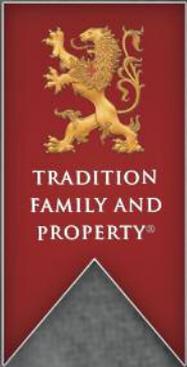


July/August 2014

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MAGAZINE



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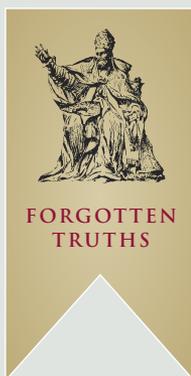
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The Three Mirrors

BY FATHER FRANCIS SPIRAGO



There is no real beauty without virtue. A school girl, writing home, asked her mother to send her a mirror. Her mother, a sensible and Christian lady, answered in a letter, "I am sending you a parcel by post in which are three mirrors. The first will show you to yourself as you are; the second will show you what you will be; the third will show you what you ought to be."

When the box arrived, the girl opened it filled with curiosity: the first thing she took out was an ordinary mirror; then there was one with the representation of a skull; below both of these was a beautiful image of Our Lady.

Thus the pious mother sought to impress upon her daughter's mind that personal beauty is transitory and is effaced by the hand of death. For this reason a maiden ought to imitate the virtues of the Mother of God, since this alone will attain true loveliness, a beauty which does not pass away with this mortal life, the beauty of the soul, which lasts eternally. Favor is deceitful and beauty is vain, says Holy Writ, for "the beauty of the King's daughter is from within." (Psalm 45:13) ■

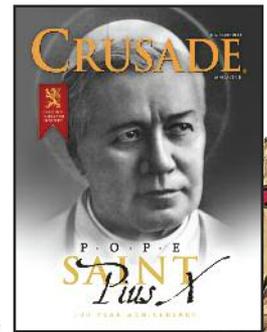
Adapted from Father Francis Spirago's *Anecdotes and Examples Illustrating the Catholic Catechism* (New York: Benziger Brothers, 1904), p. 10.



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Crusade Magazine is a publication of The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP). Direct all requests and inquiries to: *Crusade Magazine*, P.O. Box 341, Hanover, PA 17331 or e-mail to: crusade@TFP.org. Web: www.TFP.org, Tel.: 888-317-5571, Fax: (570) 450-6352. © 2014 by The Foundation for a Christian Civilization, Inc. This publication may include images from iStockphoto™ which are protected by copyright laws of the U.S. and elsewhere.
ISSN 1096-3782 LCCN 98-641433
M-130

CRUSADE

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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

Bishop Supports Priest for Refusing Holy Communion to “Pro-choice” Politician

Springfield, Illinois Bishop Paprocki upheld a diocesan priest’s decision to deny

Holy Communion to U.S. senator Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) who is publicly known to be a strong supporter of Planned Parenthood and abortion “rights.” The bishop cited Canon 915 which states that those who are “obstinately persevering in manifest sins are not to be admitted to Holy Communion.”



Police Chief Affirms That Armed, Good Citizens Prevent Violent Crimes

Detroit Police Chief James Craig recently responded to a criticism of his pro-gun position by citing reliable research that showed the positive effects of gun ownership. The Chief said that research done by the Department of Justice proved that “armed citizens, good citizens, can have a deterring effect on violent crime.” Detroit police saw a fourteen percent decline in homicides from 2012.

“Green” Burials Use Cloth Bag or Wicker Basket for Interment

In a complete departure from traditional burial practices, a disturbing new trend started by the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C. does away with embalming, casket and concrete vault. Using just cloth to wrap the body, families can now opt for the “green” burial. Cemetery president Paul Williams said that “green burial options are increasingly popular with pre-planning baby boomers and other socially and environmentally conscious individuals.”

Local TV Station Issues Apology to Pro-life Activists for False Reporting

In a rare admission of slanderous reporting, a CBS Sacramento television station, KVOR-TV, wrote a letter of apology to Project Truth, a pro-life organization. The apology was prompted by criticism of the station’s false reporting about the group’s pro-life outreach campaign at Cordova High School. The Life Legal Defense Foundation demanded an apology on behalf of Project Truth and the station retracted.

Religious Persecution on the Rise in America and All Over the World

The following reports are indicative of an alarming increase in religious persecution:

A Dominican nun repeating the Catholic Church’s teaching on homosexuality to a North Carolina Catholic school was publicly attacked by parents and students; a couple who owned a photography business in New Mexico was fined for refusing to do work for a homosexual “wedding” ceremony; the CEO of Mozilla/Firefox was forced to resign after supporting a traditional marriage initiative in California six years ago; a Washington state florist is being sued by the state’s attorney general for running her business in accordance with her religious beliefs; a Lexington, Kentucky T-shirt company was accused of violating a local ordinance for declining to print T-shirts for a local “pride festival” that celebrates homosexuality; President Obama threatened senior officers of the U.S. military if they did not support his repeal of the “don’t-ask-don’t-tell” policy; Catholic institutions and organizations, such as the Little Sisters of the Poor, are being forced to comply with Obamacare’s contraception mandate or face exorbitant fines; and blasphemies, another form of religious persecution, continue, as monitored by America Needs Fatima’s anti-blasphemy campaigns.

Elsewhere in the world, religious persecution is



Jean-Léon Gérôme

on the rise in more than sixty countries. Organizations monitoring persecutions of Christians in general are reporting that last year 2,123 Christians were killed, mostly in Syria, Nigeria and Pakistan. Tens of thousands more are in concentration camps or prisons such as those in North Korea. Governments and institutions such as the United Nations and the E.U. are threatening to impose sanctions on nations that refuse to adhere to their homosexual agenda, as in the case of pro-family African nations. The U.S. government, through President Obama, strongly condemned Uganda for enacting an anti-homosexual law, and proclaimed that homosexuality is one of our “fundamental freedoms.”

MOTHERS *of* VOCATIONS

BY FATHER RAOUL PLUS, S.J.



CHRIST IN
THE HOME

When Motta was elected to the Swiss Federal Council, his first act was to send this telegram to his mother: “To my venerated mother, who remaining a widow while I was still a child, engraved in my heart the concept of duty by teaching me that duty dominates all interests, all selfishness, all other concerns.”

To be sure, God remains the Master of vocations and Motta was not entering upon Holy Orders. But what is certain is that never—or shall we say rarely, very rarely—is a vocation born into a family unless the mother has inculcated in her children a sense of duty and a habit of sacrifice. Of course, all children who receive a strong supernatural training do not enter the priesthood or religious life, but no child enters upon any career calling for great self-sacrifice if he does not acquire early in life a solid spirit of renunciation of the world and generosity in the accomplishment of duty. On the other hand, where mothers know how to go about teaching and above all practicing complete fidelity to duty and total renunciation, where they always put the supernatural love of God before material love for their children, Our Lord finds it easy to choose His privileged souls.

Monsignor d’Hulst said many a time to Abbe Leprince, “It takes a truly Christian mother to make a good priest. The seminary polishes him off but does not give him the substance, the sacerdotal [priestly] spirit.” All things considered, that holds true for novitiates and those practicing the religious life. Nothing replaces family training, above all the influence of the mother. But that training and that

influence must be wholly supernatural.

Madame Acarie, foundress of a French Carmelite Convent where she was known as Sister Marie of the Incarnation, strove earnestly to rear her six children for God. She explained to them: “I would not hesitate to love a strange child more than you if his love for God were greater than yours.”

However, individual free will always remains and God is always Master of His gifts. That thought ought to calm the fear—unjustifiable as it is but humanly understandable—of certain mothers who think, “If I conduct my home along lines too thoroughly Christian, if I instill into my children too strong a habit of the virtues which lead to total renunciation, to an all-embracing zeal, I shall see my sons and daughters renouncing marriage one by one and setting off for the priesthood or the convent.”

If that were to happen, where would be the harm? But that rarely happens in practice. Furthermore, is marriage a state of life that does not require a sense of duty or abnegation? Let there be no anxiety on this score, but perfect peace. The important thing now is not that God might choose so-and-so but that the home gives Our Lord maxi-

imum glory; that each child, whatever his destiny, serves an apprenticeship in generosity and the true spirit of the Gospel. Everything else as far as the future is concerned should be left to God. ■



If taught the sense of duty and sacrifice, the child will have a better chance to succeed in his or her own vocation.

Adapted from Father Raoul Plus, S.J.’s *Christ in the Home* (Colorado Springs, CO: Gardner Brothers, 1951), pp. 316 – 318. This book 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.

WHY I SIDE WITH THE 1%

BY JOHN HORVAT II



Amid all the talk about economic inequality, I unabashedly take the side of the one percent. I know it may not be a popular position but I nevertheless feel an obligation to make it known. Mind you, my defense of the one percent is balanced. I do not necessarily think they should be paid more and certainly not less. Overall, I think the media and the political establishment have blown the whole affair completely out of proportion.

In all fairness, I should mention that the one percent I side with is not the same one percent—the billionaires and millionaires—that was the target of the rabid attacks by the Occupy Wall Street crowd some time ago. My one percent represents those who earn the federal hourly minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour.

For all the brouhaha around the issue, the surprising fact is that only one percent of the American work force actually earns the federal minimum wage. According to the latest figures of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, roughly 1.5 million hourly workers out of nearly 155 million job holders are among this select group. I know there are other “casual” worker groups, such as farm workers or babysitters that earn less than minimum wage. But the focus of the present debate is on this one percent and so I also will restrict myself to considering these workers.



“My entry level job helped me go to college and avoid student debt. My experience taught me the value of work and the need to save.”

Perhaps one of the strongest reasons why I support this one percent is because I was once one of their number. In my high school days, I labored earning a mere \$2.25 an hour. My entry level job helped me go to college and avoid student debt. My experience taught me the value of work and the need to save. Since I earned so few of them, I learned early in life to value each dollar—which was certainly worth a lot more back then.

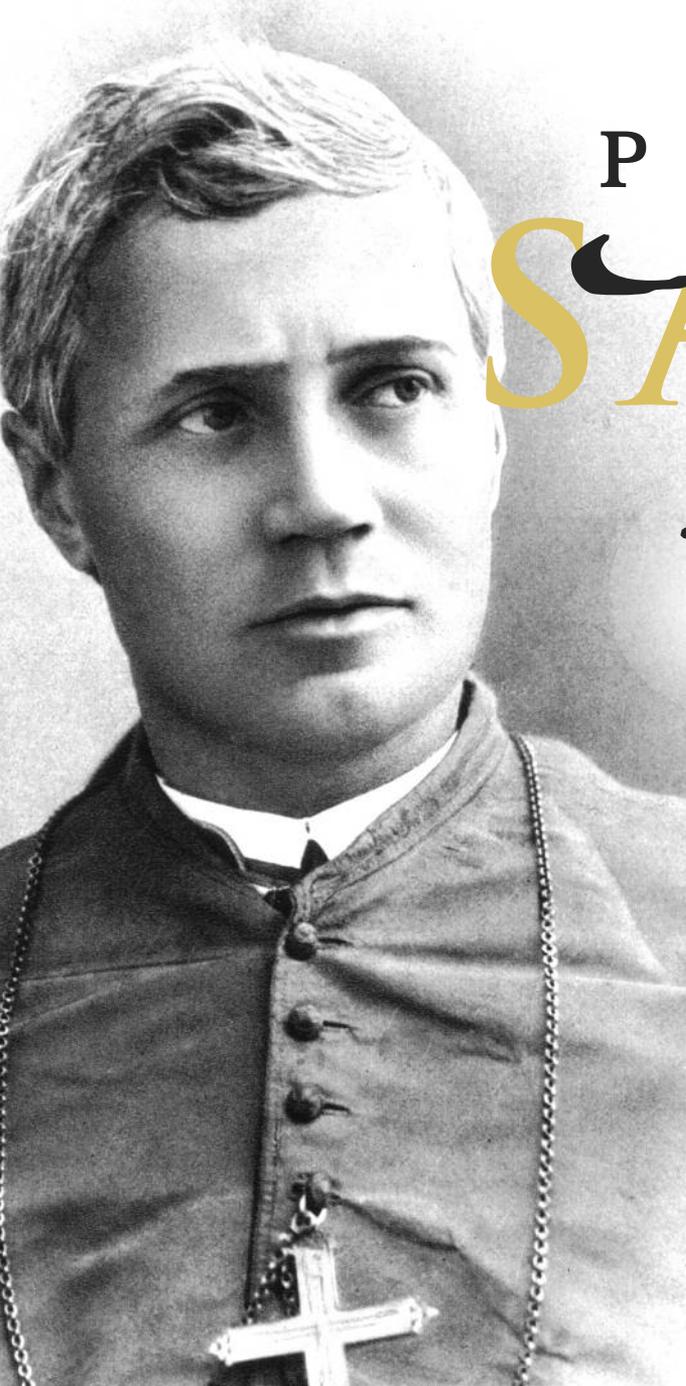
Today, as I look at the present earners of the federal minimum wage, I see pretty much the same demographic. Teenagers make up thirty-one percent of all federal minimum wage earners. Over fifty-five percent are under the age of twenty-five. Young workers, like I was, are precisely those who need entry level jobs since they do not have the skills to compete with higher paying jobs.

Not only is the one percent young but it is largely employed part time. Just over fifty-one percent work an average of twenty-nine hours or less each week. Less than a third work full time and of these only thirty-nine percent are men.

The media image of legions of graduate degree workers desperately trying to support families on fast-food wages simply does not correspond to reality. Yet another illusion is that these workers are construction workers being paid substandard wages by greedy contractors. In fact, only one percent of the one percent (15,000) are construction workers earning minimum wage. Indeed, as everyone knows, most of these wage earners work in food preparation and similar services, requiring minimal skills—and less compensation.

Knowing the real facts and figures about minimum wage earners makes me take up the defense of the one percent. The distortions of the left do not correspond to the reality of living, working Americans who need these jobs, as I did, to supplement income or enter into the work force. Like it or not, forcing the minimum wage upward necessarily drives the number of jobs downward.

I dislike the patronizing way the left treats the one percent like. . . well, one percent—a statistic to be manipulated at will. For all their talk about “compassion,” liberal legislators, inside the safety



P · O · P · E
SAINT
Pius X

100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

BY BEN BROUSSARD



"I will go unto the altar of God, the God who gives joy to my youth." (Psalm 42:4)

On June 2, 1835, Giuseppe Melchior Sarto was born in the remote settlement of Riese to Giovanni and Margarita Sarto. The oldest of eight children, at a tender age, Giuseppe displayed an aptitude for learning. Though of humble means, his parents did all in their power to assure he was given a first-rate education. A favorite of students and teachers alike, Giuseppe excelled in all his endeavors, but what attracted his attention most was daily service at the altar.

Though it required a great sacrifice from each member of his family, the money was found for him to enroll in the seminary in the famed city of Padua. He outshone all his classmates in every subject, but his ever-present humility and affability securely barred the door to envy and bad will.

The day finally came for the ordination of the young Giuseppe Sarto, who had to receive special dispensation from Rome upon completing seminary studies in order to be ordained at the age of twenty-three. The solemn ordination left a deep impact on the new Father Sarto, who promptly carried out his first assignment.

The distant farming village of Tombolo had one major vice that horrified the young priest on his arrival: nearly everyone in town had a penchant for swearing. Desiring to correct this widespread defect, Father Sarto first sought to go about winning the hearts of his new flock. He took interest in their occupations and their daily toils, to the point where large crowds gathered to converse when he passed on the streets. Noting a desire for learning among the uneducated, the future pope proposed to start a night school in the village. Many of the men protested, saying, "How can we repay you? We

**Restoring All Things in Christ—
Interceding for Us in Heaven**

Having humble origins in a remote corner of Italy, Giuseppe Sarto was raised up by Divine Providence to become Pope Pius X, one of the greatest popes the Church has ever known. The threats of modernism inside the Church, and anti-Catholicism outside, proved no match for this great champion of the rights of God.

With 2014 marking 100 years since his passing, let us look back on his remarkable life and witness the heroism displayed by this true lion of the Church.



House where Giuseppe Melchior Sarto, later Saint Pius X, was born on June 2, 1835, in Riese, Italy.



Seminary in Padua, Italy where Saint Pius X studied from 1850 on.

have no money to offer. What can be done in return?" "Stop swearing," came the swift reply from Father Sarto, "and I shall be more than repaid."

He later confessed to sleeping only four hours nightly, zealously applying all his waking hours to good works, study, and the life of prayer. To raise funds he would often preach missions in the neighboring towns, but more often than not this wealth would not reach home with him—he had given it all away. Of far more value to those coming to seek his aid would be the zeal he would show in doing good for their souls: a word of encouragement to one, a sound piece of advice to another, even a firm but kind reprimand when one of his sheep was going astray. What began in this small hamlet of Tombolo would be mimicked throughout his long ecclesiastical career.

After nine years at Tombolo, the villagers were very sad to see their beloved father go, though his promotion as pastor in the large town of Salzano

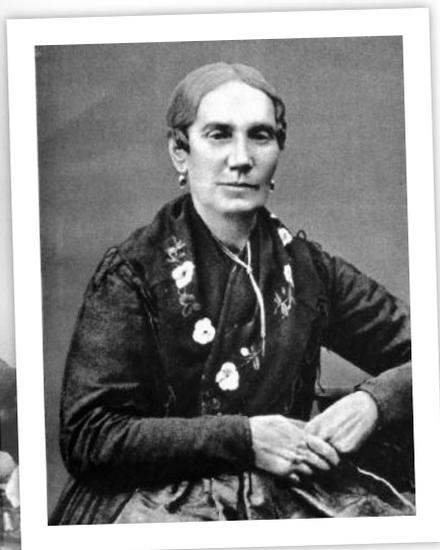
surprised no one. Although he arrived on an oppressively hot day in July, the church was packed with curious faithful, eager to hear their new pastor preach. To their great astonishment, his eloquence and directness left this more discerning audience spellbound.

The year 1873 marked a devastating cholera outbreak in Salzano. Father Sarto became all things to all men: doctor, nurse, and sanitary inspector, as well as parish priest. He tenderly saw to the sick and the dying, who trusted him to see to all their needs, both bodily and spiritual. To prevent the spread of the disease, burials had to take place at night. Father Sarto assured that all of the ceremonial of the Church was carried out, recited all the prayers for the dead, served as pallbearer when the need arose, and even helped to dig the graves.

"The priest is a man obliged to hard work: 'priest' and 'hard work' are synonyms."

This saying was constantly on Father Sarto's lips, himself living it out even to the point of exhaustion, his strenuous labors catching the eye of the bishop of Treviso. When his name was proposed to fill a vacancy as canon of the Cathedral, no time was wasted in preparing him for his new post. Along with his duties at the cathedral, Monsignor Sarto now looked after the seminary as spiritual director.

He threw all his energies into his new assignments, showing particular zeal in the formation of new priests. Young seminarians felt at ease to come to him with any problems, and his door was always open to receive them. The ardor with which he lived out his priesthood reinforced everything being taught by the faculty. Monsignor Sarto took upon himself the task of preparing chil-



Above: Saint Pius X's mother, Margarita Sarto. Left: Saint Pius X as a young seminarian.

dren for First Holy Communion, and his public preaching became famous throughout Treviso for its impeccable delivery and profound content.

At Mantua: the Shepherd Confronts the Wolves

In 1879, upon the vacancy of the see of Treviso, Monsignor Sarto was appointed and consecrated bishop. In 1884, Pope Leo XIII appointed him bishop of Mantua.

In Italy at the end of the nineteenth century, the anti-Catholic forces were mobilizing to eradicate any influence of the Church on society. This persecution could be seen within the confines of the Church as well, with many modernists taking important posts in Catholic universities and seminaries, promoting many errors of the day, including secularism, liberalism and relativism, while asserting that Church teaching must conform itself to the present era. The newly appointed Bishop Sarto of Mantua confronted these modernists head-on, boldly affirming the perennial teaching of Holy Mother Church amid the partisans of what he would famously call “the synthesis of all heresies.”

Bishop Sarto first went about the task of uniting the clergy to fight these pernicious errors. In a letter to the pastors of his diocese, he enjoined his fellow apostles: “A priest’s life is a continual warfare against evil, which cannot fail to raise up powerful enemies. In order that they may not prevail against us, let us be united in charity amongst ourselves; thus we shall be invincible and strong as a rock.”

Later, he directly addressed the people of his dio-

cese with powerful words that summarized the program he would spend the rest of his life carrying out:

“We must fight the capital crime of our day, which is the substitution of man for God; we must illumine with the Ten Commandments, with the evangelical counsels, and with the institutions of the Church all the problems that the Church and the Gospels have so clearly and triumphantly resolved; in education, in family life, in private ownership, in rights and duties, we must restore Christian equilibrium among the difficult conditions of society; we must pacify the earth and inherit heaven: This is the mission that I must carry out among you, restoring all things to the reign of God, of Jesus Christ, and His Vicar on earth, the Pope.”

Bishop Sarto became well known for his defense of Catholic principles, which earned him the respect of even the liberals and anti-clericals of the day. The Catholic forces lionized him for lending great support to defending the rights of the Church.

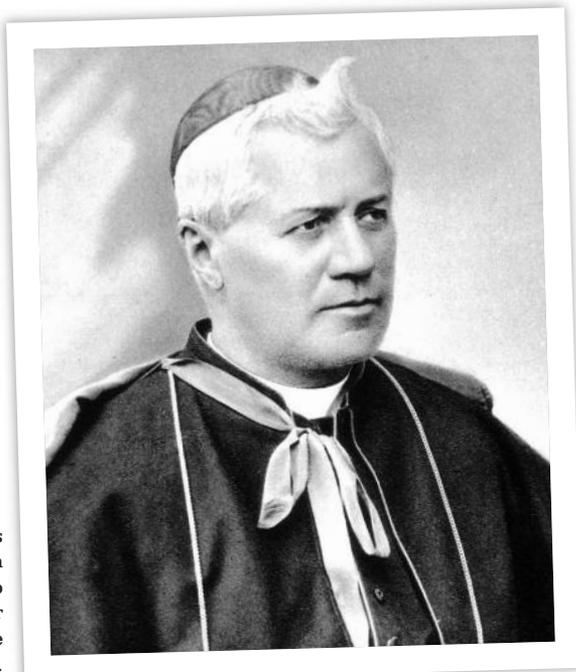
Patriarch of Venice: Proclaiming the Splendors of the Faith

The sudden passing of the Patriarch of Venice in 1893 hastened Pope Leo XIII to nominate a replacement, and Bishop Sarto of Mantua was his natural choice for the post. As had happened in his previous assignments, his flock was sad to see him leave but not surprised that such a gifted son of the Church should be called to greater pursuits.

Relations with the Italian government of the day were strained, and the civil leaders claimed the right to nominate all ecclesiastical posts in Northern Italy. Bishop Sarto, now elevated to cardinal, had to wait sixteen months before being allowed to enter the city and take his rightful place as the city’s patriarch.

At Venice, the anticlerical faction had seized power. The masonic lodges arranged blasphemous demonstrations in the city streets, openly mocking the Real Presence and other Catholic doctrines.

To counteract these brazen attacks, Cardinal Sarto organized a Eucharistic Congress of Reparation for the week beginning August 8, 1897. The week consisted of a series of grand processions, powerful sermons, and sublime liturgies. The Congress closed with a Eucharistic Exhibition at the Church of San Rocco, where sacred vessels spanning the centuries were carefully displayed showcasing the fine Venetian craftsmanship in honoring the Blessed Sacrament. At the closing procession, Cardinal Sarto gave the solemn Eucharistic Benediction before throngs of faithful gathered at the banks of the Venetian lagoon.



Saint Pius X was made a cardinal in 1893 by Pope Leo XIII and later appointed to be the Patriarch of Venice.



Cardinal Sarto, Patriarch of Venice, carrying the monstrance during a Eucharistic procession.

This awe-inspiring culmination of the week of festivities honoring our Eucharistic Lord had repercussions throughout Italy and abroad. No one could doubt the future pope's incomparable devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and his unshakeable faith in the power of the well-executed ceremonies of the Holy Catholic Church to evangelize.

"Take courage...the Lord will help you."

At the age of ninety-four, Pope Leo XIII lay on his deathbed, having spent himself for twenty-five years as head of the Church on earth. The cardinals from around Italy made the journey to Rome in the summer of 1903 to offer their final farewells to their dying father, and on July 19th the venerable pontiff breathed his last.

The Patriarch of Venice approached the conclave of 1903 with such certainty he would remain at his current post that he had purchased a return train ticket with borrowed money. At the first session of the conclave, Cardinal Sarto was surprised when he received five votes. However, he became disturbed when his votes increased at the second session. From the third session he grew increasingly alarmed, begging his fellow cardinals, "Forget me. . . I have not the qualities requisite for a pope." It seemed there would be no arguing with him on the point as he continued to insist the cardinals choose another.

As the majority of the votes settled on Cardinal Sarto, Monsignor Merry del Val, who worked as a secretary in the Vatican, was sent to deliver the message. Not finding him in his apartment, he sought him in the nearby Pauline Chapel. Upon entering, all was still in the quiet sanctuary. Monsi-

gnor Merry del Val looked toward the far corner, where he saw the elected cardinal kneeling on the floor deep in prayer, his face buried in his hands. As he knelt beside Cardinal Sarto to whisper the message to him, eyes streaming with tears, turned to him as the Cardinal reiterated his refusal to accept. Monsignor Merry del Val later wrote concerning this first encounter:

"In the face of such suffering and anguish, the only words I could summon were, 'Take courage, Your Eminence; the Lord will help you.' The cardinal fixed me with a penetrating glance and murmured, 'Thank you, thank you.' It was the first time I had been near him and I felt that I was in the presence of a saint."

The following morning, with Cardinal Sarto conceding to the persistent pleas of his colleagues, he was elevated to the papal throne as Pius X, the 256th Successor of Saint Peter.

Instaurare Omnia in Christo—
To Restore All Things in Christ

Pope Pius X wasted no time, expending all his energies seeing to the most pressing needs of the Church. His first encyclical titled *E Supremi Apostolatus* unequivocally stated his position: "We champion the authority of God. His authority and Commandments should be recognized, deferred to, and respected."

At the heart of his desire to restore all things in Christ was an abiding trust in the Blessed Mother, consecrating his papacy to Our Lady of Confidence. Marking fifty years since the declaration of the Immaculate Conception, his encyclical *Ad Diem Illum Laetissimum* expressed his uncompromising confidence in the Queen of Heaven:

"The Virgin will never cease to help us in our trials, and to carry on the battle fought by her since her conception, so that every day we may repeat: 'Today she again crushed the head of the serpent.'"

Pope Pius soon had to openly engage in a battle against the Church's external enemies. The anti-Catholic government of France confiscated all



Saint Pius X working in the Vatican Gardens. This picture was taken in 1913 when he was recovering from a long illness.



Saint Pius X dressed in full pontifical vestments with the papal tiara.

Church property in the country via a "Law of Separation" passed in 1905. In his encyclical *Vehementer*, he manifested his resistance:

"They [Church property] belong to the worship of God and have been ruthlessly confiscated. The Church was faced with the choice between material ruin and the surrender of her rights given by God. She courageously refused the latter though this meant the loss of all the world holds valuable. . . . We lose our churches, but the Church remains secure."

This bold stance won him the admiration of fervent Catholics and the respect of the Church's declared enemies. But his fight next moved to the battle inside the Church, where modernists whom he had continually fought still spread their errors. The decree *Lamentabili* was his opening salvo, explicitly condemning sixty-five erroneous doctrines, followed by the encyclical *Pascendi Dominici Gregis* which represented a devastating blow to these dissenters. Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira later underscored the great victory marked by this encyclical: "If Saint Pius X had not denounced the modernist heresy, the world would have quickly marched toward pantheism and atheism. As a result, the whole action of communism all over the earth would not have

met the enormous obstacles it did."

"Holy Communion Is the Shortest and Surest Way to Heaven."

In his zeal to build up the Church, the saintly pontiff saw no better means than that of encouraging frequent reception of Holy Communion. At the time such a practice was rare, even among the religious of certain countries. Pope Pius X sought to counter this tendency by issuing a series of decrees encouraging the daily reception of the Blessed Sacrament as a remedy for the many evils threatening the world.

Though not without opposition, this paternal gesture was hailed by fervent Catholics in countries around the globe. The text of the decrees struck to the heart of the matter, confronting the erroneous notion that frequent Communion was only for a select few:

"Children have need of Him that they may be formed in habits of virtue; youth have need of Him that they may obtain mastery over their passions; maidens have need of Him that they may preserve their innocence untarnished; all men and women have need of Him that they may advance in virtue and carry out faithfully the duties of their state in life; there are none who can afford to neglect this great source of spiritual strength, none who can do without Him."

Pope Pius X made his desire crystal clear in a subsequent decree, lowering the age of reception of First Communion from thirteen to seven. Harkening back to the example of Our Lord, he began, "He was indignant at children being turned away by His disciples, whom He rebuked in these grave words: 'Suffer the little children to come unto Me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.'" He then underscored the danger of the postpone-

Novena Prayer to Saint Pius X

Taken from *A Novena to Pope Pius X* by Fr. Lawrence Lovasik

O glorious Pope of the Eucharist, Saint Pius X, who sought to "restore all things in Christ," obtain for me a true love of Jesus so that I may live only for Him. Help me to acquire a lively fervor and a sincere will to strive for sanctity of life, and that I may avail myself of the riches of the Holy Eucharist in sacrifice and sacrament.

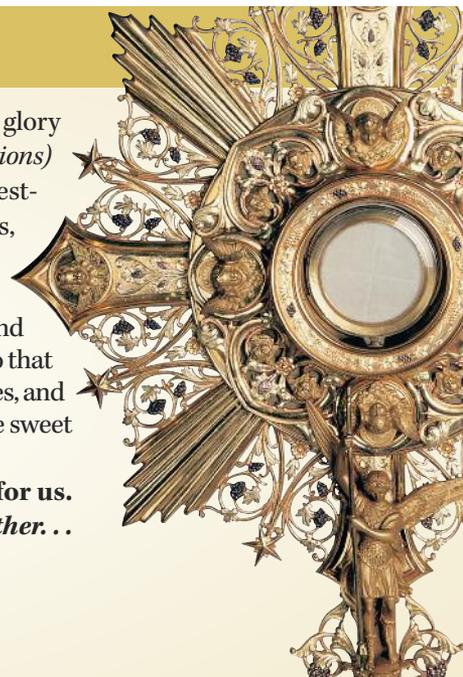
By your love for Mary, Mother and Queen of all, inflame my heart with tender devotion to her. I recommend this present affair to thy special protection. I beg thee to lay it before the throne of Our Lord, and cease not to intercede for me until my re-

quest is granted, if it be for His honor and glory and my good. (*Pause and state your intentions*)

Saint Pius X, blessed model of the priesthood, obtain for us faithful, courageous, holy and dedicated priests, and increase holy vocations to the religious life.

Dispel confusion, hatred and anxiety, and incline our hearts to peace and concord, so that all men, families, public and private societies, and all nations will place themselves under the sweet reign of Christ the King.

**Pope Saint Pius X, pray for us.
Glory be to the Father. . .**



A selection of errors from Saint Pius X's Syllabus Condemning the Errors of Modernists

The following are condemned propositions:

- 26.** The dogmas of the Faith are to be held only according to their practical sense; that is to say, as preceptive norms of conduct and not as norms of believing.
- 41.** The Sacraments are intended merely to recall to man's mind the ever-beneficent presence of the Creator.
- 45.** Not everything which Paul narrates concerning the institution of the Eucharist (I Cor. 11:23-25) is to be taken historically.
- 47.** The words of the Lord, "Receive the Holy Spirit; whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained" (John 20:22-23), in no way refer to the Sacrament of Penance, in spite of what it pleased the Fathers of Trent to say.
- 53.** The organic constitution of the Church is not immutable.

Like human society, Christian society is subject to a perpetual evolution.

- 57.** The Church has shown that she is hostile to the progress of the natural and theological sciences.
- 58.** Truth is no more unchangeable than man himself, since it evolved with him, in him, and through him.
- 59.** Christ did not teach a determined body of doctrine applicable to all times and all men, but rather inaugurated a religious movement adapted or to be adapted to different times and places.
- 62.** The chief articles of the Apostles' Creed did not have the same sense for the Christians of the first ages as they have for the Christians of our time.
- 64.** Scientific progress demands that the concepts of Christian doctrine concerning God, creation, revelation, the Person of the Incarnate Word, and Redemption be re-adjusted.
- 65.** Modern Catholicism can be reconciled with true science only if it is transformed into a non-dogmatic Christianity; that is to say, into a broad and liberal Protestantism.

ment of First Holy Communion: "It is that the little ones, being in the happy condition of their first innocence, stand in the greatest need of that mystical food on account of the many snares and dangers of the present time."

Just as in other matters, he as pope, led by example; children from all parts of Rome were invited to the Vatican, where the Holy Father soon won their hearts by his simple preaching and ever-accessible kindness. He loved to give them their First Holy Communion with his own hands. Letters soon came from children of all countries expressing sincere gratitude for being able to assist at the Heavenly Banquet, delighting the pope to no end.

In the Presence of a Saint

Even during his life, the faithful from many lands attested to miracles, and he always bore the dignity and gravity of his office. Though most witnessed the sadness in his heart at the impending war he foresaw by many years, the goodness he continually showed appeared more angelic than human. Those closest to him knew he was happiest in the presence of children, his innocence perfectly at home in their midst.

With his passing on August 20, 1914, after a reign of only eleven years, the world hardly took notice as the horrors of World War I soon engulfed Europe. He had left a permanent impact on Catholics worldwide, and great pilgrimages began to his tomb once the war concluded. A silver cross was embedded in the floor of Saint Peter's directly above his tomb, as the crypt could not accommodate such great numbers.

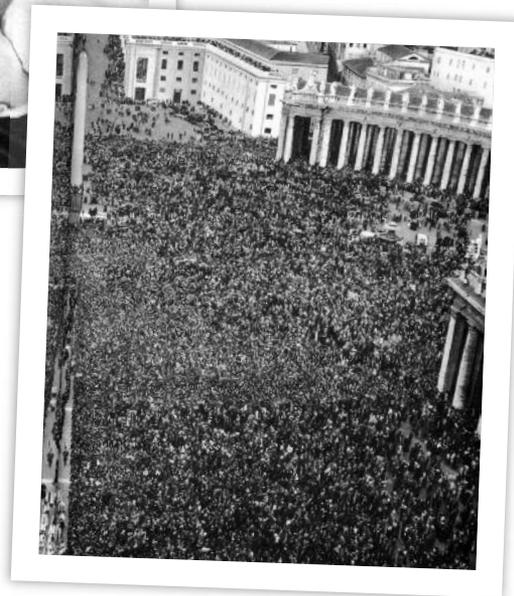


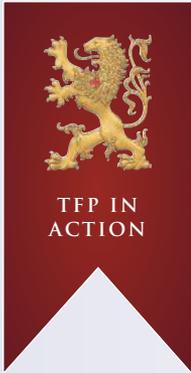
Left: After eleven years of governing the Church in a fierce battle against modernism, Saint Pius X died on August 20, 1914.

Below: Saint Peter's Square on the day of Pius X's beatification by Pope Pius XII.

The bishops of Italy began the process for his cause for canonization, and in 1952 Pope Pius XII beatified his predecessor after the approval of two miracles. Two more miracles followed shortly afterward, the healing in Naples of a lawyer with a severe pulmonary abscess and a French nun suffering from a rare virus attacking the nervous system. Over 800,000 crowded Saint Peter's Square for the Canonization Mass.

Since that great day in 1954, devotion to Saint Pius X has increased worldwide, and he continues his monumental work of restoring all things in Christ. Let us continually have recourse to him for all our needs, most especially for the triumph of the Church in our days over her enemies both internal and external. *Sancte Pie Decime, ora pro nobis!* ■





TFP Protests Anti-Family Group's Presence in CPAC 2014

BY VINCENT GORRE

This year's CPAC once again tried to include an organization that advocates same-sex "marriage" and the homosexual lifestyle. GOProud, a pro-homosexual group, was invited as guest of

the American Conservative Union (ACU), organizers of the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) near Washington, D.C. on March 8th through the 9th.

In a published statement, the American TFP laid out its opposition to GOProud's presence in the nation's largest annual gathering of conservatives by invoking the late President Ronald Reagan, who is the conservative movement's revered icon. President Reagan's famous "three-legged stool" analogy to define conservatism is considered the winning strategic formula that catapulted him and conservatism in general to victory after victory during his time. For Reagan, the conservative movement was like a three-legged stool, consisting of three legs representing social conservatives, national defense conservatives, and economic conservatives. Each leg is an integral part of the whole.

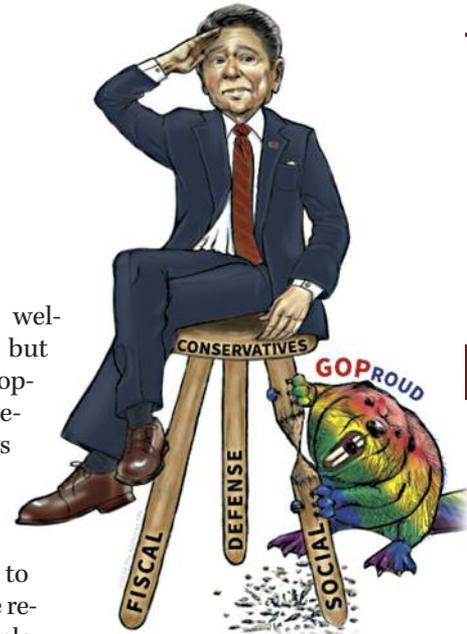
By Reagan's definition, GOProud is disqualified as a bona fide member of the conservative movement since, as the American TFP statement observed: "it directly opposes the work of social conservative activists and contributes to America's moral ruin, through the weakening of the family—the first and fundamental building block of society."¹

In its statement, the American TFP also asked "Why is GOProud a welcomed and official guest at CPAC, when it advocates the legalization of same-sex 'marriage,' thus undermining the votes and dreams of God-fearing Americans?"² Adhering to Reagan's idea of conservatism means that the movement has to stand solidly on the three legs of social conservatism (faith witnessed to in the public square, pro life, traditional marriage, anti-euthanasia, etc.), defense or national security conservatism (anti-pacifist, anti-Islamist, strong military, sovereignty, etc.), and fiscal or economic conservatism (anti-socialist, smaller and less intrusive government, lower tax burden, etc.). Allowing GOProud in the mix undermines the social leg of the whole movement and weakens or betrays its own identity.

The American TFP pointed out further that President Reagan's strategic insight required a unified voice and a unified philosophy of government. Therefore, those who subscribe only to one or two "legs" of the conservative movement's

three-legged stool are still welcomed to join the coalition, but "should refrain from publicly opposing the rest of the movement's efforts on the leg or legs they disagree on." GOProud's website states that they are fiscally conservative. However, one of their purposes is to encourage "committed, stable relationships between two people, regardless of sexual orientation, that promote healthy families and create value within our society."³ This is in direct opposition to social conservatism, which defends marriage as "the union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others."

In his address to the ACU on March 20, 1981, President Reagan himself emphasized the importance of a consistent and unified conservative movement when he said, "We do not have a separate social agenda, a separate economic agenda, and a separate foreign agenda. We have one agenda. Just as surely we seek to put our financial house in order and rebuild our nation's defenses, so too we seek to protect the unborn, to end the manipulation of schoolchildren by utopian planners, and permit the acknowledgment of a Supreme Being in our classrooms just as we allow such acknowledgements in other public institutions."⁴



President Reagan's three-legged stool analogy. Without all three legs, the stool will not stand.

Notes:

1. <http://www.tfp.org/TFP-home/fighting-for-our-culture/will-the-conservative-movement-s-three-legged-stool-remain-standing.html>
2. Ibid.
3. <http://www.goproud.org/#!position-on-marriage/cw7b>
4. <http://www.conservative.org/acu-f/our-philosophy>



American TFP members distributed a statement to CPAC participants pointing out the inconsistency between defending conservative principles and standing by organizations that support same-sex "marriage."



AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA[®]

JULY/AUGUST 2014

PROGRESS REPORT

Pilgrimage to Paray-le-Monial

BY MICHAEL C. SHIBLER

At the end of March, I had the privilege to travel, together with three of my students, to the town of Paray-le-Monial on a mission. We were carrying with us a full backpack of consecrations to the Sacred Heart and a large candle. While we visited many blessed places in France before traveling south to fulfill our mission, there were certain palpable graces in Paray-le-Monial that were distinct from any of the other pilgrim sites we visited in the country. As is normal when unfamiliar with traveling in a foreign country, we arrived at the town late at night and were greeted by a medieval town at rest, possessing all the charms of an ancient civilization at total peace. The streets were silent and the well-lit basilica shone like a polished gem as it was reflected in the crystalline water of the river that slowly meandered past its front. Our little hotel had a wonderful view of the basilica and we ate our small repast in our rooms gazing at the beauty of the basilica through the open window.

The next morning we arose early, and after packing away our belongings in the car, headed to the chapel of the apparitions. There in the tiny chapel where Saint Margaret Mary came face to face with our Divine Redeemer, we stayed for a long while saying our rosaries. After the hectic journey of the previous day, the peace and subtle joy that pervaded the chapel were a balm to our souls as we prayed quietly in front of the body of Saint Margaret Mary. Then with the intentions of the America Needs Fatima members fresh in our minds, we lit our candle, offering up all of their intentions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. After a time, knowing that there was much more to be seen, we headed out and made for the basilica.

The basilica is of Cluny design and origin, which is to say it is both imposing and inspiring. The stone work, much copied by later generations, was austere and serious but not primitive. One could see that the monks who built it were filled with love of God and poured out their souls, not to mention their time and wealth, into making a decent abode for



Michael Chad Shibler of ANF, accompanied by students from Saint Louis de Montfort Academy, delivers a large candle and intentions to the Sacred Heart shrine at Paray-le-Monial in France.



their Lord. These stolid men normally built their monasteries in desolate places far from the hubbub of the centers of commerce. The village of Paray-le-Monial which eventually grew up around the abbey is a testimony to the civilizing effect that these early monks had on the formerly rugged countryside of France. Centuries later, we still come from afar to gaze in wonder at the faith they had, a faith which they engraved in stone.

After leaving the basilica, we headed out of the town but not before visiting the tomb of that other great devotee of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Saint Claude de la Colombière. Inside a fantastic marble church built by the Jesuits reposes the body of this great saint whose name is as linked to the apparitions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus as that of Saint Margaret Mary. It was the vocation of the cloistered nun, Saint Margaret Mary, to see, to speak to and to unite herself mystically with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, while it was the vocation of the Jesuit priest Saint Claude de la Colombiere to spread that devotion to the entire world. In front of his resplendent tomb, we thanked him for helping us know and appreciate the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. ■



Fatima Candle Deliveries

BY KEVIN RITCHIE

On May 13, 2014, in Fatima, Portugal, the sky was blue and the sun shone brightly, much as in Lucia's description of Our Lady's first apparition ninety seven years ago. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims flooded the Fatima square, a marvellous sight. They looked to honor our Heavenly Mother, as well as seek her help. It was not difficult to find a group of such pilgrims to help us with our offering of twelve candles, each made from melting thousands of small candles mailed to us from across the nation by America Needs Fatima members who could only be there in spirit.

We also presented Our Lady with another act of homage: a banner made from "prayer squares" personally inscribed with the names and intentions of hundreds of America Needs Fatima members and sewn into a banner. It was my privilege to be one among the many thousands, an America Needs Fatima representative and custodian of such beautiful manifestations of devotion. As we offered the intentions and names of all those featured on the banner to Our Lady, we prayed the rosary at the *capelinha*, the exact spot where Our Lady appeared.

These acts of devotion and piety made an impressive and moving statement. Pilgrims from all over the world would stop and ask us where we came from and what our offerings represented. The answer would always bring a smile and a word of encouragement knowing that there is such a strong Fatima movement in America. ■



Many large candles and a large cloth banner with more than 8,000 signatures of ANF members were taken to the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima on May 13th, anniversary of the first apparition.

Victims of Castro's Communism

On Saturday, February 22, 2014, members of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property joined nearly 5,000 people who gathered for the inauguration of a monument to the victims of communism in Miami's Tamiami Park in Florida. The monument, with its tall central column featuring the flag of Cuba on its three sides, has walls similar to the Vietnam War Memorial with the names of all those killed while either fleeing or fighting against the communist regime. A flag honor guard and the bugle call of "taps" honored those who had fallen, with many of the victims' relatives in attendance.

Stirring speeches were given by many local leaders and U.S. Senator Marco Rubio. After the event ended, Sergio de Paz of the Cuban exile group, *Cubanos Desterrados*, led a rosary for the victims of communism in front of a statue of



Joseph Jordan of the American TFP plays "taps" during the ceremony of inauguration of a monument to victims of communism at Tamiami Park, Miami, Florida.

Our Lady of Fatima. "Taps" was played once again at the monument and at another monument under construction that will have over 10,000 crosses, each bearing the name of one of the victims. ■



Rallies in Defense of Marriage

In response to an appeal from America Needs Fatima's director, Mr. Robert E. Ritchie, more than 250 America Needs Fatima members and friends signed up to lead rallies as a part of the Saint Joseph Crusade for Traditional Marriage. This spiritual crusade was organized to hold rallies across our nation on Saturday, March 22, the Saturday closest to Saint Joseph's feast day, March 19th.

In the rallying email, Mr. Robert Ritchie stated:

“Because our political and Church leaders are proving themselves unable or unwilling to stop the stunning advances of the homosexual revolution:

- **Same-sex ‘marriage’ is already legal in eighteen states.**
- **Young children are forced to learn about homosexuality in public schools.**
- **Clergy almost never preach against the sin of homosexuality from the pulpit.**
- **Homosexuals serve openly in the military.”**



The legalization of same-sex “marriage” in eighteen states is a wake-up call for every American who cherishes God’s marriage as that of one man and one woman. In several instances the American people have voiced their rejection of homosexual “marriage,” only to be despotically ignored by court rulings.

Under the protection of Saint Joseph, patron of families, once more America Needs Fatima took to the streets, with signs and rosaries in hand, making a public stand for the holiness of marriage before God and men.

Those who signed up as Rally Captains in response to Mr. Ritchie’s email received a free banner that read: “God’s marriage = 1 Man + 1 Woman.” People were also encouraged to make signs that read, “HONK for traditional marriage!”

Several groups reported that while there was some unsavory opposition, the honks and thumbs-up in favor were far more abundant.

May Our Lady of Fatima protect our country and may she bless all those fighting to keep America Christian! ■

On March 22nd, the Saturday closest to Saint Joseph’s feast day, more than 250 courageous members of America Needs Fatima answered the call and led rallies in the public square to defend God’s marriage.



CUSTODIAN'S
CORNER

Our Lady of Surprises

BY BEN BROUSSARD

One snowy February morning, I had the honor of visiting Larry and Helen Hornbake at their farm, nestled in the hills west of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The couple was very apologetic about the small turnout at the visit, but as all Fatima custodians can attest, Our Lady brings who she wants.

As the presentation progressed, a knock at the door signaled the arrival of one of their neighbors. This gentleman quietly took his seat and did not speak much during the visit. He did mention he had been looking for work, and we made sure to include this intention in the rosary.

Once the rosary concluded, I remarked that I recognized the picture of the couple's son on the wall, as I had the honor to get to know him many years ago in Washington, D.C. My hosts excitedly called their son on his cell phone, and to their amazement he actually answered. We proceeded to converse at length, a splendid opportunity to reconnect after so many years.

The following week, Larry called me to let me know their unemployed neighbor had stayed long after my departure that morning. As he was going out the door, he asked to accompany them to Mass. It turns out he had been away from the sacraments for some time, and he realized that day Our Lady was calling him back. Larry then informed me that this gentleman's father had passed away the year before, but thanks to Larry

and Helen visiting him and talking with him, this lifelong Protestant converted to the Catholic faith and received the last sacraments a short time before he died.

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



Our Fatima Custodians visit thousands of families throughout the year and most of their stories will remain untold. These are the never-ending stories of Our Lady touching souls and performing powerful changes.

With a characteristic sense of humor, Larry and Helen later remarked that there were three miracles that day: that I knew their son, that he answered his cell phone when they called him, and the real miracle—their neighbor and friend returned to the Church.

All of this reminded me of the lesser-known title of the great Mother of God who arranges these unexpected encounters: Our Lady of Surprises. This invocation is associated with the wedding at Cana, where, because of Mary's insistence, Our Lord performed His first miracle to the astonishment of the apostles. May Our Lady of Surprises intercede before Our Lord to send abundant graces to call many more of her children back to the One True Faith. ■

DISCOURAGED BY BLASPHEMY?

Let America Needs Fatima help you do something about the attacks against Our Lord, Our Lady and the Faith by signing up for e-mail alerts at www.ANF.org/Alerts



Join America Needs Fatima's e-mail list at www.ANF.org/Alerts

Fulfill your obligation of defending the honor of God, His mother, His Holy Church, and good order in society by being part of this growing and powerful network. With a few clicks you will be able to sign petitions and send protest messages to those responsible for public blasphemy.

You will also be notified of reparation and protest rally locations near you.



Our Readers Write...



Texas March for Life

I hope you can pass this along to the TFP individual photographed here. We were at the Rally for Life in Austin, Texas. Along with a few hundred pro-abortion demonstrators, members of the uncivil group "anonymous" were in attendance to harass the thousands of pro-life advocates. As two "anonymous" fellas approached a group of nuns, a TFP member intervened and engaged them in a civilized debate.

I must add that the Texas state troopers were very respectful of everyone's rights to be there although they encouraged the "anonymous" crew to unmask or leave.

All in all, the pro lifers united to multiply again next year.

Arm in arm, prayer by prayer, hoping to overturn *Roe v. Wade* soon.

K.C., Austin, Texas

Crusade Magazine

I have been a subscriber of *Crusade Magazine* for more than 10 years and I love it. I like very much the articles, its vision and the true Catholic spirit that is shown on its pages.

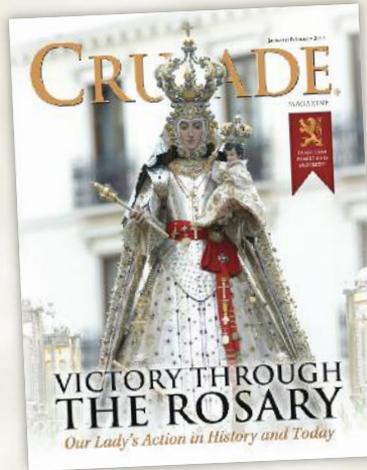
P.M., Lyndhurst, N. J.

Crusade is like a breath of fresh air for our country.

C.M., Staten Island, NY.

Thank you for the great job you all are doing. I only wish I could do more. Thanks for *Crusade Magazine*. I give it to my children for their Sunday reading and for my young boys to aspire to be like the young men that fill the pages of the magazine.

E.U., Saint Mary's, Kan.



I have just read your wonderful article in the *Crusade Magazine*, issue of Jan/Feb 2014. It just takes my breath away to read of the power of Our Lady's intercession throughout history.

F.F., Whittier, Calif.

Send us your feedback by writing to us at Crusade@TFP.org

Consider putting America Needs Fatima in your will and your generosity will help win the

FUTURE OF AMERICA

... because the Fatima message is one of the most powerful gifts to give to the next generation.

Your help will make the following works possible:

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



Use your will to give devotion to the next generation!

Louisa is waiting to help you. Call her at (888) 317-5571.



Amid Outcry, Black Mass at Harvard Cancelled

BY MICHELLE TAYLOR

A reenactment of a black mass scheduled at Harvard University for the night of May 12th (the vigil of Our Lady of Fatima) was cancelled amid outcry from students, alumni, Catholic groups, Church officials, and Boston's Cardinal Sean O'Malley who called the event "repugnant."

The Harvard Extension Cultural Studies Club was the promoter of what it billed as an "educational" black mass, which was to be staged by the Satanic Temple out of New York City.

In response to the news, and many calls and emails, America Needs Fatima sent an email alert to its members and friends in the Boston area, then joined Catholic Action League, and local Catholics gathered at Harvard to protest the event.

The protest featured the recitation of the Rosary, the prayer to Saint Michael, and hymns to the Blessed Virgin Mary. A statue of Our Lady of Fatima was carried by members of TFP/America Needs Fatima. A group mostly wearing black with satanic insignias mocked the prayers, and showed special animosity against the statue. But the protest continued peacefully and undeterred.

Nothing is more sacred to Catholics

than the Holy Mass, the unbloody renewal of the sacrifice of Calvary. Through the words of consecration by a duly ordained priest, Jesus is truly present under the appearance of bread and wine.

Only a God could leave Himself in His "last will." To a Catholic, the Holy Eucharist is Jesus' last testament, in which He makes the miraculous, ongoing gift of Himself in the fulfillment of His promise "I will not leave you orphans" (John 14:18).

Shockingly, a black mass is a sacrilegious ceremony designed as a parody and a mockery of the Catholic Mass. Steeped in witchcraft, and invoking Satan, the ritual is centered around the desecration of the Eucharist, often a consecrated host procured for that purpose. Initially, a spokesman for the Satanic Temple said a consecrated host would be used at Harvard, but later both the Temple and the Cultural Studies Club denied this.

After the black mass was cancelled, Harvard senior Aurora Griffin told Catholic News Agency, that despite the "great evil" of the sacrilegious attempt, "there's been some very good things



American TFP members in ceremonial habit carry the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in protest and reparation for the black mass planned at Harvard University.

coming out of the opposition to it." She remarked that the response of concerned Catholics "has been overwhelmingly positive."

According to CNA, Catholics across the United States and around the world gathered to hold Eucharistic Adoration and Masses in reparation. At the university's parish of Saint Paul, there was standing room only for a Holy Hour held at 8 p.m. after the Campus Eucharistic Procession.

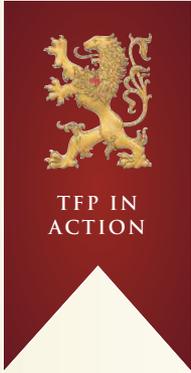
CNA also mentioned that an online petition by TFP Student Action, affiliated with America Needs Fatima, gathered 39,000 signatures calling on Harvard to cancel the event. In total, the number of signatures which TFP Student Action submitted to Harvard's president Dr. Drew Faust was 44,000. The number of signatures was still climbing after the delivery. At times the website froze due to the surge of incoming messages.

Indeed, Catholics refused to be indifferent or remain silent in face of the vile outrage. The result was the cancellation of a sacrilegious act at Harvard that attacks not only the Holy Eucharist and the Catholic Church, but also reveals a broadening agenda to destroy the very notion of "one nation under God." In addition, it aims to mainstream Satanism in America, which must not be allowed to happen.

Reaction obtains results. Go Catholics! ■

Catholic groups processed in protest and reparation in front of the building where the intended black mass was to take place. The reaction to the black mass was such throughout the country that the sacrilegious event was canceled, late that afternoon.





TFP Louisiana Conference

BY ANDREA F. PHILLIPS

March 29, 2014, was a typical spring day in southern Louisiana, temperate and sunny, perfect for a lively gathering of concerned Catholics at Mary's House, headquarters of TFP Louisiana Inc., in Lafayette. Supporters and friends from around Louisiana and neighboring

states met for a one-day conference, featuring guest speakers from the American TFP headquarters in Pennsylvania, and Mr. Thomas Drake, TFP-Louisiana president.

The speakers spoke on topics concerning Catholic teaching and culture as challenged in today's world, subjects that kept members of the audience on the edge of their seats.

Mr. Gary Isbell opened the conference with a talk entitled "Honor Thy Father and Mother." Mr. Isbell linked his discourse to the organization's latest release, *Return to Order*, (20,000 copies sold to date) a book by John Horvat II that seeks to restore Christian honor, temperance and the human element to the tottering economy. Masterfully demonstrating the connection between the Fourth Commandment and the health of the family, and, therefore, the health of society, Mr. Isbell made a clear case for a strong economy based on the "rule of honor," rather than the "rule of money."

Next spoke Mr. Michael Drake, on "Silent. . . Evil and Powerful: How Architecture Influences Us for Good or Evil." He demonstrated that when architecture follows the God-given principles of wholeness, integrity, proportion, balance, light and radiance, as it does in the great cathedrals of Europe, it powerfully moves the human soul towards God. When those principles are contradicted, producing distortion, imbalance, heaviness and darkness, architecture can influence the

human spirit away from God. Illustrating his talk with power point projections, he effectively engaged the audience, which volunteered personal experiences.

The third speaker was Mr. Gregory Escaro, teacher and band conductor for the TFP-staffed Saint Louis de Montfort Academy. Sitting at a keyboard, Mr. Escaro delivered an entertaining demonstration on the power of music in human development and formation. He showed that good music is made of melody, harmony and rhythm. In the right proportions, these three elements rest and elevate the spirit and enhance intelligence and mood, as proven in many studies. On the other hand, the breaking of these rules can produce the opposite effect, by introducing unrest, debasement and chaos in the human spirit.

Mr. Thomas Drake closed the day with an impressive exposition of national and local TFP/ANF activities in 2013: pro-life marches, engagements, and conferences; dissemination of *Return to Order*; campaigns in defense of marriage; anti-blasphemy protests; Public Square Rosary Rallies for our nation; mothers' and daughters' teas for the promotion of Christian culture; and much more.

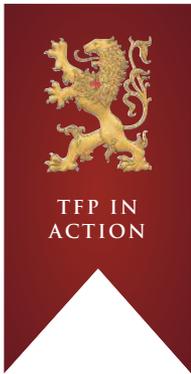
In between talks, participants enjoyed a delicious lunch and wine/cheese snack right out of *Southern Living* magazine as expertly prepared and served by mothers and friends of TFP in Louisiana.

Between the weather, the invigorating talks, and the charming Southern hospitality, both soul and body were replenished at the TFP Louisiana Conference. ■



Similar regional conferences were sponsored by the American TFP and America Needs Fatima in:

- Topeka, Kan. • March 29
- Hazleton, Pa. • April 6
- Los Angeles, Calif. • April 26
- Sacramento, Calif. • April 27
- Honolulu, Hawaii • May 3
- Chicago, Ill. • May 24



Campaign for Traditional Marriage

BY BEN BROUSSARD AND JAMES DONLON

With high spirits, two caravan groups of ten TFP Student Action volunteers each set out to travel the highways of America defending traditional marriage. Fully aware of the ongoing spiritual and cultural battle nationwide, the endeavor was confidently placed under the protection of Saint Joseph, who is the Pillar of Families. His protection could be felt from day one, and it wasn't long before the young men found themselves engaging the public in the battle for the very soul of America.

The first step was a joint campaign at Penn State University in College Station, Pennsylvania. From there, the two teams went on separate routes, covering cities in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana in seven days. The TFP volunteers distributed the flier "10 Reasons Why Homosexual Marriage Is Harmful and Must be Opposed" to students, faculty and the general public on busy sidewalks and intersections near universities and downtown areas.

The young, clean-cut and well-dressed TFP Student Action volunteers, with their bright red standards, capes, large banners, bagpipes and slogans elicited mixed reactions from the public. Always maintaining a proper decorum, the volunteers were unfazed by the sometimes hostile attitude of counter protesters who hurled vulgarities and insults at them. However, many positive reactions from traditional marriage supporters more than made up for the negative responses.

It was indeed a spiritual and cultural battle. TFP Student Action volunteers were able to proclaim the sanctity of marriage, thanks to the protection and guidance of its patron, Saint Joseph! ■



TFP volunteers peacefully and legally rallied support for traditional marriage in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana.

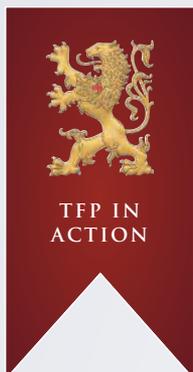
From college campuses to busy street corners, TFP Student Action members found incredible support.



Go to www.TFPStudentAction.org to see more TFPSA activities.

The Battle Against RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

BY VINCENT GORRE



There was snow and rain outside the Supreme Court building on March 25, 2014 when members of TFP Student Action displayed their large banner that read “God’s Law Comes First, Repeal Socialist Obamacare!” The occasion was the hearing of oral arguments for the case of *Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. v. Sebelius* and its companion case, *Conestoga Wood Specialties Corp. v. Sebelius* before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Both cases involve the Affordable Care Act (ACA), popularly known as Obamacare and its contraception mandate. Hobby Lobby and Conestoga are family-owned private businesses that are suing the government for infringing on their First Amendment rights to freely practice their religion under a 1993 federal law which states that “Government shall not substantially burden a person’s exercise of religion even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability.”

The contraception mandate in Obamacare stipulates that employers need to provide health care for their employees that covers all forms of contraception including abortifacient drugs. Both families that own Hobby Lobby and Conestoga are opposed to the contraception mandate because of their religious beliefs. The Obamacare law would force these two families to violate their consciences or, if they don’t comply with the law, face large, crippling fines. During the arguments, all three women justices, who are known to be part of the liberal wing of the court, seemed to side with the government. The Court is scheduled to rule on these cases by June of this year.

Joined by like-minded groups and organizations who are opposed to Obamacare, members of TFP Student Action were on hand to show their support for Hobby Lobby and Conestoga in their fight against the mandate. Their orderly and prayerful rally was a stark contrast to Obamacare supporters’ constant yelling and screaming at their own rally nearby.

The fight against Obamacare is very important as it is a part of the broader battle against secularism and socialism in

America today. Other legitimate freedoms are also threatened, since by its nature, socialism leads to the rejection of God and replaces Him with a



Top: TFP Student Action joined other pro-life organizations in protesting against religious persecution in front of the Supreme Court in the cases of *Hobby Lobby v. Sebelius* and *Conestoga Wood Specialties Corp. v. Sebelius*. **Middle:** Father Frank Pavone of Priests for Life addresses group of protesters. **Above:** Protesters held signs and chanted slogans in front of the Supreme Court building early that cold, snowy morning.

dictatorial and totalitarian state, in which there will be no true freedom for anyone. It is important to continue the legal and peaceful fight for our rights with strong conviction, courage and confidence in Our Lady’s promise at Fatima: “Finally, my Immaculate Heart will triumph!” ■

A counter protest bases its argument on the “rule” of the majority.





A CANDLE'S *Flame*

BY NELSON FRAGELLI

A candle's flame, the most common but, perhaps, most beautiful expression of fire, seldom fails to draw the human eye, which is rarely indifferent to its flickering charm. Though always the same, the flame never repeats its harmonious movements. Endeavoring to capture the flame's glowing dance, alas, an artist must settle for a single one of its countless outlines.

Perhaps the flame's changeability points to its many symbols.

A candle's flame is the tenderest expression of fire. Seemingly fragile, hesitant, it flickers in need of protection. Continually reborn of the wax that sustains and nourishes it, it dissolves into thin air. On an altar, especially during Holy Mass, its tenderness calls to mind God's infinite goodness, His burning love and protection of His frail children.

Saint Bonaventure writes that fire warms the love of God in us. That is, the contemplation of fire and flame can stoke in us the love of the Creator of wonders, even if the thought of Him is not explicit.

To produce light, the candle consumes itself in "sacrifice." As fire transforms the wax, the droplets of wax gathered around the flame are like so many sacrificial tears; so also sacrifice purifies our souls.

Thus, on the altar, the flame gently lifts our minds to Our Lord Jesus Christ, Light of the World, Who offered and consumed Himself as a victim for all.

On one hand, as we contemplate fire, its mysteries warm our thoughts. Fire is light to our eyes, a protector from the cold, and a purifier—but it can also destroy.

On the other hand, the flickering, frail flame of a candle reminds contemporary man of how fragile is God's love in this world. A single person who truly loves God can ignite many souls. There are saints, such as Saint Bernard and Saint Teresa of Avila, who set nations and continents on fire. But the élan of God's love can be smothered by temptations, especially in the wicked days in which we live.

Saint Thomas Aquinas notes that, in its verticality, the flame seeks to soar. This natural movement is one of its symbols. On the altar, the upward flicker leads our eyes, thoughts and desires to God on high. *Sursum Corda*, "Lift up your hearts," *Habemus ad Dominum*, "We have lifted them up to the Lord."

When we enter an empty church, nothing is more comforting than candles burning at the altar of Our Lady or that of a saint. From a distance their light proclaims living faith and persistent devotion, their glow welcomes and protects us. We kneel by a side altar to pray and the minutes fly by. Sooner or later we must leave; but we can light a candle which will symbolically take our place and burn while we are away. ■