

November/December 2022

CRUSADE[®]

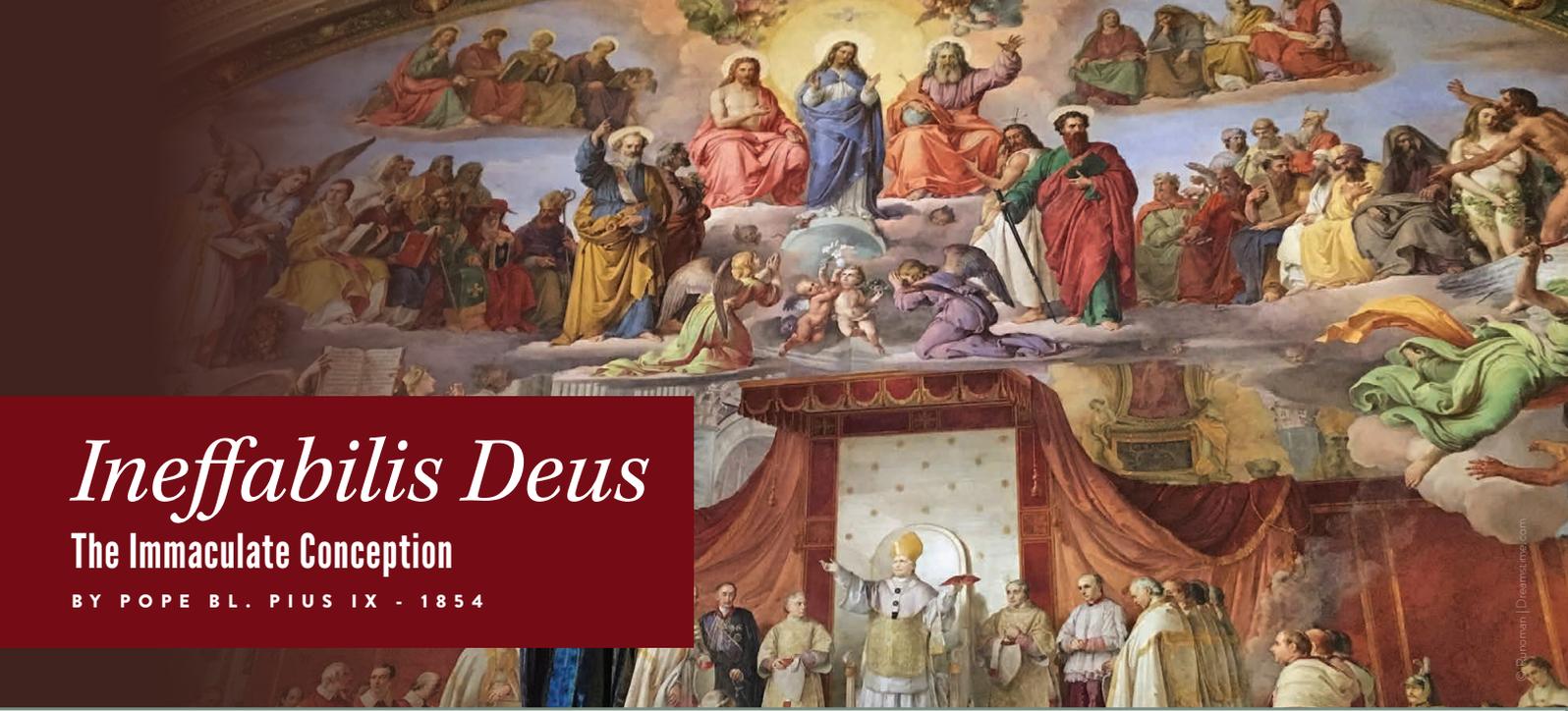
MAGAZINE



TRADITION
FAMILY AND
PROPERTY[®]



*The Crusade of the
Twenty-First Century*



Ineffabilis Deus

The Immaculate Conception

BY POPE BL. PIUS IX - 1854



FORGOTTEN
TRUTHS

God Ineffable — whose ways are mercy and truth, whose will is omnipotence itself, and whose wisdom “reaches from end to end mightily, and orders all things sweetly” — having foreseen from all eternity the lamentable wretchedness of the entire human race which would result from the sin of Adam, decreed, by a plan hidden from the centuries, to complete the first work of his goodness by a mystery yet more wondrously sublime through the Incarnation of the Word. This he decreed in order that man who, contrary to the plan of Divine

Mercy had been led into sin by the cunning malice of Satan, should not perish; and in order that what had been lost in the first Adam would be gloriously restored in the Second Adam. From the very beginning, and before time began, the eternal Father chose and prepared for his only-begotten Son a Mother in whom the Son of God would become incarnate and from whom, in the blessed fullness of time, he would be born into this world. Above all creatures did God so loved her that truly in her was the Father well pleased with singular delight. Therefore, far above all the angels and all the saints so wondrously did God endow her with the abundance of all heavenly gifts poured from the treasury of his divinity that this mother, ever absolutely free of all stain of sin, all fair and perfect, would possess that fullness of holy innocence and sanctity than which, under God, one cannot even imagine anything greater, and which, outside of God, no mind can succeed in comprehending fully.

Supreme Reason for the Privilege: The Divine Maternity

And indeed it was wholly fitting that so wonderful a mother should be ever resplendent with the glory of most sublime holiness and so completely free from all taint of original sin that she would triumph utterly over the ancient serpent. To her did the Father will to give his only-begotten Son — the Son

whom, equal to the Father and begotten by him, the Father loves from his heart — and to give this Son in such a way that he would be the one and the same common Son of God the Father and of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was she whom the Son himself chose to make his Mother and it was from her that the Holy Spirit willed and brought it about that he should be conceived and born from whom he himself proceeds.

The Definition

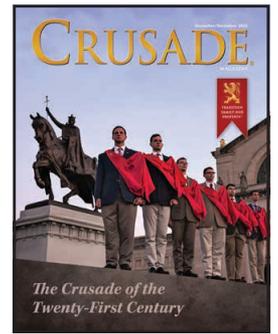
Wherefore, in humility and fasting, we unceasingly offered our private prayers as well as the public prayers of the Church to God the Father through his Son, that he would deign to direct and strengthen our mind by the power of the Holy Spirit. In like manner did we implore the help of the entire heavenly host as we ardently invoked the Paraclete. Accordingly, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, for the honor of the Holy and undivided Trinity, for the glory and adornment of the Virgin Mother of God, for the exaltation of the Catholic Faith, and for the furtherance of the Catholic religion, by the authority of Jesus Christ our Lord, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own: “We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful.”

Hence, if anyone shall dare — which God forbid! — to think otherwise than as has been defined by us, let him know and understand that he is condemned by his own judgment; that he has suffered shipwreck in the faith; that he has separated from the unity of the Church; and that, furthermore, by his own action he incurs the penalties established by law if he should dare to express in words or writing or by any other outward means the errors he think in his heart. ■

Taken from: <https://www.papalencyclicals.net/pius09/p9ineff.htm>.

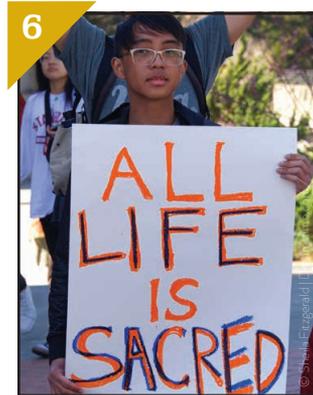
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Members of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property stand before a statue of King Saint Louis IX

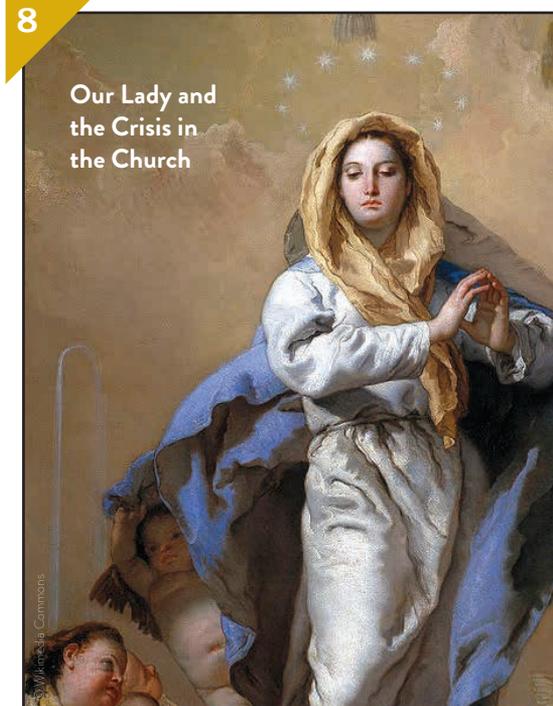
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Why the left hates this sign



Your intentions taken to Padua, Italy



Our Lady and the Crisis in the Church



Catholics offer reparation for "Pride Masses" across the country

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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

Last WWII Medal of Honor Recipient Dies

The last surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient, Hershel Woodrow Williams, passed away on June 29, 2022 in Huntington, West Virginia. Born on October 2, 1923, Williams enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1943. During the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945, the young marine singlehandedly eliminated a series of Japanese machine-gun positions with his flamethrower and cleared a path for advancing American troops. For his heroic actions, Williams received the nation's highest award for military valor, the

Medal of Honor. Prior to his burial, Mr. Williams's body lay in state both in the West Virginia State Capitol and at the United States Capitol in Washington D.C., where thousands of mourners filed past to honor and pay their respects.



Dutch Farmers Protest Green Encroachment on Agriculture

The Netherlands, a country roughly the size of Maryland, is the world's second-largest agricultural exporter in the world after the United States. This is mainly due to the application of advanced technology to farming methods, allowing Dutch farmers to produce large quantities of clean, inexpensive food efficiently while using minimal resources. Since 2019 however, under pressure from the European Union (EU) and the radical green movement, the Dutch government is attempting to impose a new green plan that would force farmers to eliminate a third of their livestock, drastically cut fertilizer use, and decrease crop production in order to reduce greenhouse emissions. The proposals have been met with fierce opposition by Dutch farmers, who have been protesting in the streets on and off since 2019. According to news reports, tens of thousands of farmers used their tractors to block warehouses, highways, bridges, canals, harbors, and even airport runways, with the help of fishermen acting in solidarity, grounding much of the country to a halt. These protests have enjoyed broad popular support among the Dutch public, with up to eighty-nine percent of respondents declaring their sympathy for the protestors in a 2019 poll taken by *EenVandaag*.

Over 800,000 Babies Saved by Pro-Life Pregnancy Centers

From 2016 to 2020, pro-life pregnancy centers in the United States saved an estimated 828,131 babies from abortion according to a recent study by the Charlotte Lozier Institute. There are currently more than 2,700 pregnancy centers in operation around the country providing services to women, such as free ultrasounds, medical care and referrals, education, mentoring, and material support including car seats and clothing. In the wake of the Supreme Court's overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, many pregnancy centers have been the target of violent attacks by abortion extremists.

Massachusetts Bishop Cuts Ties with Catholic School for Promoting Unnatural Vice, Black Lives Matter

On June 16, Bishop Robert J. McManus of Worcester, Massachusetts decreed that the Jesuit-run Nativity School in Worcester was "prohibited from this time forward from identifying itself as a 'Catholic' school" and banned the celebration of Mass and the sacraments on premises. This was in response to the school's refusal to take down their LGBT pride and Black Lives Matter flags, despite warnings by the bishop that they "embody specific agendas or ideologies that contradict Catholic social and moral teaching." In explaining his decision, Bishop McManus stated that "As Diocesan Bishop, it is my sacred duty and inherent responsibility to determine when a school claiming to be 'Catholic' is acting in such a way that is contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church and disregards my legitimate authority as the guardian and overseer of Catholic education in the Diocese of Worcester."

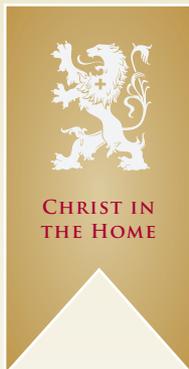


Supreme Court Upholds Coach's Right to Pray on the Field

In a 6-3 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the right of high-school football coach Joseph Kennedy to pray at the 50-yard line during games. For years, the former U.S. Marine had the custom of kneeling and reciting a post-game prayer by himself. When players and students began to join him in praying as well, woke and secularist school authorities harshly rebuked Kennedy and ordered him to stop. When he refused to comply, he was placed on administrative leave by the school. Kennedy fought back all the way to the Supreme Court, where he won his case on June 27.

10 Tips for Better New Year's Resolutions

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1. Be honest

Know yourself. What is your strongest virtue? What is your worst vice? Therefore, tailor your resolution so it strengthens your good side and fights your bad one. A one-size-fits-all resolution is useless.

2. Be specific

Do not use generalities. They do not work. For example, if you need to be more humble, just saying “I am going to be more humble,” is useless. You need to zero in on one situation where you need to practice humility and resolve to improve in that one situation.

3. Be simple

Do not make it complicated. Focus on something you can see and measure easily and that does not overwhelm you each time you try to obtain it. Otherwise, you will become distracted and your energy will be dispersed and misdirected.

4. Be reasonable

Do not try to do too much at once. You won't become a saint in one day. Remember: you have one MAJOR point upon which is hinged your entire fidelity to God and His Holy Laws. This is called your primordial light. Find it and work on improving it. Everything else will improve if you improve on that one major point.

5. Be consistent

It is far better to do something small every day to improve on that one key point in your soul than to make a big resolution that you cannot keep for more than a week or two. Slow and steady wins the race!

6. Be humble

Recognize that you cannot do any good action which has value in the supernatural order without God's grace and the intercessory help of the Blessed Mother. Beg God's grace through Our Lady's intercession constantly in all your thoughts, desires, and actions.

7. Be disinterested

Remember that God wants us to defend His rights and interests, and to share His thoughts and ways. Therefore, focus on things, happenings, and events that are very close to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary that are not necessarily linked to your own personal interests.

8. Write it down

It is important to write down your resolution so you can refer back to it often during the year. Also, by writing it down, you will be able to review it when the year is over, and to evaluate your progress since the time the resolution was made.

9. Public expressions of faith

Do not hide your faith. That's just what the devil wants. He knows that when you express your faith publicly, others see you and are encouraged to follow your good example. Say grace openly and proudly before meals in a restaurant so people can see. You'll be surprised with the good reactions you will get.

10. Devotion to Our Lady

Have more devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Devotion to the Mother of God is a panacea. Saint Louis de Montfort said that devotion to Holy Mary is the easiest, safest, fastest, most secure, and surest path to Jesus and to our own salvation. If you can do nothing else, resolve to say the rosary every day. Saint Louis de Montfort wrote:

“IF you say the rosary faithfully until death, I do assure you that, in spite of the gravity of your sins ‘you shall receive a never-fading crown of glory.’ Even if you are on the brink of damnation, even if you have one foot in hell, even if you have sold your soul to the devil as sorcerers do who practice black magic, and even if you are a heretic as obstinate as a devil, sooner or later you will be converted and will amend your life and will save your soul, if—and mark well what I say—if you say the Holy Rosary devoutly every day until death for the purpose of knowing the truth and obtaining contrition and pardon for your sins.”

—SAINT LOUIS DE MONTFORT



Five Crucial Lessons from the Uproar over *Roe v. Wade*

BY JOHN HORVAT II



Roe v. Wade is dead.

The decision to overturn it represents more than the end of a bad law. It changes the moral debate in America today. The uproar over the leaked opinion that preceded the ruling and now its dramatic aftermath contains five crucial lessons that must orient the post-*Roe* future.

The lessons started with the leaked opinion. The likely intention of whoever leaked it was to prepare the ground for a furious reaction. The normal release of an unknown decision in June would have limited the pro-abortion movement's ability to mobilize. The leaked contents with the good news of *Roe*'s repeal added urgency and passion to the left's cause. The left needed the extra weeks to whip up hysteria.

While energizing the pro-abortion bases, the hysteria revealed the true and horrific face of the movement. The debate is no longer a carefully scripted campaign controlled by Planned Parenthood operatives in the name of women's health. The hysteria of the radicals hides nothing; it allows people to see what unites and defines the pro-abortion movement. It now becomes much easier to perceive that procured abortion generated two currents, two mentalities, and, yes, two Americas.

Five lessons can be learned from the *Roe v. Wade* hysteria.

1. Abortion is a debate about the wrong concept of freedom. The first lesson is that the fiction of women's health is no longer the most important pro-abortion talking point. The hysterical

ones have spoken and presented the issue as the freedom to do whatever one wants regardless of the consequence or human obstacles—even if it means killing babies. The pro-abortion radicals accept no restrictions; they deny biological and metaphysical reality.

2. Abortion unites all forms of impurity and all disordered passions. Protesters from the whole gamut of the sexual revolution hot-button issues joined the hysteria around the leaked opinion. They cannot be separated. Once one gratifies the disordered sexual passions, any relationship is possible and demanded. Thus, abortion advocates connect abortion and the LGBTQ+ agenda (its flag appeared at protests). They correctly conclude that banning procured abortion threatens all moral aberrations. Indeed, the more Justice Alito insisted there is no link between these issues in his leaked opinion, the more the left made the connection.

3. Abortion unites the political left. Sadly, the abortion struggle unites the left more than the right. Leftists allow no compromise on this issue. The Democratic Party would have everything to gain by moderating its abortion stance. However, now that it embraces totalitarianism, it no longer allows for dissent. Socialists, communists, and anarchists all share the same passion for abortion, knowing that it supports their egalitarian goals. Their flags, symbols, and slogans were part of the post-leak protests.



The nine Supreme Court justices who suffered terrible abuses from pro-abortion terrorists in the wake of the leaked opinion.

4. The abortion radicals follow or break the law when it favors them. The pro-abortion movement used *Roe v. Wade* as a bludgeon of “settled law” against the pro-life cause. However, now that *Roe* is dead, expect to see in place the Marxist maxim that legality means whatever favors the advance of the Revolution. Activists now chanted, “We will not obey!” Indeed, political officials and public prosecutors already threaten not to enforce the law in places where abortion will become illegal. The post-lead hysteria provoked many to break the law by protesting and threatening the Supreme Court justices at their homes. They have vandalized pregnancy centers and churches. Aiding and abetting leftists in government and media will give their blessing to the violence by repeating the “mostly peaceful” 2020 mantra.

5. The abortion issue increasingly represents those who are anti-God and pro-Satan. The most shocking revelation of the post-lead hysteria was the openly anti-God and pro-Satan wrath. Indeed, Satanic symbols, blasphemous signs, and hateful slogans found their way into the protests. Others called for attacking and vandalizing Catholic churches (on Mother’s Day). Satanic groups renewed their claim that abortion has a sacramental character for them. Tabernacles were stolen. The Blessed Sacrament profaned. Catholic politicians supporting abortion defied Church authorities with sacrilegious communions. All these things took place without official protest or regret from those within the abortion movement.

Thus, the post-lead hysteria and coming storm reveal much about the abortion movement.

Roe v. Wade is not just about abortion. It is tied to a world of issues and a worldview. The left sees this clearly. The right not as much.

The protests gave the nation a glimpse of where the left and the abortion movement want to go. The right must see the worldview divide in full clarity and rally to the Faith and Christian civilization. It must adopt an opposite program that unifies all that is according to God’s law.

Here are five ways the right should fight back.

They are the road to victory:

1. The pro-life movement must unite around the true vision of freedom. Thus, freedom is a rule of self-control that allows a person to live free of the tyranny of the passions and facilitates a life full of truth and beauty. It is ordered liberty, not unbridled license.

2. The pro-life movement must embrace all that is pure and moral. It must unify all those who believe in the natural moral law. The left has proclaimed there is no such thing as single-issue politics since all these issues are interconnected. The pro-life movement must see it the same way and rise to this challenge, and above all, resist the LGBTQ offensive that undermines everything it stands for.

3. The anti-abortion fight must serve as a platform for uniting the political right. Once the left has defined itself as overwhelmingly pro-abortion, the right must be consistent and unite around this winning issue. It must continue the political battle by passing laws that make abortion unthinkable. The goal must be total victory.

4. The movement must adhere to the law. Just because the left breaks the law and creates chaos does not mean that pro-lifers can act outside the law. The left knows how to exploit any breach of the law by those on the right to its advantage. What wisdom is there in playing into the hands of the left? Pro-life activists who break the law betray the movement. Pro-lifers must keep the fight legal and peaceful. Both pro-life and pro-abortion activists who violate the law must be denounced.

5. The fight for life must always be religious, in favor of God, the source of all grace and life. The left knows that God is at the center of the debate. It knows that the Church represents the moral law and makes it the target of its action. Its radicals invoke Satan for help. How much more the pro-life movement should call upon the overwhelming power of God and the Blessed Mother to secure the final victory.

The nature of the abortion debate has changed. Procured abortion is no longer a health, woman’s, political, or secular issue. Procured abortion is the moral issue it has always been: the killing of innocent human life.

The left is redefining the abortion fight in universal moral, religious, ethical, and metaphysical terms. This new framing of the debate gives those defending life the advantage. The pro-life side must rise to the occasion and press the attack. ■



How the Immaculate Conception Can Help Us Understand the Crisis in the Church

BY PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA

PLINIO
CORRÊA DE
OLIVEIRA

There is a kind of interchangeability between the attributes of Our Lady and the Catholic Church. The things that are said of Our Lady, in their own way, can be said of the Catholic Church. Thus, when reciting the Litany of Our Lady or the Hail Holy Queen, we can apply all the phrases of these prayers to the Catholic Church. The exchange would be perfect. In its own way, each expression can be beautifully applied to the Catholic Church. It requires some transposition and adaptation but once done, it can serve as material for meditations on the Church.

One application would be the reference to the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. The Church also has a certain immaculate character born from the Redemption, and, in Her divine element, She bears nothing of the Original Sin of man.

On the part of the Church, Sacred Scripture refers to Her as a lady who is perpetually young, without wrinkle or stain, in a state of permanent glory. The same can be said of Our Lady as a consequence of her Immaculate Conception. She is a lady without wrinkle or stain. There is no stain, old age, tiredness, or exhaustion in her because she is not subject to these things by her perfect and Immaculate Conception.

However, this interchangeability between the perpetual radiance of Our Lady and that of the Catholic Church recalls another example.

Despite all the splendor of Our Lady, she once appeared as the Mother of Sorrows. She was overwhelmed by the deepest

mourning in all of history when she grieved for her Divine Son. At this time, the words of the prophet Isaias apply: "O all ye who pass by the way: stop and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow" (Lam. 1:12).

The same comparison applies and is urgently needed in reference to the Catholic Church today. We should urgently ask Our Lady to preserve our vision of the inalienably radiant, glorious, and immaculate character of the Catholic Church, despite the situation of deep mourning for the condition in which the Catholic Church finds Herself.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception, so connected with devotion to her, is an appropriate day to ask Our Lady for this grace. Ask for this grace to have an imperturbable, profound, and undefeatable devotion to the Catholic Church despite the appearance of the Church in crisis.

The situation of the Church is like that of Our Lady on Good Friday. Thus, the Catholic Church can also

speak to her true children with the words of the prophet Isaias: "All ye who pass by the way, all ye unknown ones, all ye indifferent ones, all ye who understand nothing of My pain, all ye who do not understand the pain of anyone, stop and see if there is in the whole world, amid so many sufferings and disorders, amid so much pain, chaos, and persecution, a single pain comparable to Mine." The Catholic Church can say these words to its true children in these times.

In the sadness of our days, we must remember that the Catholic Church's essential nature remains perfectly radiant, young, infallible, and immaculate. All the errors of Her human element and the enormous misuse of ecclesiastical power seek to give airs of the Revolution to the extrinsic aspect of the Catholic Church. There may even be formulations that make the doctrine of truth seem similar to erroneous ones. None of these things can destroy the immaculate character of the Catholic Church, which resides in Her indestructible fidelity to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thus, despite the great abuses of human power, the Catholic Church intrinsically remains majestic and victorious, just as Our Lady at the foot of the Cross. This Mother of Sorrows, devastated by suffering, continued to be a radiant, majestic, and victorious queen, even at that moment, and perhaps especially at that moment, which was at once the greatest defeat and victory of Our Lady.

We must remember that it is architectonic that the present things are happening. Architectonic means that it is in accordance with the logic of things. Thus, it is in accordance with the nature of the Church and history that, given the enormous sin of the Revolution and the human element of the Church open to this sin, the present tragedy is happening.

The Church proves Her divinity by this fact. She, so to speak, dissociates Herself from these elements that fall into these errors. They enter into their own follies and craziness and turn away from Her. There is something in the Church Herself by which She remains entirely untouched and continues without these stains. She continues in a state of perfection that makes us love Her above everything on earth, save for God, Our Lord.

What is this something that allows Her to remain immaculate? First, it is that the Catholic Church will never fall into error, and Her doctrine is immaculate. Secondly, the holiness of Her sacraments never ceases to be a source of life for all the faithful. Finally, the Holy Ghost continues to breathe within the Catholic Church and produce fruits of holiness. These three elements keep the Catholic Church whole and immaculate. All the rest is secondary. We must lament and

even utterly detest all the mistreatment She suffers. However, behind this appearance, the Catholic Church remains whole, infallible, and the only true Church of Our Lord.

The Catholic Church is experiencing a Passion today, just as Our Lady faced in her compassion for Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Church is witnessing a kind of internal crucifixion.

In this situation, the Church is like Our Lady. This moment when everything seems lost is like that moment when Our Lord bowed His head and said, "*Consummatum est.*" That moment foreshadowed the Fatima Chastisement: the sky darkened, the veil of the Temple was rent, the earth trembled, and the righteous rose from their graves and walked through Jerusalem, bearing witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ. As a result, many souls repented. Others hardened in their vices and became worse.

This is a kind of foreshadowing of the Fatima Chastisement. At this moment of the universal crisis, we have the impression that the "*consummatum est*" moment has come. The cup of ignominies, the chalice of abominations, is full.

When all seems lost, it will signal the victory of the Church. Then the Revolution will fall, everything will disappear, and the Reign of Mary will triumph after an extraordinary chastisement.

Let us ask Our Lady on the feast of her Immaculate Conception to give us an enormous devotion to her and, as a corollary, to the Holy Catholic Church. May she give us an invincible faith in the divine character and the infallibility and indestructible holiness of the Holy Roman Catholic and Apostolic Church, our Mother. May our faith in and love for the Church increase the more we see Her persecuted and mistreated by the hand of the wicked, Her external enemies, and above all Her internal adversaries. ■



[D]espite the great abuses of human power, the Catholic Church intrinsically remains majestic and victorious, just as Our Lady at the foot of the Cross.



The CRUSADE of the Twenty-First Century

BY PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA



COVER
STORY



We can, and must, pray and act to free the world not only from the errors of communism and Islam, but also those of the cultural revolution sweeping the West.

Medieval crusaders shed their blood to free the sepulcher of Our Lord Jesus Christ from the hands of the infidels and to establish a Christian kingdom in the Holy Land.

Today the blood of Catholics still flows—in communist China, Nigeria, Cuba, and many other countries where religious persecutions continue to claim the lives of thousands without most of us even being aware of it.

But for what purpose? The vast majority of these have died under the continuing onslaught of communism and Islam, both inveterate enemies of our Faith and of Christian civilization. It is to be hoped that this torrent of blood, like that of the early Christian martyrs, will be a seed of even greater numbers of new Catholics and of a restoration of Christendom in all the world.

Those of us who have not been called upon to shed our blood like these martyrs should keep as our constant aim the restoration of the Kingdom of Christ, that His will may be done “on earth as it is in Heaven.”

The Catholic Church was founded by Our Lord Jesus Christ to perpetuate the benefits of the Redemption among men. Thus, its ultimate end is identical with that of the Redemption itself: to atone for the sins of mankind through the infinitely precious merits of the God-man, to restore to God the external glory that sin had stolen from Him and to open the gates of Heaven to mankind. This purpose is achieved on the supernatural level, aiming at eternal life. It transcends whatever is merely natural, earthly, and perishable. That is what Our Lord Jesus Christ affirmed when He said to Pontius Pilate, “My Kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36).

Earthly life differs thus and thoroughly from eternal life, but these two lives do not constitute two

planes absolutely isolated one from the other. In the designs of Providence, there is a close connection between earthly life and eternal life. Earthly life is the way; eternal life is the goal. Though the Kingdom of Christ does not belong to this world, the way to it lies in this world.

Just as the military school is the way to the military profession, or the novitiate is the way to enter a religious order, so is this earth the way to Heaven.

We have an immortal soul created in God's image and likeness. This soul is created with a treasure of natural aptitudes for good, and enriched by Baptism with the invaluable gift of the supernatural life of grace. During our lives we have to develop to their fullness these aptitudes for good. Therewith our likeness to God, still partially incomplete and potential, becomes full and actual.

Likeness is the source of love. By becoming fully similar to God, we become capable of loving Him fully and of calling down upon ourselves the fullness of His love. Consequently, we are prepared to contemplate God face to face in Heaven for that eternal, totally blissful act of love to which we are called.

Therefore, earthly life is a novitiate wherein we prepare our souls for their real destiny, that is, to see God face to face and to love Him for all eternity.

If we present the same truth in other words, we can say that God is infinitely pure, just, powerful, and good. In order to love Him, we must love purity, justice, fortitude, and goodness. If we do not love virtue, how can we love God, Who is Goodness? On the other hand, if God is Goodness, how can He love evil? Likeness being the source of love, how can He love something that is entirely unlike Him, one who is voluntarily unjust, cowardly, impure, or bad?

God must be adored and served above all in spirit and truth (John 4:25). Thus, it behooves us to be pure, just, strong, and good to the depths of our souls. If our souls are good, all of our actions must be necessarily so, because a good tree cannot

bring forth evil fruit (Matt. 7:17-18). Therefore, it is necessary for us, in order to conquer Heaven, not only to love good and hate evil inwardly, but to do good deeds and avoid bad ones.

Yet, earthly life is more than the way to eternal bliss. What are we going to do in Heaven? We shall contemplate God face to face, in the light of glory that completes grace and we shall love Him fully and forever. Man, however, is already possessed of supernatural life here on earth through Baptism. Faith is a seed of the Beatific Vision. The love of God that man exercises by progressing in virtue and avoiding evil is already that supernatural love with which he will adore God in Heaven.

The Kingdom of God will attain its fulfillment in the next world. For all of us, however, it already begins to exist germinally in this world—just as in a novitiate the religious life is already put into practice, albeit as a preparation, and in a military school a young man trains for the army by living a military life.

The Holy Catholic Church in this world is not only an image of Heaven, but a real anticipation of Heaven. Everything, therefore, that the Holy Gospels tell us about the Kingdom of Heaven applies most properly and exactly to the Catholic Church, to the Faith She teaches, and to each one of the virtues She inculcates.

This is the meaning of the Feast of Christ the King. He is above all the Heavenly King, but nevertheless, a King whose rule is already exercised in this world, and a King Who, by right, possesses full and supreme authority.

A king legislates, rules, and judges. His royalty becomes effective when his subjects recognize his rights and obey his laws. Now, Jesus Christ has all rights over us. He promulgates laws, rules the world, and will judge mankind. Thus, it is our obligation to make His Reign effective by obeying His laws.

His Reign exists on an individual level, insofar as every faithful soul obeys Our Lord Jesus Christ. As a matter of fact, Christ's Reign is exerted on our souls, therefore, each



Though the Kingdom of Christ does not belong to this world, the way to it lies in this world.

soul is under Christ's jurisdiction. The Reign of Christ will become a social fact if human societies obey Him.

Thus, it can be said that the Reign of Christ becomes effective on earth, in its individual and social meaning, when men both in the depths of their souls and their actions, and when societies in their institutions, laws, customs, cultural, and artistic manifestations comply with Christ's Law.

Nevertheless, however actual, brilliant, and tangible it be, Christ's earthly Reign is nothing but a preparation and prologue. In its fullness the Kingdom of God will be achieved only in Heaven: "My Kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36).

Order, Harmony, Peace, Perfection

Order, peace, and harmony are essential characteristics of every well-formed soul and well-constituted human society. In a sense, these values merge with the very notion of perfection.

Every being has its own end and a nature appropriate to obtaining this end. Thus, a part of a watch is intended for a special purpose and is suited by its shape and composition to serve that purpose.

Order is the arrangement of things according to their nature. A watch is in order when all of its parts are arranged according to the nature and end peculiar to them. Thus, there is order in the sidereal universe because all celestial bodies are arranged according to their natures and ends.

There is harmony between two beings when their relations agree with the nature and the end of each of them. Harmony is the working of things in relation one to another according to order.

Order generates tranquility. The tranquility of order is peace. Not any tranquility deserves to be called peace, but only one resulting from order. Peace of conscience is the tranquility of the righteous conscience; it must not be mistaken for the lethargy of the benumbed conscience. Organic well-being produces a feeling of peace that cannot be mistaken for the torpor of a coma.

When something is entirely disposed according to its nature, it is in the state of perfection. Someone with a great ability and desire to study, when placed in a university where all the resources exist for his studies, will be in a perfect position in regard to studies.

When the conditions in which a being finds itself are perfect, its operations are also perfect and it will necessarily tend towards its end with maximum firmness, vigor, and skill. Thus, if a man is in the condition to walk, that is to say, can, may, and wants to walk, he will walk impeccably.

The real knowledge of what perfection is for man and societies depends on an exact notion of man's nature and end. The righteousness, fruitfulness, and splendor of human actions, either individual or social, also depend on the knowledge of our nature and of our end.

In short, the possession of religious truth is the essential condition for order, harmony, peace, and perfection.

Christian Perfection

The Gospel shows us the ideal of perfection: "Be ye therefore perfect as also your Heavenly Father is perfect" (Matt. 5:48). Our Lord Jesus Christ gave us this advice, and He Himself taught us to carry it out. As a matter of fact, Jesus Christ is the absolute similitude of the Heavenly Father's perfection, the supreme model we all have to imitate.

The rules of this perfection are found in the Law of God, which Our Lord Jesus Christ did not come "to destroy but to fulfill" (Matt. 5:17). They are the evangelic precepts and counsels. In order that man should not fall into error in interpreting commandments and counsels, Our Lord Jesus Christ established an infallible Church that may count on divine assistance never to err in matters of Faith and morals. Faithfulness in thought and deeds to the teaching of the Church is, therefore, the way every man can know and put into practice the ideal of perfection that is Jesus Christ.

This is what the saints did. Heroically practicing the virtues the Church teaches, they perfectly

A Catholic procession in Bavaria, Germany. When mankind chooses to cooperate with Divine grace, a true civilization is born. Such a society, influenced by the Church, would be well-ordered toward mankind's social, cultural and spiritual perfection.



imitated Our Lord Jesus Christ and the Heavenly Father, so that even the Church's enemies proclaim their moral qualities.

God is the author of our nature and therefore of all aptitudes and excellences found in it. In us, that which does not come from God are defects and the result of original and actual sin.

The Ten Commandments could not be contrary to the nature God created in us. Since He is God and perfect, there can be no contradiction in His works. Therefore, the Ten Commandments prescribe actions that our reason shows to be in agreement with nature, such as honoring our father and mother. It also forbids actions that we understand to be contrary to the natural order, such as lying.

As a result of original sin, man has a propensity for acts contrary to his nature, rightly understood. He is subject to error in his intelligence and wrongdoing in his will. This propensity is so strong that without grace it is impossible for man to know or practice the precepts of natural law consistently and completely. God repaired our insufficiency, by revealing these precepts on Mount Sinai and, under the New Covenant, establishing a Church to protect men against transgressions and instituting sacraments to strengthen them by grace.

Grace is a supernatural aid intended to fortify the intelligence and man's will, so that he can practice perfection. God does not refuse His grace to anyone, so perfection is accessible to all.

Can an infidel know the Law of God and comply with it? Does he receive God's grace? A distinction must be made. In principle, all men in contact with the Church receive sufficient grace to know that She is the true Church, to enter Her, and to obey the Commandments. So if someone remains voluntarily outside the Church, or refuses the grace of conversion, he closes the gates of salvation to himself. On the other hand, if someone has no means of knowing the Holy Church—a heathen, for instance, whose country has never received missionaries—he will at least have sufficient grace to know and practice the most essential principles of the Law of God, since God does not refuse salvation to anyone.

The Christian Ideal of Social Perfection

If we suppose that most of the individuals in a certain population practice God's Law, what result can we expect from that society? This is the same as asking if in a watch each part works according to its nature and its purpose, what result may we expect from the watch? Or if each part of a whole is perfect, what must be said of the whole?

Since it is always risky to use mechanical examples for human situations, let us stick to

the image of a society where all members are good Catholics, as described by Saint Augustine: Let us imagine "an army composed of soldiers as Jesus Christ's doctrine forms them, of governors, husbands, spouses, parents, children, teachers, servants, kings, judges, taxpayers, tax collectors as the Christian teaching require them to be! And let them (the heathen) still dare to say that this teaching is contrary to the interests of the State! On the contrary, they have to admit unhesitatingly that it is a safeguard for the State when faithfully followed" (Epist. CXXXVIII, al. 5, ad Marcellum, Cap. II, n. 15).

If nowadays all men were practicing the Law of God, would not all the political, social, and economic problems that beset us be quickly solved? However, what solution can we hope for them while men live in non-observance of the Law of God?

Did human society ever achieve this ideal of perfection? Undoubtedly. The immortal Pope Leo XIII tells us so: Once the Redemption was accomplished and the Church founded, "man, as if he were awakening from an old, long, and mortal lethargy, saw the light of the truth he had looked and longed for during so many centuries; above all he recognized that he was born for much higher and much more magnificent possessions than the fragile and perishable things attained by the senses and to which he had until then limited his thoughts and his concerns. He understood that the whole constitution of human life, the supreme law, and the end to which everything must submit is that, coming from God, we must return to Him one day.

"From this beginning and on this foundation consciousness of human dignity was restored and lived again; the sense of a common brotherhood took possession of men's hearts. In consequence, their rights and duties were perfected or established anew, and virtues beyond the conception of ancient philosophy were revived. So men's purposes, tenor of life, and characters were changed, and the knowledge of the Redeemer having spread far and wide and His power having penetrated into the very life-blood of the nations, expelling their ignorance and ancient vices, a marvelous transformation took place, which, originating in Christian civilization, utterly changed the face of the earth" (Leo XIII, Encyclical *Tametsi Futura Prospicientibus*).

Christian Civilization, Christian Culture

This splendid reality, an order and a perfection more supernatural and heavenly than natural and earthly, has been called Christian civilization, the product of Christian culture and a daughter of the Catholic Church.



Just as their saintly forebears gave their lives for the defense of Christendom and the salvation of souls, faithful Catholics today are called to participate in the modern-day crusade opposing the forces of darkness and working for the restoration of an organic Christian society.

One is cultured when his soul is not enslaved by the unruly and spontaneous play of its faculties—intelligence, will, and sensibilities, but rather has enriched them through an orderly and reasoned effort. It is similar to a field, which does not cause seeds, chaotically strewn by the wind, to bear fruit. Only a farmer's toil produces something useful and good.

In this sense, Catholic culture is the cultivation of the intelligence, will, and sensibility according to the norms of morality taught by the Church. It is identified with the very perfection of the soul. If it exists in most members of a human society (though in degrees and ways proper to the social condition and age of each one), it will be a social and collective fact. Moreover, it will constitute the most important element of social perfection.

Civilization is the condition of a human society that possesses culture and has created, according to the basic principles of that culture, its own customs, laws, institutions, and literary and artistic systems.

A civilization will be Catholic if it is the faithful product of a Catholic culture and therefore, the spirit of the Church is the normal and vital principle of its customs, laws, institutions, and literary and artistic systems.

Since Jesus Christ is the true ideal of human perfection and since a society that puts into practice all His laws has to be a perfect society, the culture and civilization born from the Church of Christ must be not only the best civilization but the only true one. Thus, Pope Saint Pius X said: "There is no true civilization without moral civilization, and there is no true moral civilization save with true Religion" (Letter to the French Bishops on "Le Sillon").

Thus, it can be inferred with crystalline conspicuousness that no true civilization exists that is not the result and fruit of the True Religion.

The Church and Christian Civilization

It would be false to think that the Church's action upon men is merely individual and that She forms only persons, not peoples, cultures, and civilizations.

In fact, God created men sociable, and He desires them to work for the sanctification of one another in society. That is why He created them receptive to influence. This can be said about the relations between individuals and between individuals and society. Our surroundings, laws, and institutions exert an influence on us; they teach us.

To defy these surroundings, whose ideological action penetrates us, even by osmosis, takes high and strenuous virtue. Thus, the first Christians were no more admirable facing the wild animals of the Colosseum than when maintaining their Catholic spirit in a heathen society.

Thus, culture and civilization exert a tremendous influence on souls—for their ruin when the culture and civilization are heathen; for their edification and salvation when Christian.

How then, can the Church fail to attempt to influence culture and civilization? How can She remain satisfied with acting merely upon individual souls?

In fact, every soul influenced by the Church is a seed of that civilization, which She actively and vigorously spreads. Virtue shines through, penetrates, and thus spreads. By spreading, it tends to transform itself into a Catholic culture and civilization.

As we have seen, the distinctive feature of the Church is to produce a Christian culture and civilization, and to produce all Her fruits in a fully Catholic social atmosphere. A Catholic must long for a Christian civilization just as a man imprisoned in a dungeon wants open air and a caged bird yearns after the infinite expanses of the sky.

This is our purpose, our great ideal. We move towards the Christian civilization that may arise from the ruins of today's world, as the civilization of the Middle Ages was born from the ruins of the Roman world. We move towards the conquest of this ideal with the courage, the perseverance, the will to face and overcome all obstacles with which the crusaders marched towards Jerusalem. If our forebears were capable of dying to reconquer the Sepulcher of Christ, how could we not want—we sons of the Church as they — to struggle and die to restore something that is of infinitely more worth than the most precious Sepulcher of the Savior, that is, His reign over the souls and societies that He created and saved to love Him eternally?

*Christus vincit! Christus regnat!
Christus imperat!*

This essay first appeared in *Catolicismo* in January 1951.



AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA[®]

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022

PROGRESS REPORT

From the Desk of Robert Ritchie

Now that our children have returned to their brick-and-mortar classrooms, my mind is on the moral crisis they must face. Government officials, teachers and librarians are openly promoting homosexuality, transgenderism and Satanism in our schools through immoral books, Drag Queen Story Hours, and After School Satan Clubs.

Here are just a few examples: New York City public schools are creating a new “Universal Mosaic Curriculum” in which one book on the recommended reading list indoctrinates young people into the racial and “gender” perspectives of the radical left.

Another book, *What You Don't Know: A Story of a Liberated Childhood* by Anastasia Higginbotham, is intended for ten- and eleven-year-old children, and features a main character who calls himself “queer.” In one chapter, the character has a blasphemous exchange with Jesus Christ inside a church.

This is only the beginning of what our children face! As parents, we cannot stand idly by; we must be prepared to defend our children. And we can with Public Square Rosary Rallies! In the words of Pope Blessed Pius IX: “Give me an army saying the rosary and I will conquer the world.”

Here's proof that public prayer is truly effective: In April, more than four hundred people attended the Northern York School Board meeting in Pennsylvania to voice their opposition for an After School Satan Club to be held at Northern Elementary School. Because parents and concerned citizens stood in peaceful, prayerful protest, the school board voted against allowing the club to operate. God is victorious!

When Satan's cohorts threaten the innocence of children and families in your community, I pray that you will hold your own peaceful and legal rosary rally. We will send you everything you need, at absolutely no cost to you, to make sure you have a successful event. And your personal rally package will contain a special rally banner and Rally Captain Manual. Please call toll-free (844) 830-3570, or e-mail Protest@TFP.org for more information.

We need to refocus on God's laws and away from the liberal, immoral ideals that are being foisted on our innocent youth. You can help return God to our schools and communities by leading a rosary rally, or by letting us know of a school or library in your area teaching transgender ideals, offering an After School Satan Club, or hosting a Drag Queen Story Hour.

God bless you for all that you do in His Name.

Sincerely,

In Jesus and Mary,

Robert E. Ritchie
Executive Director





TAKEN FROM ANF'S PUBLICATION, *BATTLELINES*

Rosary Warriors Hold Rally Against Satanism

Rosary Rally Co-Captains Anthony and Darlene know that the power of prayer is the best way to stop Satan. That's why they held three rallies in March, April, and May against an After School Satan Club at Donovan Elementary School in Lebanon, Ohio.

Although the buffeting wind made it difficult to hold the banner during the March rally, Darlene and her rosary warriors persevered and truly felt Our Lady's presence. And the peaceful, public rosary rallies worked, as no one attended the Satan Club's April meeting.

Anthony said, "The times in which we live demand that we make a choice to be with Our Lord and Our Lady, otherwise we are against them."

Darlene added, "Do not hesitate to host your own rosary rally! You will feel so blessed about honoring God and Our Lady. You never know how your public prayers could change the lives of other people. TFP/ANF does a remarkable job of preparing you with all the materials you need to lead a successful rosary rally."



Floridians Fight the Good Fight

TFP/ANF supporters and friends in Florida held rosary rallies at Florida International University and in Miami Springs to pray for an end to abortion and for the preservation of traditional marriage.

At the university, as soon as the group opened its banner that read, "Praying the rosary for America. Please join us! As human efforts fail to solve America's key problems, we turn to God, through His Holy Mother, asking His urgent help," the few people around who supported abortion disappeared.

In Miami Springs, the TFP/ANF rally participants held a traditional First Saturday rosary rally, graced with a statue of Our Blessed Mother. With their banner waving in the Florida breeze, and hands reverently holding their rosaries, they fervently prayed for a return to traditional marriage. These faithful souls truly "fight the good fight," and resolutely stand for God's laws in the public square!





Responding to Our Lady's Call in Wyoming

When Rally Captain Carol heard about the proposed opening of an abortion clinic in Casper, Wyoming, she immediately jumped into action and organized her first TFP/ANF rosary rally. Carol and more than fifty TFP/ANF friends and supporters braved windy conditions and opposition from some protesters driving by to pray the rosary for our Blessed Mother Mary.

Carol reported that a deacon within the group reverently sprinkled holy water on the crowd, and recited a prayer for the unborn. Then the participants prayed the rosary, Angelus, and Saint Michael's prayer and sang "Immaculate Mary."

Carol said, "This was my first time as a rally captain. I will continue the TFP/ANF mission to publicly pray the rosary, especially now that I have all the materials and see how easy it is. I really feel good about being an advocate for our Blessed Mother. I felt her presence that day and at all the rallies since then." God bless and reward Carol for her devotion to the rosary and honoring Our Lady's words, "Finally, my Immaculate Heart will triumph!"

Johnstown's Rallies Honor Our Lady and Protest Abortion

A group of dedicated TFP/ANF friends and supporters in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, honors Our Lady with several rosary rallies of reparation each month.

In May, a group of more than thirty-five participants held a rally at the town's Central Park to make reparation and pray

for our country. On June 4, they held another rally in honor of Sacred Heart month. They also pray each Thursday across from a Planned Parenthood clinic.

One rally participant said, "At our rally in May, Our Lady held off the storms surrounding us so we could pray for our country and honor Our Lady of Fatima. At our pro-life rallies, we continue to pray for great and right results from our courts." How Our Lady's heart must be moved by these faithful prayer warriors!

Reparation at Washburn University

On Good Friday, Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, held a Drag Queen event on campus. In great mockery of Our Lord, this event was held on the day that Our Lord suffered His Passion and Death for us.

A group of around a dozen held their rosaries, the rosary rally banner, and the American flag, as well as signs. One sign read: "Do you want your money going to support Drag Queen events on Good Friday?"

All in attendance considered it a tremendous honor to stand up for Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Sorrowful Mother. One rally participant said, "Do not be afraid if your numbers are small. I don't think we can possibly imagine how happy Our Lord and Our Lady are to see only a few defend them. In some ways, I believe smaller rallies please Our Lord more. Why? Because it takes a lot more courage and self-sacrifice to confront the public with only a few standing with you!"

You Too Can Help Spread Our Lady's Message

The goal of America Needs Fatima is to win the heart and soul of America for Mary by spreading Our Lady's Fatima Message.

These are difficult times and by praying the rosary you help usher in the Triumph of Our Lady's Immaculate Heart. It's easy to be a rosary rally captain just like Carol, Anthony, and others you read about in this issue of *Battlelines!*

All you need is to gather a group of friends and pray the rosary in a public place. We send you all the materials you need, absolutely free of charge, to hold your rally.

We will help you organize your own rally and provide you with a free Rosary Rally Manual and banner so all you have to do is show up and pray!

National Protest Rally Coordinator, Jose Ferraz, is ready to help you at a moment's notice to ensure your rosary rally has the right impact. Just call Jose, toll-free, at (844) 830-3570 or e-mail him at Protest@TFP.org.



Our Readers Write



Crusade Magazine

“Thank you so much for your articles about Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira that you include in your *Crusade Magazine*. I believe this man was a wonderful gift from God, sent to help us with the singular problems of our times. In wanting to learn more about him, I enclose a donation and ask you to send me a copy of the book about him that you offer called *Plinio: A Man for Our Times*, by Andrea Phillips. Also, I include my thanks for sending me *Crusade Magazine*. I really look forward to receiving each issue from you! May God reward and bless you.”

C.C., Alameda, California

America Needs Fatima

“I have always thought a lot of the Holy Rosary and the rosary prayers said in the homes of families when your volunteers visit with the blessed statue of Our Lady of Fatima, and it is with happiness that I realize that every time I donate, it helps with these good causes. I am not rich, but I try to send as much as I can to help. Thank you for the Masses prayed by Fr. Kevin Beaton and Fr. Scott Boghassian, and for all the prayers said for me, especially as this is my 6th year in a wheelchair.”

J.C., Homeland, California

“We need to get the story of Fatima out to the world!”

L.R.H., San Diego, California

“We appreciate the gifts that are sent to us. We are given hope in these difficult times we live in today. The gifts are inspiring; they make us try to live according to God’s laws, truth and teachings.”

A. Z., Verona, New Jersey

Book Distributions

“Thank you so much for the book *True Devotion to Mary!* I read it all and it has changed my prayer life and my devotion to Mary and her Son. You had also in the past sent me a Saint Louis de Montfort treatise, which I read and was inspired.”

K.G., Benson, Arizona

“This book [*The Glories of Mary*] I received from you is very inspirational. I wrote my name in the front of it right away, just as you suggested I do, then propped it up in front of my dresser mirror along with all the other holy things you sent me. It really is a beautiful sight! Hoping all is well in your world. May God’s blessings surround you.”

R.M., Staten Island, New York



“I visited the Holy House when I worked in Rome. I always felt that I would see it someday. Thank you for this book [*The Miracle of the Holy House of Loreto*]! You also sent me a book on the Sacred Heart and a lovely calendar with its monthly prayer which I say every day. I am sure that Mother Mary is consoled by all you are doing to bring others to her Son Jesus. Please be assured of my prayers, raggedy as they are at best, but always washed in the Precious Blood. May God continue to bless all that you and your staff are doing for Catholic evangelization.”

D.A., Sparta, New Jersey

“I was born close to Fatima....”

Dear Director Robert,

I, Sr. Maria Amelia Carreira (Franciscan Hospitaller Sister of the Immaculate Conception) give thanks to God for your wonderful way of evangelizing the USA on the way to peace by spreading devotion to Mary, through this channel of Our Lady of Fatima.

I was born very close to Fatima. My Dad was present at the Sun Miracle in October 1917. I used to go by foot to Fatima in May and August. The devotion to Our Lady of Fatima was very strong in my life. There, in August of 1951, I made my last decision to say YES to Jesus. Then, I entered consecrated religious life. After my perpetual commitment in 1960, I was sent to India as a missionary. Two years after, I was asked to open a Community in San Francisco Bay Area, California. Much later in 1995, I went to be a missionary in Angola, Africa. At age 81, brain malaria forced me to come back to my starting point in the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima. Now I am 90 years old. My mission is prayer and computer work, serving my congregation and my ex-students.

Now, you understand why I have no money to donate.

May Our Merciful JESUS bless you with peace.

Sr. Maria Amelia



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



CUSTODIAN'S
CORNER

An Abundance of Blessings

BY KENNETH MURPHY

Having been a Fatima Custodian for over fourteen years, I have been blessed to witness many conversions and graces given to those who host the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima in their homes.

There is one special hostess that stands out in my memory who perhaps received a veritable avalanche of graces. Her name is Coni and, having received her permission to do so, I would like to share her story with you today.

The visit went very much like any other Fatima visit to which I have brought Our Lady's statue. A gracious hostess welcomed me into her home and introduced me to her friends and family in attendance. Everyone sat smiling in expectation as I conducted the demonstration. And, in varying degrees, each attendee corresponded to the beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima—some kissing her feet, others daring to touch the hem of her dress, and still others quietly observing from a "safer" distance.

It was only much later, when the hostess reached out to me, that I learned of the many graces received that day. To begin, the hostess's friend, who had been going to Mass but had not been to confession since her First Holy Communion, said she was so moved by the visit of Our Lady that she asked Coni for a copy

of an examination of conscience so she could prepare to make a good confession.

Another friend of hers, a Protestant, asked if she could come to the home visit. This good lady was so touched by Our Lady's gentle gaze that she said she was going to start praying the rosary! Coni shared with me that her friend has been praying the rosary ever since.

Coni, like so many others whose children have left the Faith, had invited her daughter to attend the Fatima visit, even though she didn't think her daughter would come, having been away from the Church for many years. Coni's confidence was rewarded; her daughter did attend the visit and has since told her how moved she was and that she couldn't take her eyes off Our Lady; she is now praying her rosary.

Another one of Coni's friends who came to her home confessed she was worried about praying the rosary because she didn't know the prayers. Coni told her not to worry and to just follow along. Coni recently discovered that her friend had googled how to pray the rosary and has been praying it ever since.

Perhaps the guest I personally remember best from my afternoon in Coni's home was the lady with Parkinson's disease. At first she was shaking so much she kept sliding off the sofa and needed to stand and sit back down. I was surprised during the presentation as I gradually watched her constant shaking subside until she was completely calm and still. At one point, the lady with Parkinson's stopped shaking for about ten minutes when she was sitting before Our Lady. This was the longest time the poor woman had been free from the shaking since the onset of the disease.

So, as you can see, dear reader, Our Lady of Fatima showers an abundance of graces on all those with an open heart and a willing spirit. This is why these home visits are so crucial for bringing about the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The more hearts she touches in a very real and personal way, the sooner we will see her reign! ■



If you would like to have Kenneth, or one of his fellow Fatima Custodians, bring this beautiful statue of Our Lady into your home or school, please contact America Needs Fatima at (888) 317-5571.



New York Catholics Defend Children's Innocence

BY ROBERT NUNEZ

In upstate New York, Catholics were shocked and dismayed to learn that a "Drag Queen Story Hour" would be hosted at their local library in Whitesboro. Without hesitation, local parents launched an online petition calling for the library supervisor to cancel the event. In just a few days, the petition received over 700 signatures, where they presented at the library board meeting. Sadly, despite overwhelming disapproval voiced at the meeting, Dunham Public Library decided to proceed with the event. Catholics knew that they needed to do something more to speak out.

Fortunately, Rally Captain Mary took the initiative and called America Needs Fatima for help in organizing a rosary rally. America Needs Fatima readily provided a free rosary rally banner, prayer manuals, and invitations to distribute to friends and family.

Although Mary was not sure how many would end up answering the call, she was pleasantly surprised when over 110 prayer warriors showed up on June 25 to peacefully pray and protest in front of the library. As the group began to recite the Apostles' Creed, all nervousness and anxiety quickly dissipated and according to Mary, "Our group became filled with the fire of the Holy Ghost. . . I felt a real grace of calm—confidence come over us all."

Parents and children who showed up to attend the Drag Queen Story Hour could not miss the wall of praying Catholics as they drove into the parking lot. A group of "safety escorts" were on hand to hurriedly usher them into the library, making a scene as if to protect the children from a threatening mob.

As the Catholics prayed the Glorious Mysteries, the drag queen and a group of library officials came out to counter-protest. A few waved small rainbow flags while another displayed



a homemade sign that was illegible. One of the rosary rally attendees called out, "Let's turn and face them. Our prayers are for their souls!" With the banners still facing the street for the traffic, over 100 Catholics turned around to face the counter-protestors and directed their prayers towards them. In response, the counter-protestors began to gesture and dance in a vulgar and provocative manner. Unable to elicit a response, one of the counter-demonstrators led the rest in mocking the Hail Mary as the Catholics prayed.

Animated by holy zeal and pity for these lost souls, the rally attendees remained steadfast and offered these insults in reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. "They will have a lot of Hail Marys bouncing around in their heads for a while!" One attendee later remarked with a grin. The Catholics concluded the fifteen decades with the prayer to Saint Michael and hymns to Our Lady.

"Despite the opposition, when the rally participants went their ways, you could tell they had peace in their souls," said Mary. "We fought the good fight, made reparation for this unthinkable evil, and, I hope, planted seeds in the souls of those poor children whose very parents took them to Satan himself; seeds of grace that will one day come as a cure to heal their traumatized souls." ■

Organizers of the Drag Queen Story Hour were met by a wall of over 100 local Catholics protesting and praying in reparation; an impressive display of support for the innocence of children.





Your Rose Offerings in Fatima

This May, thousands of devotees of Our Lady joined the America Needs Fatima initiative and have sent roses to the Shrine of Fatima, in honor of their mothers, living and deceased, as a tribute to the Mother par excellence, the Most Pure Mother, the Mother of all men, the Most Holy Virgin Mary.

At five o'clock in the afternoon of May 13, the bells of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary in Fatima, with its characteristic *Ave Maria* melody, announced the offering of multicolored white, red, yellow, and pink roses on the esplanade of the sanctuary. The name of each mother was written in small letters on a large banner with a photo of the Virgin. The ceremony was simple, but emotional. The representatives of America Needs Fatima explained to the gathering pilgrims the beautiful symbolism of those roses that would later adorn the Virgin's altar.

The day before, during the massive candlelight procession, pilgrims from far and near were able to contemplate with surprise and admiration a unique banner of the Virgin Mary. The names of thousands of America Needs Fatima members and friends appeared on our banner and joined our volunteers in spirit at the annual candlelight procession.

The procession began, as usual, at 9:30 p.m. with the recitation of the Holy Rosary in many languages. Between

each mystery of the rosary, the *Ave de Fátima* was sung, and the pilgrims raised their candles, creating a sea of candles above which the image of the Virgin stood out, advancing slowly through the crowd. As always, the procession was led by a large, luminous cross and banners.

Oh, generous Children of Mary who have greeted the Blessed Virgin Mother with these roses on her feast day, symbolically your mothers were there, next to her, under her protection and her mantle. Hopefully one day you can come in person and participate in these acts of love for Holy Mary.

We would like to thank all our America Needs Fatima friends and supporters who made this beautiful offering to Our Blessed Mother a reality!



Prayers Placed in Padua, Italy

BY FELIPE BARANDIARÁN AND PLINIO RODRÍGUES

On Tuesday, June 22, dear friends and devotees of Saint Anthony in Europe, Felipe Barandiarán and Plinio Antonio Rodríguez, carried thousands of petitions to Saint Anthony's Basilica.

After the Holy Mass, a friar from the convent gave the "Blessing of Saint Anthony" upon your intentions, an exclusive privilege of the Basilica of Padua.

Our dear friends prayed with him for all of you and your intentions. After kissing the tomb of Saint Anthony and spending some time in prayer on your behalf, all the intentions were deposited next to the numerous votive offerings that attest to the power of Saint Anthony before the throne of God.

The sweet words of Saint Anthony that were transformed into a prayer came to their minds:

"I have been waiting for you for a long time, because I know the needs in which you find yourself and the help you wish to obtain from Our Lord Jesus Christ through my intercession."

Sincerely tell me what you need and open up your afflicted heart to me; I will pour on it a drop of heavenly balm that will heal your wounds and make your pains disappear."

Afterwards, both went through the office of the convent of Padua to receive the pilgrimage certificate, and above their names, symbolically are yours, since they did it on your behalf.

We would like to thank you for having accompanied us spiritually on this pilgrimage, for it has truly been an honor and pleasure to represent you and your intentions.

May Saint Anthony continue to protect us always and inspire us to a greater devotion to Our Lady with his constant affectionate blessings.



Protesting Pride Masses Across the Country

BY JOSE FERRAZ



The Sacred Heart Rosary Rally campaign began in September of 2021, when we at America Needs Fatima started to receive information about “Pride Masses” being scheduled for June 2022. June is the month of the Sacred Heart, but sadly this beautiful devotion to Jesus Christ is being forgotten and replaced by LGBTQ Pride Month, even in many Catholic churches!

We began an exhaustive investigation and found almost 500 parishes with June “Pride Masses”, and another 130 “celebrations” being offered at Catholic colleges and universities nationwide. In many parishes, these Masses were celebrated openly and even weekly.

As Catholics, we knew we could not allow this public sin to be celebrated with public pride—especially during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. So, TFP-America Needs Fatima decided to ask friends to offer public rosary rallies of reparation to protest this abomination and appease the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

In June 2022, we encouraged TFP-ANF friends and supporters to join our Sacred Heart Rosary Rally campaign. We asked them to lead a rosary rally of reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus protesting the celebration of “Pride Masses”. They answered Our Lady’s call and held 1,678 rallies in hundreds of cities across the country! There were thousands of public rosaries prayed asking for pardon and praising the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The dedication of our supporters filled the Sacred Heart with joy! Here are just a few examples:

On short notice, Rally Captain Elena and her friends gathered outside Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Maplewood, New Jersey, to pray a rosary of reparation. Although facing some opposition, including from the priest, Elena said she was grateful to host this rally and planned to protest at other churches celebrating Pride Masses.

Rally Captain Philip Calder led rallies at two LGBTQ friendly churches in San Jose and San Francisco, California. Despite

opposition, Mr. Calder said a number of TFP-ANF supporters traveled as many as two hours for the peaceful protest at Saint Agnes Catholic Church in San Francisco.

In Louisiana, Robert and Diane said, “It was a beautiful day, we were putting up our banner and three cars came by and blew their horn in support. It was a blessing letting us know that there are a lot of people that still believe in the teaching of the Catholic Church.”

Rita in Mississippi reported, “Despite the immense heat, 100+ degrees, there were almost thirty people who participated in the recitation of the rosary. I am very proud to be part of this group.”

Many TFP-ANF supporters also gathered for a prayer vigil in reparation against a “pride picnic” that was sponsored by the city of Madeira, Ohio.

Although the response to his rally was overwhelmingly positive, Rally Captain Pat said the negatives were especially visceral this year. But it didn’t stop Pat from trying to get through to a protester who had appeared at the earlier rallies. Pat said, “I had a chance to talk with her last year after the prayer vigil had ended. She was a fallen-away Catholic, ‘married’ to another woman, and they had two adopted children. Our conversation last year obviously did not change her lifestyle, but as we prayed and recited the Glorious Mysteries of the rosary, I had an inner sense that these prayers were somehow stirring her heart. Perhaps next year, God willing, I can reach her.”

The wonderful, inspiring cooperation of our TFP-ANF family of souls selflessly offered over 1,600 public rosary rallies of reparation in our Sacred Heart Rosary Rally campaign Our Lord’s Sacred Heart was consoled; Our Lady’s tears dried. Let’s continue to spread her message of prayer and conversion across America and help Our Lady bring about the Triumph of her Immaculate Heart!■



Beads vs. Bullets: The Rosary in China

One of the proofs of a strong devotion to Mary is a love of the rosary; this the Chinese and their missionaries have surely shown. Father Henry Mulligan, an expelled priest, has written:

“The rosary is more than a chain of beads—it is a chain of hearts – an invisible and invincible chain linking the priest in prison with the Christians crying in the night—crying, pleading, praying that God flash His omnipotence before the mighty onslaughts of those who hate Him. Emaciated fingers of imprisoned priests touch the beads of the rosary (or the knots of cord where rosaries are forbidden and derive the same comfort from the accompanying prayer as is felt by the gnarled and weather-beaten fingers of loyal Christians in the seclusion of their own homes, or their own cells, as they go from mystery to mystery, watching and praying for the end of their Gethsemane. Linking these persecuted priests with their flock—scattered and scared as they are, but with a faith that no red star can outshine, no sickle sever, no hammer destroy—is that invisible, intangible, mystical chain of love and mutual belief in God.

“Churches have been converted into granaries, altars demolished, crucifixes set up as targets for shooting practice. Christians have been hounded and persecuted and shocked by sacrilege. Crosses and holy articles have been concealed or confiscated. Little in the way of material representation of the God they adore is left to the Chinese Catholics of today...little save the tiny strands of twisted string woven into a rosary. Easily made, easily concealed, it is in many places the last visible relic of a religion that only a few years ago was free and flourishing. It is a relic that recalls the victory of Lepanto and signals the ultimate victory of Catholicism in China.”



“In any battle between the beads and bullets, the *Aves* win.”



STOPPING FOR CHRISTMAS

BY JOHN HORVAT II

Faithful Christians everywhere are strengthened by Christmas. We stop because Christmas reminds us that we are called to live in the presence of an Almighty God of infinite grandeur and majesty. This fact provokes in us a sense of wonder at the immense gulf between the Creator and His creatures.

Seeing our wonder and our desire to understand Him, God manifested Himself to us in a marvelous manner. He incites in us great aspirations or dreams for a better world to come. He bridged the gulf by presenting to us that which Catholic thinker Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira called the “most striking, indisputable, and audacious dream imaginable.”

That dream was the fact that the Word was made Flesh and dwelt amongst us. On Christmas night, we hear the antiphon that proclaims this daring reality: *Puer natus est nobis, Et filius datus est nobis*, “For a child is born to us, and a son is given to us” (Isa. 9:6).

On that ineffable night when our Savior was born to Mary Ever Virgin, an immense impossibility became

possible: the God-Man was born and revealed Himself to us. On that holy and silent night, one can sense the sweetness and perfection that emanated from the Divine Infant in the manger in Bethlehem. He who seemed so inaccessible suddenly became accessible to all, kings and shepherds. He who appears so weak became powerful enough to stop the whole world for centuries to come.

To honor the grandeur of that sublime moment, we must stop not just once but every year to marvel at this fact that only increases our wonder at this good God that gave to us His only Begotten Son.

We stop because Christmas means much more than just our personal salvation. Christ made possible a civilization we call Christian. From the poverty of the manger in Bethlehem, an immensely rich channel of grace was opened for us. From Heaven descended torrents of blessings, which paved the way for the most audacious dreams and the immense possibilities of a world centered on the sublime principles, virtues, and teachings of the Gospel. ■