

CRUSADE[®]

September/October 2017

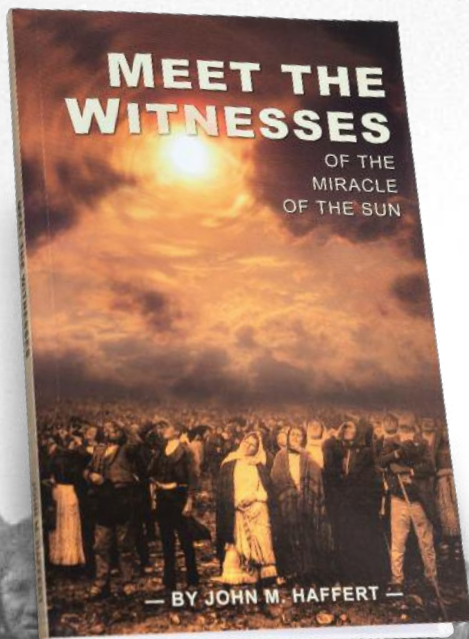
MAGAZINE



TRADITION
FAMILY AND
PROPERTY[®]

the MIRACLE *of the* SUN: *Only the Beginning*





Meet the Witnesses

OF THE MIRACLE OF THE SUN

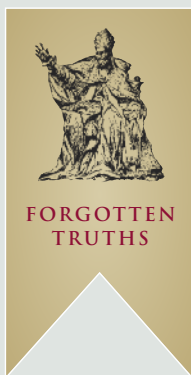
Recently published with original photographs, *Meet the Witnesses* by John M. Haffert contains stunning eye-witness accounts of what occurred 100 years ago on October 13, 1917. On that historic day, over 70,000 people gathered at the Cova da Iria in Fatima, Portugal, to witness the great Miracle of the Sun. *Meet the Witnesses* reinforces Our Lady's maternal warning and challenges us to strengthen our faith and proclaim our unshakeable certainty in her promise that, "In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph."

B53 | \$8.95 | 120 pages, fully illustrated

To order, call **(888) 317-5571**

Compassion Must be Guided by Reason, Not Sentiment

TAKEN FROM *DEFENDING A HIGHER LAW*



Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches that the sentiment of compassion only becomes a virtue when it is guided by reason, since "it is essential to human virtue that the movements of the soul should be regulated by reason."¹

Without this regulation, compassion is only a passion. Like all passions, compassion in this case is a powerful but irrational inclination, and therefore a potentially dangerous one since it can favor not only good, but also evil.² To feel pity at the sight of someone's sufferings is normal. However, to act without prudent analysis may lead to unintended harm.

Consider, for example, the case of a man who buys whiskey for his friend—an alcoholic—because he cannot bear to see him suffer when going without a drink. Likewise, consider a father who gives his gambling-addicted son cash because he is distressed at the thought that the son suffers at not being able to gamble. His action does not show true love for his son. Instead of helping his son free himself from gambling's stranglehold, he supports the vice with easy access to money.

When a misguided pity leads to supplying the sinner with the means to remain attached to his vice, this assistance, be it material or moral, actually helps keep the sinner chained to his evil ways.



Such action helps the vice, not the person. Despite good intentions, the action is harmful.

True compassion leads a sinner away from vice and back to virtue. ■

Notes:

1. Saint Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, II-II, q. 30, c. 3.
2. Ibid., II-II, q. 30, a. 1, ad 3.

CONTENTS

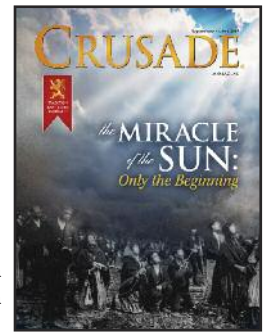
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017

IN BRIEF	4
CHRIST IN THE HOME	
Tattoos: To Get or Not to Get	5
RETURN TO ORDER	
The Marian Option	6
TFP IN ACTION	
Catholic Chivalry Alive and Well at Pennsylvania, Louisiana and Illinois Youth Camps	8
COVER STORY	
The Miracle of the Sun: Only the Beginning	9
COMMENTARY	
Dress According to Your God-Given Dignity	14
ANF PROGRESS REPORT	
♦ And Her Children Defended Her	17
♦ Nearly 200 Houston Catholics Say "NEVER!" to Blasphemous Exhibit	18
♦ Your Rosette at Fatima	18
♦ Our Readers Write	19
♦ Catholics Reject Satanic Monument in Belle Plaine, Minnesota	20
♦ ANF's Campaign to End Satanism in America Achieves Milestone	20
♦ One Hundred Miles for Our Lady of Fatima	21
♦ Dynamic Opposition to Blasphemous Act of God	23
BACK COVER	
Stop America's Crisis: Become A Rosary Rally Captain	24

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 email to: crusade@TFP.org. Web: www.TFP.org. Tel.: (888) 317-5571, Fax: (570) 450-6352. © 2017 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-149

Cover:

Actual photograph taken on October 13, 1917 in Fatima, Portugal.



5

Did God intend for your body to be used as a billboard?



21

A 100-mile journey to honor 100 years of Fatima



17

Catholic reaction to *The Testament of Mary* in Cleveland

CRUSADE

Editor: C. Preston Noell III

Associate Editors: John Horvat II, Michael Drake, Norman Fulkerson, Kenneth Murphy, Vincent Gorre

Photography: Gary Isbell, Michael Gorre

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

THE AMERICAN TFP

The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) is an organization of lay Catholic Americans concerned about the moral crisis shaking the remnants of Christian civilization. Its 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

Vatican is Supporting a “Fake” Church in China Says First Chinese Cardinal

In an interview with *Polonia Christiana*, a Polish news outlet and reported by LifeSiteNews, the first Cardinal from China denounced a new Vatican agreement with the Chinese government which essentially gives the power to appoint new bishops



to the Communist regime. Cardinal Zen pointed out that although the government approves the election at the bishops’ conference and then the Pope has the last word, “both election and the bishops’ conference are fake.” He said, “I really cannot believe that the

Holy See doesn’t know that there’s no bishops’ conference! There is only a name... The government gives instructions. They obey. It’s fake.”

Lithuania Prohibits Same-sex “Marriage;” Italians do Public Reparation for “Gay Pride” Parade

The parliament of Lithuania rejected the proposed legalization of same-sex “marriage.” The vote was 59 against and 29 in favor. According to public opinion polls, 80 percent of Lithuanians are opposed to any form of same-sex partnerships. Meanwhile, in Italy, about 300 Catholics marched in reparation for the public sin of a “gay pride” parade that took place in the northern Italian town of Reggio Emilia. The march was led by five priests and followed by representatives from pro-life and pro-family organizations.

Kansas City Archbishop Cuts Ties with Girl Scouts Over Promotion of Abortion and Transgenderism

Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, KS issued a pastoral letter directing his diocese to “begin the process of transitioning away from the hosting of parish Girl Scouts troops and toward

the chartering of American Heritage Girls troops.” The archbishop explained: “It is essential that all youth programs at our parishes affirm virtues and values consistent with our Catholic faith.” He listed several concerns about the Girl Scouts, including its promotion of abortion world- wide “as preventive healthcare for

women,” and many “role models” in the Girl Scouts USA manuals and web content who do not reflect the Catholic worldview. American Heritage Girls does not have any ties with morally questionable organizations.

Opponents of Transgender Bathroom Bill Fill Meeting

Concerned residents of Parkersburg, West Virginia packed the city council meeting room to voice their opposition to a proposed transgender bathroom ordinance. On the agenda was a city ordinance adding “gender identity,” “genetic information,” and “sexual orientation” to anti-discrimination laws covering employment and “public accommodations.” On short notice, pro-family organizations and churches turned out in the largest attendance at the city council meeting in more than 40 years. Parkersburg Mayor Tom Joyce was pressured to table the proposal, which means no action will be taken for the time being.

Trump Administration Makes Break from Political Correctness

In a break with his predecessor, President Donald Trump declined to officially proclaim the month of June as “LGBT Pride Month.” In the meantime, Secretary of Defense James Mattis has granted a request by the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces to delay the implementation of former president Obama’s regulation requiring the military to recruit “transgender” persons. The Joint Chiefs asked for the extra time to review how integrating men who dress like women and vice versa could affect military readiness.

Federal Judge Ruled Cross “Unconstitutional”

A huge 34-foot cross in a Pensacola, Florida park was deemed “unconstitutional” by a federal judge as a result of a lawsuit filed in 2016 by the American Humanist Association, atheists and other non-religious groups and the Freedom From Religion Foundation. Several residents and politicians took issue with the ruling and organized protests and prayer rallies in an effort to retain the cross. A non-profit entity was quickly organized and offered to lease the land where the cross is standing. However, the city is still undecided on the lease proposal.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL



©Wavebreakmedia Ltd | Dreamstime



CHRIST IN
THE HOME

TATTOOS: To Get or Not to Get

BY THOMAS RYDER

At a casual family gathering, my 16-year-old nephew, Michael, sat next to me and said:

“Uncle, I want to get a tattoo. What do you think about it?”

I raised my gaze and fixing it on his asked,

“Do you want to get a tattoo or are your friends pressuring you to get one?”

Squirming a bit in his seat, he conceded,

“Well... I mean.... It's both.”

I did not press the point and asked, “But, what do you think, Michael? Do you think it is a good thing? Because if you are asking me about it, it seems to me that you consider this a moral issue. And you would be right there.”

“What do you mean by ‘moral’?” he asked.

“‘Moral’ determines if the action you are proposing is good or bad. Morality is the rule or principle that distinguishes good from bad or right from wrong.”

At this point, expressing a little frustration Michael said, “I just want to know if I should get one—yes or no?”

The time had arrived for me to dig in a bit deeper.

“O.K., Michael. Unless you are in a rush, give me five minutes and I will tell you what I think.”

Michael moved to the edge of his seat and gave me a nod. I had his full attention; at least for the next five minutes.

I began, “First of all, you are asking me to tell you what to do and in a way to make a decision for you. But since you are not six years old anymore, you are now 16, I am going to tell you what I think about it, and I am going to ask you to make your own decision.”

Michael acquiesced, proud that I was treating him with adult respect.

I went on, “Tell me something, suppose you and I decided to put our fortunes together and buy a magnificent car. And we don't go half way with this; we use every penny we have to get our dream car. We both go to the dealer, spend many hours shopping around and finally, after a difficult process of decision-making, come back home with a car.

“Then, for a few weeks, we enjoy our new car and all its perfections...until, one day, you wake up to find that I had painted the image of a beaver on the hood of the car.”

Michael's expression left it clear he would not have liked the idea in the least.

I continued, “You would have probably come up to my room, banged on my door and then punched me. And I, quite honestly, would have done the same if the roles were reversed.

“Now, imagine what God thinks of the fact that after He gave us this wonderful body that He made—and ‘bought’ at the price of His death and resurrection—we go and tattoo all over it?”

“But is it a sin?” Michael asked with insistence.

I held up my hands, saying, “Now hold on a bit. Keep in mind that God wants us not only to avoid sin, but to actually live in a way that pleases Him. We must live lives as He wishes. Just staying away from

breaking rules is not good enough.”

I continued, “Everything God makes is perfect, including our bodies. And let me tell you that He did not plan on us using our bodies as some sort of billboard. Our bodies are, just as the Church teaches us, temples of the Holy Spirit, when we are in the state of grace.

“Now I have a question for you: why do you want a tattoo? What is the reason?”

Michael started to open his mouth, but I kept on going. My five minutes were almost up.

“Again, our Eternally Good God gave us reason so we can decide what is right and what is wrong. So what could be the reason for us to tattoo our bodies other than pressure from others or pressure to conform to the culture?”

“Is pressure alone a good reason for us to do things?”

Michael responded promptly, “Of course not!”

“When God made us, He did it based on His Infinite Wisdom. His Wisdom and reasons for doing things go way beyond our little puny understanding.

“Our bodies should be mirrors of what we have inside. Thus, a good and virtuous person has a certain shine about him and will carry himself and dress in a way that will display to the world what he is inside. The same thing happens the other way around.

“Evil and malicious people eventually look like it. Look, for example, at a bad woman who spends her life as a prostitute selling her body to whomever will pay more in comparison with a woman of virtue who protects her virginity with daring and courage. Their faces will be like night and day.”

In deciding if something is good or not,
ask if it would benefit society or the
individual in this life or, more
importantly, in the next.



© Jonathan Weiss | Dreamstime

Michael interrupted and said, “Uncle, one of the things my friends at school tell me is that there is nothing in Scriptures against it.”

I smiled. “Is there anything in Scriptures against taking drugs? Does this mean it is okay?”

“Along with the Scriptures, God gave us a sense of right and wrong; moral law called natural law is written in our hearts. People without access to the Scriptures are still responsible for doing what is right. God did not mean for the Scriptures to be the sole manual for our behavior. But incidentally you may direct your friends to Leviticus 19:28, where God says....”

I could see from Michael’s glance at his cell phone that I had gone over my allotted time. Not wanting to be a breaker of bargains, I ended my advice there.

Standing up, I placed my hand over Michael’s shoulder and said to him,

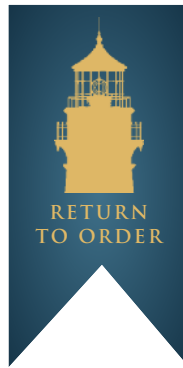
“But Michael, you are practically an adult. You have a job, are preparing for college and, if I am not mistaken, you are saving up for your first car. Just think about what we have talked about here today and, then, I encourage you to make your own decision.”

Looking straight into his eyes I asked, “Will you go along with everyone else or will you do what you believe to be right? And that, my dear boy, is the real question.

“Archbishop Fulton Sheen once said: “Dead bodies float down stream, live ones swim against the current.”

Michael gave me a huge hug and by the unusual tightness with which he held me I left with the impression he had liked our little chat.

That evening I silently prayed to our Good Lord for Michael. “Give him strength, for You alone know what sort of crazy opinions and peer pressure these young people have to fight against these days.” ■



The Marian OPTION

BY JOHN HORVAT II

AS SEEN IN CRISIS MAGAZINE

At a class at Acton University, Dr. Carrie Gress was lecturing about the Benedict Option and somewhat informally proposed a Marian option. She said she was impressed by the interest the proposal sparked. I happened to be in the class and remember thinking at the time about how well her message resonated with everyone. I thought to myself this is something that should be discussed and further developed. It was a pleasant surprise to see in print one year later, Dr. Gress’s new book, *The Marian Option: God’s Solution to a Civilization in Crisis*.

Dr. Gress addresses one of the most blatant omissions in the controversy around Rod Dreher’s book, *The Benedict Option*. Many are talking about ways to give birth to a new Christian society in the midst of our decadent world. There are all sorts of discussions about the details of this Christian birth. The debate is more or less like a medical crew in a maternity ward discussing the coming child but... without inviting the mother to join the birthing event.

Indeed, the Blessed Mother is not mentioned at all as part of the solution in Mr. Dreher’s book. Likewise, others involved in the debate, perhaps thinking it too anti-ecumenical, have neglected to mention her. Dr. Gress’s book invites the Mother to the new society’s birth.

She Should Be Present

After all, this is a Christian option that is being discussed. It is all about her Son. So it makes sense she should have a say in the matter. In fact, Mary should

be at the center. Also unmentioned in *The Benedict Option* is Fatima, the most important historical and religious event in the twentieth century. It is an event that is particularly focused on this rebirth of Christian civilization.

Thus, Dr. Gress strikes a chord. A Marian option is needed. As she correctly notes, it is not an option at all, but a necessity; a last great hope in a decadent world. Mary is a powerful intercessor against a disproportional adversary that we have no means to engage successfully.

A Proven Track Record

The Blessed Mother has a proven track record in resolving crises in society. She specializes in doing what appears to be impossible. She is a mother for every emergency. Even cases of invasion and military assault, Our Lady is “the most powerful woman in the world” and has turned the tide of the battle in astonishing ways and given victory to those Catholics who confide in her.

And so that there could be no doubt that all this is possible, Dr. Gress recounts the times in history when Our Lady intervened. In an age when many care little to know about history, the listing is necessary. It is also impressive. These are marvelous tales that enthrall the reader by their innocence and beauty. They are also very timely because some of the same battles still threaten us today.

Dealing With Islam

For example, the Blessed Mother has long addressed the great problem of Islam in a manner that is refreshingly



© Vadiingazhida | Dreamstime.com



Golden statue of the Virgin Mary overlooking Lyon, France.

politically incorrect. The story of the Reconquest of Spain is a chronicle of many centuries in which the Spanish people gradually reconquered their occupied land from the Islamic Moors. There are many accounts of Our Lady's help in the 781-year struggle that finally ended in 1492. She would appear in battles, go to prisons to unshackle and free captives. She would even be instrumental in converting Moors to the Catholic Faith.

In 1571, Our Lady turned the tide at the great naval battle of Lepanto. Pope Saint Pius V instituted the feast of Our Lady of Victories on October 7 to commemorate this great event. In 1683, the Polish King John Sobieski lifted the siege of Vienna with his winged hussars who prepared for battle "with their rosaries in one hand and weapons in the other."

Such examples should fill us with confidence that no case is too difficult for the Blessed Mother.

Overcoming Indifference and Hostility to the Faith

Today we face the indifference and hostility of much of the population to the Catholic message. We are at a loss as to how to evangelize them. Our Lady also dealt with this problem.

When the Aztec Indians, who sacrificed massive numbers of humans to their gods, were conquered by the Spanish, they did not convert to the Faith. However, Our

Lady of Guadalupe appeared to the Indian Juan Diego. Her miraculous image shows her dressed and positioned in a symbolic manner that was entirely understandable to the Aztecs. Millions of Indians asked for baptism and became fervent Catholics. Once again, Mary proved herself a mother by changing the hardened hearts of a whole people.

Likewise, the problem of nations turned against God finds a solution with Our Lady of Fatima. She came in 1917 to address a world that had abandoned God and was starting to embrace communism. Many of her predictions happened as she said. Others are waiting to occur. Dr. Gress notes that Our Lady of Fatima's mission is still unfinished, but we have every reason to believe in the

The Blessed Mother has a proven track record in resolving crises in society. She specializes in doing what appears to be impossible. She is a mother for every emergency.

promise of the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Explaining Devotion to Mary

The second part is aimed at those who are unfamiliar with devotion to Our Lady and the reason for our veneration of the Mother of God. Again, this is necessary not only for those outside the Faith but also for so many Catholics who have neglected to learn about their faith.

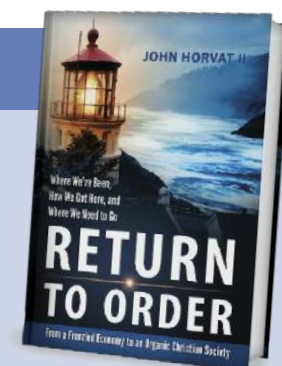
Dr. Gress explains the consecration to Our Lady according to the method of Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort. She proposes other devotions and practices that readers might adopt. She invites us to childlike confidence in Our Lady who "prepares us for anything" in the midst of these dark and uncertain times.

Of course, there are many concrete details about the birth of a new Christian society that need to be worked out. The author does not deny the urgent need to discuss them. Hers is, however, an essential contribution: she invites the Mother. ■

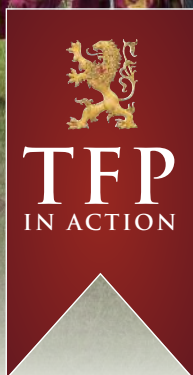
RETURN TO ORDER

To further understand how a new Christian civilization can be born, let us not neglect to bring along the handbook, *Return to Order; Where We've Been, How We Got Here and Where We Need to Go*.

Return to Order provides the criterion by which one can judge a truly organic and Christian civilization. Born of the Mother of God, it will be one that most perfectly reflects her Divine Son, Jesus Christ. It will be a civilization grounded in the rule of honor and untainted by the present rule of money.



To purchase *Return to Order*,
call (888) 317-5571
or visit www.ReturnToOrder.org



Catholic Chivalry Alive and Well at Pennsylvania, Louisiana and Illinois Youth Camps

BY VINCENT GORRE

Summer 2017 brought youth camps of all types to keep school-age boys and girls occupied while their parents got on with their work. Themes varied: music, arts and crafts, sports, theater and drama were just a few. But the annual Call to Chivalry camps for boys have always been unique. Organized by the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property, these camps are designed to form the Catholic heroes of tomorrow.

Where else can you find a camp where boys are introduced to authentic ideals of Catholic chivalry? The Age of Chivalry might be dead, but its spirit was alive and well at the Pennsylvania

(June 9-20), Louisiana (June 29-July 6) and Illinois (July 1-7) Call to Chivalry camps.

The camps were packed with talks about Catholic heroes and saints—this year was about the heroes and saints of Catholic Portugal. Catholic devotions and prayers such as the recitation of the Holy Rosary were part of the camp's daily schedule. Since this year marks the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima, one of the scheduled topics discussed was the Message of Our Lady of Fatima—an important topic in light of the current moral crisis in our society. As with all TFP events, the camps were spiritually centered on the Holy Rosary and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Other camp activities included games, outings such as hiking, exploring and camping in a beautiful mountain park near the camp sites. Games included a treasure hunt, and chess, archery, tomahawk throw and ping-pong tournaments. One special treat for the boys was an exciting presentation about the history of swords and swordsmanship by classic fencing master Roark Mitzell,



Top: A little healthy competition goes a long way in forming the Catholic leaders of tomorrow. Center: Late night bonfires are a favorite way to pray the Rosary at the Call to Chivalry camps. Above: Our Lady of Fatima carried in Rosary procession.



Top: Michael Gorre of America Needs Fatima shares his experiences on the Camino de Fatima with the boys in Louisiana. Above: Participants learn to defend the unborn and the virtue of purity in the public square.

an expert in medieval sword-fighting.

The final day of the camps was highlighted by the customary Medieval games and banquet. At the latter, the boys were dressed in their best attire and enjoyed many sumptuous dishes that included a magnificent castle cake. Prizes were awarded to the tournament winners and a beautiful keepsake was given to each participant to take home. ■

THE MIRACLE OF THE SUN:

Only the Beginning

BY BEN BROUSSARD



COVER
STORY

“Look at the sun!”

The shout echoed through the massive crowd. The multitudes looked up. Jaws dropped. From one moment to the next, the world changed.

The sun itself fell from the sky. Men, women and children shouted and cried in terror. Hundreds dropped to their knees in the thick mud. The end of the world!

“We are all going to die here!”

“Save us, Jesus! Our Lady, save us!”

“O my God, I am sorry...”

“Dear God, how great is thy power!”

Lucia’s mother Maria Rosa stood astonished. She had come ready to die, knowing the crowd would try to kill her daughter when nothing happened. Now she cried out with the rest.

It was true. Everything they had said about the Lady from heaven was true. The Blessed Virgin had come to Portugal! “Oh, Mother! Pardon my doubt!”

As these thoughts rushed through her head, the sun resumed its place in the sky. In an instant, she realized the world had not ended. And yet, she knew the world would never be the same.

It was all true, everything Lucia had told her. And that meant...that every word the Lady had spoken was true.

Every word.

“I will perform a miracle for all to believe.”

The news spread like wildfire. Everyone gathered at the Cova da Iria on October 13, 1917, came to witness something spectacular. A spectacular prodigy... or a spectacular failure. Catholics and atheists, free-thinkers and Jews, communists and secularists, all converged to see this purported miracle.

Maria Rosa embraced her daughter Lucia that morning. Despite her unbelief, she said through tears: “I know they are going to kill you. If you must go, I am going to die with you.”

Jacinta said before setting out, “If they hurt us, we are going to heaven. But those that hurt us, poor people, are going to hell.”

As Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta approached, scoffers shouted insults at them. Torrential rains

continued through the morning.

The government, hostile to anything religious, placed soldiers to impede anyone from reaching the Cova. These armed men were soon overwhelmed by the throngs of people who flooded past them.

Among the many present that day was Avelino de Almeida, the chief editor of Portugal’s largest paper *O Seculo*. This paper was known for its liberal



The Cova da Iria at noon on October 13, 1917.

and anticlerical stance.

Almeida describes the approaching crowds: “It was an orderly, peaceful and pious crowd. There were neither tumults nor lamentations, but hope. They would go in groups, some singing religious hymns, others praying the rosary. And the heavy rain that began to fall did not dampen their enthusiasm or slow them down.”

When the great moment came shortly after noon, the shouts and cries of the people overwhelmed him. “From the road, where the carriages were crowded together and where hundreds of persons had stayed for want of sufficient courage to advance across the muddy ground, we saw the huge crowd turn towards the sun which appeared at its zenith, clear of the clouds. It resembled a flat

plate of silver, and it was possible to stare at it without the least discomfort. It did not burn the eyes. It did not blind. Then a tremendous cry rang out, and the crowd nearest us were heard to shout: 'Miracle! Miracle! Marvel! Marvel!' Before the dazzled eyes of the people, whose attitude transported us to biblical times, and who, dumb-founded, heads uncovered, contemplated the blue of the sky, the sun trembled, it made strange and abrupt movements, outside of all cosmic laws, 'the sun danced,' according to the typical expression of the peasants."

Almeida was virulently attacked in the press for writing this testimony. In response, he reprinted what he saw fifteen days later.

In the words of Ti Marto, the father of Francisco and Jacinta: "We looked easily at the sun, which for some reason did not blind us. It cast its rays in many directions and painted everything in different colors—the trees, the people, the air and the ground. The sun appeared to stop spinning. It then began to move and to dance in the sky until it seemed to detach itself from its place and fall upon us. It was a terrible moment."

Father Ignácio Lorenço, then 9 years old, was in Alburitel 11 miles away: "I feel incapable of describing what I saw. I looked fixedly at the sun, which seemed pale and did not hurt my eyes. Looking like a ball of snow, revolving on itself, it suddenly seemed to come down in a zig-zag, menacing the earth. Terrified, I ran and hid myself among the people, who were weeping and expecting the end of the world at any moment."

More than 70,000 witnessed the Miracle of the Sun at the Cova da Iria, and up to 100,000 more in the surrounding areas. Many eyewitnesses noticed that their clothes and the ground around them, saturated with rain, had suddenly dried.

Father John De Marchi, an Italian Catholic priest and researcher who spent seven years in Fatima, describes this aspect of the miracle: "Engineers that have studied the case reckoned that an incredible amount of energy would have been necessary to dry up those pools of water that had formed in the field in a few minutes as it was reported by witnesses."



At Lucia's cry, "Look at the sun!" tens of thousands gaze heavenward.

What the Three Children Saw

Just as at the other apparitions, the three children knelt at the base of the holm oak tree where they saw Our Lady. Here is the account in Lucia's own words:

"What do you want of me?"

"I wish to tell you that I want a chapel built here in my honor. I am the Lady of the Rosary. Continue to pray the rosary every day. The war is going to end, and the soldiers will soon return to their homes."

"I have many things to ask you: if you would cure some sick persons, and if you would convert some sinners."

"Some yes, others no. They must amend their lives and ask forgiveness for their sins."

Becoming sadder, she added, "Let them offend

Everyone gathered at the Cova da Iria on October 13, 1917, came to witness something spectacular.

A spectacular prodigy... or a spectacular failure.

Our Lord no more, for He is already much offended."

Then, opening her hands, Our Lady shone the light issuing from them onto the sun, and as she rose, her own radiance continued to be cast onto the sun.

It was at that moment that Lucia cried out, "Look at the sun!"

Once Our Lady had disappeared in the expanse of the firmament, three scenes followed in succession, symbolizing first the joyful mysteries of the rosary, then the sorrowful mysteries, and, finally, the glorious mysteries. Lucia alone saw the three scenes; Francisco and Jacinta saw only the first.

The first scene: Saint Joseph appeared beside the sun with the Child Jesus and Our Lady of the Rosary. It was the Holy Family. The Virgin was dressed in



Father Ignácio Lorenço, eyewitness of the Miracle of the Sun.



white with a blue mantle. Saint Joseph was also dressed in white, and the Child Jesus in light red. Saint Joseph blessed the crowd, making the Sign of the Cross three times. The Child Jesus did the same.

The second scene: A vision of Our Lady of Sorrows, without the sword in her breast, and of Our Lord overwhelmed with sorrow on the way to Calvary. Our Lord made the Sign of the Cross to bless the people.

The third scene: Finally, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, crowned queen of heaven and earth, appeared in a glorious vision holding the Child Jesus near her heart.

Immediate Impact

Lucia moved from group to group announcing what Our Lady had told her: the war would soon be over and the soldiers would come home! No one paid heed, though. Shouts echoed in every direction, "Miracle! Miracle!"

Newspapers in Portugal, the majority very anti-Catholic, published many accounts in the coming days. Prominent men present for the miracle gave their testimonies. Photographs of the event circulated widely.

Holy Mother Church, ever prudent in such matters, took time to thoroughly investigate the apparitions. In 1919, with the approval of the local priests, the faithful began erecting the first chapel. On October 13, 1921, the local bishop authorized the first Mass at the chapel of the apparitions. Crews digging near the base of the tree where Our Lady appeared soon discovered springs of crystalline water gushing forth. As a sign of Our Lady's maternal care, she worked numerous miracles through the curative waters.

The anti-Catholic government soon retaliated. On March 6, 1922, the little chapel was destroyed by a powerful bomb. On May 13th of that year, the faithful responded with a pilgrimage of reparation. 60,000 people participated from all parts of Portugal. Despite all opposition, devotion to Our Lady of Fatima was slowly gaining ground. Finally, on October 13, 1930, Bishop José Correia da Silva officially gave approval to the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. The devotion spread throughout the world, with Fatima soon becoming one of the Church's largest centers of pilgrimage.

Francisco and Jacinta would not live to witness the fulfillment of this part of Our Lady's requests. Showing heroic strength amid great sufferings, Francisco passed to his eternal reward on April 4, 1919. His sister Jacinta soon followed him in death on February 19, 1920. Pilgrims coming to Fatima soon thronged the tombs of the young seers.

"The war is going to end..."

In the fall of 1918, the people of Portugal rejoiced to see their sons return from the battlefields of World War I, just as Our Lady predicted. Unfortunately, the people failed to heed Our Lady's call to prayer and conversion.

"If men do not convert, an even worse war will begin in the reign of Pius XI. When you see a night illuminated by an unknown light, know that it is a great sign that God gives you..."

On the night of January 25, 1938, a mysterious light illuminated the skies over Europe and other parts of the world. Unbelievers said it was merely an aurora borealis. As Our Lady foretold, God gave the world a warning.

The horrors of World War II soon engulfed the world. More than 60 million died as a result of the conflict. The chastisements foretold at Fatima came to pass. The end of the war in 1945 brought an end to the destruction. Would the chastisements for the sins of men cease?

On the night of January 25, 1938, the skies of Europe were illuminated by an unknown light. This was the sign Our Lady of Fatima had announced in 1917 as the sign that another worse war would soon follow.



Meanwhile, in Russia

At the same time as the great miracle at Fatima, agents in Russia brought about events with far-reaching effects. Nationwide strikes, social unrest and political instability reigned supreme in Russia throughout 1917. The tumult of 1917 culminated in the storming of the Winter Palace in Petrograd (Saint Petersburg). Just 25 days after the Miracle of the Sun, communism officially usurped the rule of Russia.

The communists soon began a systematic restructuring of Russian life. God and religious practice were banished from the life of the people. Private property and centuries-old traditions were eradicated. Any opponents to supreme state control were arrested and interred in gulags. Millions perished under the relentless march of communism.

As foretold by Our Lady at Fatima, because men did not convert, Russia began to spread its errors throughout the world. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira describes the outcome: "A society from which the idea of God has been virtually banished was constructed in the Eastern countries under the control of the atheistic communist sect. From the highest point of the State to the smallest details of each individual life, everything was organized in opposition to the Natural Law, as codified in the Ten Commandments of the Law of God. Communist legislation abolished private property, instituted the most complete egalitarianism, and practically extinguished the family, making marriage a matter of mere public registry with legally insignificant formalities that can change at the good pleasure of the episodically joined couples."

The true breadth of the evils of Communism would only come to be

understood as they devoured whole nations, cultures, and the remnants of Christian civilization over the twentieth century. Nor was this the limit of the spread of the errors of Russia. Cultural Marxists began a relentless campaign to subvert Western civilization. Materialism, indecent entertainments, sexual immorality, public obscenity and so many other evils invaded all countries.

Our Lady's simple call to conversion and prayer went unheeded by so many of her children. As a result, the scourge of communism and its errors are still prevalent a century later.

"God Wants to Establish Devotion to My Immaculate Heart..."

The only living person who saw Our Lady at Fatima after 1920 was Lucia dos Santos.

In 1925, Lucia entered the convent of the Sisters of Saint Dorothy. While staying at the order's house in Pontevedra, Portugal, Our Lady would give the solution for the many threats facing humanity.

On December 10, 1925, Lucia received a vision of the Blessed Mother alongside a boy who stood upon a luminous cloud. Sister Lucia heard the Boy say, "Have pity on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother which is covered with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment with no one to make an act of reparation to pull them out."

Our Lady then proceeded to give what would come to be known as the devotion of the Five First Saturdays. This apparition would be followed by others, clarifying the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Seeking further solitude, Sister Lucia obtained permission to enter the Carmelite Convent in Coimbra, Portugal, taking the name of Sister Maria Lucia of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. She lived out the remainder of her years there. On February 15, 2005, Lucia dos Santos passed into eternity.

Fatima and America

The Miracle of the Sun at first had few repercussions in the United States. American Msgr. William J. Mcgrath later wrote: "Among those present was a correspondent for one of the major news services in this country. Next day, from Lisbon, he cabled a long and impressive story about the Miracle of the Sun. But it was never published. Chicago and New

The ravages of World War II brought many souls back to the Rosary, confiding in the Mother of God when all else seemed lost.



York were in the middle of the World Series and the long dispatch became a one-inch item relegated to page 24, literally snowed under with details of singles, errors, batting averages and home runs.”

But this silence about the great event would not last. Numerous American journalists went to Fatima to investigate. William Thomas Walsh, in his book on the apparitions simply titled *Our Lady of Fatima*, called the Miracle of the Sun “the greatest modern miracle.”

In his 1947 work, he predicted, “The future of our civilization, our liberties, our very existence may depend upon the acceptance of her commands.” History has proven his prediction correct.

That same year, American John Haffert started world-wide tours of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, promoting the Fatima message. The statue had been carved under Sister Lucia’s direction and blessed by Pope Pius XII. At the final Fatima apparition, Lucia reported seeing Our Lady of Mount Carmel gloriously reigning as queen. Mr. Haffert was one of the first to promote the Brown Scapular in conjunction with the message of prayer, penance and conversion.

In this centennial year, it is good to remember that one of the most important events associated with Fatima happened in the United States. In July 1972, while in the city of New Orleans, the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue miraculously wept human tears. The event soon made headlines around the world.

Commenting a short time later on these tears, Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira wrote: “These mysterious tears show Our Lady of Fatima crying over the modern world, as Our Lord once cried over Jerusalem. Tears of most tender affection, tears of deep pain for the punishment that will come.”

“It will come to men if they do not reject immorality and corruption. It will come if they do not fight especially against the self-destruction of the Church, the cursed smoke of Satan that according to Paul VI has penetrated even into the sacred places.”

“...I will return here a seventh time.”

At the first apparition on May 13, 1917, Our Lady said to the shepherds, “I have come to ask you to come here for six months in succession on the thirteenth day of each month at this same hour. Later I will tell you who I am and what I want. Afterward, I will return here a seventh time.”

Will the Blessed Virgin Mary return a seventh time to Fatima? In what way she may again grace Fatima with her presence no one can say. A hundred years ago the world situation was desperate. Europe was being torn apart by a bloody war. Communists and atheists were banishing God from the public



Actual photo of the miraculous Pilgrim Virgin statue of Our Lady of Fatima that wept human tears in New Orleans, July, 1972.

square. The world was awash in evil and sin.

Today, the world situation is far worse. The sins of men are mounting by the day. Who in 1917 could imagine what has become commonplace in 2017? The list of vices seems endless: blasphemy, the destruction of the family, abortion, divorce, euthanasia, widespread pornography, immoral fashions and lifestyles, homosexuality and so on. Divine intervention is more crucial than ever.

Our Lady of Fatima did not come to doom her children to despair. She came to offer hope. And that hope lies in her promise: “Finally, my Immaculate Heart will triumph.”

The Miracle of the Sun was not the end of the Fatima story. It was the beginning of a story which is still unfolding. With 100 years passing since her appearance at Fatima, let us pray that Our Lady hastens all the events that will lead to her great triumph.

To conclude, let us heed the words of Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira, trusting in Our Lady’s action: “Yes, we turn our eyes to Our Lady of Fatima, requesting of her the contrition that will obtain for us the great pardons, the strength to wage the great battles, and the abnegation to be detached in the great victories that will bring the establishing of her Reign. We desire these victories with our whole heart, even if to reach them, the Church and the human race must undergo the apocalyptic—but how just, regenerating, and merciful—chastisements she predicted in 1917 at the Cova da Iria.” ■



COMMENTARY

Dress According to Your God-Given Dignity

We can restore Christian culture by dressing with dignity on a daily basis.

BY LUIZ SERGIO SOLIMEO

“I love vulgarity. Good taste is death, vulgarity is life.”¹ These words by English fashion designer Mary Quant, who took credit for inventing the miniskirt and hot pants², reveal one of the most important, though rarely pointed out, aspects of the “fashion revolution” that started in the sixties: vulgarity.

Indeed, fashions have increasingly tended toward vulgarity.

Vulgarity not only tramples upon good taste and decorum but reflects a mentality opposed to all order and discipline and to every kind of restraint, be it esthetic, moral or social, and which ultimately suggests a completely “liberated” standard of behavior.

Must Comfort Be the Only Rule of Dress?

The rationale for introducing ever shorter skirts was to be practical and liberating, allowing women the ability to “run for a bus.” The notion that comfort, practicality and freedom of movement must be the only criteria for dress has led to a breakdown in the general standard of sobriety and elegance, not to mention of the norms of modesty.

Thus, casual dress, being more comfortable and practical, increasingly becomes the norm regardless of people’s sex, age and circumstances. Clothes worn at times of leisure should not convey the impression that one is abandoning one’s dignity and self-respect. They should not give the idea that one is actually “on vacation” from one’s principles.

In the past, even leisure dress, though more comfortable, maintained the dignity that one should possess as a child of God.

It is curious to note that many companies require employees to wear business suits to

convey an image of experience and responsibility. This is proof that clothes do transmit a message. They can express either experience and responsibility or, on the other hand, immaturity and carelessness.

Unisex Garb

The premise that comfort and practicality must preside over the choice of clothes has yet another consequence: clothes no longer reflect one’s identity. In other words, they no longer indicate a person’s social position, profession, or even more fundamental characteristics such as sex and age.

Thus, unisex garb has become widespread: jeans and shorts have come to be worn by people of both sexes and all generations. Young men and women, the youth and the aged, single and married, teachers and students, children and adults, all mix together and wear one and the same clothing which no longer expresses that which they are, think or desire.

The Habit Does Not Make the Monk, But It Does Identify Him

One could object that “the habit does not make the monk.” The fact that a person dresses with distinction and elegance does not mean, of itself, that he

The dictionary definition for the word dignity is “the state or quality of being worthy of honor or respect.”

Dignity is shown by our demeanor, attitude and dress. How many modern social problems could be avoided if people simply dressed with a greater attention to their own God-given dignity?



© Kaspars Grinvalds | 123RF

has good principles and good behavior. Likewise, the fact that a person always wears casual dress does not necessarily indicate that he has bad principles or a reprehensible conduct. At first sight, the argument appears logical and even obvious. However, analyzed in depth, it does not stand.

True, the habit does not make the monk. Nevertheless, it is a strong element that identifies him. Furthermore, it influences not only the way people look at the monk, but the way he looks at himself. No one will deny that the loss of identity by many nuns and monks that took place over the last fifty years was largely due to their shedding the traditional habits, which adequately expressed the spirit of poverty, chastity and obedience, as well as an ascetic lifestyle proper to consecrated persons.³

"One Must Live as One Thinks"

Given the unity that exists in our tendencies, principles, convictions and behavior, the way we dress cannot fail to influence our mentality.

Wearing a certain type of clothing constitutes a form of behavior; and when clothing no longer adequately reflects our tendencies, principles and convictions, one's mentality begins to undergo an imperceptible change to remain "in sync" with the way one presents oneself. This is because human reason, by the force of logic inherent in it, naturally seeks to establish consistency between thought and behavior.

This rule is magnificently summed up in the famous phrase of French writer Paul Bourget: "One must live as one thinks, under pain of sooner or later ending up thinking as one has lived."⁴

The process of transformation or erosion of principles can be slowed down or impeded by a

person's religious fervor, deeply rooted tendencies or ideas, and other factors. However, if inconsistency between behavior—reflected in the way one dresses—and one's principles and convictions is not eliminated, the process of erosion, no matter how slow, becomes inevitable.

Erosion of Respect for the Sacred

This subtle erosion is often manifested by a loss of sensitivity regarding the fundamental points of one's mentality. One example would be the respect one must have for the sacred.

In some way, concessions to the principle that comfort must be the only rule of dress have ended up by giving a casual note to more serious and holy activities. How can one explain, for example, that persons who have true faith in the Real Presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and who make

admirable sacrifices to frequent perpetual adoration, nevertheless see no contradiction in presenting themselves before the Blessed Sacrament wearing shorts as if they were on a picnic?

The same person who shows up thus dressed for perpetual adoration would never don those clothes for an audience, say, with Queen Elizabeth II. This contradiction

shows how, though the person has maintained his faith, to a certain degree the notion of the majesty of the Sacrament of the Altar—the Real Presence—has vanished from his soul.

A Bland "Equality"

There is a general tendency in our times to establish a most radical impartiality at all levels of culture and social relations between the sexes, and even in the tendency to treat men and animals equally.

Clothing that does not show a person's self-respect as an intelligent and free being contributes to a large extent to the present destruction of the family.



© xavierarnau | iStock

In dress, this “equality” is manifested by the growing establishment of unisex fashions and the abolition of differences between generations. The same attire can be worn by anybody no matter his position, age or circumstance (e.g. on a trip, participating in a religious or civil ceremony).

Chaos reigns in the domain of fashions today. It is often difficult to distinguish, by their clothes, men from women, parents from children, a religious ceremony from a picnic. Haircuts and hairstyles follow the same tendency to confound age and sex and to break down standards of self-respect and good taste.

Illusion of Eternal Youth

One of the aspects that stand out the most in the modern dictates of fashion is the desire to create an illusion of eternal youth, even perpetual adolescence with no responsibility, a phenomenon that has been called the “Peter Pan Syndrome.”⁵

Modern fashion shows a tendency to treat grown adults like children. A Brazilian fashion critic thus expressed herself: “For a long time now, we have seen on catwalks, both international and domestic, fashions that should be displayed at the Children’s Expo, such is the level of infantilization they suggest. Stylists over 25 years old were designing (and wearing) clothes that could be worn by children in a day care center.”⁶

Modesty is Essential to Chastity

In addition to the extravagant, egalitarian and infantilizing tendency of modern fashion, one needs to consider the attack on virtue and the complete lack of modesty.

The human body has its beauty, and this beauty attracts us. Due to the disorder which Original Sin left in man, the disorder of concupiscence, the delight in contemplating bodily beauty, and particularly of the feminine body can lead to temptation and sin.

That is not to say that some parts of the body are good and can be shown and others are bad and must be covered. Such a statement is absurd and was never part of Church doctrine. All parts of the body are good, for the body is good as a whole, having been created by God. However, not all body parts are equal, and some excite the sexual appetite more than others. Thus, exposing those parts through semi-nudity or risqué low-cut dresses or wearing clothes so tight as to accentuate one’s anatomy poses a grave risk of causing excitation, particularly in men in relation to women.

Therefore, clothes must cover that which must be covered and make stand out that which can be emphasized. To cover a woman’s face, like Muslims do, shows well the lack of equilibrium of a religion that does not understand true human dignity. The face, the noblest part of the body because it more perfectly reflects the spiritual soul, is precisely the part that

stands out the most in the traditional habits of nuns.

Just as masculine clothes should emphasize the manly aspect proper to man, feminine fashion should manifest grace and delicacy.

Immorality in Fashions and Destruction of the Family

Clothing that does not show a person’s self-respect as an intelligent and free being (and, through baptism, as a son or daughter of God and a temple of the Holy Ghost), contributes to a large extent to the present destruction of the family. It does this by favoring temptations against purity. It also does this by its vulgarity and childishness that corrodes the notion of the reason for life and the need for self-discipline, all of which are fundamental elements that maintain family cohesion and stability.

The struggle for the restoration of the family by opposing abortion, contraception, and homosexuality will be much more effective if done together with efforts to restore modesty and self-respect in dress.

Dress and the Love of God

The role of clothing is not only to protect the body from the elements, but also to serve as adornment and to symbolize someone’s functions, characteristics and mentality. Clothing must be dignified and decent, but also beautiful and elegant. To do this requires more good taste than money.

One characteristic of God is beauty. If the “way of beauty” leads us to God by seeing Him as the exemplary cause of creation, the “way of ugliness” turns us away from the Creator and places us on the slippery slope of sin (separation from God and His grace). That is why ugliness is the very symbol of sin and is so well expressed by the phrase “ugly as sin.” ■

This article was first published at www.TFP.org

Notes:

1. Mary Quant talks to Alison Adburgham, Tuesday, October 10, 1967, <http://century.guardian.co.uk/1960-1969/Story/0,6051,106475,00.html>.

2. Cf., <http://www.spiritus-temporis.com/mary-quant/>

3. Fortunately, for some time now there has been a wholesome reaction against the abandonment of the traditional habit, a fact that has brought an increase in the number of vocations. According to a recently published book, “communities of sisters whose members wear an identifiable religious habit” are the most flourishing and attract young women the most. (Book says young women attracted to orders whose members wear habits, CNS, www.catholicnews.com/data/briefs/cns/20090526.htm).

4. Cf. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira, *Revolution and Counter-Revolution*, www.tfp.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=691&Itemid=107.

5. Cf. Dr. Dan Kiley, *The Peter Pan Syndrome – Men Who Have Never Grown Up*, Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, 1983.

6. Gloria Kalil, *Os kids e a moda Alô Chics!* http://chic.ig.com.br/site/secao.php?secao_id=1&materia_id=867.



AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA[®]

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017

PROGRESS REPORT

And Her Children DEFENDED HER

BY ANTONIO FRAGELLI

If I were an unbeliever, the mere fact that the Catholic Church, Jesus and Mary are the main targets for blasphemers would be sufficient reason for me to suspect that THIS must be the true religion. For why should the powers of evil insist on persecuting it so much while leaving other religious groups alone?

Yet another proof of this is the *Testament of Mary* play, which is nothing but an offensive and blasphemous attack on the pure and sublime character of the Mother of God. Based on a novel by Colm Tóibín, it was first presented in New York City and most recently announced in

Cleveland, Ohio this past July.

Having publicly protested and offered reparation twice before in New York City for this degrading play, America Needs Fatima again convoked a Rally of Reparation and Protest in Playhouse Square in Cleveland, Ohio. Over 150 participants attended the act of reparation and protest which took place on July 8th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Rosaries, litanies and Marian songs were part of the program and loud shouts of "REPARATION! REPARATION! REPARATION!" were heard through the streets of Cleveland. Joining our efforts in spirit were all those who added their names to the large America Needs Fatima banner—a total of 31,686 names in all!

The play's offensive misrepresentation

of the character of Mary was expressed by an actress who does not think her son is the Son of God and she is portrayed as a skeptic who did not follow her own Son. In the novel the play is based on, she says: "I am not one of His followers." She thinks the apostles are "a group of misfits." At the Crucifixion she fled, saying: "It was my own safety I thought of; it was to protect myself."

While true and loyal friends of Mary Most Holy were outside praying, inside it seems the interest for the offensive play was minimal, as few were the people seen to waste their time or money on such literary rubbish. ■

Over 150 Catholics take to the streets of Cleveland in defense of Mary Most Holy.





Nearly 200 Houston Catholics Say "NEVER!" to Blasphemous Exhibit

BY ROBERT NUÑEZ



Top: Simple signs make a strong statement. Above: Catholics kneel on the sidewalk in reparation for the irreverent "art" exhibit.

On Saturday June 25, 2017, members and friends of the American TFP and its America Needs Fatima campaign gathered in front of the Station Museum of Contemporary Art in Houston for a peaceful rally of prayer and protest against a blasphemous exhibit being displayed there. Called the "P*ss Christ," it is a vile and vulgar piece of "art" by Andres Serrano which depicts a crucifix submerged in a jar of the artist's urine.

Despite the threat of rain and the scorching Texas heat, about 170 local Catholics assembled at 4:30 to the sound of the hymn *Hail Holy Queen* as a statue of Our Lady of Fatima, borne by members of the American TFP, processed in and took her place in the front of the crowd. Young and old alike filled the sidewalks surrounding the museum, praying the rosary, singing hymns, and holding signs and large banners.

The disgruntled museum staff promptly called the police. Soon, about a dozen officers appeared on scene to investigate, but they quickly saw that everything was lawful and allowed the rally to proceed. "I can tell that you have all done this before because you are following all the



Mother Mary watches over her children as they take a stand for her Son.

rules," complimented the lead officer.

Interestingly, at the time of the protest, a homosexual "pride parade" was also taking place a few miles away. Several people representing the LGBT movement came by to defiantly wave rainbow flags, showing that the sexual revolution goes hand in hand with a love of vulgarity and ultimately, abhorrence of God.

Undeterred, the protesters stood firm for the entirety of the two-hour rally, enduring the insults with resignation and offering them up in reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. They found comfort in the beautiful words of Our Lord in scripture: "He who confesses Me before men, I will confess him before My Father in heaven." ■

Your Rosette at Fatima

BY KENNETH MURPHY

On July 13, 2017, the 100th anniversary of the third apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, thousands of rosettes made into a giant wreath were delivered to the Fatima Shrine in Portugal. Each rosette represented the prayers and intentions of an America Needs Fatima member. The opportunity to send a rosette to Fatima was especially appreciated by those who could not fly to Portugal this year but still wanted to honor the anniversary.

Since this summer marked my 10-year anniversary as an America Needs Fatima volunteer, I was given the honor of delivering the rosette wreath. Before going to the exact spot where Our Lady appeared, I first brought the wreath to the tombs of the newly canonized Saints Jacinta and Francisco. While carrying the wreath through the plaza several fellow pilgrims recognized the name of the TFP's Fatima campaign America Needs Fatima. A gentleman named Walter walked across the shrine and introduced himself saying, "I'm a rosary rally captain from San Francisco!" All were astonished by the sheer number of rosettes in the wreath and they promised to pray for the intentions of all those who sent their rosette. ■





2017 ANF calendar

"It is with gratitude that your letter has been received wherein you present the 2017 America Needs Fatima Calendar. Thank you. The initiative to distribute Our Lady of Fatima calendars throughout the United States is worthy of recognition. Indeed, it is quite fitting to honor the Lord's Mother in this way during the Centennial of Our Lady's message of peace. Please know that it is my prayer that many persons will experience conversions of heart during this special anniversary. This opportunity is taken to extend to you the assurances of my continued consideration, as well as my prayers for you and America Needs Fatima."

*Bishop Frank J. Dewane,
Bishop of the Diocese of Venice, Fla.*



"Thank you so much for your kindness in sending the very beautiful calendar of Our Heavenly Queen. Please know that we are uniting our daily rosaries to all of you in your group, asking Our Lady that in this year in which we joyfully celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Her apparitions to the three little shepherds, we will experience the great promise of Our Heavenly Father: 'The Empress of the Universe will crush the head of the serpent—forever.' Let's pray together for the fulfillment of God's promise."

F. F., Daly City, Calif.

"I didn't know Mary had a special day EVERY day. It warms my heart to know so! God bless you and your work."

S. C., Kings Mountain, N.C.

America Needs Fatima Apostolate

"We are writing again to express our deep, sincere appreciation for the beautiful books and religious articles. In gratitude

for these beautiful, memorable items, we enclose our most humble contribution to ANF. We LOVE and SUPPORT respected organizations like ANF, which professes and evangelizes traditional Catholic values and traditions.

T. S., New Brunswick, N.J.

"God forever favor you, shining souls of ANF! You are His Hands and Heart at wondrous work in a needful world."

B. C., Lake Wales, Fla.

Fatima Centennial Rosary

"My mother has been a supporter of yours for a long time, but she's now suffering with memory loss, she seems to even forget the Lord now as well as her daily prayers. Her mind can no longer remember the prayers she has prayed through her many years of life. It makes me so sad to see this. Today I asked the Lord for a sign to help me through my troubles these days.... I opened up this rosary package, and I cried."

M. W., Newfane, N.Y.

"Thank you very much for the beautiful blue Rosary made in Italy! I love how it says Fatima 1917-2017 on the back of the Rosary medal. I also love the blue beads and the beautiful sunburst around the silver crucifix. I became a full-fledged Catholic when I was 60 years old on April 10, 2004. I'm 73 now—13 years a Catholic. I love the Catholic Church and being a Catholic!"



E. H., Cleveland, Ohio

"I received your mailing which included a beautiful rosary. When I was growing up, Our Lady of the Rosary was beautifully honored. The gift you sent brought back many wonderful memories of the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima."

Sister H. C., Utica, N.Y.

"Your letter and Rosary (lovely crucifix) arrived at a very good time. I once was a daily user of the Rosary, but I stopped reciting it several years ago. About a week or two ago, I decided to resume praying it but my old beads were broken. Then your mail arrived, and like a miracle, there was a Rosary therein, and one that I liked. I want to thank you, it solved my problem."

M. G., Tucson, Ariz.



Have something you'd like to share?
Send us your feedback by writing to **Crusade@TFP.org**



Catholics Reject Satanic Monument in Belle Plaine, Minnesota

BY WILLIAM SIEBENMORGEN

Over 250 Catholics braved the midday heat on Saturday, July 15, 2017, to prove that America is still one nation under God at the Veterans' Memorial Park in Belle Plaine, Minnesota, and to protest the nation's first satanic monument to be placed on public property.

Locals were joined by participants from Wisconsin, Maryland, Kansas, Arkansas, Illinois, and Pennsylvania. All united to recite the rosary, sing hymns to the Blessed Mother and offer prayers to Saint Michael to counteract the influences of the devil.

"Satanism isn't a religion," Jean Weymier, a participant, affirmed, "but the antithesis of religion. There is no room for compromise with Satan."

Those present were met with great support from passersby. As it turned out, the street along which the rally was held was part of a detour. One participant noted, "I think I counted at least 500 honks of support from people driving by."

A good protest is not without opposition. A small band of Satanists sat in the shade nearby. Their presence served to invigorate the prayer warriors and to stand as an excellent reminder of the importance of protesting.

"The presence of Satanists really shows how important the rally is. It gives a face to Satanism," said Joseph Ritchie, who flew in from Maryland to attend the rally.

The event ended with a procession of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, while participants sang *God Bless America*.

On the same day, the first round of 22,769 signatures against the satanic monument was delivered to the City Council of Belle Plaine. In addition, a large sign was displayed bearing the

names of those donors that generously supported the effort.

On July 17th, just two days after the ANF protest, Belle Plaine city officials released the following statement:

Last night, the Belle Plaine City Council voted to rescind a resolution enacted in February, 2017, that allowed individuals or organizations to place and maintain privately-owned displays in a designated space of the city-owned Veterans Memorial Park.

As called-for in the resolution, owners of all privately-owned Park displays currently located in the Park's designated space are now being given 10 days' notice to remove the displays. Our local veterans organizations are supportive of this action.

Therefore, the Council believes that it is in the best interests of our Belle Plaine community to rescind the resolution, and bring this divisive matter to closure.

This was an inspiring victory for Our Lady. She once again crushed the serpent's head with her heel; there will be no satanic monument in Belle Plaine. ■



The effects of this protest were felt just days later when the city council rescinded a resolution that would have allowed the Satanic Temple to display a satanic monument in the Veterans' Park.

Campaign to End Satanism in America Achieves Milestone

America Needs Fatima reports that the Campaign to end Satanism in America has reached a total of 3,184,557 rosaries pledged as this magazine goes to press. The campaign was launched on December 8, 2016, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, in response to the growing and pervasive infiltration of Satanism in mainstream America.

With the aid of the most potent weapon against the power of evil at our disposal—the Holy Rosary—Catholics can now enlist in a timely campaign aimed at ending the scourge of Satanism in our country, once and for all. To be counted in this effort, all you need to do is visit the America Needs Fatima website at www.ANF.org/BegoneSatan. ■





One Hundred Miles for Our Lady of Fatima

BY MICHAEL GORRE

To honor the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions in Fatima, Portugal, I had the blessing of walking a pilgrimage of over 100 miles from Lisbon to Fatima with three other TFP/ANF members from June 7th to the 12th. The intentions of the pilgrimage were: to honor Our Lady of Fatima, to pray for the intentions of ANF members, to do penance in reparation for sins and blasphemies against the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and to pray for the conversion of sinners.

To get a taste of what our pilgrimage was like, here follows a journal of our six-day pilgrimage:

Day 1—June 7 (Lisbon to Vila Franca de Xira: 25.9 miles)

We started our pilgrimage by visiting the Church of Saint Anthony of Lisbon (Padua), a church built over his birthplace. Also visiting the Cathedral of Lisbon, we prayed for the intentions sent to us by ANF members and supporters. Then we walked for a total of 12 hours. We arrived at Vila Franca de Xira at dusk, a beautiful purple hovering over the eastern sky as we walked along the Tagus River.



Following signs to Fatima and carrying 16+ pounds on their backs, the pilgrims progress through the city streets of Lisbon.



Standing in front of the Convent of Christ in Tomar, our four pilgrims hold the America Needs Fatima banner aloft while on their way to Fatima.

Day 2—June 8 (Vila Franca de Xira to Valada: 21.7 miles)

After a good night's rest with a cool breeze blowing through our hostel, we ate a continental breakfast and began the second day of our pilgrimage at 9:20 a.m. Much of the path ran through the "market garden" of Portugal with its rich alluvial soil. As we prayed rosary after rosary, we walked through rice paddies, fields of wheat, tomatoes, sunflowers, as well as apple orchards and vineyards.

By the time we arrived in Valada it was already 8:00 p.m. For dinner, we ate veal sandwiches and snails at Café Mano Velho. Yes, snails! The locals said they were good and that we should try them. For a couple of us, it took some coaxing, but in the end, we all agreed that they were tasty.

Day 3—June 9 (Valada to Santarém: 12.3 miles)

This morning we awoke to the sound of sheep bleating in the nearby pasture. We stocked up on ham and cheese sandwiches and apples and oranges that the elderly café owner kindly gave us. The Portuguese have been very hospitable and



The pilgrimage allowed for hours of prayer and contemplation.



Top: Our pilgrims began their journey in the Cathedral of Lisbon, praying for the intentions of all members of ANF. Above: Ever upwards, the pilgrims cover the rugged terrain of Portugal's hill country.

generous to us pilgrims. The sun cooked us as we walked and prayed along the dusty farm road.

We arrived in Santarém, a town full of churches and rich in Catholic history, including the Church of the Miracle, home to a famous thirteenth century Eucharistic Miracle. We went to Mass at the Church of Saint Nicholas, the walls of which are decorated with beautiful *azulejos* (blue tiles).

We ate our evening meal together at one table with pilgrims from Italy and Germany. The conversation was lively, with bits of German, mostly English and some Italian thrown in the mix. There is something about suffering the rigors of the Camino that brings people together.

Day 4—June 10 (Santarém to Golegã: 24 miles)

This morning, we had the blessing of venerating the Eucharistic Miracle of Santarém up close in the Church of the Miracle. After praying for the intentions of ANF's benefactors and friends, we proceeded to the overlook, "Portas do Sol," taking in the breathtaking panorama for a few minutes before going through the Gate of Santiago and down the hill.

The sun was quite hot and there were long stretches with no cafés or grocery stores. We were deep in the countryside. We arrived in Golegã at 8:30 p.m. Toward the end, we became so weary of

walking that we began to jog. Believe it or not, it felt better for our feet and legs.

Day 5—June 11 (Golegã to Tomar: 18.5 miles)

First we walked among vast stretches of sunflowers, all turned toward the rising sun. We left the alluvial plains of the Tagus River and began climbing rolling hills covered with eucalyptus trees whose aromatic leaves reminded us of the incense used in church for High Mass. We next passed through small charming towns with homes displaying *azulejos* of Our Lady of Fatima, Saint Anthony or the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

As we crested a hill, we could see the imposing Templar castle of Tomar in the distance, a sight that raised our spirits. We attended Sunday Mass at the Church of Santa Maria do Olival. Then, weary but happy, we limped our way back to our hostel.

Day 6—June 12 (Tomar to Fatima: 18.4 miles)

The forecast was sunny with a high of 100 degrees. Very fitting for our 100-mile pilgrimage to honor the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions at Fatima!



With temperatures over 100 degrees and no shade in sight, the pilgrims had many sacrifices to offer in reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



Because of the heat, we made sure to bring lots of water and take regular breaks. At one point, Mr. Peter Shibler ran out of water. Concerned, we asked Our Lady to help us reach a fountain soon. Lo and behold, within 15 minutes, we came upon a fountain with delightfully cool water. Thank you, Our Lady of Fatima!

We walked for another two hours until we reached the village of Aljustrel, stopping at the house of Saints Jacinta and Francisco Marto. We then proceeded to Valinhos, where Our Lady appeared to the three children in August 1917. We also visited the sites where the Angel of Portugal appeared to the three children in 1916 to prepare them for Our Lady's apparitions. We prayed in thanksgiving for a safe pilgrimage and for all of your intentions.

We continued another mile or so to the Cova da Iria where she performed the miracle of the sun. The sun was setting and we were greeted by a cool breeze as we prayed our final prayers of the 100-mile pilgrimage at the Chapel of the Apparitions that marks the spot where Our Lady appeared.

* * *

The joy we felt upon arriving at the Cova da Iria



After walking over 100 miles, the pilgrims reach their final destination, the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima.

is difficult to put into words. We suffered through blisters, heat, soreness and weariness to get to Fatima. Yet, we were profoundly happy. We had walked in the footsteps of the many thousands who came to witness the miracle of the sun. In imitation of Saints Jacinta and Francisco, we prayed numerous rosaries and made sacrifices for the conversion of sinners, as Our Lady asked us to do 100 years ago. ■

Dynamic Opposition to Blasphemous *Act of God*

BY WILLIAM GOSSETT

In the heart of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a blasphemous theater production was underway. The play, *Act of God*, irreverently portrayed the story of Creation by substituting Adam and Eve with Adam and Steve, suggesting that the first parents of mankind were homosexuals, an obvious absurdity. The play also depicted God as an angry and sadistic man who gets pleasure out of making others suffer.

To make reparation for this blasphemous play, volunteers from America Needs Fatima and the American TFP stood their ground in front of the theater, reciting the Holy Rosary and giving slogans calling for reparation. They were joined by local supporters.

The average age of those entering the theater was around 50 and older—old enough to know better, but apparently



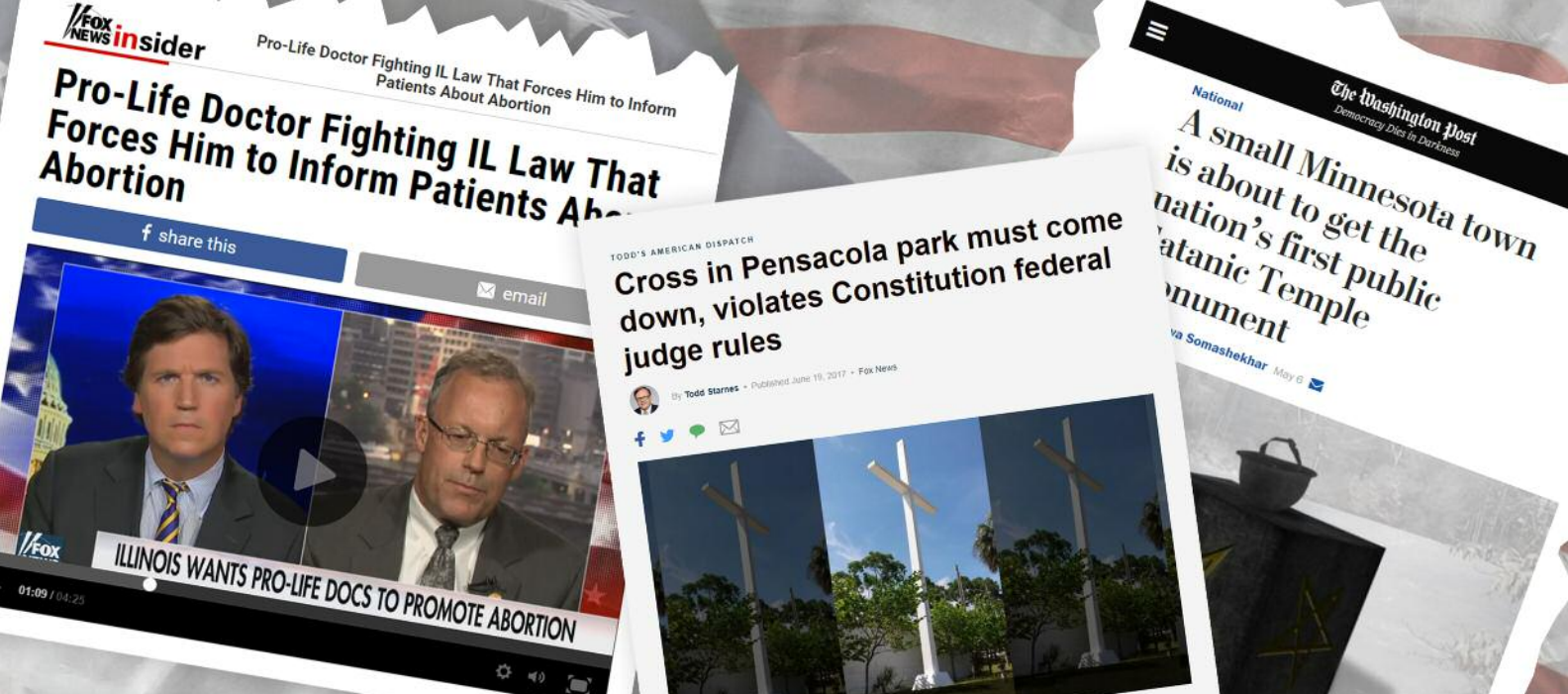
Act of God required the people of God to stand together in reparation for this offensive play.

too young to care about offending the Most High God. Many cynical comments were made at the volunteers, implying that the campaign was giving publicity to the play. Others shouted "Shame on you!" as though the peaceful, prayerful volunteers were somehow in the wrong.

Regardless of the insults and rejection, the Rosary Rally went on and reparation was made for the sickening and blasphemous play, *Act of God*. ■



"Honks" for Jesus were deafening in Pittsburgh.



STOP AMERICA'S CRISIS: *Become A Rosary Rally Captain*

Now's the time to sign up as a Rally Captain for the historic Centennial Public Square Rosary Rallies being held on October 14, 2017, and have a complimentary red rose sent to Fatima in your name.

All you need is a banner—which ANF will send to your home free of charge—and a few friends to display it with you in a public place. *It's that simple!*

Our friendly staff is ready to help you through each step of the process. Please call them at (866) 584-6012 today or sign up online at: www.ANF.org.

Our goal for this year's rallies is to counter the advance of the destructive secular agenda—abortion, homosexuality, immorality and so forth—and ask God to guide every aspect of our society.

God will hear our prayers, especially if we pray the Rosary of His Blessed Mother. Without prayer, and specifically the Rosary, we will not find solutions to our nation's many problems.

Last year, America Needs Fatima organized over 16,323 Rosary Rallies. This October, in honor of the 100-year Anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun, we aim to organize at least 20,000 Rosary Rallies for October 14th.

America needs a monumental
miracle of conversion, and
with your help it can happen!

**Please call us at (866) 584-6012 today
or sign up online at www.ANF.org.**

