence had dictated the conditions of His birth, it is possible that Our Lady and Saint Joseph did not know. They could have been filled with doubts concerning the reasons for their poor surroundings, perhaps even attributing them to a wrongdoing of their own. Though faultless, Saint Joseph, who was most responsible for providing for the Holy Family, probably asked Our Lord's pardon for the lowly accommodations he had furnished for His delivery.

Nevertheless, the joys of the evening so surpassed the sadness in it, that the latter was completely forgotten.

We should celebrate Christmas in the same manner, even though we are concerned with the crisis in the Church and breakdown of society and aware of our insufficiency to face these calamities.

The realization that we are chosen to follow Our Lady throughout these troubling times should fill us with joy and overcome the sadness we endure because our personal failings and the godlessness that surrounds us.

At the feet of the newborn Christ Child, we should thank Him for having called us to this struggle and these times. We should realize that we will be capable of persevering because of His Redemption for which His birth was a necessary condition. We ought to express this gratitude through the intercession of Our Lady, the Universal Mediatrix, and Saint Joseph.

We should ask Saint Joseph, Our Lady and the Christ Child for a soul continually mindful of Our Lady's words at Fatima: "Finally, my Immaculate Heart will triumph!" Thus, we will be able to overcome all sadness and advance joyfully in the fight, seeking heroism and even sacrifice.

At *Crusade Magazine*, we ask Our Lady to grant you this indomitable Christmas joy; may this joy bring you and yours ever closer to her and her Divine Son! ■

Based on a Christmas greeting given by Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira in 1980.