

January/February 2018

CRUSADE

MAGAZINE

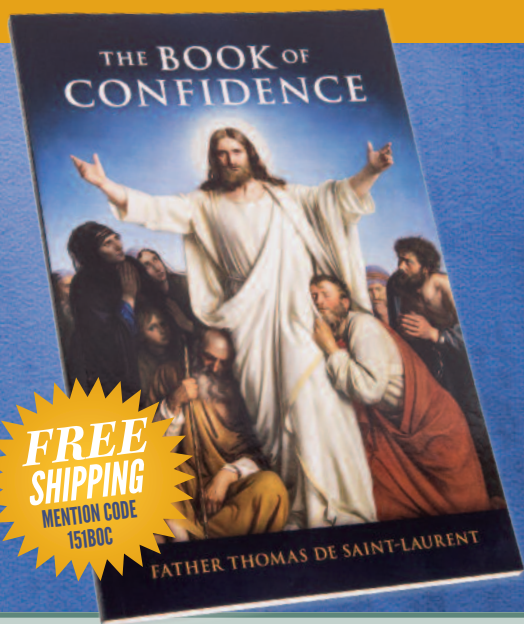


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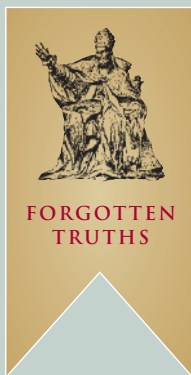
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Real Saints Are Crusaders

BY LUIS C. AZEVEDO



The idea of fighting constantly fed the strong soul of the “Little Flower.”

“I went to sleep for a few moments during prayer,” she would tell Mother Agnes. “I dreamt there were not enough soldiers for a war against the Prussians. You said: ‘We need to send Sister Thérèse of the Child Jesus.’ I answered that I agreed, but that I would prefer to fight at a holy war. But finally I went all the same.

“Oh no, I would not fear going to war. With what joy, for example, at the time of the Crusades, I would have gone to combat heretics. Yes! I would not have been afraid to be shot; I would not have feared the fire!”¹

“When I think I’m dying in bed! I would want to die in an arena!”²

The same combative spirit animated her in the struggles of the spiritual life: “Sanctity! We need to conquer it at the tip of the sword...we need to fight!”³

Such is the mettle of this extremely active and energetic warrior soul, according to the testimonies of those who knew her: “Under a suave and gracious aspect [she] revealed at every instant, in her actions, a strong character and a manly soul; she

would not be discouraged in her dedication to the interests of the Church.”⁴

A handwriting analysis of Saint Thérèse’s Act of Profession gives this admirable testimony: “An iron-clad resolution, a great will to fight, an indomitable energy are expressed here. These traits show at the same time the fright of a child and the decisiveness of a warrior.”⁵



Although she died in 1897, when the First World War broke out, Saint Thérèse appeared some forty times in various battlefields, at times holding a cross in her hand, at times a saber! The soldiers saw her; she spoke to them matter-of-factly, resolved their doubts, overcame their temptations and calmed their fears. She protected, consoled and converted them.

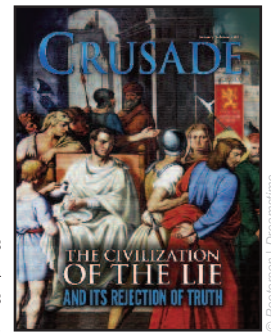
Saint Thérèse, pray for us! ■

Notes:

1. Carnet Jaune, 4.8.6 in *Demiers entretiens*, Éditions du Centenaire, Desclée de Brouwer Éditions du Cerf, Paris, 1971.
2. Summarium of the Process of Beatification and Canonization 1, testimony of Celine, 2753.
3. Correspondance Générale, Éditions du Cerf-Desclée de Brouwer, Paris, 1972, t. I (1877–1890), Letter (no. 89) Celine, April 26, 1889; Letter to Leonie, May 20, 1894.
4. Summarium of the Process of Beatification and Canonization 1, testimony of Mother Agnes, 706, and of Mother Therese of Saint Augustine, 1072.
5. Father François de Sainte-Marie, OCDP, *Manuscrits Autobiographiques*, Office Central de Lisieux, 1956, vol. II, 53.

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Pilate condemns Jesus to die. Painting from Saint Michael's Church, Vienna.

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THE AMERICAN TFP

The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) is an organization of lay Catholic Americans concerned about the moral crisis shaking the remnants of Christian civilization. Its earliest origins date back to January 1971, when the first TFP members started to group around the publication *Crusade for a Christian Civilization*. It is a civic, cultural and nonpartisan organization which, inspired by the traditional teachings of the Supreme Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church, works in a legal and peaceful manner in the realm of ideas to

defend and promote the principles of private ownership, family and perennial Christian values with their twofold function: individual and social. The TFP's words and efforts have always been faithfully at the service of Christian civilization. The first TFP was founded in Brazil by the famous intellectual and Catholic leader Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira in 1960. His work inspired the formation of other autonomous TFP sister organizations across the globe, thus constituting the world's largest anticommunist and antisocialist network of Catholic inspiration.

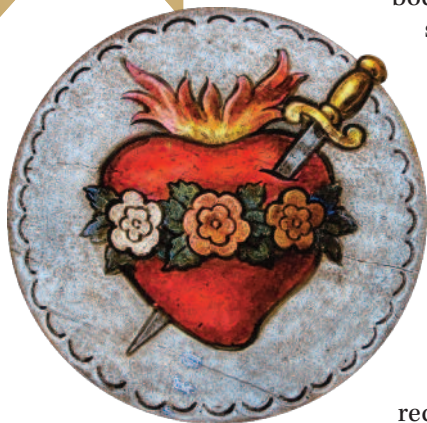


IN BRIEF

Scotland Consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

In a large ceremony attended by the Church hierarchy and thousands of Catholics, Scotland was officially consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Bishop John Keenan, on behalf of the faithful, declared that “We consecrate Scotland to you: all that we have, all that we love, all that we are. To

you, we give our minds and hearts, our bodies and souls... [We] devote ourselves wholeheartedly to the service of your blessed name, in order to assure, through the sovereignty of your Immaculate Heart, the coming of the kingdom of your adorable Son Jesus Christ, in our own hearts and in our country of Scotland.” The historic consecration took place at the shrine of Our Lady at Carfin, 35 miles west of Edinburgh and was later recognized by the Scottish Parliament in a statement.



U.S. Dioceses Consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary

By the end of 2017, several American bishops will have consecrated their dioceses to the Immaculate Heart of Mary to mark the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima’s apparitions. Among the dioceses are San Francisco and Philadelphia. Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco said that this consecration was “nothing less than a call to arms.” He added: “The century since Fatima apparitions now ending has mocked God, but God will not be mocked: not because He delights in wreaking vengeance on us, but because turning our backs on God only bounces back to us, leading to our own self-destruction.”

Department of Justice Defends Religious Liberty of Baker

In a move that LGBT supporters have called “shocking,” the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) recently filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of Colorado baker Jack Phillips, who was found in 2012 to have vio-



lated the state’s anti-discrimination act for declining to bake a cake for a “gay wedding.” “Forcing Phillips to create expression for and participate in a ceremony that violates his sincerely held religious beliefs invades his First Amendment rights,” wrote Acting Solicitor General Jeffrey B. Wall, one of the authors of the brief. “Weddings are sacred rites in the religious realm and profoundly symbolic ceremonies in the secular one.” In addition to the DOJ, at least 86 members of Congress have filed their own amicus brief in support of Jack Phillips and Masterpiece Cakeshop.

“After School Satan Club” Closed

A Satanic after-school program that targets elementary school children has closed after it failed to attract recruits and funds. “After School Satan,” as it was called, opened in December 2016 at Point Defiance Elementary School in Tacoma, Washington amid widespread protests by parents and local Catholics. TFP Student Action gathered over 103,000 signatures in an online petition calling for the cancellation of the club and delivered them to the school on the day of the first meeting. Despite the club being heavily promoted by the Satanic Temple and a largely sympathetic media, only one child ended up joining. The effort by Satanists to target children as young as five years old ended as a result of strong protests from parents and the general public.



Cleveland Theater Closes Operations

Over 150 America Needs Fatima members and supporters who protested outside a theater staging the blasphemous play, *The Testament of Mary* (*Crusade*, September/October 2017 issue) were pleased to learn that the theater company suspended its operations indefinitely due to poor box office revenues. A total of 31,686 other protestors joined the protest in spirit. Their names were printed on a large banner that was displayed during the peaceful and prayerful protest in reparation for the blasphemy against the Blessed Virgin Mary. The play portrayed Our Lady as a skeptic who did not follow her own Son.



CHRIST IN THE HOME

A CATHOLIC TEENAGER'S Guide to Modesty

BY SETH HAKES

“Do whatever you want. Be what you want to be! Look the way you want.” Hasn't every teenager heard this repeated over and over again. We have been told to follow our every whim. We have been told to do anything we want—to eat, to play sports, to video game the weekend away—without any or very little restraint. It is as if teenagers have no need to practice the virtue of moderation. It is as if temptations are not a concern for teenagers. It is as if being young frees us from occasions of sin, as if a teenager is not in danger of mortal sin.

I find this especially true in regard to the way teenagers are expected to dress. Well, this teenager doesn't agree.

Fashion Models for a Catholic Teenager

As a 15-year-old boy, I was struck by Saint Jacinta's (age 9) prophecy about fashions to come that “will greatly offend God.” Though she

died in 1919, her nearly 100-year-old prophecies clearly point to today's times. If Our Lady came herself to warn us, through Jacinta, about fashions to come, then I think it's pretty important we listen.

People no longer dress to reflect human dignity. Catholics, concretely, have forgotten that we are sacred temples. A baptized soul, and especially a soul in the state of grace, has more incentive to dress modestly. We can't just dress for ourselves.

We need to dress keeping in mind others, and, ultimately, God. The saints understood this and every saint dressed appropriately. Saint Padre Pio is quoted as saying, “May the fashions of the world not be the model for our attire, but rather the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Saints.”



Saint Jacinta Marto

Does a Teenager Not Suffer the Effects of Original Sin?

Saint Jacinta's prophecies are more important than ever. American culture does not promote innocence and purity. To the contrary, it promotes the lifestyle of impurity that eventually leads to contraception and abortion.

There is a reason why Adam and Eve covered themselves after Original Sin. From then on, sin was in play. They no longer had the innocence they possessed before Original Sin. It's rather strange that we advocate to dress as if we are the modern-day Adam and Eve before they sinned. We should have the humility to realize that we also

have Original Sin, even teenagers.

When society tells us that it's alright to expose our bodies, when our bad friends encourage us to take our shirts off in public, when they tell us that wearing something immodest is “hot,” all this is trying to tell a teenager that he or she should not feel embarrassed to be dressed improperly in public and that it's “cool” to dress like everyone else. We are being bullied to think immodesty is normal and modesty is abnormal.

How can a world that claims to tolerate everybody be so intolerant of those who want to practice modesty and purity?

Again this teenager doesn't agree. Teenagers are conceived in Original Sin just like everybody else. We feel the temptations of impurity, maybe even more than many adults. My generation is hypersexualized. According to a 2013 study¹, a shocking 96% of 16-year-olds have seen pornography.

In another study², the CDC reported that “Americans ages 15 to 24 years old accounted for nearly two-thirds of chlamydia diagnoses and half of gonorrhea diagnoses.” That's about 1.2 million of my generation alone with STDs. Sin is not only deadly for the soul but unhealthy for the body. Virtue, especially modesty and purity, elevates the dignity of human nature.

Common Sense: Avoiding Sin and the Occasion of Sin

When dealing with modesty, we need to use a lot of common sense. If we let our common sense be guided by good morals, it will be easier to gauge what leads others to sin or when we are an occasion of sin. According to the studies cited above, most teenagers lack sensual restraint;



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When it comes to dress, our modern world intentionally ignores our decadent nature (Original Sin). Modesty in dress is an issue of charity towards neighbor if nothing else. But it also secures respect of self and an authentic sense of our individual dignity.

more than ever we should dress in a way that does not entice them into sin.

The great Saint John Chrysostom compares being dressed immodestly in public to the snares of the devil. He wrote, "You carry your snare everywhere and spread your nets in all places. You allege that you never invited others to sin. You did not indeed, by your words, but you have done so by your dress and your deportment."

Dressing Modestly to Reflect the Best Version of Yourself

When I was about seven, I liked dressing up like the heroes I admired. A lot of boys today wear the jerseys of their favorite athlete. By dressing up like the people they admire, they feel like they can become like them.

That's why it never made sense to me why some adults dress like teenagers, or why some professionals dress like they are not. It makes sense for adults to dress like adults, girls, like girls, boys, like boys, firemen, like firemen, soldiers, like soldiers, and, doctors, like doctors.

California State University psychology professor Abraham Rutchick argues that formal clothing "changes the basic way we see the world."

Whether eating, walking, conversing, or facing temptation, the way we dress affects ourselves and others. Matthew Hutson and Tori Rodriguez, on a Scientific American article³ based on several studies, wrote, "What you wear can influence your thinking and negotiating skills, and even hormone levels and heart rate." They argue that the best versions of ourselves come out when we "dress up" instead of looking informal.

Dressing Modestly to Reflect Virtue and Dignity

Clothes reflect your most valued possession, your virtue. This is more important than a graduate degree or having a successful money market account. Contrary to the slogans of the world, modest clothing doesn't undermine the dignity of man. It leads to chastity. According to Saint Padre Pio, chastity is "a virtue which ennobles our nature and makes it similar to that of the Angels."



Above: The clothing of master and pupil reflect the seriousness of intense study. **Right:** Femininity knows no bounds in a pretty skirt and accessories.



The way many choose to dress today reflects not virtue, but vices like laziness, dirtiness, sensuality, vulgarity and anger. A person with gang tattoos wants to portray his capacity to be violent with others. Ripped and dirty clothing makes a person look like a zombie, or simply a lazy person who forgot to change clothes for weeks.

Why not use clothing to reflect virtues that portray the height of human dignity like honor, respect, trustworthiness, friendliness, courage, uprightness, purity, humility and generosity.

Dressing Modestly for God

And what about Holy Mass? If we came to Mass reminding ourselves of Jesus' sacrifice for us, dying on the cross, shouldn't we treat Mass as a very special event?

I attended a TFP Call to Chivalry Camp in the summer of 2017. All us teenagers wore a suit and tie for mass. We looked sharp and it made Mass feel really important, which it is. Every teenager should have clothing reserved for special events, especially Mass.

For reference, here is the dress code Saint Padre Pio posted outside his parish:

The Church is the house of God.

It is forbidden for men to enter with bare arms or in shorts. It is forbidden for women to enter in trousers, without a veil on their head, in short clothing, low necklines, sleeveless or immodest dresses.

A Teenager's Basic Guidelines for Dressing Modestly

The reasons why a teenager should dress modestly seem very straightforward to me. We should do it to please God, to practice virtue and to avoid sin.

If you are a teenager or know of

someone who is, and wants to dress modestly, you can start by observing these simple guidelines:

- Boys and girls should avoid clothing that excessively reveals body parts, especially in a way that puts a friend in the occasion of sin.
- Dress according to your age, profession, and activity.
- Dress to elevate your dignity, not lower it.
- Dress to reflect your good aspirations, especially the virtues you want to practice.
- Dress to show the best version of yourself.
- Dress to make a good impression on others.
- Wear something nice for Church. Mass is a special event. Dress like you are going to one.
- Encourage your friends to dress modestly. Stay away from friends who are dressed in a way that is an occasion of sin.
- Above all, dress to please God instead of your friends. ■

Notes:

1. www.addiction.com/expert-blogs/demographics-digital-pornography-scientific-research/html
2. www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/2016/std-surveillance-report-2015-press-release.html
3. www.scientificamerican.com/article/dress-for-success-how-clothes-influence-our-performance/html



How Medieval Antibiotics Can Offer Effective Medical Solutions

BY JOHN HORVAT II

It all began as one of those Friday afternoon projects that medical researchers sometimes do to satisfy curiosity. No one expected it to work. The researchers were testing medieval medical remedies by replicating a 1,000-year-old recipe for an eye salve. They were prepared to see it prove that medieval medicine was “backward” and even “superstitious.”

When the results came back, they were shocked to find that the recipe was incredibly effective in killing staph infections. Indeed, the medieval salve was actually a powerful antibiotic.

The finding threw everyone’s medieval preconceptions upside down and led the researchers to conclude that medieval medicine was highly developed and followed a scientific methodology. They also believe that the rediscovery of medieval drugs can have implications for present-day drug discovery.

A New Medieval Perspective

At a lecture given at the Library of Congress on March 7, 2017, medievalist and biologist Erin Connelly told the story of the experiment with the 1,000-year-old recipe known as Bald’s Eyesalve. Dr. Connelly is part of the interdisciplinary Ancient-antibiotics team which explores the relevance of medieval medicines for modern infections.

She claims that “recent scholarship may show that there is more methodology to the medicines of medieval practitioners, and further inquiry may show that their medicines were more than just placebos or palliative aids but actual antibiotics being used long before the advent of modern infection control.”

Bald’s Eyesalve

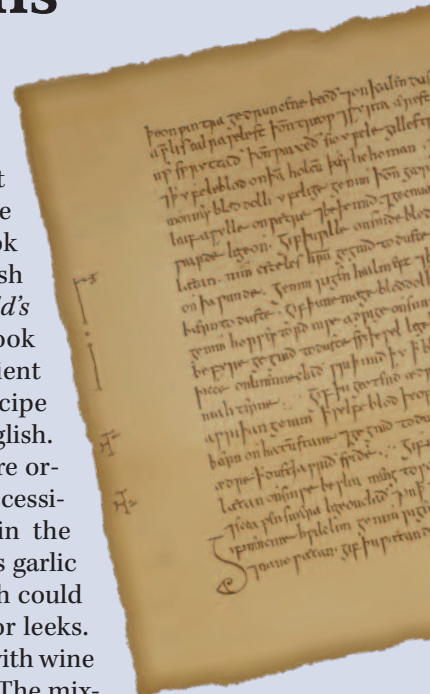
The recipe that sparked the debate is found in a book held by the British Library. Titled *Bald’s Leechbook*, the book has the ancient Anglo-Saxon recipe written in Old English. The ingredients are organic materials accessible to everyone in the locality. It requires garlic and alliums, which could either be onions or leeks. These are mixed with wine and ox gall (bile). The mixture is then put in a brass vessel and left to incubate for nine nights. After straining and clarifying, it is put in a horn and applied to the eye with a feather.

What seems like a haphazard collection of liquids and herbs was found to be much more. Researchers replicating the recipe found that any omission from the recipe dramatically diminished or eliminated its bactericidal qualities. Similarly, each ingredient on its own had no significant effect on the reduction in bacteria. They found that the nine-night incubation period served to make the mixture self-sterilizing and therefore effective. Likewise, omitting this period made the recipe ineffective.

The tests revealed a method of observation and experimentation that was anything but haphazard. Moreover, this was not a cure-all concoction. Dr. Connelly believes that it seems to have been specifically targeted for what it was made to treat.

A Wealth of Other Recipes

Bald’s Eyesalve is not the only recipe that shows promise. Dr. Connelly is working with a team of specialists to



A facsimile of a page from *Bald’s Leechbook*. Medievalist and biologist Erin Connelly researches ancient remedies, finding many to be effective in curing modern ailments.



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find and test hundreds of other recipes. Her research reveals ancient notes such as that found next to another salve that said: “Restored the child’s eyes to perfect health and sight.” Another mixture has a comment which in translation from Middle English says, “God has not given us a better recipe than this one. It makes even old men to read tiny letters without aid.” There is hope that this might prove helpful for macular degeneration.

One particular book contains around 6,000 references to specific ingredients, 360 very detailed recipes which address over 110 disease conditions. Tests of these recipes have only begun.

An Urgent Need for Medieval Solutions

As microbes develop resistance to antibiotics, there is an urgent need to find new remedies quickly. It is estimated that around 700,000 people a year worldwide die of antimicrobial resistant infections. That number could reach ten million by 2050.

In response to the urgent need for novel routes to drug discovery, the Ancientbiotics team was formed in 2014 to look at medieval solutions. This interdisciplinary and international team believes that “the past could inform the future” in finding these routes.

Why Remedies Were Discontinued

It makes sense that the Church would be involved in healthcare. Her mission is the care of souls which often overlaps with the care of the body. By calling upon the faithful to exercise practical charity, the Church eventually organized history’s first health network of systematic nursing and hospitals. Many monasteries had a hospital for the poor annexed to them. Medieval universities also developed medical science to a significant degree. It should be no surprise that medieval antibiotics appeared.

Dr. Connelly only speculates why these promising medieval antibiotics fell into disuse. One plausible view was a great bias against the medieval period as a “dark age” that was very prevalent in humanistic and Enlightenment times. Humanists and later Protestant scientists wrote off the Middle Ages as hopelessly backward.

In any case, the lost link with medieval medicine is being re-established by those like the Ancientbiotics team who are uncovering imaginative solutions from the past. Perhaps such studies might broaden into other fields, helping bring to light and build a deeper appreciation for the glories of Christian civilization that were suppressed. ■

A BOOK THAT COULD HELP SAVE AMERICA

The economy is on a course of self-destruction as a result of ignoring our God-given moral compass, which ultimately keeps everything in balance, according to John Horvat II, author of *Return to Order: From a Frenzied Economy to an Organic Christian Society—Where We’ve Been, How We Got Here, and Where We Need to Go*.

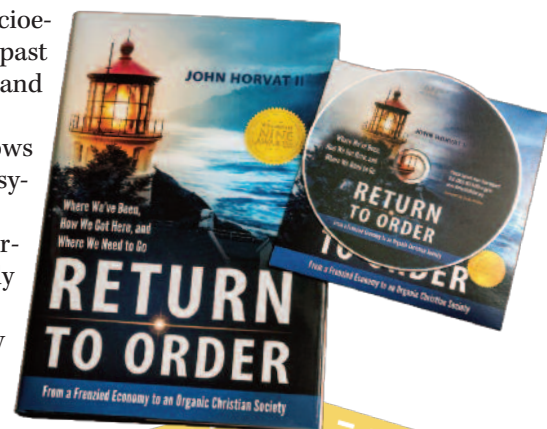
“Our blind embrace of an economy driven by the pursuit of instant gratification, regardless of the consequences, is unsustainable and has thrown us into a state of socioeconomic chaos,” says Horvat. In his book, John Horvat draws from his rich Christian past as well as twenty years of study to explain the correlation between the economy, faith and moral values.

Without relying solely on statistics, formulas and economic indicators, he shows how society’s obsession for a secular, materialistic culture is causing social and psychological emptiness and economic ruin.

Return to Order not only analyzes the problem, but also offers solutions that correspond to the longings many Americans now have for timeless traditions, family and authenticity.

To ensure the book’s intellectual standing, the author submitted his work to a review board of twenty scholars in various fields. For readability and clarity assurance, he submitted the manuscript to a focus group representing a broad cross section of mainstream America. In addition to *Return to Order*, John Horvat is the author of hundreds of articles, some of which have appeared worldwide in *The Wall Street Journal*, *FOX News*, *The Christian Post*, *The Washington Times*, *Crisis Magazine*, *ABC News* and *C-SPAN*.

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THE CIVILIZATION OF THE LIE AND ITS REJECTION OF TRUTH

BY JAMES BASCOM

Historical eras, like people, have their own defining traits. There is always a particular virtue or vice, hero or villain, war or revolution that indelibly marks a whole year, decade, or even century, making it easy to summarize these eras with a single phrase.

The *Ancien Régime*, the period of French history before the French Revolution, was one of them. While not perfect, many historians today admit to its cultural and social refinement and general well-being. If popular opinion is any guide, the three million tourists who flock to the Palace of Versailles every year—not to mention the many books, plays, and films that romanticize the period—reveal a widespread sympathy for a time that had, in the words of Talleyrand, much *douceur de vivre* or “sweetness of life.”

On the other hand, the name “Roaring Twenties” describes well the degenerate spirit of post-World War I Western society. *Les années folles*, or “the crazy years” as the French call them, saw unprecedented materialism, cultural change, and sexual immorality. Nineteen-twenty’s philosophy, art, music, literature and the newly invented medium of the motion picture were saturated with an enthusiasm for all things “modern” and a rejection of tradition.

Every era, of course, is judged by future generations. What name will our great-great-grandchildren give to ours? Long after the NFL, Wall Street, Hollywood, and Silicon Valley have disappeared in the sands of time, these characteristics will remain, as it were, like the ruins of Pompeii, without us

there to make excuses. What will our bones reveal about us?

What Is “The Civilization of the Lie?”

They won’t have many good things to say. Twenty-first century Western society has mostly apostatized from the Catholic Faith that built it. Pagan religions such as Wicca, Buddhism and even Satanism have become mainstream, filling the void.

Apostasy from the Faith goes hand in hand with rejection of Christian morals. Beginning with divorce and contraception, the sexual revolution steadily advanced until abortion, pornography, homosexuality, and now transgenderism—unthinkable a few decades ago—were imposed on conventional society.

Socialism, once considered beyond the pale in American politics, is making inroads. On the one-hundredth anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution,

research by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation showed that more millennials would prefer to live in a socialist country (44%) than a capitalist one (42%), and 7% even preferred a communist one.¹ If not explicitly socialist, large numbers of millennials favor socialist policies such as gun control, the government takeover of health care, homosexual “marriage,” and confiscatory wealth redistribution.

A sizeable number of Americans support violence to achieve these ends. “Antifa,” the militant wing of the Left, has committed acts of domestic terrorism not seen since the seventies. A Brookings Institute survey reported that 1 in 5 college students support the use of violence to shut down controversial speakers.² Political violence, an overwhelmingly liberal phenomenon, is now almost an everyday occurrence.

Both the Left and the Right are more polarized than ever. This polarization is



Communism, which could be called the major lie of our era, is finding increasing acceptance among some millennials as seen in this photo from a march in Washington, D.C. in 2017.

no longer exclusive to politics or the front-line trenches of the culture war. In our times, it is almost unavoidable for housewives to have political disputes with relatives at family gatherings, or for men to lose their jobs for revealing a conservative position at work. These disputes are so heated, the two sides so irreconcilable, that one often has the impression that socialist-minded liberals deny the very reality in front of them.

And perhaps that is the defining characteristic of our times. The unholy war waged by liberal jihadists against traditional America is not simply based on one or another errors, but the most radical error possible: the denial of self-evident truth. Moreover, liberals wage a relentless war against the institutions, monuments, and traditions of our Western Christian civilization that reflect it. Worst of all, they seek to replace it with a chaotic anti-civilization. They might call it the triumph of political correctness. We can call it the Civilization of the Lie.

Communism was one of the great examples of this false civilization. Anti-communist author Fred Schwarz wrote that “the maturity of a Communist can be judged by the extent to which he can divorce himself from the evidence of his senses and totally identify himself with the verdict of the Communist Party.”³ In the twentieth century, when Communist economic policies caused massive famines in the Soviet Union, China, and other Communist countries, blame was never placed on the bad policies themselves. Bad weather or “saboteurs” were the culprits. Communist revolutionaries preferred to send tens of millions to their deaths rather than recognize the undeniable reality in front of them.

The Civilization of the Lie and its partisans not only survived the fall of the Berlin Wall, but live on stronger than ever. It can be seen in every divisive social and economic issue, and its militants and enablers can be heard every night on the evening news, in elected office, and in academia.

Lie Number One

Take abortion. Never before in history have we had so much scientific proof that unborn babies are in fact living,

breathing human beings. Unborn babies have their own DNA at conception, have a heartbeat at 3 weeks, produce brainwaves at 6 weeks, and feel pain at 16 weeks.⁴ At 24 weeks’ gestation babies can hear, feel, taste, dream, react to stimuli, learn and remember, and can even recognize the unique pitch and tone of his or her mother’s voice.⁵ Thanks to modern technology, babies can survive outside the womb as early as 22 weeks.

Abortion proponents have only hardened their position in the face of such overwhelming evidence. Planned Parenthood president Cecile Richards said that the question of when life begins “will be debated through the centuries,” but stated that “for me, life began when I delivered” her three children. In 2002, then-Illinois state senator Barack Obama voted against a law that extended protections for children who survived abortion and were born alive.⁶ Canadian bioethicist and philosopher Udo Schuklenk advocates “post-birth” abortion for newborns with a “poor quality of life.”⁷ University of Chicago professor Jerry Coyne stated that “it’s time to add to the discussion the euthanasia of newborns who have no ability or faculties to decide whether to end their lives. Although discussing the topic seems verboten now, I believe someday the practice will be widespread, and it will be for the better.”⁸

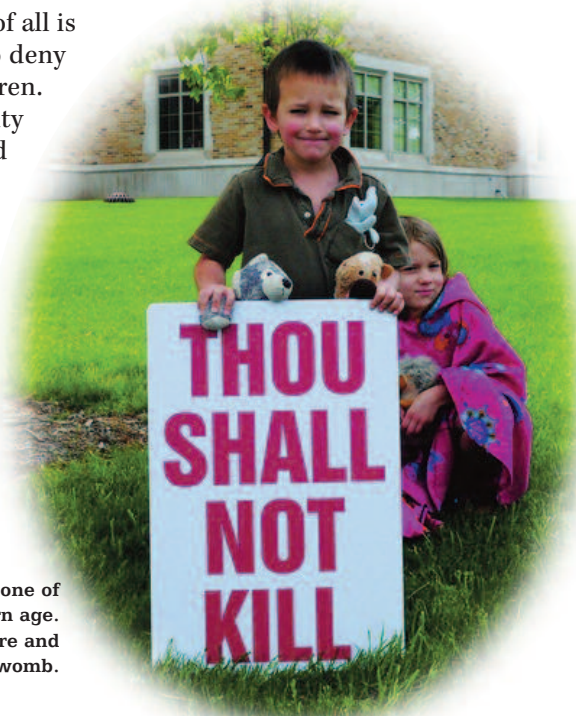
Most cynical and disturbing of all is the increasing use of religion to deny the humanity of unborn children. U.S. House Democratic Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, when asked by a reporter about the issue of late-term abortion in the wake of the Kermit Gosnell trial said, “As a practicing and respectful Catholic, this is sacred ground to me when we talk about this... This shouldn’t have anything to do with politics.”⁹ Joyce Arthur, Executive Director of the Abortion

Rights Coalition of Canada, wrote that “abortion is a blessing and a sacred moral value.”¹⁰ Northland, Michigan “Family Planning Centers” are now advertising their services with a video calling abortion “sacred work.”¹¹ Florida abortionist Patricia Baird-Windle called abortion “a major blessing” and “a sacrament in the hands of women” who sometimes “have an abortion out of love for the baby.”¹² And Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, in her book *What Happened*, wrote that abortion is “sacrosanct” and non-negotiable for Democrats.

The Satanic Temple, known for its public satanic black masses, sued the state of Missouri for passing laws that restrict abortion. They claimed that abortion (as well as homosexual “marriage”) is a satanic “sacrament” and therefore worthy of religious protections. Zachary King, former satanic high wizard who converted to Catholicism, said that “abortion is a satanic sacrament so to speak. Just as Catholic men will join the priesthood because they are attracted to holiness and to working for God, an abortion facility attracts Satanists for the satanic priesthood.”¹³

Lie Number Two

Abortion is far from the only example of



The monstrous sin of abortion is one of the biggest lies of our modern age. Children are human beings before and after they leave the womb.

the Civilization of the Lie. Blatant denial of truth is just as inherent in the homosexual revolution. In fact, acceptance of homosexual sin and homosexual “marriage” is only possible thanks to the most cynical denials of the reality of human nature itself.

For decades, the LGBT movement has pushed for the acceptance of homosexuality based on three main arguments: that homosexuals are “born that way,” that they have a “right” to practice homosexuality, and that no one can impose his or her morality on another.

Biology is clear that human beings are born with one of only two sexes: male or female. Every cell of the human body contains either male XY or female XX sex chromosomes. The primary purpose of human sexuality, and the primary purpose of human sexual anatomy, are both obvious by the natural results of sexual intercourse: the conception and birth of children. Homosexual acts, which are sterile by their nature, violate this purpose.

Homosexual propaganda has drilled the “gay gene” myth into public opinion, changing homosexuality from a free choice to an innate biological characteristic like hair and eye color. According to 2015 Pew Research Center poll, 41% of Americans believe this theory, up from 20% in 1985.¹⁴

Yet there has never been any study to prove the existence of such a gene. On the contrary, a 2016 study by Dr. Lawrence S. Mayer of Johns Hopkins University and Dr. Paul R. McHugh of Arizona State University and published in *The New Atlantis* concluded: “The idea that people are ‘born that way’ is not supported by scientific evidence.”¹⁵ Dr. McHugh said “There is no gay gene. And there are factors more influential than biology...If you are a man and you grow up in a rural environment, you are four times less likely to have homosexual relationships than if you grow up in a metropolitan area. That’s not left-handedness.”¹⁶

Lie Number Three

After imposing homosexual “marriage,” transgenderism is the logical next step. As the LGBT acronym affirms, both are part of the same organized movement



In spite of the overwhelming scientific proof that babies are live human beings before they are born, abortionists prefer to stick to their lie for the sake of personal convenience. Women’s March in Washington, D.C., 2017.

and based in the same revolutionary ideology: gender theory.

First introduced by sexologist John Money in the 1950s and popularized by the feminist movement in the 1960s and 70s, “gender theory” claims that the traditional, external manifestations of maleness and femaleness, ways of dressing, speaking, acting, and thinking (i.e. one’s “gender”) are imposed social constructs, unconnected to biology (i.e. one’s sex).

Stephanie Brill, author of *The Transgender Child: A Handbook for Families and Professionals*, explains:

For many people, the terms “gender” and “sex” are interchangeable. This idea has become so common, particularly in western societies, that it is rarely questioned. *Yet biological sex and gender are different; gender is not inherently connected to one’s physical anatomy.* (emphasis mine)

According to gender theory, a person’s “gender identity” is entirely subjective, determined by his or her own feelings and emotions. If a man feels that he is a woman, that feeling automatically overrides any biological evidence to the contrary. A person can be biologically male, but his “gender identity” can be female, male, a combination of both, or neither one. All that matters is what one’s “internal sense” dictates.

As true children of the Civilization of the Lie, it is not surprising that gender theory shamelessly contradicts itself. Homosexuality, they claimed, was innate

and immutable. Homosexuals cannot violate what is naturally pre-programmed into their DNA, even if they want to.

With transgenderism, this novel gene theory conveniently goes out the window. One determines his or her gender not by the very real sex chromosomes found in every cell of the human body, but by the whims and emotions of the individual. “Sexual orientation” is supposedly innate, but a person can “self-identify” as one of more than 70 described “genders” and change it as often as his emotions sway him.

In other words, not only is homosexuality itself a lie, but the very propaganda used to promote it was in contradiction with the underlying gender theory ideology. This propaganda was used only as a tool to deceive public opinion until society arrived at the next stage of the sexual revolution.

Lie Number Four

An even more egregious lie is the call for “tolerance.” Most people have the vague idea that “tolerance” is some kind of secular version of the Golden Rule, updated for the twenty-first century. In reality, it is a valuable psychological weapon in the culture war. “Tolerance” silences opponents of the sexual revolution who fear to be called “intolerant,” clearing the field in order to impose one of the most radical revolutions in history.

Bakers, photographers, and business owners are losing their livelihoods and

even their homes for refusing to participate in homosexual “weddings.” Aaron and Melissa Klein of Oregon were fined \$144,000 for refusing to bake a wedding cake for a homosexual couple. An Albany, New York couple were forced to pay \$10,000 to the state and an additional \$3,000 in damages to a lesbian couple for refusing to host a “wedding” reception on their farm. Memories Pizza in Walkerton, Indiana was forced to close after the owners voiced their support for Indiana’s Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Countless teachers, doctors, government officials, and even CEOs are losing their jobs in the name of “tolerance” for refusing to violate their consciences.¹⁷

The LGBT revolution was never about tolerance in the true sense of the word. Jeffrey Levi, former executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said, “We [homosexuals] are no longer seeking just a right to privacy and a right to protection from wrong. We have a right—as heterosexuals have already—to see government and society affirm our lives.” Paula Ettlbrick, former legal director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, stated:

“Being queer means pushing the parameters of sex, sexuality, and family, and...*transforming the very fabric of society*...We must keep our eyes on the goals of providing true alternatives to marriage and of *radically re-ordering society’s view of reality*.” [emphasis mine]¹⁸

But the most explicit explanation of “tolerance” came from millionaire homosexual activist Tim Gill. In an interview with Rolling Stone magazine he discussed LGBT movement strategy in the wake of the victory for homosexual “marriage” thanks to the Supreme Court decision *Obergefell v. Hodges*. “We’re going into the hardest states in the country,” he says. “We’re going to punish the wicked.”¹⁹

“Tolerance” silences opponents of the sexual revolution who fear to be called “intolerant,” clearing the field in order to impose one of the most radical revolutions in history.



The role of women in combat should fit with the feminine nature. It should not be the same as men’s. To deny the obvious physical, emotional and psychological differences between men and women is a major lie and an offense to the Creator.

Lie Number Five

Feminism is also a fruit of gender theory. Since the 1960s, the sexual revolution has waged a relentless war to erase the self-evident sex differences. Feminists teach women to disdain men, motherhood, femininity, and instead to desire careers outside the home. Men are taught that traditional masculinity and oppression of women are the same thing. Law and social customs are mutilated to reflect this new orthodoxy.

The inevitable consequence of feminism was the Obama administration’s decision in 2013 to open combat positions in the military to women. Ignoring the overwhelming evidence that women are physically, emotionally, and psychologically unfit for combat, liberals cheered the decision as a victory for women.

Western Christian civilization ennobled woman from the slave of man to his dignified companion and co-heir to the fruits of Christ’s Redemption. It allowed the flourishing of an authentic Christian femininity modeled on the virtues of the Virgin Mary. The Civilization of the Lie, however, only considers a woman to be truly “free” when she has the chance to

be shot, wounded, captured, tortured, raped, and killed by America’s enemies.

Lie Number Six

Ecology is another major front of the Civilization of the Lie. For forty years environmental activists and their media enablers spread the idea that the Earth is warming, that mankind is the primary cause, and that it will cause disaster unless drastic measures are taken. A 2017 Gallup poll reported that 62% of Americans believe global warming is happening, 68% of Americans believe this warming is mainly due to human activities, and 42% of Americans believe global warming will pose a serious threat in their lifetime, the highest levels since polling began.²⁰ Al Gore and other climate activists claim that the time for debate is over. To even question man-made global warming makes one a “denier.”

Yet again, the reality is far different from the propaganda. Climate science is simply not settled, the Earth’s climate is remarkably stable by historical standards, there is no proof that man is causing the minor warming that is happening, global warming claims are based on outright fraud, and the real agenda behind it is political: the destruction of the Western economic system.

Over 31,000 American scientists, including 9,000 PhDs, signed the Oregon petition in 1999 which affirmed that “there is no scientific evidence that

human release of... greenhouse gases is causing or will cause catastrophic heating of the Earth's atmosphere...". Climate computer models, our only tools to measure future warming trends, are unreliable. Over the past 20 years, 95% of the most important computer models predicted a far greater warming than what actually occurred.

In 2009, hackers released thousands of emails of Professor Philip Jones of the University of East Anglia's Climatic Research Unit, the world's premiere center for climatic research. These emails showed that Professor Jones and his associates falsified climate data in order to make it appear that the Earth was experiencing a warming trend when in fact it was not. This scandal, known as "Climategate," greatly harmed the credibility of pro-global warming climate scientists.

Perhaps that is just as well, because the global warming movement has little to do with science. Former Canadian Environment Minister Christine Stewart stated in an interview with the *Financial Post* that "no matter if the science is all phoney, there are collateral environmental benefits.... climate change [provides] the greatest chance to bring about justice and equality in the world." Far-left activist Naomi Klein, in her 2014 book *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate*, goes further:

"[A]s we remake our economies to stay within our global carbon budget, we need to see less consumption... less trade... and less private investment.... Implicit in all of this is a great deal more redistribution, so that more of us can live comfortably within the planet's capacity. Which is precisely why, when climate change deniers claim that global warming is a plot to redistribute wealth, it's not (only) because they are paranoid. It's also because they are paying attention.... Climate change is our chance to right those festering wrongs at last—the unfinished business of liberation."²¹

Like Pontius Pilate, our modern age finds it convenient to deny Truth.

But like Pontius Pilate, Catholics today—both clergy and laity—ask themselves “What is truth?” and cynically turn their backs on Our Lord.

Quid Est Veritas?

Further examples of the Civilization of the Lie are almost limitless. The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement has very little to do with actually preventing the untimely deaths of black Americans and mostly to do, as they say on their website, with fomenting Marxist “liberation” and destroying the “Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement,” “heteronormative thinking,” and “patriarchy.” When Fidel Castro died, BLM issued a glowing obituary, thanking him for his “vision of freedom” and of “peace that only comes with justice.”

“*Quid Est Veritas?*” (What is truth?), asked Pontius Pilate. The Creator of Heaven and Earth, the Alpha and the Omega, the second Person of the Holy Trinity, the worker of miracles, the fulfiller of prophecies, Truth itself was standing before him. His wife pleaded with him, his conscience bothered him, but in the end he chose to reject Truth. No lie in history has been committed or could be committed like that of the Roman Governor of Judea.

Although different, the Civilization of the Lie is responsible for one of the worst rejections of truth in history. But like Pontius Pilate, Catholics today—both clergy and laity—ask themselves “What

is truth?” and cynically turn their backs on Our Lord.

However, there are people willing to stand up and be counted in opposition to this madness. More and more faithful Catholics are praying the rosary, fighting the Cultural Revolution, and doing reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The 21,570 Rosary Rallies last October is a proof of this.

Our Lady of Fatima could be called the Apostle of Truth. She explained the crisis, gave the solution, and proved herself by performing the greatest public miracle in history since the Resurrection. For the 70,000 people who saw it, the Miracle of the Sun was impossible to deny. Atheists who were present at the Cova da Iria were forced to describe exactly what they saw, and many converted. Only by keeping our gaze firmly on her can we expect to persevere until that day when the Civilization of the Lie is smashed and replaced with the Reign of Mary, the mother of Truth itself. ■

**To view the notes for
this article, go to
www.ANF.org/Mag151Notes**





2017 TFP National Conference: He Who Confides Wins

BY ROBERT NUNEZ

During the last weekend of October 2017, the American TFP held its National Conference at its main headquarters in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania. Over 200 friends and supporters of the TFP traveled from all over the country, and even from neighboring Canada, to attend the much-anticipated three-day event.

The theme of this year's conference, "He Who Confides Wins," provided a blessed opportunity for the participants to reflect on the historic significance of the centennial of the Fatima apparitions and their own role in achieving the final victory Our Lady of Fatima promised back in 1917.

Indeed, over the past 100 years, we have seen the bitter fruits of a world that has not heeded Our Lady's prophetic

warnings. As widespread division, cynicism and despair are increasingly paralyzing our nation, we need to rally at the feet of Our Lady and confide in her more ardently than ever before. It is this confidence in Our Lady which will bring forth Her triumph.

At this year's conference, TFP supporters and friends learned what it means to confide in Our Lady and how to implement that confidence in their daily lives through a series of informative and inspiring talks covering a wide variety of topics.

Some of the many talks given included: "The State of Our Grand Return to Order and the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart" by *Return to Order* author Mr. John Horvat II; "The Church at the Epicenter of the Culture War" by Mr. Michael Drake; "The Spirit of Hollywood vs. the Spirit of the Cross" by Mr. James Bascom; "Fatima and the Secret of Mary" by Mr. Nelson Fragelli of the French TFP; and a lively audio-visual presentation by Mr. Michael Gorre on the American TFP's recent activities and achievements.

Besides the lectures, there were other



Saint Louis de Montfort Academy's marching band performs religious and patriotic hymns for conference participants.

memorable highlights such as a stirring concert given by the marching band of Saint Louis de Montfort Academy, and the traditional Saturday evening rosary procession by candlelight. Several conference attendees were given the honor of carrying the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, escorted by an honor guard of TFP members in ceremonial habit.

The conference culminated on the final day in a majestic High Mass celebrated at the Sacred Heart Basilica of Conewago, the oldest stone church in America. Upon their return, the guests were treated to a marvelous medieval-themed banquet. Prince Bertrand of Orleans Braganza, the Prince Imperial of Brazil and the guest of honor, gave the closing address to the attendees, urging them with great ardor to put the ideals they had learned into action. ■



Left: Engaging talks held the attention of all those present. Right: The conference finale was a medieval banquet with Prince Bertrand presiding. Below: The candlelight procession brought honor to Our Lady and peace to the hearts of her children.





AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA[®]

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

PROGRESS REPORT

21,570 Rosary Rallies in America

Interview with America Needs Fatima Director, Robert E. Ritchie

Crusade: 21,570 rallies is an amazing achievement which inspired us to request this interview. We are very grateful you were able to accommodate us and help our readers understand a bit better this amazing event called the Public Square Rosary Campaign.

It is now the Fatima Centennial but it is actually the 11th year for the Rosary Rally Campaign. What was your initial idea for the reach of this Rosary Campaign effort and what specifically triggered in your mind the idea of a national Rosary in the public square?

Robert E. Ritchie: My brother and I were in Germany in early 2007 for a conference with colleagues from Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) and other Fatima-related groups, and we were wondering what to do for the 90th anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions. It was there that I was told about some German students who did a public rosary in the city square of Mainz.

The person who told me about it was Duke Paul of Oldenburg, the first in his family to convert to Catholicism since the Protestant revolt over 400 years ago. At the time, I thought: "Wow! This is it! This is what Our Lady wants us to do in the USA!" We picked up on that idea and thanks to Our Lady it kept on growing from year to year since 2007. Then we prayed and hoped and worked hard so that Our Lady would use our poor efforts to help convert America from the terrible sins that are becoming the norm in our beloved country.

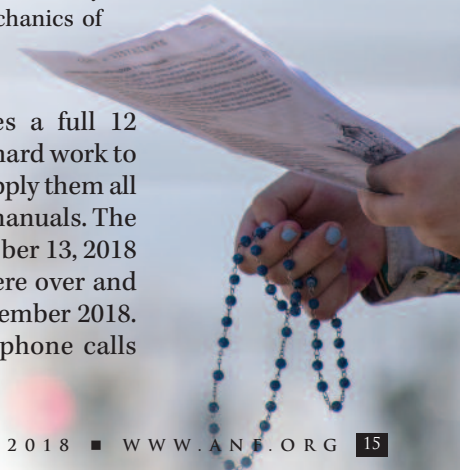
Crusade: Why do you insist on the public aspect of the Rosary Rally? Why can't people just

pray the rosary in the privacy of their homes?

Mr. Ritchie: It needs to be public to reverse the trend among Catholics in which they separate religion from reality, in which they separate being Catholic from living their lives. Man is made body and soul, and our approach to prayer and life needs to be one and the same, not compartmentalized. What we do in our homes ought to naturally overflow into our public lives. In reality, there is no separation between one thing and the other.

Crusade: For anyone who has ever run a campaign, it is not difficult to imagine how monumental such a project must be. How do you get 21,570 people to register and actually do a Rosary Rally? What are the mechanics of making it all come together?

Mr. Ritchie: Believe me, it takes a full 12 months of planning, fundraising and hard work to recruit 21,570 rally captains and to supply them all with materials, such as banners and manuals. The cycle to recruit rally captains for October 13, 2018 started as soon as the 2017 rallies were over and will go non-stop until the end of September 2018. Captains are recruited through telephone calls





made by Our Lady's volunteers, automated voice broadcast messages, direct mail invitations, online and email invitations, and by word of mouth. The most intensive efforts take place in August and September and are centered at Our Lady's volunteer calling center in Rossville, Kansas where tens of thousands of calls are made and received each year.

Crusade: Have you seen the idea of the Public Square Rosary Campaign expand beyond America's borders? Have other countries picked up on the idea?

Mr. Ritchie: Yes, the idea of doing public rosaries has caught on and spread to many other countries. You are seeing large numbers of rosary rallies in Poland, Ireland, South Africa, Australia, Canada, and

rallies in smaller numbers in such places as Belgium and England. These rallies have the potential of growing even further, and becoming a global phenomenon for Our Lady.

Crusade: I am sure you hear a lot from your Rosary Captains. What sort of reactions do you receive from some of your Captains? And do you get many Captains coming back to do a Rally year after year?

Mr. Ritchie: There are so many stories! One captain told me a lady who stopped by her rally said that she had received the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in her home, and as a result had thrown in the trash all of her clothing that was indecent. She wanted to thank America Needs Fatima for its outreach. Some captains do rallies every month. Many captains do a rally each year. But since we increase the number of rallies every year, we always need to recruit more and new captains to reach that goal. But the one underlying repercussion from all captains is just how really happy they are to do the rally. They feel a deep sense of true joy and closeness to Our Lady.

Crusade: How do you finance this effort?

Mr. Ritchie: This is probably the hardest part of doing the rallies. Raising money is always challenging, but the generosity of Our Lady's donors is equally inspiring! Mostly, it's the small donors who carry the heaviest load, with their monthly contributions, and a few bigger donors who send larger gifts to help us reach our fundraising goals. It cost about one million dollars to put on 21,570 rallies in 2017. But we also put on 3,000 rallies for marriage in March of each year, on the Saturday closest to the feast day of Saint Joseph, as well as on the anniversary of the tragic Supreme Court decision to legalize homosexual "marriage" on June 26th. So, we really needed to raise enough funds to cover 27,000 or more rallies last year. In 2018, we will probably do close to 30,000 rallies!





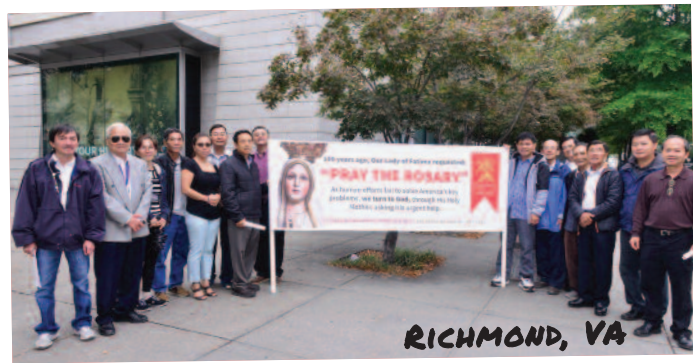
CANTON, GA



SHAWANO, WI



GENEVA, NY



RICHMOND, VA

Crusade: Now with the Fatima Centennial behind us, how do you see the challenge of continuing this effort, and specifically for 2018?

Mr. Ritchie: We're entering the second century of Fatima. The novelty and attraction of the centennial is over. Will the faithful enter the second century of the Fatima message with renewed love and longing for Our Lady's triumph? That's the big question. We're planning on doing our part and in redoubling our efforts to keep the rallies going in 2018 and beyond.

Crusade: Why do you think most of the media tends to ignore this amazing national prayer effort?

Mr. Ritchie: Well, the big media always ignores the rallies, which, in a way, is a consoling and validating thing. Since the big media is committed to promoting an anti-God and anti-Fatima message, it is natural that they would ignore the fact that hundreds of thousands of people are praying the Rosary in public in a concerted effort to respond to Our Lady's requests. If they reported on the rallies to any serious degree, I would be worried that

we were doing the wrong thing. I would need to sit down and do a serious examination of conscience to see what is wrong.

Crusade: Finally, what is the most important part of the Fatima message that touches you and motivates you? What is the most important part of the message that you believe we should pay close attention to and take seriously?

Mr. Ritchie: Two things really touch me very deeply about the Fatima message. The first is the reality of countless sinners going to Hell because the culture is so depraved, and the worst sins are normalized and even glorified. Until this is reversed, the loss of souls eternally will continue. The second is that we need a serious shock, a prolonged and profound period of suffering to wake up and change the way events are headed. Not even 9-11 changed people for more than two or three weeks. After Hurricane Harvey, you would have thought that people would have done processions and prayers and penances to atone for sin. Instead, you saw more sin and more defiant sin in the form of abortion providers offering free abortions* to women right after the storm and even during the immediate effects of the storm in Houston. In contrast, there is the growing enthusiasm, dedication and spirit of sacrifice among Our Lady's 21,570 rosary rally captains, who perceive the gravity of the current moment and work to make Our Lady's Rosary and Fatima message known and loved. ■

*www.aol.com/article/news/2017/09/08/womens-health-clinic-will-offer-free-abortions-for-hurricane-harvey-survivors/23201666



REPRESENTING YOU *at Fatima*

BY TONIA LONG

It was the afternoon of October 12, 2017, the day before the 100th Anniversary of the Miracle of the sun. Expectation hung in the air as the plaza filled with pilgrims from around the world.

Our job: to arrange nearly 30,000 red and white roses on the esplanade in honor of the Mother of God. Knowing that each rose represented the dedication and love of a Rosary Rally Captain, we took special care in order to make a magnificent presentation. The presence of such a vast number of flowers could not help but draw the attention of many pilgrims who stopped to ask where the roses came from.

With great pleasure, we explained the America Needs Fatima Rally Captain program and the number of Rallies being held in America on the 14th in honor of the Mother of God. Even with the inevitable language barrier that exists in a multi-national crowd, the smiles that followed our explanation showed they were pleased to know that devotion to Our Lady of Fatima is alive and

well in the U.S.A.

About an hour later, our first mission was accomplished and it was time to tackle our next objective: the delivery of three large plastic bins full of hand-written prayer intentions to the feet of she who delights in answering the prayers of her children. In the long trek from the car to the Basilica, we were thankful for the prudent purchase of a small hand dolly which made carrying such precious cargo a little easier!

The time for the candlelight vigil ceremony was fast approaching, as evidenced by the number of pilgrims who continued to flood the plaza as the sun began to sink in the sky. We hastily made our



Tens of thousands of hand-written petitions crossed the Atlantic to be presented to Our Lady in Fatima.

America made its presence known in a grand way on the 100-year anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun in Fatima, Portugal.





way back to the car to retrieve the America Needs Fatima name banner. Knowing that many of our friends and supporters would have liked to come to Fatima with us, we offered to have their names carried during the candlelight ceremony. Over 16,000 devout Catholics took us up on the offer and their names were carried high above the candles that flickered like so many stars across the shrine. It was well after midnight as we made our way wearily back to our lodging for the night.

The morning of October 13th dawned with a slight haze across the sky. Where was the sun? Never fear! The sun shone brightly at its zenith. It was noon and we were there to witness a new miracle—the Miracle of the Sun, as with quiet reverence priests from all over the globe reverently distributed Holy Communion during Mass to a multitude of pilgrims numbering in the hundreds of thousands.

With our strength renewed, we set about our final act of devotion on behalf of all our friends and supporters. Carrying two three-foot-tall red



Top left: Performing a small penance in thanksgiving for Our Lady's maternal solicitude.

Middle: ANF's name banner and the American flag were carried high at the Candlelight Ceremony on October 12, 2017.

Above: Tonia Long, ANF's representative, takes a moment to present a personal intention to Our Lady at the exact spot she appeared to the three shepherd children in 1917.

candles, we made our way to the votive sanctuary. These two candles represented the prayers of thousands of our dear friends who had retuned their small candles to America Needs Fatima to be used to make the large candles we now carried. Evidently very large and very special, our candles once again attracted the attention of pilgrims who wanted to know where they could purchase such beautiful candles!

Saying a special prayer of thanksgiving for all those who made our pilgrimage possible, we lit the large red candles and placed them carefully among the others, their flames flickering in silent testimony to the love that burns in the hearts of so many Americans for Our Lady of Fatima.

One hundred years have passed since the Mother of God came to deliver to mankind her plan for peace: prayer, penance and conversion. Sadly, mankind was tragically slow to respond to her call. With renewed confidence in her love for us, let us all multiply our efforts to make Our Mother and her Fatima message known and loved across America and around the world. It is up to each one of us to make sure that the next hundred years of Fatima will see the fulfillment of her promise that "Finally, my Immaculate Heart will triumph!" ■



Under the white umbrellas with the papal insignia, Our Lord waited as Catholics from around the globe flocked to receive their Eucharistic Lord.



Fatima, Fall and Our Lady's Little Ones

BY JOSHUA LONG

It's an unseasonably warm October day, made comfortable only by a chilly afternoon breeze brought down from the Adirondacks to visit the small lakeside town of Geneva, New York. Today is the 13th of the month, and Catholics everywhere are celebrating an event that occurred 100 years ago in Fatima, Portugal, where the Mother of God appeared to a small group of children.

The famed Marian apparitions that are being acknowledged today were reported in 1917, by three shepherd children: Lúcia Santos, and her cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto. On October 13th, 1930, thirteen years after the events were recorded, Bishop José da Silva declared the miracle worthy of belief, officially permitting devotion from all within the Catholic Church.

Back in Geneva, the playful Adirondack breeze gusts towards the small playground outside Saint Francis-Saint Stephens school. It catches and carries some of the first leaves of Autumn, urging them to dance across the yard. In pairs and trios, groups and hordes, they rush about, mimicking almost perfectly the children that will soon occupy the scene. The only things that are missing from the illusion are the laughter and shouts that are soon to come.

Right: With a smile to match the sunshine, this student passes out Fatima medals to her classmates. *Below:* Students in grades K-8 assemble with their principal and faculty to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun.



Students of Saint Francis-Saint Stephen's School in upstate New York eagerly receive their own Fatima Centennial medal and prayer card.

The clock strikes noon, the school doors swing open, and an outpouring of happy humanity begins. Led by their older guardians, the children bounce and tumble forth, excited to once again be in direct contact with the natural world God has built around them. Like faithful shepherds, the teachers of St. Francis herd their happy flock into a circle in front of the open doors, where they stand in an inconsistent silence, waiting for their principal.

Mrs. Mary Mantelli, who is beginning her third year as Principal of Saint Francis-Saint Stephens, emerges from within the school, and with a happy smile addresses the crowd in front of her. She explains to the children why they are gathered outside, and why today is such a special day.

Today, thanks to the generosity of supporters of America Needs Fatima, each teacher and child will receive his or her own Fatima Centennial medal, along with a very special prayer card. The beautiful Centennial medal depicts an intricately detailed image of Our Lady of Fatima, along with a short prayer, and the prayer cards are designed to give their readers direction in both praising and holding devotion to the Mother Mary. These items of devotion will serve to guide these little Catholics towards God for years to come.

She then assigns two of her students with the task of distributing the medals and prayer cards.

Like the loaves and the fishes on the hill near Bethsaida, they are passed out amongst the happy throng of nearly 120 children.

Once every child has received both a medal and prayer card, Mrs. Mantelli leads the children in a final short prayer, and then lets them loose upon the unsuspecting yard.

The breeze still blows, and the first leaves of Autumn still caper about the school. Though now they are joined by the school's children, each with a shiny silver medal around their neck, and a crisp new prayer-card clasped in their hands. ■



Public Square Rosary Rallies

"Our Lady rewarded us big time for having today's rally! I found out that another rosary rally was taking place outside a church close to where I was planning one which is in front of Planned Parenthood. I was going to change location but felt that I should not. I thought no one would show up because of the other rally, but was pleasantly surprised to have 15 of us present. As we were about to start the second glorious mystery, a lady parked her car and came to show us her grandson who was alive because the mom (who was raped at 16 years old) had scheduled an abortion and when she saw people praying she could not go through with it. Thank you dearest Mother!"

V. S., via email

"THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. Since August 2015 when I first received a call to say a Public Rosary Rally—WOW! How my life and attitude have changed. I love being a Child of Mary member, too. I love saying the rosary. I AM BLESSED!"

D. P., Stuart, Fla.

"Even though hundreds were invited and few attended, we had a lot of honks and thumbs up. We prayed and sang using a loud speaker. In spite of the heat, Our Lady was definitely with us because we had a cloud over us at times and a very cool breeze. I gave everyone who attended a medal of Our Lady of Fatima and gave away a statue of Our Lady of Fatima to the lucky winner!"

E. R., McAllen, Texas



"This year's Rally was the best so far since I started in 2007. Our dear Fr. Mariano joined us and prepared a special liturgy

with an excellent history of Fatima. The proud banners flowing with the wind were enjoyed by many motorists honking their horns as they drove by. I pray many will keep Mary's image engraved in their hearts."

M. W., Poinciana, Fla.

"We prayed in the rain! That was the reason not more people attended. We got wet and smiled! We were singing in the rain! Immaculate Mary, Thy praises we sing..."

A.M. J., Novi, Mich.

"First of all, it was my first time at a Fatima Rosary Rally and first time being a Captain. It was an awesome honor and I was very excited. The people who attended were happy and enjoyed Our Lady's Day! They were also excited to receive the free 100th anniversary rosary. A friend of mine took a few minutes after the rosary and reflected and touched on the meaning of the beautiful rally. We had a beautiful sunny day! Praise God!"

E. E., Belleview, Fla.

Centennial Rosary

"Thank you for your facts about the rallies and the terrible desecrations acted out in Oklahoma City, and I greatly thank you for the blessed Fatima Centennial rosary. I will be praying and it is so good to know that so many others will also be praying to our Most Beloved Mother in heaven. May God bless you—and I thank you!"

S. L., Roanoke, Va.



"What a beautiful remembrance this Centennial Rosary is! Thank you for the Centennial Rosary Rallies you're holding in October. We certainly need them badly. The Holy Trinity and the Blessed Mother will bless all for such love and shower you with blessings."

S. G., Columbus, Ohio

"My rosary arrived just in time. Thank you... I hung it on my window for Hurricane Irma and no harm came to our home or to us. Praise God!"

M. P., New Port Richey, Fla.

"Thank you for the beautiful Rosary beads. I've just returned to the Church after a LONG ABSENCE, and these beads will help in my journey."

V. N., Alpharetta, Ga.



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



Blasphemous Play Opposed in Texas

BY JOHN SIEBENMORGEN

In June 2017, America Needs Fatima joined with Catholics and concerned citizens in Pittsburgh, Pa., to oppose the showing of the blasphemous play, *An Act of God*. Proponents of this blasphemy against Almighty God tried again five months later in San Antonio, Texas, to spread their filth and lies.

America Needs Fatima was there to tell them, “Not on our watch.”

What is so bad about the play *An Act of God*? According to press reports, this play is an “up-to-date” rewrite of the Ten Commandments. Written by David Javerbaum, actor John Stillwaggon impersonates God. At one point in this play, “God” says that, in the beginning, he actually did make Adam and Steve. Later on in the play, “God” finally admits that he allows human suffering because “I’m a jealous, petty, sexist, racist, mass-murdering narcissist.”

This is obviously an attack on the one, true God who is Love itself. Any Catholic who truly loves God could not let this go un-answered. America Needs Fatima’s protest rally in San Antonio showed the tenacity of Texans in standing up for God against this horrible play. Seventy people gathered that day to make reparation for the blatant mockery of their faith.

The beginning of the rally started with a statue of Our Lady of Fatima being carried in to the singing of Immaculate Mary. The entire senior class of Saint Louis De Montfort Academy traveled all the way from Herndon, Pa., to participate in the protest rally, lending the stirring sound of bagpipes that could be heard above the din of the afternoon traffic.

After Our Lady arrived, the bagpiper played Marian and



Young and old join in protest in front of the Sheldon Vexler Theater before a showing of the blasphemous play *An Act of God*.

patriotic hymns in between mysteries of the rosary, litanies to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and slogans. Some of the slogans were as follows:

Leader: “Like Saint Michael we say!”
Response: “Who is Like Unto God?” and
Leader: “The Ten Commandments!”
Response: “Forever!”

Everyone had their rosaries out. Some were holding signs that read “Honk against Blasphemy,” generating a cacophony of honks from those people waiting in the intersection who were in agreement with the rally.

A few who disagreed with the rally would yell expletives and make vulgar gestures from their cars at the rally participants. Whether being mocked or encouraged, the rally participants were there out of a deep love for God, the Church and Holy Mary.

The rally started at 6:30p.m. and continued until 8:00. As dusk descended upon the faithful crowd, one of the participants kindly shone a light from his phone on the statue of Our Lady so that all could come and say goodbye to their Blessed Mother and Queen.

And so it was farewell. Farewell until the next time Our Lady calls on her children to defend her Divine Son. Let us prepare ourselves now so that when the next horrible blasphemy comes to attack God we are ready to answer Our Lady’s call. ■



America Needs Fatima Announces: Nearly 400,000 Books Distributed



Due in large part to the prayers and financial support of faithful Catholics across the country, ANF reports distributing a record number of books throughout America in 2017.

Continuing its apostolate of spreading the Fatima message, our publications department distributed over 265,000 copies of the inspiring book, *The Immaculate Heart of Mary and God's Plan for America*. To order your copy, please call (888) 317-5571.

Also, John Haffert's stirring work of eye-witness' accounts of the Miracle of the Sun, the book *Meet the Witnesses*, made its way into the hands of more than 125,000 readers, paying tribute to the Fatima Centennial. ■

Crusade Magazine Celebrates Its 150th Issue

As the November/December 2017 issue of *Crusade Magazine* rolled off the press, a joyful shout was heard: "That makes our 150th issue! Thanks be to Our Lady!"

The year was 1992 when the directors of the American TFP sensed the lack of a solid, yet accessible Catholic commentary. *Crusade Magazine* was developed to fill that void. Twenty-five years later, *Crusade* is still a vital source of Catholic commentary, affirming perennial truths while opposing the error of the day.

Here is what one of our readers wrote in:

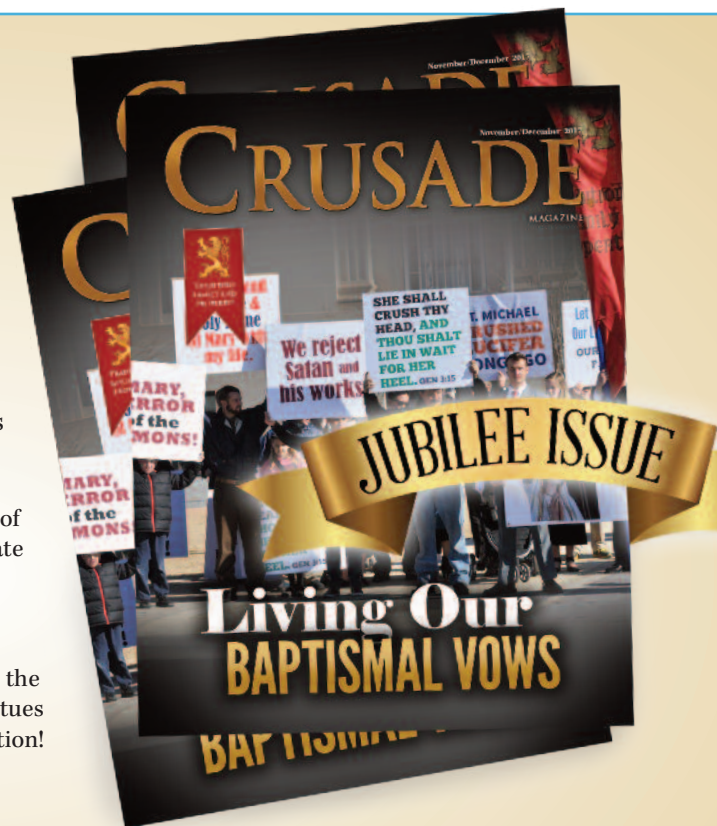
"Praise be Jesus Christ! We thoroughly enjoyed the May/June issue of *Crusade*. It's a blessing to read something we, too, believe in and can relate to. Please continue to send this blessed magazine to us. Thank you!"

Another wrote:


"Thank God for your organization. Who else promotes the rosary, the messages of Fatima, rosary rallies, and the men who take the Fatima statues to so many homes? I also like the *Crusade Magazine*. So much information! We certainly hear nothing about Fatima in our parish."

All of us here at *Crusade Magazine* and ANF wish to extend a message of gratitude to all of our readers and supporters who have made this 25-year journey possible. With your interest, help and prayers, we hope to continue for another 150 issues—and beyond!

—The Editor



If you've missed an issue of *Crusade Magazine*, go to www.TFP.org/crusade-magazine-previous-issues.



THE *Sound* OF THE *Bugle Call*

BY PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA*

*“Day is done, Gone the sun,
From the lake, From the hill,
From the sky.
All is well, Safely rest,
God is nigh.”*

Such are the words of the sublime bugle call “Taps.” It is played when the troops retire for the day. It is also sounded at funerals when veterans make their final retreat into eternity.

To the Catholic, the call is symbolic of two very different yet connected things. On one hand it represents the Catholic dignity found in death, suffering and defeat. On the other, there is a note of Catholic repose.

The bugle call contains something of the Christian virtue of resignation. It starts out loud and slowly diminishes in volume, always displaying dignity. One has the impression that the motif of the call rises upward to heaven. As it is played, the call is increasingly distant and sounds more subdued. As it fades and reaches its final note, one has the impression that the hymn has

gathered itself together and rests in the splendors of the Eternal Father.

At funerals, one senses that the hymn hovers so much above everything that it seems to have left this earth but with a promise to return. In the insistence of its main sequence, the hymn appears to say: “In death, I am so above it all that no earthly vicissitude can touch me. Nothing can reach me; nothing can wound me anymore. In my defeat, I hover above everything, resting in a superior order of things, in the splendors of the Eternal Father until my return at the final judgment.”

There is also the element of repose which differs so much from the modern person who simply plops down anywhere without dignity. Here is a truly Catholic repose in which the spiritual side of man is especially highlighted. It represents the joy and peace that come after a duty well done. It is full of idealism with a note of melancholy. Tranquility, suavity and sweetness follow the person into repose, leaving him ever ready to fight again upon rising.

The final verse:

*“While the light fades from sight,
And the stars gleaming rays softly send,
To thy hands we our souls, Lord, commend.”* ■

*This article is based on a meeting of Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira (Dec. 30, 1968). It has been translated and adapted for publication without his revision. —Ed.