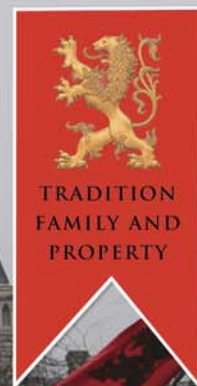


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May/June 2009

MAGAZINE



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FORGOTTEN
TRUTHS

The Power of a Single Hail Mary*

BY SAINT LOUIS DE MONFORT

One day, when Saint Mechtilde was praying and trying to think of some way in which she could express her love of the Blessed Mother better than she had done before, she fell into ecstasy. Our Lady appeared to her with the Angelic Salutation in flaming letters of gold upon her bosom and said to the saint, "My daughter, I want you to know that no one can please me more than by saying the salutation, which the Most Adorable Trinity sent to me and by which He raised me to the dignity of Mother of God.

"By the word *Ave*, which is the name for Eve, I learned that in His infinite power God had preserved me from all sin and its attendant misery that Eve had been subject to.

"The name *Mary*, which means 'lady of light,' shows that God has filled me with wisdom and light, like a shining star, to light up heaven and Earth.

"The words *full of grace* remind me that the Holy Spirit has showered so many graces upon me that I am able to give these graces in abundance to those who ask for them through me as Mediatrix.

"When people say *The Lord is with thee*, they renew the indescribable joy that was mine when the Eternal Word became incarnate in my womb.

"When you say to me *blessed art thou among women*, I praise Almighty God's divine mercy, which lifted me to this exalted plane of happiness.

"And at the words *blessed is the fruit of thy womb*, Jesus, the whole of heaven rejoices with me to see my Son Jesus Christ adored and glorified for having saved mankind." ■

*Adapted from Saint Louis de Montfort's *The Secret of the Rosary* (Montfort Publications, Bay Shore, N.Y., 1954), 44–45.

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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. © 2009 by The Foundation for a Christian Civilization, Inc. This publication includes images from iStockphoto™ which are protected by copyright laws of the U.S. and elsewhere. ISSN 1096-3782 LCCN 98-641433 M-99

CRUSADE

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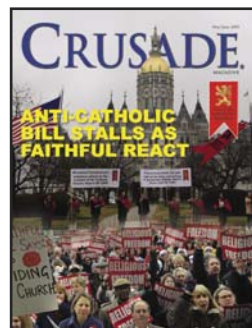
The American TFP

The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) was founded in 1973 to confront the profound crisis shaking the modern world. 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.

Cover:

Faithful Catholics protest anti-Catholic bill at Connecticut State Building.



Page 9 Remembering the first martyr of our country.



Page 22 Interview with Father Frank Pavone on unmasking abortion.

Page 10
Thousands demand that pro-homosexual lawmakers in Connecticut "Leave the Church Alone!"



IN BRIEF

More Pro-Life Legislation Forges Ahead

The North Dakota House has passed a bill, 77 to 9, which will require abortion clinics to offer women an ultrasound image of their unborn baby. The Georgia Senate has passed a bill barring the creation of human embryos for research. In South Carolina, a bill requiring a 24-hour waiting period before an abortion has received initial approval from a House subcommittee. In Nebraska, two pro-life bills have been introduced in committee: one bill would require abortion clinics to give the mother the option of seeing an ultrasound image of her unborn baby, and the other bill would require clinics to make ultrasound images available or refer the mother to a place where she can get a free ultrasound. Texas and Wyoming also are considering legislation requiring the availability of ultrasounds for expectant mothers.



Faith in Evolution Declines

In 1985, 45 percent of Americans believed in Darwinism, a minority that would decrease to 40 percent in 2005. This year, 200 years after Charles Darwin's birth, only 39 percent believe in his theory, according to a new Gallup poll. In contrast, belief in God is at a strong 86 percent while atheism is at 6 percent.



Human-Animal Hybrid Cloning Is a Dead End

Cloning enthusiast Robert Lanza, a controversial lead scientist at the biotechnology firm Advanced Cell Technology, authored a study illustrating the near impossibility of a successful human-animal hybrid from which to harvest embryonic stem cells for research purposes. Alan Trounson, president of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, agreed with the report and added that the ethical research in adult stem cells is more promising. For this reason, scientists involved in cloning, including Ian Wilmut, the prominent British scientist who created Dolly the sheep, are turning to adult stem-cell research.

Degrading Lyrics Linked to Promiscuity

Researchers from the University of Pittsburgh surveyed 711 American students aged 13 and 18, and found that young men and women listening to rap, pop or rock-and-roll songs with degrading sexual

lyrics are over two times more likely to engage in promiscuous activity than their contemporaries who are less exposed to these songs. The lead researcher, Professor Brian Primack, said, "These results support the need for additional research and educational intervention in this area."



Communism Is Not Dead

The wounds caused by communism are still present and are poisoning the life and society of nations formerly behind the Iron Curtain, affirmed Eastern Euro-

pean bishops in February 2009 after a conference in Zagreb, Croatia. Cardinal Josip Bozanic, archbishop of Zagreb and vice president of the Council of European Episcopal Conferences, added that despite the fall of communism, "its structure has remained in legislation and in judicial power, in the economy, in education and in culture," which makes it, among other things, extremely difficult to replant the seeds of truth.



Americans Don't Want More Abortions

Only a minority of Americans supported President Obama's decision to terminate the Mexico City Policy. The overturned policy prohibited taxpayer funding of overseas family-planning groups providing abortions or offering abortion counseling. The decision was met by a 65 percent disapproval rating in Gallup polls, a reaction that will likely dampen future pro-abortion desires.

Youthful Without Cursing

The "No Cussing Club," an international group of teenagers who have pledged to stop cursing, has grown to over 20,000 teenagers worldwide. The club was started in 2007 by a 14-year-old junior high schooler in South Pasadena, California, after he challenged his peers to stop cursing for a day. Wanting to help his friends, he incorporated his challenge into a non-cursing club of friends that still continues to grow with the help of the Internet.

THE MONTH OF MARY

BY PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA



RELIGION

During May, the month of Mary, we feel Our Lady's special protection along with a unique joy that lights up our hearts. This joy is the expression of the Catholic certainty that never is our heavenly mother's patronage more tender, loving and visible than in the month of May.

Provided we were attentive to the thirty one days dedicated to Our Lady, even after May is passed, a remnant of this joyous feeling hangs in the air. We find that our devotion grew, our trust increased and our intimacy with Our Lady deepened. We now

face life's challenges with renewed confidence, knowing better how to pray to her with respectful insistence, invincible trust and humble gratitude for all the good she works in our behalf.

Our Lady is the Queen of Heaven and Earth and, at the same time, our mother. We enter May with this conviction, strengthening our faith and increasing our fortitude, and it becomes more deeply rooted in us when we leave it. May teaches us to love Mary Most Holy for the glory she rightly possesses and for all that she represents in the plans of Divine Providence. May also teaches us to be more constant in our filial union with Mary.

Children are never surer of their mothers' loving vigilance than when they suffer. All of mankind suffers today in every conceivable way. Windstorms of impiety, skepticism and messianism sweep through minds and devastate them. Nebulous, confused and rash ideas filter into every milieu and mislead not only the wretched and the lukewarm, but sometimes even those of whom greater constancy in the Faith is expected.

Those who are tenaciously faithful to the fulfillment of duty suffer from all the adversity they meet by their fidelity to the Law of Christ. Yet those who transgress the Law also suffer, for without Christ every pleasure is nothing but bitterness and every joy is nothing but a lie.

Hearts suffer, torn by the psychological warfare that is so intense in our days. Bodies suffer, overtaxed by work, undermined by illness and overwhelmed by all sorts of needs.



Detail of The Annunciation by Fra Angelico.

The contemporary world could be likened to the time when Our Lord was born in Bethlehem, when both the just and the evildoers groaned; the evildoers from the fact that they were removed from God, and the just from being tormented by the evildoers.

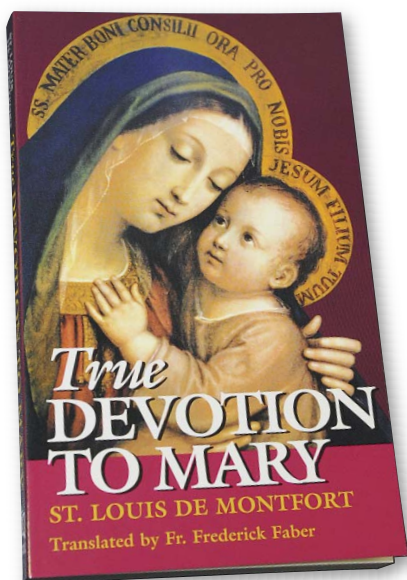
The more dire the circumstances and the more excruciating the pains, the more we should ask Our Lady to put an end

*Let us desire many great things
for God's glory. Let us always ask
Our Lady for everything...*

to so much suffering—not merely for our own relief, but for the greater benefit of our souls. Sacred theology says that Our Lady's prayers anticipated the moment of the world's redemption by the Messias. At this anguished moment in history then, let us turn our eyes to Our Lady with confidence, asking

her to hasten the great moment we all await, when a new Pentecost will kindle beacons of light and hope in this darkness and restore Our Lord Jesus Christ's kingdom on Earth.

We should be like Daniel, whom Holy Scripture describes as the "*desideriorum vir*," that is, a man full of great desires. Let us desire many great things for God's glory. Let us always ask Our Lady for everything, and let us, above all, ask her for that which the Sacred Liturgy beseeches of God, "*Emitte Spiritum tuum et creabuntur, et renovabis faciem terrae*" (Send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the Earth). We should ask, through Our Lady's mediation, that God once again send us the Holy Ghost with the plenitude of His gifts so that His kingdom may be created anew and be purified by a renewal of the face of the Earth. In the *Divine Comedy*, Dante wrote that praying without Our Lady's patronage is like wanting to fly without wings. Let us then confide to Our Lady this heartfelt yearning and desire. Mary's hands will be for our prayer a pair of pure wings that will carry it with certainty to God's throne. ■



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True Devotion to Mary

Trying to reach Jesus Christ without Our Lady, on the false pretext that Our Lady is an obstacle between us and her Divine Son, is as ridiculous as trying to see the stars thinking that the telescope is an obstacle between us and the stars. Knowing this, one must ask, "What is the right devotion one should have to Our Lady in order to see Our Lord better?"

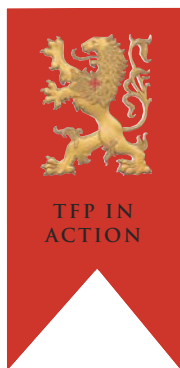
The "Apostle of Mary," Saint Louis de Montfort (1673–1716), has given us the answer in *True Devotion to Mary*. This short, divinely inspired book maps out the spiritual way to Jesus Christ through the Blessed Virgin Mary's hands. The saint teaches us that there is no better way to advance in holiness, no better way to please God, and no better way to guarantee one's eternal salvation than the *True Devotion to Mary*. The saint boldly

says the *True Devotion to Mary* is the shortest, easiest and most perfect way to which we are all called. Saint Louis de Montfort explains the wonderful spiritual effects that the *True Devotion to Mary* brings about in a person's life, leaving the reader with no doubt that this devotion provides the key to sanctity and salvation.

Saint Louis de Montfort says Our Lady has been showered with so many graces that she is able to give those graces in abundance to any who ask her. Shouldn't we learn how best to ask Our Lady for all that we need?

True Devotion to Mary, considered widely as the greatest single book ever written about the Blessed Virgin Mary, is a must-have bedside book for all those wishing to grow in knowledge and love of Our Lady. ■

Order your copy today! Call toll free (888) 317-5571



Students Question Darwinian Evolution on Campus

BY MATTHEW TAYLOR

It was a cold Monday morning at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania on February 16, 2009. Students were busy with their daily routine of classes and studies when TFP Student Action volunteers raised an American flag and a TFP standard outside the campus quad. Their day's objective was to hand out fliers refuting Darwinian evolution.

Although it claims to hold true to the unshakable principles of biology, evolution falls far short of adhering to any sound scientific doctrine. In fact, instead of validating Darwin's hypothesis, the progression of science casts a very dark shadow upon his theory. Advances in genetics and molecular biology bring to light facts that cannot be explained by using evolutionary theories and raises more questions than answers. These barricades to evolution are indestructible because they are founded on the absolute and irrefutable truth of the existence of God as proven by Saint Thomas Aquinas, and to justify their beliefs, Darwin's followers delve into the illogical and the absurd.

There is no better way to understand this than by experiencing it first hand. TFP volunteer Cesar Franco was handing out the TFP flier, "Who really believes Darwin?" when a

self-proclaimed pagan approached and opened a debate. Affirming that nothing can be proven with absolute certainty, she asserted that evolution is certain. Caught in blatant contradiction, she began to deny absolute truth. To this denial, Mr. Franco said, "If I flip a coin in the air, I can say with absolute certainty that it will come back down." She responded, "That's not true! There is an infinitesimal chance that the coin will float out into space." Stuck in a web of inconsistent arguments and dead-end reasoning, the woman departed.

Natural selection, which, according to Darwin, is the process by which an organism keeps traits that favor its propagation and discards those that are detrimental, is inconsistent in the development of certain animals. The giraffe, for example, with its elongated neck, has an extremely powerful heart that pumps blood up to its brain. This pressure is so strong that when the giraffe lowers its head to drink, the blood pressure would cause a cerebral aneurism were it not for a special mechanism that lessens the blood pressure, allowing the animal to lower its head down to a watering hole. But, if natural selection takes generations to successfully adapt traits in a species, then the giraffe would have surely died off long before this mechanism was developed. When con-



A camera-shy student debates with TFP volunteer Matthew Taylor about the theory of evolution.

fronted with this question, several students simply stated that science did not have an answer. This hole in their reasoning, however, did not deter their affirmation that evolution is still more plausible than Intelligent Design.

At the end of the day, TFP Student Action members handed out hundreds of fliers and did a radio interview for the student radio network at Gettysburg College. After debating with students for several hours, no logical argument was raised that could prove macroevolution. Quite to the contrary, proponents of Darwin's theory cast more doubt on the issue.

The tyranny that evolution holds over the scientific curricula of our educational system is a dictatorship of philosophy. It is clear, from discussing those who claim to have a firm grasp on evolutionary concepts, that this theory has no foundation in science. Rather, it is an excuse to label the Creator as foolish and superstitious, and ultimately, through the negation of God and His law, gives free rein to junk science, relativism and the most perverse desires of man. ■



Above and right: TFP Student Action volunteers question Darwinian evolution at the Gettysburg College campus, engaging students in animated discussion.





REVIEW

Shattering Revolutionary Premises: The Evolution Debate Revisited

A Review of *Unlocking the Mystery of Life*

BY MICHAEL WHITCRAFT

The moral crisis engulfing the modern world is built upon several false premises. These premises provide it with a philosophical foundation and purport to contradict age-old Christian wisdom. The claim that freedom is an absolute value is a premise that has led to the legal protection for abortion and blasphemy. If these premises are dismantled, the false conclusions founded upon them are toppled with them.

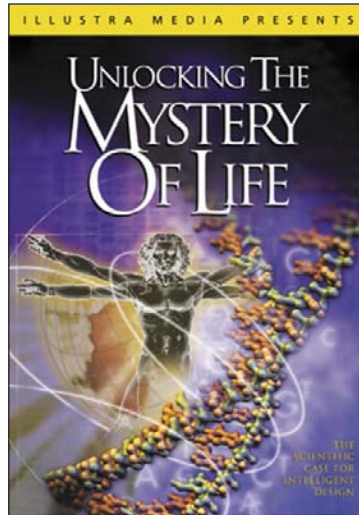
Darwin's theory of evolution is one such premise. Revolutionary scientists use it to explain the limitless variety of creation without admitting to the Creator's existence. Thus, God is removed from the scientific world, and society feels justified in following suit.

However, Darwin's theory is full of holes. Scientifically convinced of this fact, a number of scientists assembled in 1993 in Pajaro Dunes, California, to discuss the topic from their various fields. Their conclusions are presented in a fascinating documentary by the Discovery Institute titled, *Unlocking the Mystery of Life*, released by Illustra Media.

Irreducible Complexity

One of the major contributors to the documentary is biochemist Michael Behe, whose theory of irreducible complexity demonstrates a flaw in Darwin's concept of natural selection.

According to the theory of natural selection, life began from a primordial soup that covered the Earth before living creatures did. Non-living molecules sprang forth from this soup, took on life and began replicating themselves. As these life-forms replicated, a small amount of them malfunctioned, or mutated. Some of these mutations proved more suited for life, so they survived better, and lived to reproduce together with their fortunate mutation. Through these minute changes, affected by random mutation, all



the complexity and variety of creation purportedly sprang up without being directed by a Creator.

This theory hinges on the belief that every complex biological mechanism must have been developed by numerous small mutations. This is true because a single mutation could never produce a fully functioning organ or system. Thus, if any biological mechanism could be shown to be irreducibly complex, it could not have developed through natural selection. Darwin affirmed this saying, "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down."¹

Too Complex to Have Evolved

According to Dr. Behe, there are numerous biological systems that are irreducibly complex, especially at a microscopic level. The bacterial flagellum is a case in point. This single-cell organism propels itself using a whip-like tail, called a flagellum, which it spins at approximately 100,000 revolutions

per minute. The mechanism it uses to spin this flagellum resembles a boat's outboard motor, complete with a drive shaft, bearing and U-joint. This complex biological motor requires 20 separate components to be assembled in perfect order for the motor to function and the organism to thrive.

Since it is absurd to imagine that one single mutation could have produced this complex mechanism and there would be no biological advantage to a partially constructed one, the bacterial flagellum could not have developed through natural selection. Thus, in Darwin's own words, his theory absolutely breaks down.

Shattering Premises

Unlocking the Mystery of Life explains this and much more in a way that is easy to grasp, complete with diagrams, microscopic video footage and computer animation. Its presentation of the complex way in which proteins are constructed inside the cell is another fascinating highlight of the film.

Thus, the TFP highly recommends *Unlocking the Mystery of Life*. It serves as an effective tool to shatter a Revolutionary premise. Toppling these premises individually undermines the Revolution's² very foundation and reestablishes the link to a Christian past, the future's only true hope. ■

Notes:

1. As quoted by Michael Behe, "Evidence for Intelligent Design from Biochemistry—From a speech delivered at Discovery Institute's God and Culture Conference," August 10, 1996, http://www.arn.org/docs/behe/mb_idfrombiochemistry.htm.

2. The word *Revolution* used here refers to a 500-year-old crisis in Christian civilization as defined in Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira's book *Revolution and Counter-revolution*, http://www.TFP.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=691&Itemid=107.



COMMENTARY

Who Was the First U.S. Martyr?

BY FRANCIS SLOBODNIK

If one were to ask average, even well-read, American Catholics who was the first martyr of the United States, very few would know the answer. Even those who live in the vicinity where this friar suffered his martyrdom are largely unaware of the event, let alone his name.

Almost all Americans have the mistaken notion that our nation was first settled by the English at Jamestown, Virginia, or Plymouth, Massachusetts. Yet most would be incredulous to discover that the Spanish were in the United States in the first half of the sixteenth century. Even before Saint Augustine, Florida, was founded by the Spanish in 1565, the Spanish had already traveled to the southwestern and central parts of what was to become the United States.

The Spanish conquistador, Coronado, traveled to what is now called Mexico in 1526. As with all Spanish explorers, his expedition was accompanied by missionaries eager to spread the Catholic Faith to the new lands. On this journey, Coronado was accompanied by Father Juan Padilla and six other Franciscans. Father Padilla, interestingly enough, was born in 1492.

Throughout 1540, these friars accompa-



A small Spanish castle atop Coronado Heights overlooking the Smoky Hill River valley in Kansas. Conquistador Francisco Vasquez de Coronado traveled from Mexico to Kansas where he met the Quivira Indians.

nied Coronado on an expedition to New Mexico. In 1541, Coronado's expedition traveled to present-day Kansas where the expedition met the Quivira Indians. After returning to Mexico, Father Padilla decided to go back to the Quivira Indians to convert them. He was accompanied by a Portuguese soldier named Andres Docampo, as well as two Indian Franciscan tertiaries.

After Father Padilla converted many of the Quivira, Father Padilla decided to go and preach the Gospel to the Kaw Indians. The Kaw were bitter enemies of the Quivira, and the Quivira were very much opposed to Father Padilla's desire to having any dealings at all with the Kaw.

After leaving the Quivira's camp, Father Padilla and his entourage were ambushed by some of the Quivira who were opposed to his decision to preach the Gospel to the Kaw. Father Padilla instructed the others to flee while he tried to buy them time. His companions successfully escaped death, but not capture. Father Padilla knelt and offered up his life. After his martyrdom, the warriors cast his body into a pit and covered it with rocks. His companions eventually escaped ten months later and made their way

slowly back to Mexico.

The location of Father Padilla's remains is unknown. However, there are a couple of monuments dedicated to him. Just south of Council Grove, Kansas, is a simple marker in a field with the following inscription: "This monument marks the place of the martyrdom and death of Father Juan Padilla First Franciscan Missionary to Kansas, December 25, 1542." Just east of Lyons, Kansas, is a cross-shaped marker that was raised by the Knights of Columbus in 1950. North of Lindsborg, Kansas, is located Coronado Heights, where some believe Coronado and his expedition stopped, overlooking the beautiful valley below. In the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration built a castle atop this height. The Kansas State Capitol building in Topeka has a mural painted on one of the walls depicting Coronado and Father Padilla.

Father Padilla is considered to be the protomartyr, or first martyr, of the United States. This is an important piece of history many wish they had learned. How inspiring it is to learn more about the hidden, but, magnificent Catholic history of America!

Father Padilla, first martyr of America, pray for us! ■



Coronado Sets Out to the North by Frederic Remington. Francisco Coronado was accompanied by Father Juan Padilla and six other Franciscan missionaries eager to spread the Catholic Faith among the Indians.



Anti-Catholic Bill Stalls as Faithful React

BY JOHN RITCHIE

Chanting repeatedly “Leave the Church alone!” 4,200 faithful Catholics gathered outside the State Capitol Building in Hartford, Connecticut, on March 11, 2009 to oppose Senate Bill 1098,¹ which attacks the hierarchical nature of the Catholic Church and attempts to usurp the rightful authority of bishops and pastors in Connecticut.

The driving force behind this latest assault against the Church’s freedom is pro-homosexual politicians, homosexual activists and dissident Catholics eager to silence the Church’s voice on moral values and remove any opposition to the homosexual move-

ment’s advance. A printed statement distributed by TFP volunteers to every office in the Connecticut Legislative Office Building titled “Leave the Church Alone!” demonstrates how homosexual “marriage” advocates and rebellious Catholics are uniting to harm the Catholic Church.

“This is much more than a simple piece of bad legislation, there is a broader fight between good and evil,” observed one rally participant. Another pro-life activist stated, “They are doing this because they hate the Church.”

Most Reverend Henry J. Mansell, archbishop of Hartford, and other Connecticut Catholic bishops addressed the large gathering from the steps of the State Capitol Building. The Knights of Columbus sent delegations to the rally and busloads of Catholics from across Connecticut converged under a light drizzle to defend the Church.

The American TFP sent a group of ten volunteers from Pennsylvania to attend the rally, serve as escort to a statue of Our Lady of Fatima and display two large banners that read, “We protest Connecticut’s iniquitous attack on the freedom of the Catholic Church. Reject SB 1098!” and “Connecticut usurps the sole right of the Pope and bishops to govern the Catholic Church. Down with SB 1098!”

Although Democratic Representative Michael Lawlor and Democratic Senator Andrew McDonald, avowed homosexuals, canceled abruptly the original public hearing for SB 1098 on March 3, 2009, House and Senate Republicans held an informational hearing on March 4, 2009. At this hearing,



The vocal crowd of faithful Catholics gathered at the Connecticut capital at the request of the state’s bishops. TFP volunteers in their ceremonial habit were also at the demonstration carrying a statue of Our Lady of Fatima.



Top: More than 4,000 Catholics went to the Connecticut State Building to protest SB 1098 on March 11, 2009.

Above: TFP volunteer John Ritchie distributes “Leave the Church Alone!” fliers.

dozens of concerned Catholic members of the clergy and laity testified against the bill. In fact, the sheer volume of phone calls and e-mails opposing SB 1098 shut down the State legislature’s switchboards.

SB 1098 is stalled, and we hope it is dead for good.

However, constant vigilance is vital because the Catholic Church is being singled out and persecuted. Similar attacks are likely to surface again around the nation. As faithful servants, let us redouble our resolve to defend the Church and renew our faith in Our Lord’s divine promise to Saint Peter, “That thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:18).

Please see page 11 for the TFP’s statement “Leave the Church Alone!” ■

Notes:

1. Raised Bill No. 1098, “An Act Modifying Corporate Laws Relating to Certain Religious Corporations” (January 2009), <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2009/TOB/S/2009SB-01098-R00-SB.htm>.



LEAVE THE CHURCH ALONE!

Homosexual 'Marriage' Advocates and Dissident Catholics Link Up to Persecute the Catholic Church

In the Catholic Church's 2,000-year history, it has suffered untold persecutions—some bloody, others not, some public and declared, others veiled and insidious. Sadly, dissidents within the Church's bosom at times instigated the persecution by attempting to harness the State's coercive power to muscle their unorthodox reforms into the Church. The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property suggests this is the type of persecution at play with Senate Bill 1098 and calls on all Americans to reject categorically and protest this legislative measure. If enacted, this bill would constitute an unconstitutional and iniquitous governmental intrusion in the Roman Catholic Church's internal administration and government.

Senate Bill 1098 Subverts the Church's Hierarchical Form of Government

Senate Bill 1098 was introduced in the Connecticut General Assembly in early March 2009 and deals exclusively with the Roman Catholic Church.

This proposed bill repeals elements of Connecticut's General Statutes section 33-279 that respects the Church's divinely instituted hierarchical form of government under its bishops, and mandates structural changes empowering the laity at the expense of Church hierarchy.

Thus, under the bill, "the general administrative and financial powers of the [parish] shall be exercised by [a] board of directors." These directors are to be "elected from among the lay members of the congregation." The diocesan bishop would sit on the board but would not have the right to vote. Further, the bill orders "the pastor of the congregation [to] report to the board of directors with respect to administrative and financial matters."

The bill requires the Church to implement these structural changes in its form of government by January 1, 2010. These changes would affect every parish and corporation that the Catholic Church has established under this section of Connecticut's General Statutes.

Lastly, the bill empowers "[a]ny person" to report real or perceived misuses of parish funds to the State Attorney General, who is instructed to "investigate such report and take such action as he deems necessary."

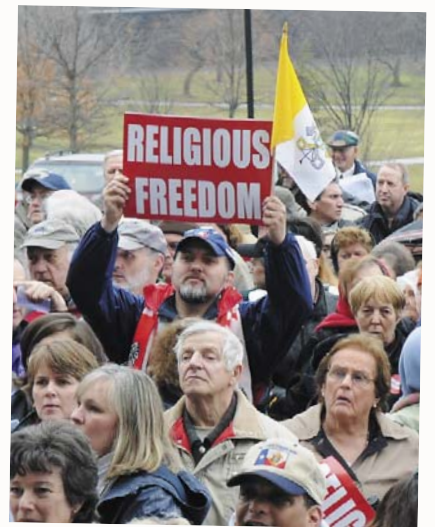
A Religious Persecution

As Most Reverend William E. Lori, bishop of Bridgeport, points out on the diocesan Web site:

This bill violates the First Amendment

of the United States Constitution. It forces a radical reorganization of the legal, financial, and administrative structure of our parishes. This is contrary to the Apostolic nature of the Catholic Church because it disconnects parishes from their Pastors and their Bishop. Parishes would be run by boards from which Pastors and the Bishop would be effectively excluded. This bill, moreover, is a thinly veiled attempt to silence the Catholic Church on the important issues of the day, such as [homosexual] marriage.¹

SB 1098's persecutory character is clear to many. For example, Senator Michael McLachlan writes on his blog, "The real purpose of this bill is payback to the bishops and pastors of the Roman Catholic Church in Connecticut for opposing [homosexual] marriage."²



Protesters at the March 11, 2009 demonstration in front of Connecticut's Capitol Building repeatedly chanted "Leave the Church alone!"

An Unholy Alliance

Since SB 1098 is a Raised Bill introduced by the Committee on Judiciary, it is significant that both Democratic co-chairs of this Committee, Senator Andrew J. McDonald and Representative Michael P. Lawlor, acknowledged homosexuals, support homosexual “marriage” and the homosexual agenda.³

It is also revealing that the bill mandates structural changes in the government of the Roman Catholic Church desired by liberal

“The real purpose of this bill is payback to the bishops and pastors of the Roman Catholic Church in Connecticut for opposing [homosexual] marriage.”

dissident groups, such as the Association for the Rights of Catholics in the Church (ARCC) and Voice of the Faithful, who want to replace the Church’s divinely instituted hierarchical form of government with a more egalitarian and democratic form of government. The authority of the Pope and bishops, and even that of the parish pastor, would be increasingly diminished, while the laity would govern the Church.⁴

Thus, it is not surprising that ARCC would lobby in favor of SB 1098. In its call-to-action e-mail, the organization suggested that people contact ten members of the Committee on Judiciary, encouraging them to vote for SB 1098. The standard message provided for individuals to copy into an e-mail stated, “I join in urging you to support your proposed changes to the regulations determining the ownership and disposition of Catholic Church property (Bill 1098). I and many, many other Catholics have long awaited this legislation that more adequately reflects the democratic ideals of not only the United States but also the Catholic Church as found in the documents of the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965).”

Documentation of this is located in abundance on the ARCC’s Web site.⁵

SB 1098 Usurps the Rights of the Catholic Hierarchy and Threatens the Freedom of the Church

Contrary to the liberal dissidents’ wishes, the Catholic Church’s form of government is hierarchical and so ordained by God (Cf. Council of Trent, Session 23, c. 6, DB 1776 [DS 966]).

Freedom is an indispensable condition for this government, but this freedom has not always been respected by the State, which repeatedly along the course of history has attempted to limit or deny this *libertas Ecclesiae* in many odious ways.

By usurping the right of the Church’s hi-

erarchy to alone determine how the Church will be structured under civil law for purposes of property ownership and the administration of parishes and other corporations, those in favor of SB 1098 join the long cortege of despots who have threatened the Church’s freedom throughout the centuries.

SB 1098 Is Intrinsically Flawed and Must Be Rejected

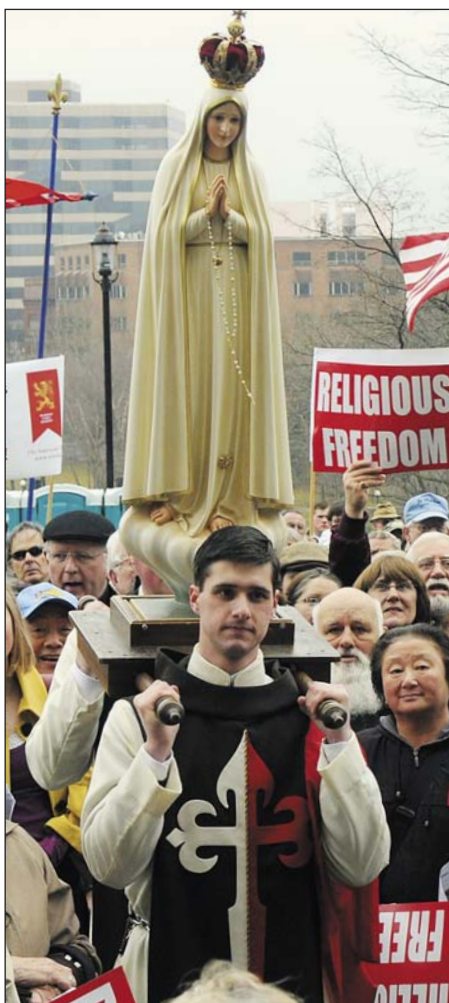
Connecticut’s current law (chapter 598, part II, subpart D) respects Church doctrine and practices. Indeed, it gives the impression of having been introduced and enacted after prior consultation with Church authorities.

SB 1098, on the contrary, is opposed by Church authorities and aims to impose legislative changes that clash with Church teachings and threatens the Church’s freedom. Consequently, SB 1098 is intrinsically flawed and shockingly unacceptable.

The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property—an organization that defends the principles of Christian civilization in light of Catholic doctrine and natural law—calls on all Americans to repudiate and protest Connecticut’s SB 1098, and to be vigilant against similar measures in other states.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, help and protect all Americans in the difficult days our nation is crossing. ■

The American TFP
March 9, 2009



TFP volunteers in their ceremonial habit hold a statue of Our Lady of Fatima at the demonstration.

Notes:

1. “A Direct Attack on our Church and Faith,” March 8, 2009, www.bishoploriblog.org/?p=150 (emphasis in the original).

2. “Judiciary Committee Run into a Ditch?” Senator McLachlan’s Blog, March 8, 2009, <http://senatormclachlan.blogspot.com/2009/03/judiciary-committee-run-into-ditch.html>.

3. See AP, “Connecticut OKs civil unions for gay couples—Law extends same-sex couples rights, privileges of marrieds [sic],” April 20, 2005, www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7579226/; and GayVegas.net, “Gay Candidates Make Huge Gains In State Races,” November 7, 2008, <http://gayvegas.net/news/politics/gay-candidates-make-huge-gains-in-state-races>.

4. In its book *I Have Weathered Other Storms: A Response to the Scandals and Democratic Reforms that Threaten the Catholic Church*, the TFP analyzes and documents the ideology of these dissidents, showing how contrary it is to Catholic doctrine.

5. ARCC’s Web site is <http://arcc-catholic-rights.net/>.



America Needs Fatima.

May/June 2009

PROGRESS REPORT

Spreading the Sacred Heart Badge to 80,000 Families

BY KENNETH MURPHY

In April 2009, America Needs Fatima launched the Sacred Heart Badge campaign by sending special mailings to 80,000 families. Each envelope included one free badge for the addressee and three free badges to distribute.

In 1676, Our Lord Jesus introduced the devotion to His Sacred Heart to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, a French nun of the Visitation. He promised, "I will bless every house in which an image of My Heart shall be exposed and honored." He also revealed His wish that people not only have a picture to venerate in their homes, but also carry a small picture with them.

When the Sacred Heart Badge was first presented to Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1870, he exclaimed, "This is an inspiration from Heaven. Yes, from Heaven," and proceeded to grant the badge a blessing for all time so that subsequent badges need never be blessed again by a priest. He then added, "and I want Satan to be un-

able to cause any harm to those who wear this badge."

The badge was adopted by great Catholic resistance movements, such as the Chouans against the French Revolution, Andreas Hoffer's Tyroleans against Napoleon, the *Cristeros* against the anti-Catholic Mexican government in the beginning of the twentieth century, and the Carlists against the Communist Revolution of 1936–1939 in Spain. The Cuban Catholics facing Castro's firing squads also had a great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and died shouting, "Long live Christ the King!"

With a history such as that

of the Sacred Heart Badge, America Needs Fatima's Director Robert Ritchie is very enthusiastic about spreading this devotion in an America that is desperately in need of divine aid. Indeed, what better token of Faith and Divine protection could we wish for America?



To order your free
Sacred Heart Badge,
call (888) 317-5571.



Membership Acceptance Parchments Printed

ANF Director Robert Ritchie holds up one of two parchments printed, as promised, with the names of those who donated a certain amount for the 2009 membership acceptance. The parchments are at the feet of the statue of Our Lady of Hope in America Needs Fatima's chapel where volunteers will remember to pray for them daily.



OUR LADY WANTS YOU!

Are you are a good communicator? Do you love Our Lady? Can you give two weeks of your life between July 5 and October 9? Can you afford \$500 for travel and lodging expenses? Great! Our Lady wants you to help out and make a difference at the Rosary Rally Office in Rossville, Kansas, in 2009!

To volunteer, please write Mr. Chris Pierce at cjpierce60@aol.com or call him at (785) 584-6251.

Testimonials from 2008 Volunteers



Like drenching rain on parched soil, I soaked in every refreshing moment of that soul-reviving experience.

—Mrs. Jean Henderson, Solon, Ohio

I feel like I have taken a vacation in Heaven and I hope that I will be able to come back and do Our Lady's work.

—Mr. Vincent Battaglia, El Cajon, California

Because of my experiences as a volunteer, I now consider myself a Christian warrior.

—Miss Valerie Elefante, Aiea, Hawaii



Monthly Rosary Rally in Ohio

BY MICHAEL GORRE

On the Saturday closest to the thirteenth of every month, friends of America Needs Fatima gather to pray the Public Square Rosary at noon in Brecksville, Ohio, to honor Our Lady of Fatima and spread her message of prayer and penance.

As of this writing, the most recent rally was held on February 14, 2009, a frigid, snowy day. But people prayed the Rosary in reparation to Our Lady's sorrowful and Immaculate Heart. For example, eight-year-old Lydia stood for a solid hour praying without complaint.

To join the National Public Square Rosary Crusade on October 10, 2009, please call Mr. Chris Pierce at (866) 584-6012. To join the Brecksville group, call Mr. Edward Richie at (330) 650-6621. ■



Rain, snow or shine, Our Lady's devotees pray the Rosary in Brecksville, Ohio, every month.

Protest New England Premiere of 'Jerry Springer: The Opera'

BY ROBERT RITCHIE

The blasphemous production "Jerry Springer: The Opera" will be staged by the SpeakEasy Stage Company from May 1, 2009 to May 30, 2009, at the Boston Center for the Arts. Some disturbing examples of what is in the "opera" include:

- The crucifixion is mocked and the Eucharist is trashed.
- There is a lady singing "Jerry Eleison" (mocking the Kyrie Eleison).
- Jesus is introduced as "the hypocrite son of the fascist tyrant on high." He wears a diaper, is fat and effeminate and later admits, "Actually, I am a bit gay."
- Eve gropes Jesus in a manner too indecent to describe while the Annunciation is described as a rape.
- God is a fat man in a white suit who complains about being blamed for everyone's problems. He invites Jerry Springer to join Him to "sit in Heaven beside me, hold my hand and guide me." At the end, Jerry emerges as the true savior of mankind.



The protest against "Jerry Springer: The Opera" at the Carnegie Hall, New York City premiere.

The profanity-laced production considers nothing sacred. The "opera" has earned its blasphemous reputation. In London, the debut was the subject of a libel suit for defaming Christians. When it was to be aired on the BBC, it drew more than 60,000 complaints.

In face of such insults to the Faith, please protest by contacting the SpeakEasy Stage Company and the Boston Center for the Arts at:

SpeakEasy Stage Company

539 Tremont Street

Boston, MA 02116

Telephone: (617) 482-3279 • Fax: (617) 482-3280

E-mail: info@speakeasystage.com

Boston Center for the Arts

539 Tremont Street

Boston, MA 02116

Telephone: (617) 426-7700 • Fax: (617) 426-5336

E-mail: info@bcaonline.org



TFP Supporters and Friends Protest "V***** Monologues"

BY FRANCIS SLOBODNIK

On March 8, 2009 TFP supporters and friends gathered to pray a Public Rosary of reparation to protest the performance of the "V***** Monologues" at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas.

Washburn University is a taxpayer-funded state university, so taxpayers contributed to this pornographic production. According to the Cardinal Newman Society's Web site (www.cardinalnewmansociety.org) the play is a collection of vulgarities, obscenities and explicit discussions of sexuality and sexual encounters.

The rally began an hour and a half before the performance began. The Rosary, Litany of Loretto and other prayers were offered in reparation and for conversion. Between decades of the Rosary, participants prayed

the Fatima prayer, which took on special meaning under the circumstances, "My God I believe, I adore, I hope and I love Thee, I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love Thee."

Signs carried by participants read, "Virgin Most Pure, Pray for Us," "Saint Maria Goretti, Pray for Us," "Respect Women, Don't Dishonor Them with Pornography," "Don't Use Tax Dollars for Pornography" and "Purity Is the Answer, Not Pornography."

Attendance was good, and everyone stayed until the very end before departing in a dignified manner. Participants were happy to have had the honor of defending the virtue of purity and opposing a notoriously impure and immoral performance on campus. ■



Top: TFP and ANF friends and supporters protest and pray in reparation for the pornographic play at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas.

Above: Protesters displayed signs defending purity.

Where There's a *Will*, There's a Way!

Some very generous ANF members have paved the way into the Fatima message's future by including America Needs Fatima in their wills. We are forever grateful to these special devotees of Our Lady.

If you are thinking about helping America Needs Fatima flourish far into the future, you may ask your attorney to include the language in either **Option 1** or **Option 2** in your will:

Option 1:

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

Option 2:

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail: _____

☐ I have already placed the America Needs Fatima Campaign in my will and have included the language in ☐ **Option 1** ☐ **Option 2**.

☐ I would like to speak with someone about placing America Needs Fatima in my will.

Kindly call me at: (____) _____ - _____

Time of day: _____ a.m./p.m. (Circle one)

Mail to: America Needs Fatima
P.O. Box 341, Hanover, PA 17331



No More 'Queer Film Festivals' at Notre Dame

BY JAMES BASCOM

Prayer and peaceful protest have once again proven to be successful. According to an article in *The Observer* dated February 16 by pro-homosexual activist Tom O'Neil, "not only will there be no [homosexual] film festival this year [at the University of Notre Dame], it's probably kaput for good."

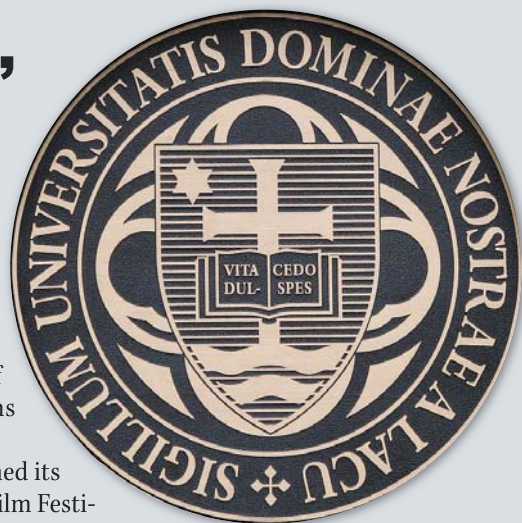
Starting in 2004, homosexual activists had been allowed to hold an annual "Queer Film Festival" at Notre Dame. Bluntly contravening Catholic morality, one such event even featured Terrence McNally, author of the blasphemous production "Corpus Christi" that portrays Our Lord Jesus Christ and the Apostles as homosexuals.

Reacting to the scandal, TFP Student Action lead multiple petitions of protest addressed to Father John I. Jenkins, CSC, politely requesting that he cancel events that promote homosexual vice. As a result, thousands of letters and e-mails poured into Notre Dame's administrative offices, calling for a restoration of the institution's Catholic identity. Concerned Catholics also pledged to pray for students, that they receive the courage to resist the dicta-

torship of relativism and reject the promotion of homosexual films and immoral plays.

After TFP launched its campaign, "Queer Film Festival" organizers were quietly instructed, over a period of time, to delete the words "festival," "gay," "lesbian" and "queer" from their event titles. "That nearly killed it, of course," wrote pro-homosexual advocate O'Neil in *The Observer*. Last year's pro-homosexual film event at Notre Dame was such a failure that "no plans were made to stage it again this year," he stated.

There's no doubt that prayerful protests are effective. For that reason, TFP Student Action members are encouraged to continue defending moral values with ever more vigor. ■



Why Did a Pro-Homosexual Student Spit on a TFP Volunteer?

BY JOHN RITCHIE

As students made their way to classes on a bright Monday morning, February 2, 2009, they heard the sound of bagpipes and slogans and saw TFP banners. TFP Student Action members were distributing fliers encouraging students to defend traditional marriage as God made it.

Soon a group of seven pro-homosexual "marriage" students appeared. With torn cardboard boxes, they improvised signs bearing liberal clichés such as "equal," "human rights" and "support unconditional love." Interestingly, to appear less aggressive, their signs did not mention homosexual "marriage."

Homosexual "Marriage" Advocate Spits on Peter Miller

However, approaching TFP volunteer Peter Miller from behind, and without warning, a young woman spit on him. "She didn't say anything to me. She just spit on me and walked away," said Mr. Miller.

With the number of pro-homosexual and pro-abortion clubs that exist on secular campuses, it is not altogether surprising when one encounters contempt for the truth, especially regarding sexual morality. "You find people who hate the truth and when you defend the truth, they hate the message and the messenger," continued Mr. Miller. "But I am not even



TFP Student Action volunteer Keith Douet explains to a student why homosexual "marriage" is wrong and must be opposed.

slightly discouraged. I think of the Beatitudes and the promise Our Lord made to those who endure persecution for His sake. The truth will eventually prevail," he said.

If you've ever been mistreated for defending moral values on campus, write to TFP Student Action at studentaction@TFP.org. ■



Our Readers Write...



✉ Please convey my personal thanks to Mr. Robert Ritchie for posting "Is Sodomy No Longer a Sin?" on the America Needs Fatima blog. I have recently lost a friend because of my so-called anti-homosexual stance but, as a result of this article, I know I'm doing what's right. I am very encouraged. Thanks be to God for your work!

D.M. via E-mail

✉ I have sent my protest postcard against the "Corpus Christi" play. My soul is sick thinking anyone can treat our Sweet Lord Jesus Christ with such contempt. He is my life!

C.M., North Indianalantic, Fla.

✉ What a godsend! When the calendar arrived I was so overjoyed I found myself crying. This one is so beautiful. From the bottom of my heart I thank you.

M.A., Minneapolis, N.M.

✉ What an inspiration! The *Crusade* story about the Marine Michael Monsoor made me cry. I will put a picture of him in my "Hero's Frame" and from now on I will pray to Saint Michael the Archangel for our troops.

E.C., Florissant, Mo.

✉ I must compliment those involved in mailing the Brown Scapular. I was enrolled in the Brown Scapular some 45 years ago in a Carmelite monastery. I have experienced its protective power throughout this period. As a boy, I remember the mob-style death of Mr. Albert Anastasia. Some years later a Carmelite priest told me he found Mr. Anastasia moribund and wearing a scapular. The priest administered Mr. Anastasia the Last Rites and he passed away. Mary is powerful and true to her promise. My sincere thanks for your endeavor,

T.D., Reading, Mass.

✉ Thank you for your letter about Our Lady's request for amendment of life. It hit the spot. Fatima is the only plan for our times.

K.D., Rantoul, Ill.

✉ Thank you for the wonderful book, *Se-*

cret of the Rosary, which came in the mail today. Also, thank you for the beautiful scapulars that will make such wonderful gifts for my catechism students. I will build a lesson around the enrollment ceremony.

D.A., Longmont, Colo.

✉ The article "Blazing Trails with Class" [March/April 2009 issue] by Francis Slobodnik reminds us that man has replaced the notions of beauty and goodness for practicality and efficiency. By so doing, today's society is increasingly unable to recognize what is regarded as good and beautiful. A society that cannot recognize what is good and beautiful is unlikely to do what is good and appreciate what is beautiful.

V.G., Rochester, N.Y.

✉ I am an inmate in a maximum security correctional facility. I recently perused several issues of your magazine and was completely intrigued.

My own faith journey has been that of a prodigal son. I am imprisoned for making evil choices. I made those choices in part because of my rejection of the Church and my seduction by communist, atheist and violent beliefs. Yet, Our Lord is so generous and loving that he has used this crucible of punishment to burn my eyes open to the truth of the Faith. Only my return to the One True Church has allowed me to fully embrace my Redeemer in the Most Holy Sacrament.

Because of this past history, I am easily able to discern the truth of your mission to battle the darkness of amoral philosophies.

If it is possible, could you please send me more information about *Crusade Magazine* and the American TFP? Thank you for your time and attention to my humble request.

May Our Lord and His Blessed Mother be with you all!

J.B.

Crusade Magazine would love to hear from its readers. If you wish to write us an email, please send it to crusade@TFP.org.

Father Jenkins, Please Reconsider!

In a March 25 letter to the President of Notre Dame University in South Bend, Ind., the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) has registered its vehement opposition at his decision to have our nation's president speak at the commencement and receive a Doctor of Law degree from the institution.

The following letter was sent to Father John Jenkins, President of Notre Dame University.

March 25, Feast of the Annunciation and Incarnation of the Word

Dear Father Jenkins,

It is with great perplexity and grief that I write to express my affliction at your decision to have our nation's president speak at Notre Dame.

As you know, abortion is a sin that clamors for a Divine Nuremberg since it is a sin that only finds modern historical parallels in the atrocities committed by the cohorts of Communism and Nazism. Whether each and every pro-abortion individual understands this clearly or not in his conscience does not alter the calamitous reality of this fact. Thus, I am perplexed and appalled that a priest of Holy Mother Church and president of one of America's most outstanding and emblematic Catholic universities would invite a manifestly pro-abortion president to give the commencement address and receive an honorary Doctor of Law degree. This places me in the lamentable position of having to express my vehement opposition to this invitation made to the highest dignitary of our nation.

I pray and trust that you will reconsider this invitation that causes so much scandal to the faithful and to all who oppose the "culture of death."

Sincerely yours,

Raymond Earl Drake
Raymond E. Drake
President



Gathering Together at TFP's Regional Conferences

BY GARY ISBELL

The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) and America Needs Fatima held their annual Kansas Regional Conference at the Ramada Inn in Topeka, Kansas, on March 7, 2009 and their annual Pennsylvania Regional Conference at the Top of the 80's Restaurant in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, on

March 15, 2009. Between 85 and 95 people attended these respective information packed events, which were the first two regional conferences that were part of a series of regional conferences that took place across America.

In Topeka, the day began with a presentation by Mr. Byron Whitcraft speaking on the pernicious Islamic doctrines and the Islamic threat to Christian civilization. After a hearty buffet luncheon, an audiovisual presentation was shown about the life of Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira, the founder of the first TFP in Brazil. Mr. Michael Drake then offered a slide-show presentation illustrating the struggle between good and evil in nature and history. To end, Mr. Cesar Franco spoke about the TFP's Saint Joseph's Caravan, a series of public campaigns in defense of traditional marriage in California in September 2008. Mr. Franco used many

slides and video clips to show the wonderful responses and the disgraceful examples of "tolerance" from the opposition. Mr. Franco's video clips were especially revealing since they demonstrated the illogical fury of those who support homosexual "marriage."

In Hazleton, the location could not have been better to expand horizons with new insight and ideas. From the meeting room on the mountain top restaurant, there was a spectacular view of the Conyngham Valley near Hazleton. The conference titled, "Giving Our Catholic Thought a Future" included meetings, a hearty buffet lunch and plenty of lively conversation. The event was graced with the presence of a large pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima. The speakers were TFP vice-president John Horvat and TFP researcher Luis Solimeo. The final presentation was by Mr. Kenneth Murphy, a student of the American TFP's Sedes Sapientiae Institute. He spoke about the TFP's Saint Joseph's Caravan, a series of public campaigns in defense of traditional marriage in California this past September. Mr. Murphy also had many slides and video clips, which delighted and encouraged those who attended.



Top: Cesar Franco speaks about the Saint Joseph Caravan in Topeka, Kansas. *Above:* Kansans enjoy a luncheon at the Topeka conference.



Top: Over 85 people attended the Hazleton, Pa. regional conference. *Above:* Kenneth Murphy speaks about TFP's efforts to defend traditional marriage at the Hazleton conference.

Protest the Eucharist Desecration Video on YouTube!

BY ROBERT RITCHIE

There is a video called "Jesus Juice" on YouTube showing a man desecrating a Host in a juicer machine. He mocks Our Lord by saying, "I think that even Jesus himself would drink this juice . . . I can almost see Jesus in that juice already."

He further mocks Our Lord before drinking the "Jesus Juice" by saying, "Jesus, we thank you for this juice. May it nourish my body. And thank you for giving me the idea as I sat in church . . ."

This is sacrilege! YouTube should not allow this offensive

video on its Web site, so please use the following contact information to send your message of protest to YouTube:

Google Inc. (parent company of YouTube)

1600 Amphitheatre Parkway

Mountain View, CA 94043

Telephone: (650) 253-0000

Fax: (650) 253-0001

E-mail: dns-admin@google.com or press@google.com

**STOP
BLASPHEMY!**

Saint Nuno Alvares Pereira: **A WARRIOR & A MAN OF FAITH***

BY BENJAMIN HIEGERT

On April 26, 2009, the Portuguese Count Nuno Alvares Pereira was canonized, nearly six centuries after his death. Saint Nuno Alvares had a brilliant military career and became the Constable of Portugal. Later, out of gratitude for a miraculous victory he won over the Spaniards, Saint Nuno built the Gothic church of Our Lady of the Scapular of Mount Carmel on a hill outside of Lisbon. He gave the church to the Carmelite order, and then joined them as a simple lay brother.

Saint Nuno's combative life and his devotion serve as an example for

Catholics today who must fight to affirm their Faith in a secular world. As we will see, he drew his strength for the fight from his great devotion to Our Lady.

Saint Nuno was born and grew up in Ourem near Fatima where Our Lady appeared in 1917, and from his youth, he had an ardent devotion to her, the Rosary and to the Brown Scapular. During the 14th century, Portugal had nearly become a province of the Kingdom of Castile. Spain had already defeated Portugal's armies, and the Portuguese court was weak and decadent. Most of Saint Nuno's life was spent fighting the Spanish to preserve Portuguese independence. His most important battles were Atoleiros; Aljubarrota, which is near Fatima, and Valverde in Spain.

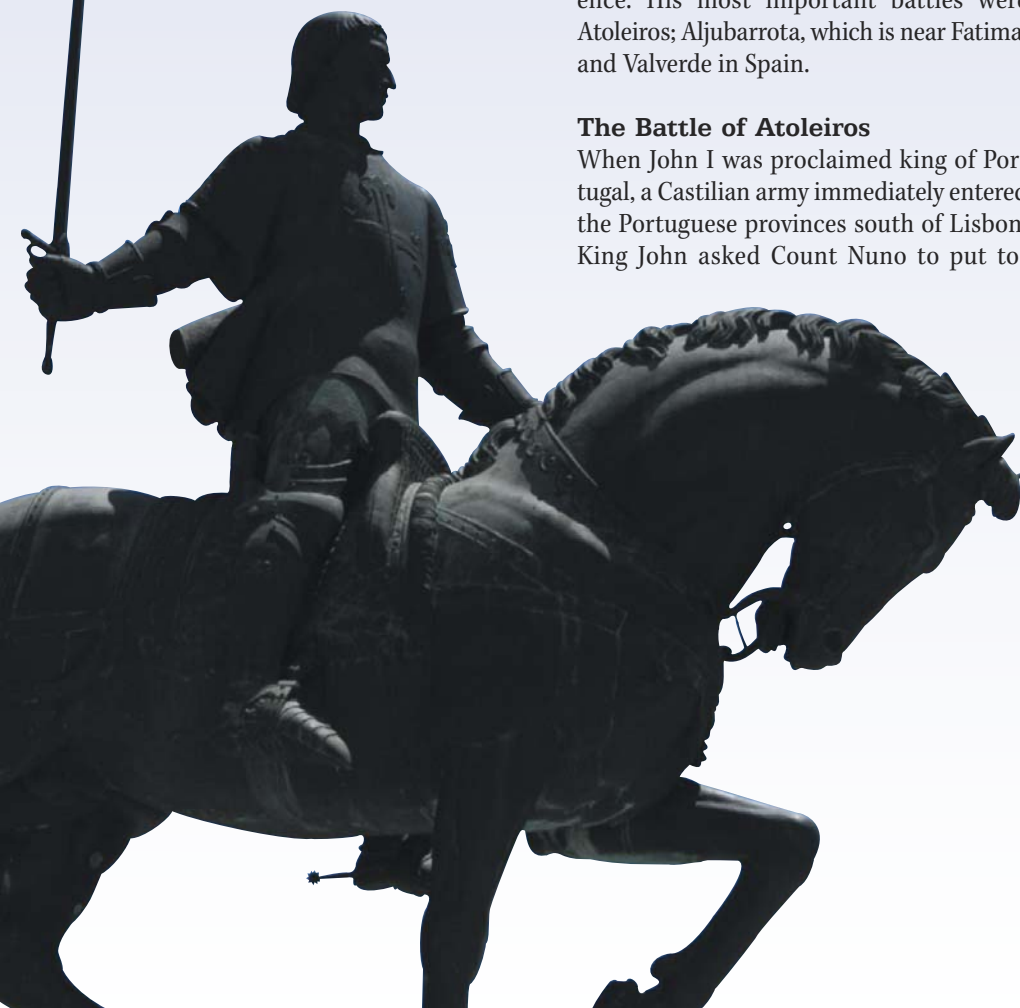
The Battle of Atoleiros

When John I was proclaimed king of Portugal, a Castilian army immediately entered the Portuguese provinces south of Lisbon. King John asked Count Nuno to put to-

gether an army to face the Spaniards, which he quickly did. By the time Count Nuno reached Estremoz, he had 300 horsemen and 1000 infantrymen. The Castilians had 5000 soldiers commanded by their best captains. Count Nuno realized the danger of his situation and also that the greatest danger was discouragement, so he gave a short speech saying that if the Castilians were many, the more honor there would be for the Portuguese. He told anyone who was afraid to leave before the battle. Not one abandoned him.

The Holy Count had to adopt novel tactics at the battle of Atoleiros because of the odds. He formed his cavalry into a square and surrounded the outer edges with lancers. Behind each lancer, was another man ready to pick up the lance if the first lancer were wounded or killed. Count Nuno rode in the middle of the square, giving orders and encouraging everyone. Immediately before the battle, he spoke again to his soldiers, and then jumped off his horse and knelt before his banner that had Our Lady at the foot of the Cross on one side and the Nativity on the other. The whole Portuguese army followed suit, and knelt and prayed before the standard. When they heard the roar of the advancing Castilian army, Count Nuno leapt onto his horse. The Portuguese responded to the Castilian war cry with "Portugal! Saint George!"

The Castilians thought the poorly armed Portuguese cavalry would not withstand the cavalry charge. They were so sure of this that they advanced without a plan. Upon the first impact, the Castilian horses were impaled upon the row of lances. Then the Portuguese rained arrows on the Castilian troops that were behind the stalled cavalry. Confusion, and then terror, spread through the Castil-





In thanksgiving to Our Lady for the Portuguese victory at the Battle of Aljubarrotta, King John I built the magnificent Monastery of Santa Maria da Vitoria in Batalha, Portugal.

*When they heard
the roar of the
advancing Castilian
army, Count Nuno
leapt onto his horse.
The Portuguese
responded to the
Castilian war cry
with “Portugal!
Saint George!”*

ian ranks. The Castilian soldiers saw many of their leaders dead and began to flee. Count Nuno ordered the cavalry to give chase. Without the protection of their own cavalry, the Castilian soldiers did not stand a chance.

This was the first Portuguese victory under the new king, and the victory gave him time to unite the country and prepare for a larger attack.

The day after the tremendous victory of Atoleiros, Count Nuno made a six-mile pilgrimage barefoot, over cobblestones and rough terrain, to a nearby shrine of Our Lady in thanksgiving for her help. Upon arriving at the shrine, he found it dirty and profaned. The Castilians had quartered their horses in the church! With his own hands, he cleaned out the church and vowed to build an even more awesome shrine in her honor.

The Battle of Aljubarrotta

Despite several Portuguese victories, Castile continued to attack. Now, an army of 30,000 strong invaded Portugal and used scorched-earth tactics.

Count Nuno rushed with his army to the area outside of Leiria. Everyone knew this was to be the great, decisive battle of the war. When his cavalry arrived ahead of schedule at Aljubarrotta, the king of Castile thought he found his

chance to take Count Nuno off guard and kill him.

It was August 14, 1385, the eve of the feast of Our Lady’s Assumption, and the Portuguese army was fasting in preparation for the feast. Once again, Count Nuno had a much smaller army, this time 8,000 Portuguese. The two armies maneuvered throughout the day to get into favorable positions. Once again, the Castilian cavalry charged into the Portuguese square formation. This time they almost broke through, but Count Nuno ordered the Portuguese cavalry he held in reserve on the flanks to attack. This saved the Portuguese square, but the situation was desperate. The king of Castile ordered his reserves to attack, but they hesitated. In vain, the Castilian nobles tried to push them to attack, but the troops in the rear began to flee. The Castilian king’s

last option was to order another cavalry force to charge the Portuguese from the rear. Count Nuno, however, saw this coming and had a wall of lances ready to face the charge. After more brutal hand-to-hand fighting, the Castilian force also fled. Just then the main body of the Castilian infantry arrived at the battlefield. They retreated in disorder with the others to Leiria.

Out of gratitude for this great victory, King John built the great Gothic monastery of Batalha.

The Battle of Valverde

Next, the Portuguese army split in two. King John took half the army to northern Portugal to expel the Spaniards. The Holy Count went to the south. From the Spanish border, Count Nuno sent a message to the king of

Castile that if he did not immediately recognize Portugal as an independent kingdom, Count Nuno then would take the battle to Spanish soil. Count Nuno entered Spain and took control of several cities. He again divided his army, taking only about 300 knights to the Castilian camp. He hoped to lure the Castilians into a battle and then have the rest of his army launch a surprise attack. The Spaniards were in a strong strategic position on a hill across the river from Count Nuno and his men. The Spaniards sent half of



A medieval depiction of the battle of Aljubarrotta with the Castilians on the left and the Portuguese on the right.

their army to circle behind the Portuguese to attack from the rear. The prospects were grimmer than at Atoleiros and Aljubarotta, and Count Nuno prayed as never before.

He formed his men in the square formation and advanced toward the hill held by the Castilians. He hoped to take that hill, and then turn to face the other half of the Castilian army. As soon as the Portuguese crossed the river, the Castilians attacked. Once again, Count Nuno was everywhere, shouting orders and words of encouragement to the soldiers. Then, he heard cries from the rear of the square as the other half of the Castilian army attacked. A dart wounded Count Nuno, but he ignored the pain and continued fighting. As the Castilian army pressed the attack on the vanguard, Count Nuno's men called out for him, but he was nowhere to be found. A wave of panic swept through the Portuguese. Where was Nuno Alvarez? Had he been killed? Then, an officer found Count Nuno, kneeling in prayer between two huge rocks. He was holding a reliquary containing a thorn from Our Lord's Crown of Thorns. The officer cried out in despair, "We are lost!" Count Nuno responded, "My friend, it is not yet time. Wait a bit." And he continued to pray. Then after a few moments, Count Nuno picked up his helmet and rose to his feet. He mounted his horse, and pointed out to his standard bearer the Master of Santiago who was at the top of the hill. "We must go up there with my standard!" Then leading the way and shouting "Forward! Forward!" to his men, Count Nuno advanced. To the Portuguese, it seemed almost a resurrection. The Portuguese soldiers surged forward with Count Nuno while the Castilians gave way. The Castilian army was so badly beaten there was no counterattack. With this victory of the battle of Valverde, Castile gave up subduing Portugal.

The Carmelite Constable

Out of gratitude for the victory at Valverde, Count Nuno began construction of the shrine and monastery of Our Lady of the Scapular of Mount Carmel in Lisbon. This magnificent Gothic church was built on a hill outside Lisbon. Upon completion, Count Nuno wrote the Carmelite superior

and asked the monks to take care of the shrine and to establish a monastery there. Meanwhile, Count Nuno made arrangements for his property, setting aside a third for his grandchildren, a third for the poor and a third for his retirement. Then, he knocked on the door of the Carmelite monastery and asked the prior for permis-

*Count Nuno pulled
aside the scapular of
his habit and exposed
the armor he wore
underneath the
Carmelite habit.*

sion to join the order as a type of lay brother called a *donato*. The prior was shocked but finally accepted Count Nuno. As a *donato*, he would be the lowest one at the monastery, and he would only take simple vows as opposed to solemn perpetual vows. Thus, he could leave the monastery to lead an army if Portugal were attacked.

King John was dismayed at the count's decision. He sent his son Duarte to convince Nuno to give up the ideo of religious life,

saying the enemies of Portugal would take advantage of the news to attack. Count Nuno pulled aside the scapular of his habit and exposed the armor he wore underneath the Carmelite habit. He told Duarte to tell the king he was ready to come to the aid of his country whenever needed. The Castilians also were curious. Since it was time to sign the peace treaty, the Castilian ambassador visited Nuno in the monastery. He could not believe Portugal's great hero had become a simple monk. Again, Nuno uncovered the armor beneath his habit and warned them not to attack Portugal.

After eight years in the monastery, Nuno Alvares Pereira died on Easter Sunday of 1431. His life of fight and of faith in opposition to the world that was abandoning the Christ-centered spirit of the Middle Ages can serve as a guide for those who want to be faithful and to fight for the Church and Christian civilization in these turbulent times. ■

* For an account of Saint Nuno Alvarez Pereira's life, see John Haffert's *The Peacemaker Who Went to War: The Life of Blessed Nun'Alvarez Pereira, Precursor of Our Lady of Fatima*.



The victor of Aljubarotta, Saint Nuno Alvares Pereira's equestrian statue stands next to the Monastery of Batalha, Portugal.



INTERVIEW

'Expose What Abortion Is'

An Interview with Father Frank Pavone

Since 1993, Father Frank Pavone has been the national director of Priests for Life, the president of the National Pro-life Religious Council and the national pastoral director of Rachel's Vineyard. He travels throughout America and teaches against abortion. He produces programs regularly for religious and secular radio and television networks. He has served as an official of the Pontifical Council for the Family, which coordinates the pro-life activities of the Vatican.

Crusade: After the last election, many Americans may be tempted to think that the pro-life movement suffered a setback. How do you see it?

Father Frank Pavone: The pro-life movement is much more than the political and the legislative arenas, and that's the first thing to keep in mind in evaluating the effect of the election. Obviously, it is critically important that we win elections and that's why politically and legislatively it is a setback. However, political obstacles, such as very damaging Supreme Court appointments, policies and laws, have energized a lot of new people for the movement. These, and others who were not involved with the movement, are coming forward because they see the movement needing help. And then, finally, the movement is making tremendous progress in every other arena. We have, for example, the Priests for Life coordinating the Silent No More Awareness Campaign in which those who have had abortions are speaking up more loudly and clearly than ever, and that is changing people's minds and hearts.

Abortion mills are closing, people are praying at the mills, and that is having an effect. Public opinion is moving in our direction and, even if you look just at the political arena, we have not lost the momentum in terms of the attitudes of the voters. We won a poll; it came right after the election showing that 34 percent of the voters said abortion matters in deciding their vote. Now, within that number 34 percent

only 9 percent voted for the pro-abortion candidate so even politically the movement has a tremendous amount of strength and momentum and we should be encouraged with that.

Crusade: The pro-life strength and momentum in pro-lifers across the country is really encouraging and the effects are there to prove it. Could you give our readers some idea of that effectiveness and what has been accomplished so far in the past five years or so?

Father Pavone: Yes. In the last five years we have seen some significant changes, first of all in government. On a state level, more laws than ever have been passed restricting and regulating abortion. These restrictions and regulations have been saving lives; we are talking about parental involvement, informed consent, political regulations and even laws in the most recent years requiring ultrasounds. And, of course the Supreme Court has changed. President Bush was able to make appointments that will uphold pro-life laws, which they've already done by upholding the ban on partial birth abortion. It was a tremendous step of progress when the Supreme Court said that Congress could ban that procedure even without the Court reversing *Roe v. Wade*. That lays the groundwork for future progress, and the Court even made reference in its decision that many women regret their decision. So this is where we see the

intersection with another very big mobilization over the last five years amid the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, which all around the world women, as well as men, who have lost children to abortion are speaking out about their regret. And that's strategically a step forward because the other side has always proposed the idea that whether or not this is a killing, it is beneficial to women. They used to say, "It's for the good of the mother and the family." Now we've reached a critical point where there is so much pain and so much regret that it



Father Frank Pavone, director of Priests for Life.



can't be hidden anymore.

Crusade: In your opinion and experience, what has proven to be the most effective way of fighting the evil of abortion?

Father Pavone: I am convinced the most effective way overall is to expose abortion. Now what do I mean by that? Abortion is so disruptive and so contrary to the human conscience that when we simply expose it for what it is there is enough in the human conscience and heart, even today and in our culture, which makes people reject abortion. Now what do I mean by "expose"? First of all, most people have never seen an abortion. When people see what this procedure is, how it is performed, what the babies look like, even when they just hear descriptions of how the procedure is done, they are so revolted that they change. They say, "This has to stop, this is wrong" or "I never realized this before." There will be those who will be so hardened that they won't change. But that doesn't matter, because we don't need 100 percent of the people to change. We just need enough of the public to change to create enough momentum to end this practice, and that is happening.

"Exposing" also means exposing the radical nature of the abortion industry. It's so unregulated and rife with malpractice that when we expose this, people realize that abortion is not what the propaganda made it out to be. And so they are rightfully indignant and again they call for change. Even if that change is just in terms of regu-

lating the clinics, a lot of clinics shut down because they just can't live up to those regulations. So, "expose" I think is the key word: expose what abortion is, expose the damage that it does. In that sense, abortion does our work for us, it destroys itself, because it's so incredibly disruptive.

Crusade: Now, besides the moral evil of abortion threatening our society, there's also the threat against traditional marriage called homosexual "marriage." Do you see a connection?

Father Pavone: There's definitely a connection here, and it comes fundamentally from the disconnection between freedom and truth. It's something Pope John Paul II wrote about many times in his document "The Splendor of Truth." If there is a disconnection between freedom and truth, then we ourselves create the value and meaning of life, marriage, family, religion and all the values that we have. So abortion and the attack on marriage flow from the radical attitude that "human sexuality is my possession to do all that I want." If that's true, then I can disconnect from any responsibility to children and from tradi-

Abortion is so disruptive and so contrary to the human conscience that when we simply expose it for what it is; there is enough in the human conscience and heart, even today and in our culture, which makes people reject abortion.

tional marriage. You end up opening all the different possibilities that one wants to imagine, again because their freedom now is seen as something absolute, and in that sense homosexuality and abortion are both connected.

Crusade: Could you end with some comments on how you see the contraceptive mentality? Do you believe it is a root of abortion?

Father Pavone: Absolutely. Some people think the solution to abortion is more contraception, but in reality, more contraception leads to more abortion because you're reinforcing that separation between human sexuality and the readiness to accept responsibility for life. We have to simultaneously work against abortion and contraception. Sometimes I've found that it's easier to bring somebody to recognize the evil of contraception once they have first recognized the evil of abortion. I think it's harder to do it the other way. But when people see how bad partial birth abortion is or they see or hear the description of the other procedures and they say, "Wow this is worse than I thought," then I ask them, "How do you think we got here?" We ended up with life thrown away in a garbage can because first we threw God's plan for sexuality in the garbage can. So you can lead them from awareness on abortion back to an understanding why contraception is wrong. Even a lot of Protestant leaders are more and more understanding the whole picture of God's plan for sexuality and saying, "We don't only have to reject abortion, but we have to reject contraception too." People are beginning to understand that more and more. ■



O CALM, SILENT AND ETERNAL SACRIFICE

BY JOHN RITCHIE



AMBIENCES,
CUSTOMS AND
CIVILIZATIONS

The Holy Catholic Church's wisdom and beauty are marvelously expressed through a universe of symbols. Gregorian chant, stained glass windows, incense and majestic pipe organs symbolize truths of the Faith and invite souls to soar among the highest peaks of sublimity and draw closer to God.

Consider the sanctuary lamp. In every church where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved, the eye meets that flickering flame, indicating the Real Presence. What does the silent sanctuary lamp symbolize to the soul?

The warmth of its welcoming flame draws us closer to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. The lamp is suspended, as if held aloft by angels, preparing souls for the Divine. Its subtle light envelops the faithful, creating unity among the faithful. The wick burns serenely until the end in an offering to God, a symbol of the sacrificial victim.

The sanctuary lamp creates the calming and tranquil atmosphere that man needs. Its subtle light enhances the church and projects warm, deep shadows. It has nothing in common with a discothèque's frenzied lights or the cold neon signs prevalent today. For the sake of contrast, imagine a neon light in place of the sanctuary lamp. The mere thought causes unrest.

What else does the sanctuary lamp represent? When night falls and the church is empty, Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is alone; the lamp pays homage to its Creator. The flame keeps constant vigil, like a faithful soul who kneels before God in adoration while so many abandon Him or turn against Him. If the light could speak, it might say, "I remain faithful. I am Thine, O Lord. Although I am the least of Thy creatures, I belong to Thee, I exist for Thee alone. In the worst uncertainty, in the worst isolation and darkness, I will follow Thee come what may. I am confident that my fidelity means something to Thee."

The dominant note of the lamp speaks of the relationship between Creator and creature, Redeemer and redeemed. It is a resting place for the soul. Like three bells in perfect harmony, it echoes Our Lord's words: "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me, walketh not in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). ■

