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CRUSADE[®]

MAGAZINE



TRADITION
FAMILY AND
PROPERTY[®]



The **MYTHS**, the **LEGENDS**,
and the Whole Truth about
TFP CARAVANS



Dr. Howard Whitcraft: A Man Who Sought Perfection

November 7, 1938 – August 15, 2022

BY NORMAN FULKERSON

Howard Whitcraft was born in St. Louis, Missouri on November 7, 1938. By the time he got his bachelor's degree in physics at the University of Missouri in Rolla, his thirst for knowledge had blossomed. However, the practical sciences no longer interested Howard Whitcraft.

He wanted to pursue knowledge of the great questions about existence and being. So this avid seeker of Truth chose to study pure mathematics, which he considered to be closer to philosophy than almost any other field. The study of pure mathematics became a passion for him.

During this period, Dr. Whitcraft met Rosalie Rallo. At his death, they had been married for nearly fifty-nine years and had six children, all of which remained devout Catholics, due in large part to his example. They witnessed their father receiving Communion on an almost daily basis. He never let a day go by without praying the Holy Rosary in Latin, the language of the Church.

In the mid-1970s, he became acquainted with the writings of Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira. He later traveled to São Paulo, Brazil, where he met Dr. Plinio and, in 1984, was received as a TFP member. Thus, the TFP became the center of his attention and ideas for the rest of his life. He encouraged his sons to become involved in the TFP, which was life-changing for the entire family.

Dr. Whitcraft was particularly interested in Prof. Plinio's commentaries about the fulfillment of the prophecies of Fatima

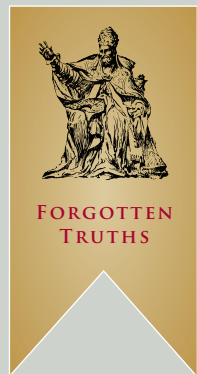
and the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He was enchanted when he found out that all TFP members were consecrated to Our Lady as a slave of love according to the method of Saint Louis de Montfort. He also took to heart the Five First Saturdays devotion, requested explicitly by Our Lady at Fatima.

On June 27, Dr. Whitcraft suffered a heart attack and spent his remaining weeks in a St. Louis hospital fighting for life. During that time, he was strengthened by the sacraments of the Church. Shortly before he died, he received the Apostolic blessing as Msgr. Eugene Morris recited the rosary with family members around his bed.

Days after his untimely death, his wife Rosalie recalled a day in the hospital two weeks before he passed, in which her husband kept repeating the Latin phrase "*Assumptio Beatae Mariae Virginis in caelum*" (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven). While she did not understand what this meant, it was a great consolation afterward when she realized that her husband had passed away on the feast of the Assumption. ■

Having the Faith Is More Important than Having the Places of Worship

BY SAINT ATHANASIUS, BISHOP OF ALEXANDRIA (293-373 A.D.)



"May God comfort you! You are sad because others have occupied the churches by force, while you, during this time, are kept out of them. It is an accomplished fact: they have the places, but you have the apostolic faith. They may occupy our churches, but they are out of the true faith. Yes, you remain outside of the places of worship, but the faith remains in you. Let us think about it: what is more important? The faith or the place of worship? It is obvious that it is the faith. Who will win or lose this fight: the ones who hold the places of worship, or the ones who keep the faith?"

"The place, it is true, is good when the apostolic faith is preached there; it is a holy place when the things done there are holy. . .

"You are the happy ones, you who remain in the Church by your faith, you who firmly keep the foundation of the faith which arrived to you by the apostolic Tradition. And if several times a

detestable jealousy tried to destroy your faith, it did not succeed. They (who tried it) are the ones who have left (the Church) in the present crisis.

"My beloved brethren, nobody can ever prevail over your faith. And we believe that one day God will bring back our churches to us.

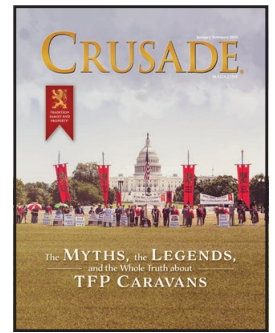
"Accordingly, the more they busy themselves with occupying the places of worship, the more they separate themselves from the Church. They claim they represent the Church, but in reality they expel themselves from Her, and are lost.

"The Catholics who remain faithful to the Tradition, even though they be reduced to a few remnants, here are the ones who are the true Church of Jesus Christ." ■



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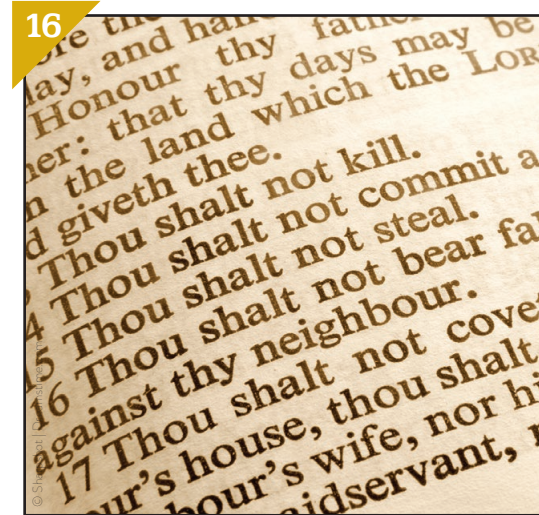
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THE AMERICAN TFP

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

Nuclear Energy Quietly Making Comeback

Amid a global energy crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the Ukraine war, rising gas prices, and the failure of renewable energy to compensate for shortages, support for nuclear energy has experienced a resurgence around the world. California Governor Gavin Newsom reversed his promise to shut down the state's last nuclear reactor as his state struggles to meet the energy needs of its population. Germany is among several European nations that have also reversed plans to

shut down their nuclear reactors. The United Kingdom, France, Poland, and the Czech Republic have announced plans to build new plants while Japan, the site of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, is planning to reopen nine reactors. Despite the bad name given to nuclear power by leftist ecologists, it consistently ranks one of the cleanest, most reliable, and most effective ways of producing energy in existence.

Queen Elizabeth's Funeral Breaks Viewership Records

An estimated 37.5 million people in Britain, representing half of the country's population, and 4.1 billion people worldwide are reported to have tuned in to the historic state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, shattering previous viewership records to become the most watched television broadcast in history. According to Carolina Beltramo, TV analyst at WatchTVAbroad.com, "Such is the love and admiration for Queen Elizabeth II around the world that her funeral is destined to be the biggest live TV event in history."



Texas Woman and CEO Team Up to Send Rosaries to Ukraine

As the war over Ukraine raged, Shannon Haase and her small prayer group in San Antonio, Texas felt called to do something special to bring hope to the suffering Ukrainians. Upon learning that Bob Unanue, president of Goya Foods and an outspoken conservative, would be personally delivering a large shipment of food to the country, Shannon contacted Mr. Unanue and asked if he

could take 15,000 rosaries made by her group with him. Inspired by her faith, he readily agreed. From there, three former Green Berets volunteered to deliver 8,000 of the rosaries to the Dominican priests in Lyiv, Ukraine, while the rest were distributed through other channels.

Biden Administration Weaponizes Department of Justice Against Pro-Life Americans

As President Biden continues to escalate his attacks against pro-life Americans, Republican members of congress and pro-life leaders have sounded the alarm over a recent surge in arrests and indictments of pro-life activists. On September 23, 2022, heavily armed FBI agents raided the home of Philadelphia sidewalk counselor Mark Houck and arrested him in the presence of his family for supposedly violating the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE). Over a week later, armed FBI agents swarmed the home of pro-life activist Chet Gallagher for leading a group of protestors at an abortion facility in Tennessee a year earlier. Eleven other activists who participated were slapped with federal charges. These and multiple other cases led Republican lawmakers to write an open letter to the FBI protesting its partisan targeting of conservatives. They further called out the Biden Department of Justice's double standards in failing to investigate and indict pro-abortion terrorists who attacked dozens of churches and pregnancy centers in the months after *Roe v. Wade* was overturned.

Americans Love Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris

Three years since a massive fire devastated the iconic Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, restoration efforts are well underway. This complex and costly undertaking is being made possible by the donations from people all over the world. However, Friends of Notre Dame, a non-profit organization responsible for raising funds, revealed the surprising fact that out of the 40,000 donors who have contributed funds for the rebuilding, 30,000 are American. "Americans are very generous toward Notre Dame and the monument is very loved in America," explained Michel Picaud, president of Friends of Notre Dame.

Conservative Speaker Challenges Gender Ideology on College Campuses

Matt Walsh, a conservative commentator who made waves with his hit 2022 documentary "What Is a Woman?" embarked on a speaking tour of universities in October of 2022 to expose the fallacies of gender ideology. These lectures were a great success with students while causing great uneasiness and fury for LGBT activists, who tried several times to sabotage or cancel his talks. "I literally traveled the world to find a leftist who could coherently answer the question, 'What is a woman?'" Matt Walsh said. "I can't think of a better way to continue my journey than to go into the belly of the beast—American college campuses—and expose radical gender ideology."

Fantasy or Sacred Duty?

BY FR. RAOUL PLUS, S.J.



CHRIST IN
THE HOME

In his interesting book, *Man the Unknown*, Alexis Carrel makes this statement: “Each individual is set by the conditions of his development upon the road which will lead him either to the solitary mountains or to the mud of the swamps where humanity contents itself.”

At first glance, we might take that statement to mean that, despite our best attempts, we ultimately have no control over where we end up. We could end up

either in the heights or in the lowlands. It could be that because of inherited tendencies, family traditions, examples we may have witnessed, or the training we have received, we are more strongly drawn either to laziness or to generosity. But all of that is no excuse. Everyone has the duty to make himself what he ought to be.

As individuals, we are responsible for attaining salvation and sanctity. We save ourselves or we damn ourselves; we conquer ourselves or we let ourselves be conquered—these are all personal verbs. “Everyone has the duty,” that is the reality. It is not a matter of satisfying a fantasy, a more or less poetic taste for the heights. So much the better if the heights tempt me!

Even if I do not have high ideals in the spiritual life, I am still responsible for my spiritual progress. The Christian ideal is not meant only for those who are attracted to it. No, I have an obligation to strive for it and this obligation springs from the Gospel command, a command given to all

by Christ Himself: “Be ye perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matt. 5:48).

Perhaps I am too much in the habit of viewing religion from the negative side? I should instead try to consider the Gospel from the positive aspect—*the call to sanctity*. Often, the most important problem for the Christian who wants to be a real Christian is not the problem of sin, but the problem of perfection. Instead of worrying about falling backwards into sin, we should seek to rise to more and better. In this way, we do not settle into mediocrity.

In the *Journal of Salavin*, by George Duhamel, Salavin moans in self-disgust, “How can one resign himself to being only what one is and how try to be other than what one is?” Then he declares: “After some indefinite time, I am going to go away.”

“And where are you going?” he is asked.

“Nowhere,” is the nihilistic reply.

Instead of rising beyond who he is to who he *should* be, Salavin evades the growth. A true Christian will not evade it; he will work to ascend in virtue.

For me as a Christian, the road is known. I know where to go. And the instructions are clear. Someone expressed them in three points:

1. **To commit this year the least number of sins possible.**
2. **To acquire this year the most virtues possible.**
3. **To do to others the most good possible.**

Here is a program that will not only avoid the abyss, but lead to the heights. ■

Instead of worrying about falling backwards into sin,
we should seek to rise to more and better. In this way,
we do not settle into mediocrity.



It's Time for Americans to Pray on the Fifty-Yard Line

BY NORMAN FULKERSON

The recent Supreme Court decision *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District* ruled in favor of Coach Joe Kennedy's right to pray in public. It should encourage conservative Americans and also lead us to follow the example of a man who dared to pray on the fifty-yard line.

Taking a Knee for God

Let's begin with a short recap of his story for those who did not follow the drama.

Joe Kennedy spent eighteen years of his life as a Marine before he took up the job as head coach for the Bremerton High School varsity football team in Bremerton,

Washington. He made a promise to give thanks to God for what his players accomplished on the field, win or lose. It started as a private act but quickly got the attention of others. Players and students asked if they could join him.

Woke school authorities were not happy with the development. They told him to cease and desist, which he did. However, on the drive home after the next game, Kennedy felt bad because he had broken the promise he made to God.

He turned his car around and drove back to the field. After everyone left the stadium, he made his way to the fifty-yard line. He then took a knee—not like Colin Kapernick—but to give thanks to his Creator. Coach Kennedy then continued the same practice at subsequent games, but only after players had left the field. Once again, however, he was joined by others.

He was eventually placed on paid administrative leave because he “engaged in overt, public, and demonstrative religious conduct while still on duty as an assistant coach.” When fired for this action, millions of American took note. Indeed, the prayers of Coach Kennedy resonated with like-minded people around the world.

Why such drastic measures? It was not that he dared to pray in public but that it had an effect on others. Coach Kennedy's case is important because he represented not just himself, but became an example for others.

He is not alone. There are many more Coach Kennedys, and many fifty-yard lines in America today.

God Not Welcome on a University Campus

In 2016, Chike Uzuegbunam was a student at Georgia Gwinnett College in Lawrenceville, Georgia. Unlike Kennedy, who was merely praying privately, Chike was openly proselytizing by handing out religious pamphlets and discussing God on campus.

School officials quickly informed the student that if he wanted to continue his conversations, he would have to reserve a spot in one of the school's two “speech zones.” These areas are literally the “size of a piece of notebook paper.”

Chike complied with the secularist rules and reserved time in one of the “speech zones.” It was his version of praying on the fifty-yard line. However, police shut him down because someone complained. It appears the school's *Student Code of Conduct* manual states a person's “speech” can be suppressed if some “snowflake” does not like the message. This setback did not dissuade this principled student.

He filed a lawsuit against the school which also went to the Supreme Court. The school was forced to amend its free speech policy and shell out \$800,000 for the student's legal fees.

These two cases show how Americans with deeply held religious convictions didn't back down from the right to express them publicly. While these are high-profile cases, many other examples fly below the radar. One example is a fifteen-year-old young lady who was harassed on a plane because she was praying her rosary.

[I]n this country that appears to be so unreligious, there are many people who are not ashamed of their belief in God.

These are but a few examples of Americans who are not afraid to profess their faith publicly, even when persecuted by non-believers. The case of Coach Kennedy is actually an example of the Only in America paradox which I have highlighted in articles over the years. It is a paradoxical case because most people would not expect such a reaction in a country whose current ruling party voted twice to remove the mention of God from its party platform. However, in this country that appears to be so unreligious, there are many people who are not ashamed of their belief in God.

Our country is going through great turmoil and we need God's help. Therefore, now is not the time to hide our Catholic Faith but to express it in public. We need to do like Coach Kennedy, even in the middle of a football field. Indeed, it is time for Americans to pray on the fifty-yard line. ■

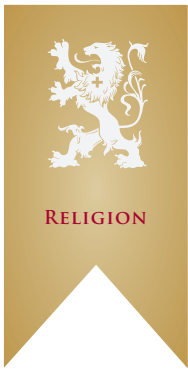


Humanae Vitae:

The Encyclical that Condemned the Sexual Revolution

BY LUIZ SÉRGIO SOLIMEO

“Children are really the supreme gift of marriage and contribute in the highest degree to their parents’ welfare.”



More than fifty years after its publication, the teachings of the encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (*Of Human Life*), by Pope Paul VI, continue as valid as ever. This can be seen in light of the debate over homosexual “marriage” and so many other aberrations that so threaten the family and human life itself. Amid such confusion, the true doctrine about the purpose of the sexual act and, therefore, of marriage must be always reaffirmed.¹

The Sexual Revolution

The context of the encyclical letter was the Sexual Revolution of the mid-sixties. Fashion, literature, and the entertainment industry all contributed to an atmosphere where sexual mores were overturned. This was especially seen in Hollywood movies and television shows, the discovery of the contraceptive pill, and the advent of the mini skirt.

In May 1968, the outbreak of student riots on most university campuses of the West gave the Sexual Revolution an ideological foundation, unifying and giving meaning to a whole range of disorderly tendencies turned against traditional morals. It was an anarchist ideology mixing Marxism with Freudianism. It denied all order, authority, and moral norms. It can best be summarized in the slogan painted on the walls of the University of Paris’ Sorbonne campus: “It is forbidden to forbid.”

At the same time, liberal Catholic circles increasingly called upon the Church to “adapt to the world.” Countless theologians began to contend that the Church should change her perennial morals and forfeit her intransigence in sexual matters by accepting sexual ‘freedom’ and the use of contraceptives.

The Church Cannot Change God’s Law Expressed in Nature

It was in this climate of contestation that Pope Paul VI, after a seemingly long hesitation, decided to publish his much-awaited encyclical on contraception, *Humanae Vitae*. To the relief of faithful Catholics and the consternation of liberals, the Pope reaffirmed the Church’s traditional doctrine on the nature of marriage and the sexual act and condemned the use of the pill or any other artificial means of contraception.

The encyclical clearly explains why it reaffirms the Church’s perennial doctrine: The Church cannot change God’s Law expressed in nature. The document states:

“Since the Church did not make either of these laws, she cannot be their arbiter—only their guardian and interpreter. It could never be right for her to declare lawful what is in fact unlawful, since that, by its very nature, is always opposed to the true good of man.”²

The encyclical is based on natural law and on Revelation, both of which manifest the will of God. The Magisterium of the Church was given the mission not only to interpret Revelation but also natural law, and it therefore addresses morals in all its aspects:

“Jesus Christ, when He communicated His divine power to Peter and the other Apostles and sent them to teach all nations His commandments, constituted them as the authentic guardians and interpreters of the whole moral law, not only, that is, of the law of the Gospel but also of the natural law. For the natural law, too, declares the will of God, and its faithful observance is necessary for men’s eternal salvation.”³



The Church foresaw the situation of the modern world in which the State would exhibit an ever growing tendency to impose its own norms on the family, leading to a frightening corruption of morals.

By Its Very Nature, the Sexual Act Is Ordained to Procreation of Offspring

According to natural law and Revelation, *Humanae Vitae* emphasizes, the sexual act, “exclusive to them [the spouses] alone,”⁴ is by its own nature “ordained toward the procreation and education of children.”⁵

For this reason, the encyclical does not hesitate to affirm:

“The Church . . . in urging men to the observance of the precepts of the natural law, which it interprets by its constant doctrine, teaches that each and every marital act must of necessity retain its intrinsic relationship to the procreation of human life.”⁶

Contrary to today’s anti-childbearing mentality which sees children as obstacles to marital happiness, the encyclical recalls:

“Children are really the supreme gift of marriage and contribute in the highest degree to their parents’ welfare.”⁷

To Oppose the Order of Nature Is to Go against the Will of God

Thus the encyclical outlines the obligation of spouses to stick to the norms dictated by natural and divine law, as they “are not free to act as they choose in the service of transmitting life” but “are bound to ensure that what they do corresponds to the will of God the Creator.”⁸

When the marital act is practiced in such a way that it “impairs the capacity to transmit life which God the Creator, through specific laws, has built into it,” it runs against the design of God, “which constitutes the norm of marriage.” Consequently, the spouses enter into “opposition to the plan of God and His holy will.”⁹ In plain language, they sin.

Contraceptive Practices Are Condemned

Thus, the Church cannot accept but must condemn contraception:

“Therefore We base Our words on the first principles of a human and Christian doctrine of marriage when We are obliged once more to declare that the direct interruption of the generative process already begun and, above all, all direct abortion, even for therapeutic reasons, are to be absolutely excluded as lawful means of regulating the number of children. Equally to be condemned, as the Magisterium of the Church has affirmed on many occasions, is direct sterilization, whether of the man or of the woman, whether permanent or temporary. . . . Similarly excluded is any action which either before, at the moment of, or after sexual intercourse, is specifically intended to prevent procreation—whether as an end or as a means.”¹⁰

In order to better understand the scope and seriousness of this condemnation, it is well to recall that the Pope made it clear that he was speaking as Doctor of the Universal Church and successor of the Apostles. Indeed, after expounding the new problems arising for the Magisterium, the Pope unequivocally states:

“We, by virtue of the mandate entrusted to Us by Christ, intend to give Our reply to this series of grave questions.”¹¹

Some liberal theologians claimed that the unitive aspect of the marital act alone is sufficient to justify it. Hence, it could be detached from the procreative aspect, thereby justifying the use of the contraceptive pill. The encyclical, instead, reaffirms that the unitive and procreative aspects of the marital act are inseparable by their very nature, as established by the Creator. Therefore, man may not on his own initiative break the inseparable connection “between the unitive significance and the procreative significance which are both inherent to the marriage act.”¹²

The Theory of the “Lesser Evil” Does Not Apply

Likewise, such theologians invoke the theory of the “lesser evil” to justify using the contraceptive pill.

However, the encyclical explains that the theory does not apply to this case by affirming:

*"[I]t is never lawful, even for the gravest reasons, to do evil that good may come of it (Rom. 3:8)—in other words, to intend directly something which of its very nature contradicts the moral order, and which must therefore be judged unworthy of man, even though the intention is to protect or promote the welfare of an individual, of a family or of society in general."*¹³

Contraception Destroys Fidelity and Lowers Moral Standards

One who analyzes *Humanae Vitae* cannot fail to admire the wisdom of the traditional doctrine of the Church expressed in the encyclical. The Church foresaw the situation of the modern world in which the State would exhibit an ever growing tendency to impose its own norms on the family, leading to a frightening corruption of morals.

Indeed, *Humanae Vitae* underlines the fact that artificial birth control easily paves the way "for marital infidelity" and causes "a general lowering of moral standards," particularly exposing young people to temptation.

"There Are Limits Which No One Can Lawfully Exceed"

For this reason, the encyclical emphasizes:

"Who will blame a government which in its attempt to resolve the problems affecting an entire country resorts to the same measures as are regarded as lawful by married people in the solution of a particular family difficulty?"

*"[U]nless we are willing that the responsibility of procreating life should be left to the arbitrary decision of men, we must accept that there are certain limits, beyond which it is wrong to go, to the power of man over his own body and its natural functions—limits, let it be said, which no one, whether as a private individual or as a public authority, can lawfully exceed."*¹⁴

The True Solution: To Restore and Protect Chastity

There is nothing utopian about the solution presented by *Humanae Vitae*. It is the only one that really works. What is needed is to create an "atmosphere favorable to the growth of

chastity so that true liberty may prevail over license and the norms of the moral law may be fully safeguarded."

The document notes that unfortunately the virtue of chastity, without which the family is doomed to perish, is attacked in every possible way:

*"Everything therefore in the modern means of social communication which arouses men's baser passions and encourages low moral standards, as well as every obscenity in the written word and every form of indecency on the stage and screen, should be condemned publicly and unanimously by all those who have at heart the advance of civilization and the safeguarding of the outstanding values of the human spirit. It is quite absurd to defend this kind of depravity in the name of art or culture or by pleading the liberty which may be allowed in this field by the public authorities."*¹⁵

Obey God's Laws

Based on the immutability of human nature and on divine Wisdom and Will, Catholic doctrine preaches today what it has always, and will always preach to the end of time.

Such preaching may not always be popular. Indeed, *Humanae Vitae* was received with dismay and scorn by the promoters of the Sexual Revolution. However, such scorn does not make the truth any less true. In fact, the ringing condemnation of the Sexual Revolution stands out even more amid the moral chaos as a constant call to return to the true nature of marriage.

Difficult Times Post-Amoris Laetitia

In these difficult times post-*Amoris Laetitia*, that epochal encyclical is a beacon that guides those who are faithful to the perennial doctrine of the Church.

Unfortunately, today there are not only theologians, but also bishops and cardinals, who want to change that perennial doctrine. There are even rumors that Pope Francis has convoked a commission to study the history of the document, presumably with the intention of modifying it.

Let us pray this does not happen. May the Mother of God, Virgin most pure, assist us to always be faithful to the immutable principles of the natural law and Revelation. ■

Notes:

1. During the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary, Pope Benedict XVI emphasized, "Forty years after its publication this teaching not only expresses its unchanged truth but also reveals the farsightedness with which the problem is treated." Address to participants in the international congress organized by the Pontifical Lateran University on the fortieth anniversary of the Encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, May 10, 2008, [//www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/speeches/2008/may/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20080510_humanae-vitae_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/speeches/2008/may/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20080510_humanae-vitae_en.html).
2. *HV*, n. 18. The citations of *Humanae Vitae* refer to the paragraph number of the encyclical as presented on the Vatican web site: [//www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae_en.html).
3. *HV*, n. 4.
4. *HV*, n. 8.
5. *HV*, n. 9.
6. *HV*, n. 11.
7. *HV*, n. 9.
8. *HV*, n.10.

9. *HV*, n. 13.

10. *HV*, n. 14.

11. *HV*, n. 6. Countless theologians are of the opinion that the condemnation of contraception is infallible doctrine. For example: Fr. M.R. Gagnebet, O.P., "The Authority of the Encyclical *Humanae Vitae*," at www.ewtn.com/library/Theology/AUTHUMVT.HTM; Fr. John Hardon, S.J., "Contraception: Fatal to the Faith," at www.catholic-pages.com/morality/fatal.asp; Fr. Brian W. Harrison, O.S., review of *Humanae Vitae e Infallibilità: il Concilio, Paolo VI e Giovanni Paolo II*, by Ermenegildo Lio, O.F.M. (Vatican City, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1986), at www.rtforum.org/lt/lt12.html;

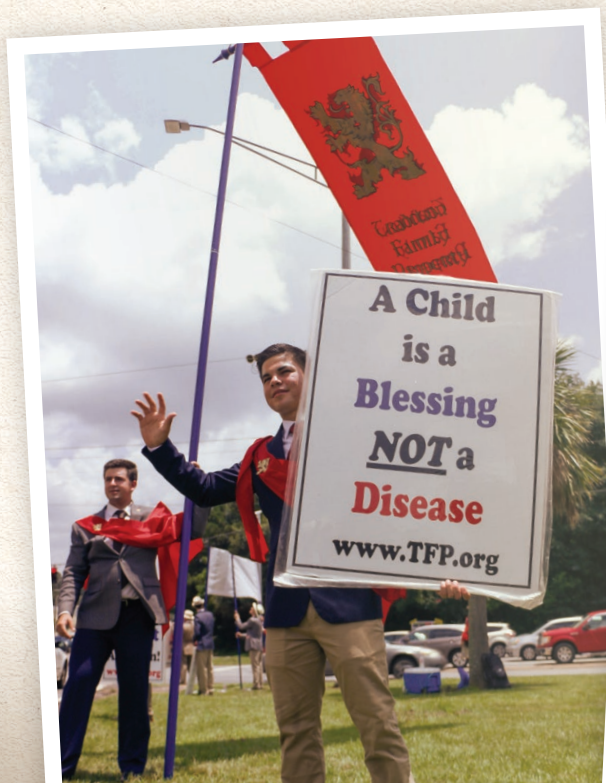
Fr. Joseph H. Ryder, S.J., "Pope Paul VI's Encyclical *Humanae Vitae* as an Infallible Definition of Doctrine," *Social Justice Review*, at www.socialjusticereview.org/articles/humanae_vitae.php.

12. *HV*, n. 12.

13. *HV*, n. 14.

14. *HV*, n. 17.

15. *HV*, n. 22.



THE MYTHS, THE LEGENDS, AND THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT TFP CARAVANS

BY REX TEODOSIO



The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) employs many different ways of reaching out to the public. Some are common like online videos, web sites, e-mails, newsletters, mass mailings, talks, and street campaigns. There is an outreach that is unique to the TFP: the TFP caravans.

A large number of the videos posted on the various TFP social media platforms are excerpts from a TFP caravan. They have drawn a following among conservatives worldwide. Nothing is more satisfying for young conservatives than watching liberals be excoriated in a candid discussion. However, viewership has crossed into the liberal camp. They have taken notice. And, it scares them.

In this article, we will explore the truth, the legends, and the myths of the TFP caravans. How did this celebrated form of outreach start? Why is it so effective? Why do liberals fear it so much? And, most importantly, why does it inspire the young and the old alike?



By land or by sea, the TFP caravans have always been carried out in defense of Catholic social teaching and in honor of Our Lady.

WHAT IS A TFP CAMPAIGN?

It is a form of outreach where volunteers engage with the man in the street with literature or a discussion while holding banners and the TFP grand standard, and wearing the TFP capes.

WHAT IS A TFP CARAVAN?

It is a street campaign taken to the road spending the nights away from a TFP center, touring to different cities for days or months at a time.

WHAT IS A CARAVANER?

A volunteer who travels with a TFP caravan.

The TFP Caravan Is Born

The first TFP caravans were officially launched in a solemn ceremony on July 23, 1969 in Sao Paulo, Brazil by the Brazilian TFP's founder, Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira. The importance of the launching was such that he said "it will have more repercussion [in the fight against communism] than the moon landing."¹ Though a technological wonder, the moon landing did little to oppose the advance of communism and other threats in the world. The caravan, however, was designed for that purpose.

The statistics for the Brazilian caravans are incomplete. Here is a rough estimate.² They have traveled about five million kilometers (approximately 3,106,856 miles), distributed over twenty million publications, and campaigned in over 20,278 cities and municipalities, and countless small villages and settlements, reaching the northernmost regions of the Amazon where few outsiders have stepped foot.

Its effectiveness was proven repeatedly. In many countries where the TFP has started and the conditions were right, caravans have been done. This includes Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Bolivia, Uruguay, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, the Netherlands, Canada, and the United States.

In the United States, the first caravan was launched in 1974 after a solemn Mass at the foot of the Memorial Cross at St. Clement's Island

in Maryland, where the first Catholic Mass was celebrated in the English-speaking colonies.³ It went from New York to California, passing through the Southern states.

A Campaign from City to City, State to State

What is the difference between a TFP campaign and a TFP caravan?

A TFP street campaign is a form of street activism where TFP volunteers engage directly with the man in the street discussing the most important issues of the day. The volunteers wear the distinctive red capes, hold poster signs, banners, and the eighteen-foot grand standard of the TFP, and are frequently accompanied by a band or even a lone bagpiper. It was designed by Professor Corrêa de Oliveira as a means to reach public opinion bypassing mass media.

A TFP caravan is a campaign on tour. Typically, the volunteers sleep away from a TFP center. Anywhere from four to forty plus TFP volunteers will travel in a caravan. By going mobile, a caravan amplifies the effect of a street campaign in an incalculable way similar to the reverberation of several drums beating to the same rhythm or when explosives are detonated in a precise sequence. The strength of the repercussion or the explosion is greater than their sums. In physics, this behavior is called constructive interference.⁴

This amplification could be observed during the Flag Caravan, the biggest caravan the American

TFP has done to date. It was a petition drive to defend the honor of the American flag involving as many as sixty volunteers in as many as five vehicles. It visited many major cities in the continental United States. At the start, there was a general apathy to prevent the flag from desecration. As the caravan went from state to state, the public opinion's awareness on the issue grew exponentially, and the caravaners noticed a shift. The caravaners collected over 130,000 signatures over the summer which was submitted to White House Chief of Staff, John Sununu, and Senator Bob Dole. The issue stayed hot in the decades that followed. In fact, the 104th to 109th Congresses voted on a constitutional amendment to protect the flag from desecration.⁵

In the face of Soviet aggression against independent Lithuania in 1990, Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira decided to organize a worldwide caravan-petition drive for the independence of Lithuania. At the time, *The Guinness Book of Records* recognized the four-month-long effort as the largest petition drive in history, garnering more than 5.2 million valid signatures on five continents.

Opposing the Mass Media Narrative

The TFP caravan was developed to bypass liberal mass media. Long before the advent of social media, there was no way to challenge the liberal narrative of the radio, TV networks, literature, Hollywood, and newspapers. It became even more difficult when many celebrities, religious leaders, and other social influencers toed the same narrative. The TFP campaigns and caravans proved to be effective in opposing the liberal narrative.

The caravans were particularly effective in smaller cities where the public is not as exposed to the constant barrage of liberal propaganda. Not everyone is equally tuned in or online.

There is a large part of the population whose opinions are still formed in conversations. Marcos Aurelio Vieira, who was a captain of a permanent caravan in Brazil, noted how easy it was to refute the liberal narrative in the most remote places in Brazil. He found there is a correlation between the size of the city and how much people toed the liberal narrative. This is also true in the United States.

This was noticeable with the Elian Gonzalez Caravan. The campaign was about the sad case of a six-year-old Cuban boy found floating in an inner tube off the coast of Florida. The boy's mother had sacrificed everything, including her own life, to get him to the United States. On April 22, the Clinton administration

sent armed agents to extract the boy from his Floridian relatives. The traumatic event was caught on film and it shocked the whole world. Liberal news sources acted quickly, giving the narrative that this is a paternity issue, so the boy needed to be reunited with his biological father back in Cuba. In reality, it was something much more. It was a proxy battle between the communist dictator Fidel Castro, and the free world.

On May 3, the American TFP sent out a caravan to spread flyers of a published statement, *Where is Elian's Journey Leading Us*, which challenged the narrative. It campaigned in thirty-three cities, in thirty-two days, and passed out 50,000 flyers.⁶ The caravan targeted the outlying cities of Miami where the caravan's message was received readily from the seamstress to the high school student.

Breaking Media Silence

At times, the strategy of the liberal narrative is to impose a silence over an inconvenient truth. Refusing to report on an issue is tantamount to saying there is nothing to see here. This is the very strategy conservative social media has opposed. However, if an issue becomes viral, the liberal media is no longer able to impose a "campaign of silence" over it.

The caravan is effective in breaking the media silence. During Lithuania's bid for independence, the silence the media imposed on the issue was so effective, few even knew the country existed, much less that it was fighting for her independence. The TFPs and like-minded associations heard her plight and launched a worldwide campaign to support the freedom of Catholic Lithuania from the Soviet Union. It is the largest international campaign of the TFP to date, and the campaign where the most caravans participated. An official number is impossible to ascertain, but a rough estimate is that there were more than twenty caravans worldwide.

This campaign, largely thanks to the caravans, collected over 5.2 million verified signatures demanding the freedom of Lithuania, an accomplishment registered in the World Book of Records. The signatures were presented to the provisional Lithuanian Parliament and was publicized throughout Lithuania. Lithuanians received the news in tears. Months later, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev rolled in with tanks to suppress the Lithuanians. By then, the media was no longer able to maintain silence over the conflict. They caught on film the dramatic crushing of Lithuanians under Soviet tanks, and images quickly spread worldwide. The whole world clamored for Lithuania's freedom. World leaders made official statements in support of Lithuania. The Soviets were forced to march out.



How Successful Have the TFP Caravans Been?

It is difficult to measure the success of the caravans when polls and statistics are unavailable. However, there is an objective way of measuring it.

There are “forces” that can influence a change in public opinion. When they all work together to attain the same or similar goals, this can be called a “machinery.” In a broad and loose sense, this can include the government, newspapers, radio, broadcast, literature, church leaders, academia, celebrities, social media, influencers, and so on.

Logically speaking, the greater the “machinery” promoting an agenda is, the greater its chance of success. So an effort organized against this machinery can be judged successful if the agenda is delayed considerably or is stopped altogether. As was mentioned, the caravan was designed for this.

The machinery promoting communist ideals was successful in many countries in Asia and Africa. In Brazil and South America, especially with the support of the liberal clergy, it should have been insurmountable. Yet, today, Brazil and most of South America are free countries, thanks to the caravans.

When ideas of class warfare and land reform spread like wildfire in Catholic circles through the *Cursilhos de Cristandade*⁷ movement, Brazil was in clear and present danger of falling to communism. Left unchecked, enough communist guerillas could have been recruited from the movement, pressed into guerilla warfare, and usurped the government similar to what happened in Cambodia. The TFP caravans sounded the alarm. The movement was unmasked. The armed guerillas in Brazil failed to grow strong enough to usurp the country.

Closer to home, in the United States, California’s 2008 Proposition 8 was a referendum to define marriage as between one man and one woman in their constitution. The machinery against it was enormous. It was expected to be rejected by a comfortable margin. The TFP caravan campaigned throughout the state twice. California voters approved the referendum 52% to 48%.⁸

The best example is related to the Lithuanian caravans. The machinery that lavished prestige on the Soviet dictator Gorbachev was one of the greatest in human history, according to Professor Corrêa de Oliveira. He walked onto the world stage seen as the “messiah” that would abolish the Cold War and end the threat of nuclear annihilation. The Lithuanian affair discredited him so much that he lost his leadership position. Soon the only job he could get was to be the brand ambassador for Pizza Hut in Russia, a far cry from his position of world influence at the height of his career. When he died, the world gave little notice.

In all these cases, far be it from us to claim that the caravans were the only effort that opposed the agendas mentioned. There were, of course, others. However, even if what the caravans contributed to the overall effort was equivalent to that of a straw, the importance of that straw in breaking the camel’s back cannot be denied.

The Myths of the Caravan

The myths created by the TFP caravans have spread far and wide. For this article, we can define a myth as impressions that are inexplicable.

One time, a liberal journalist wrote in his article that he didn’t care what the readers thought, there were no less than 300 TFP volunteers passing through the city the previous day. In truth, there were only nine caravaners. It is inexplicable why he thought there were thirty times the number.

A California woke professor wrote about how a caravan of thirty carloads of TFP volunteers “descended” to support a parish priest’s fight against immodesty. There were no more than five vehicles.

A European Union Member of Parliament called the TFP a politically active trans-national social and religious order of “warrior monks” using idealized medieval symbols in their street campaigns to oppose abortion, communism, and gender theory.⁹ Though meant to be a scathing accusation, it would be an honor for any conservative to be called pro-life, anti-communist, anti-transgenderism, Catholic, and medieval “warrior monks.” However, no TFP caravaners are medieval, military, or monks.



The life of a caravaner is not one of pleasure. It is one of heroism, adventure, and idealism.



By making personal contact with the man and woman on the street, the TFP caravaners are able to bypass the false rhetoric of the liberal mass media.

The Legends of the Caravan

Whereas the status of “myth” is drawn purely from impressions, the status of “legend” is based on facts as when someone is called a military legend or a sports legend. We can define legend as something that is larger than a life¹⁰, or exploits that cause admiration.¹¹ Here is list of things that many considered legendary.

Indomitable Prayer Warriors

During the Fifty-State Capitol Caravan, a TFP volunteer confronted an armed BLM activist with nothing but a rosary. This iconic stand-off was captured on film. The activist is calmed by the rosary-brandishing caravaner and walks away with his group of agitators without disrupting the rosary rally.

Unflappable Calm Demeanor

In the Proposition 8 Caravan, all the caravaners calmly held their ground while what seemed like all the students of University of California, Berkeley surrounded them fuming with anger. In a caravan against socialism, a very intimidating large man chased after the caravan’s cameraman. A slim caravaner stepped in front of him to stop him from harming anybody. The difference in size looked like a David and Goliath scene. The caravaner de-escalated the situation, and the man left.

Respected and Even Feared

Once a woman emptied a whole canister of pepper spray on a caravaner’s face. Despite the burn, he advanced toward all the counter-protesters and forced them to run across the street in fear.

Resilient Campaigners in Extreme Weather

During a Traditional Marriage Caravan, the winds and rain of an incoming hurricane raged while the caravaners, drenched to the bone, finished off the campaign.

Masters of Street Debate

Once, several caravaners debated with Harvard grad students studying international politics. A student who signed the petition drive told the caravaners the liberal students were getting counterarguments from their professor. Without realizing it, the caravaners were in a proxy debate with a Harvard professor.

Sense of Sacrifice

Perhaps, the most legendary status of all goes to Mr. Fred Portfilio and Mr. Daryl Huang, two members who died in a vehicle accident during the Lithuanian campaign. Their deaths inspired Lithuanians to lay down their lives for their country’s freedom. The Lithuania government officially registered their deaths in their records so future generations will not forget their sacrifice.

TFP CARAVANS THROUGHOUT THE DECADES

Here is an incomplete list of the caravans the American TFP has done:

- 1974 Caravan launching the expansion of the TFP in the U.S.
- 1989 Flag Caravan
- 1990 Lithuanian Caravans
- 1992 Pro-life Caravan in Pennsylvania
- 1993 Book of Nobility Caravans
- 1994 University Caravans
- 1997 Cuba Libre Caravan
- 2000 Elian Gonzalez Caravan

The Sense of the Epic and the Call for Heroism

The caravan has an attraction that is hard to explain. It is frequently run on a frugal budget. So frugal that if a shoestring had a shoestring, it would be the latter's budget used. This translates to hardships. Caravaners have to give up all the comforts of life. In the summer, they bake for hours under the hot southern sun. In the winter, their fingers and toes go numb in the northern states. They must stay patient on long rides and be cordial with their fellow caravaners. They must find amusement in things other than video games, television, or social networking.

Frequently, they will not know when they will eat or where they will sleep. One night, it might be on the basement floor. The next night might be on the balcony of a fourth-floor apartment. One meal might be sandwiches. The next might be a tray of Mexican rice with chicken cooked by a local friend. A meal might be skipped to catch the rush-hour traffic, the best time for campaigns. Each volunteer is expected to wear a jacket and tie, even on the hottest Texas summer days, to represent the values of integrity, dignity, and professionalism.

Despite the deprivations, it attracts the young and old. The oldest caravaner was a veteran in his eighties during the Flag Caravan. The youngest ones are high school students.

French author Paul Borget's phrase may explain this attraction. He said, "Youth was not made for pleasure but for heroism." The life of a caravaner is not one of pleasure. It is one of heroism, adventure and idealism. Thus, the allure must come from this sense of heroism of serving the highest of ideals, that of restoring Western and Christian civilization. For, if restoring a soul, a parish, or a city to Christ are noble deeds, what of restoring a whole civilization?

As a result, caravaners are blessed with deep engaging conversations, peerless camaraderie, satisfying debates, grandiose panoramas, epic adventures, and countless blessings and graces.

From this sense of the epic and heroism, all the myths, legends, and truths of the caravan are born. ■

[I]f restoring a soul, a parish, or a city to Christ are noble deeds, what of restoring a whole civilization?

Endnotes

1. Personal testimony of Mr. Marcos Aurelio Vieira, who was present at the ceremony and was in charge of one of the caravans.
2. Based on <http://catolicismo.com.br/Acervo/Num/0486/P12-13.html>, Paulo Henrique Americo, and others.
3. Mr. Philip Calder.
4. https://www.phys.uconn.edu/~gibson/Notes/Section5_2/Sec5_2.htm.
5. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_Desecration_Amendment.
6. https://www.tfp.org/magazines/crusade_mag_vol_46.pdf.
7. It should be noted that the *Cursilhos* movement today is more focused on parochial activism, different from what it was in Europe and South America in the '70s and '80s.
8. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_California_Proposition_8#:~:text=Proposition%20%20was%20ultimately%20ruled,the%20conclusion%20of%20proponents'%20appeals.
9. *Modern-day Crusaders in Europe. Tradition, Family and Property: analysis of a transnational, ultra-conservative, Catholic-inspired influence network*, Neil Datta, European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual & Reproductive Rights.
10. <https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/legend>.
11. <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english/legend>.

- **2001** Reality Check on China Caravan (EP-3 affaire)
- **2003 to present**
Innumerable spring, summer, and fall caravans on various topics
- **2004** Saint Joseph Caravan
- **2007-2012**
Caravans Defending the School of Americas, Ft. Benning
- **2008** Prop 8 Caravans
- **2009, 2011, 2012**
Traditional Marriage Caravans
- **2011** Mississippi Personhood Caravan

- **2020** Fifty-State (+ Territories) Rosary Caravans
- **2022, June**
Florida Summer Caravan on Socialism
- **2022, July**
Texas Summer Caravan on the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*
- **2022, August**
Midwest Summer Caravan to console the tears of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue which ended in a flotilla rosary rally. (The statue is under the custodianship of the World Apostolate of Fatima, USA.)



Walgreens Employees Who Dare Say, “Thou Shalt Not!”

BY NORMAN FULKERSON



Unfortunately, the most normal thing in our immoral and abnormal times is for a person to acquire contraception from a local drug store all over the modern world.

Contraception is one of those settled issues that no one is supposed to oppose. However, the opposition continues... especially in America. Two cases recently erupted in which Walgreens employees refused to sell contraception because it went against their religious beliefs. It is another paradox that exists Only in America.

The drama began with two cases of women trying to buy contraceptives from Walgreens, which might be termed routine.

In the first case, a woman named Abigail attempted to refill a prescription for birth control when an employee “wearing two crosses around her neck denied her.”¹ She did so for moral reasons. In another case, Jessica entered a Walgreens in Hayward, Wisconsin, with the intention to buy a prophylactic. She was shocked when John, the employee, refused to complete the transaction, because of his faith.

Jessica’s “partner” Nathan explained in a twitter post how she was the only woman in the store and felt embarrassed because John made an issue about her “reproductive choice.” The story does not end there.

They Dared to Say No

Whereas, according to Catholic teaching, no pharmacy should be selling such products, Walgreens did the unthinkable by taking the side of their employees. In an official statement, they explained that their “policies are designed to ensure we meet the needs of our patients and customers while respecting the religious and moral beliefs of our team members.”

As this controversy went viral on social media, it was discovered that CVS, the largest pharmacy in America, has a similar policy. Amy Thibault, director of communications for CVS told *USA Today* that,

“Under federal law, we must reasonably accommodate a religious conviction, and in certain states a *moral or ethical conviction*, [emphasis mine] that may prevent a pharmacist or pharmacy technician from dispensing specific medications.”² Now there is an all-out witch hunt with liberal politicians putting pressure on the pharmacies to change their store policies.

It must be stated clearly that the issue is not about denying people the means of contraception. The policy of Walgreens clearly states that if an employee objects to selling contraception, “they are required to call a manager or someone else to complete

[T]here is a sector of American public opinion that believes in God and still reveres His laws.

the transaction.” The reason this is an issue is because the above-mentioned employees dared to tell someone “no” and they did so because of deeply held religious beliefs. This refusal is thus a reminder of the forgotten Ten Commandments.

Some people might ask, how could this happen in America which is supposed to be the most liberal country on the planet?

“Compared to the Rest of the World, the United States is a Convent”

This issue shows how there are two Americas. The first is a liberal one which has been projected by Hollywood across the globe for over a century. Then there is another America aptly described by someone coming from afar.

Many years ago, a member of the Brazilian Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) visited the United States for the first time and attended the March for Life in Washington, D.C. He was stunned by what he saw. As someone who had traveled extensively worldwide, he had heard much about America, both good and bad. Seeing things up close, I asked him about his first impression.

“In comparison with Brazil and the rest of the world,” he said, “the United States is like a convent.” In his travels, he had never seen such a vibrant pro-life movement with so many young people reflecting a concern for morality. This same moral concern is reflected in the Walgreens issue. Many detest this religious America.

No, we are not a convent but there is a sector of American public opinion that believes in God and still reveres His laws. Such Americans are not afraid of public opinion. When faced with a moral choice, they don’t mind saying *no*. The left is angered by this *no*, because they see that behind this stand, it is the same as saying *Thou Shalt Not!* ■

Endnotes

1. <https://www.insider.com/walgreens-boycott-grows-as-employees-refuse-to-sell-birth-control-2022-7>.
2. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/retail/2022/07/26/cvs-birth-control-contraception-policy-walgreens/10130169002/>.



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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

PROGRESS REPORT

From the Desk of Robert Ritchie

Dear Soldier of Our Lady,

The New Year has begun, and with its arrival comes the challenge to make a New Year's resolution to better serve God and the Blessed Mother.

Many of Our Lady's rally captains will make a resolution to act in the public square: to do a rosary rally for America, against procured abortion on the state level or to defend God's "definition" of marriage as between one man and one woman. Others will do a rally of reparation against a public satanic ritual in their town or against a blasphemous film or play. Some will hold a rally to counter the pro-sodomy teachings of the "Rainbow Jesuit," Father James Martin.

Such resolutions are sure to please Our Lady and to comfort her Son in a time when sin is always increasingly hideous, aggressive, and defiant.

Our heavenly Mother, in turn, will powerfully aid us as Saint Louis de Montfort said:

"This powerful Queen of Heaven would sooner dispatch millions of angels to help one of her servants than have it said that a single faithful and trusting servant of hers had fallen victim to the malice, number, and power of his enemies."

Therefore, in 2023, rally captains, joined by Catholics everywhere, will continue to publicly defend Our Lord, Our Lady, and Holy Mother Church, each one according to their inclination and possibilities.

I wish you a blessed and happy New Year.



Sincerely,

In Jesus and Mary,

Robert E. Ritchie

Robert E. Ritchie
Executive Director



BATTLELINES

TAKEN FROM ANF'S PUBLICATION, *BATTLELINES*



Satan Defeated Once Again

TFP-ANF supporter William saw how prayer can stop Satan and his followers in their tracks. He saw this firsthand as he attended Rally Captain Kenny's rosary rally in Bladensburg, Maryland, to make reparation against Satan and his followers who attempted to make the historic cross a satanic symbol.

William said the rosary rally participants directly faced a band of satanists and prayed three rosaries. He said it was a sunny day and, ironically, it ended up being too much for Satan's impractically black-clad followers.

Although those gathered in prayer didn't have signs showing why they were there, many people still knew they were there to do good. "Thanks to Our Lady, Mr. John Ritchie and the Louisiana-bound contingent of TFP Student Action volunteers had blessed the location with the TFP rampant lion banner, signs, and prayers hours before."

He said he was pleased to see that the satanists were quiet most of the time. "May Our Lady humiliate the devil and frustrate his advances at every step, and may his apparent victories ring hollow as soon as they are gained." To God be the victory!

Longtime Rosary Rally Group Offers Reparation

Rally Captain John and his dedicated group of TFP-ANF supporters have been holding rosary rallies on the third Saturday of each month for more than twelve years. As a longtime rally captain, John shared his experiences at a

rally the group held to make reparation for both "pride" and abortion offenses committed against God.

John and his group pray regularly outside of a Planned Parenthood location in Aurora, Illinois. Each month, they pray the rosary and Divine Mercy chaplet. At this rosary rally, they added the Angelus, Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Prayers of Total Consecration, and the Divine Praises. Lifting their voices in song, the notes of "Immaculate Mary" and "O Sanctissima" flew heavenward.

John said he is honored to hold these rallies. "There was an intense feeling of joy from it. I know that it was the approval of the Holy Spirit."



Rallying Against LGBT Program at Catholic University

Rally Captain Michael hosted a rosary rally of peaceful protest and reparation against the "rainbow" Jesuit, Father James Martin and his "Outreach 2022 Summit for LGBTQ Ministry" at Fordham University, New York City.

Michael said many attended the rally, including Theron and Mark, who made the trip from faraway Massachusetts. The group stood in a perfect location and saw the attending clergy, including Father Martin, walk right by them to enter the conference.

"All the rosary rally attendees were very grateful to be there and there were a lot of graces present," Michael said. "It was a great honor and privilege to defend Our Blessed Mother on the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. By the grace of Our Lady, it was an excellent rally!"



Power of Prayer for Pro-Life

When Rally Captain Francisco arrived at the Planned Parenthood in Fort Myers, Florida, he met a friend and fellow TFP supporter in Paul. Together, they talked about how the power of prayer is making a difference for the pro-life movement. In a great example of this, a participant at Francisco's rally said he saw only three ladies coming to the abortion clinic the day of their rally.

Paul explained that he hosts rallies outside the facility five days a week throughout the year. Many supporters join him and try to counsel the girls they see. Paul said that his rosary rallies have helped shut down two abortion clinics in the Fort Myers area, and this is the last facility.

Paul added that he is very impressed with the strong TFP presence at the annual March for Life and encourages others to get involved by holding their own peaceful, legal rally to oppose abortion.

Answering the Call to Imitate Jesus

Rally Captain Kurt said that since we are "all called to imitate Jesus," this calling continues to inspire him to host rosary rallies. Kurt's most recent rally in Atchison, Kansas, was held to pray for the openness, contrition, and mercy of those who don't live according to the teachings of the Catholic Faith.

Although it was hot, Kurt said Our Lady blessed the group with a shady tree and a Midwest breeze, so they prayed quite comfortably. "We even had someone stop in and join us after driving by and seeing our banner, because he shared our faith and was happy to pray with us," he said.

Kurt wants to take a more active role in spreading the One True Faith and strengthening convictions. He encourages others to host rallies, too.

"It's such a pleasant surprise to see how many of our neighbors share our faith and come to join and pray Our Lady's wonderful rosary."

May God reward Kurt and his participants for their apostolic witness in the public square.

Defending Christ the King in Allendale, Michigan

Rally Captain Meredith hosted a rosary rally in June, the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to offer reparation for the worst of the seven deadly sins—"pride." She was enthusiastically joined by dozens of TFP-ANF friends and supporters.

Although the day was hot, the group was determined, and humbly offered rosaries to the Sacred Heart in reparation for sins committed against purity, modesty, and humility.

Meredith said, "Whenever I do a rally, it makes me glad because I understand that we are in the majority. Maybe not everyone is Catholic, but most people understand that prayer, defending God and our Blessed Mother, marriage, family, and life itself are all good. Sometimes we can only hold up our rosaries and remember what Jesus said, 'When they hate us, they hated Him first.' We consider it an honor to be defending Christ the King." ■



Are you interested in holding a rosary rally of your own?

Contact National Protest Rally Coordinator Jose Ferraz toll-free at (844) 830-3570, or e-mail him at Protest@TFP.org and he will help you plan your rosary rally to peacefully and legally profess your faith in the public square.



Our Readers Write

Photo of Miraculous Image*

“Do you remember that photo you sent me of Our Lady of Fatima with my name written on her Heart? It’s been awhile but I have to tell you that I have it on my wall and everyone that sees it finds it so beautiful! It does a lot of good.”

O.P., San Sebastian, Puerto Rico

“Thank you for the beautiful picture of Mary you sent. Awesome!! I have some little money left over this month and I send it in hopes you can send me more of these pictures of Our Lady of Fatima. I have so many people who ask me for them. They all need Mary in their lives! You also sent me a book on the rosary being the great weapon of our times. I agree, and I loved the book! *The Glories of Mary* was another ANF book that I was so excited to delve into when I got it in the mail. God bless you, Mr. Ritchie, and all your staff! I’m a *Child of Mary* member and glad to be able to support in this small way. I just wish I could send more money than I do, believe you me. It’s not just about giving money, you see—it’s about what it’s for and WHO it’s about! I’ve been a rosary rally captain many, many years now, for the police, for America, for all the intentions. You all are always in Mary’s Heart. You do so much for her. Thank you for being the people I know GOD wants you to be.”

P.T., New Iberia, Louisiana

ANF Apostolate

“I appreciate you defending the dignity of the Catholic Church. I hope there are many good Catholics interested in this vital apostolate that can help you in this struggle against those who don’t love or understand God and Our Blessed Mother. Only prayer and sacrifice will finish this as Our Lady of Fatima says. We must do what we can.”

J.A., Saint Augustine, Florida

“God bless you, Mr. Ritchie, for your great dedication to Our Lady of Fatima. Indeed, our Blessed Virgin Mary is the only hope we have to save our planet from total annihilation from the dark forces of evil. We must continue to pray further, and the rosary is the greatest weapon we have to combat Satan.”

G.C., Farmington, Michigan

“I’m much impressed with what you’ve accomplished. I’m grateful you’re offering us a plan to deal with a sinful world lost in chaos and destruction. I love you, America Needs Fatima, for all the good you do.”

R.S., San Marcos, California



From Rosary Rally Captains

“I would love to be a rally captain again. This year will be my eighth year as a captain! I am very honored and humbled to continue being a captain.”

L.I., Chula Vista, California

“Thank you for my Rally Captain’s Manual. It sure did help me. Mr. Ritchie, you are so nice to your captains! It’s good to have you thank us, but I so enjoy doing this for Our Lady; I LOVE it. So thank YOU—for making the rallies keep happening!! You are very blessed and Our Lady loves you. I pray for all the people who have forgotten God. Jesus and Mary love you so much for all you do for people like us to stay close to them. It’s a lot of work—but you will never regret it and will be blessed in so many ways.”

P.T., New Iberia, Louisiana

“Last year, we had a great day for our public rosary rally and I’m hoping to duplicate it again this year. There were twenty-five of us and our dear priest led the rosary for us. As we said our rosary in front of the Blessed Mother statue alongside our church St. Mary of Charlevoix (because it is the main street through town), we heard many car horn toots and saw lots of hand waves—it was very rewarding and I was so proud to be there letting our town know how much we honor and love Our Lady of the Rosary.”

P.S., Charlevoix, Michigan

*The Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima is under the custodianship of the World Apostolate of Fatima, USA.



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



CUSTODIAN'S CORNER

“I’ll Wait ... If You Don’t Mind.”

BY REX TEODOSIO



One time a group of sister siblings hosted the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima in Chicago. It was an average visit.

Several years later, one sister called the custodian asking if the statue might visit her dying sister, who was terminally ill with cancer. The doctors said she had three to six months to live.

As much as custodians would like to respond to all these requests, it is sometimes difficult. The particular custodian in this story covers most of the Midwest. If his tour of talks is in central Missouri, it isn't easy to drive sixteen hours to visit one person. Thus, the sister was told that the custodian would give her a call as soon as he was near Chicago.

Her health turned for the worst. The dying sister had a few deathbed requests. The last one was to see the same statue of Our Lady of Fatima that she had seen a few years before and for the family to gather around her to pray the rosary. The sisters called the scheduling office several times, but received the same answer.

The relatives were so frustrated that they decided to take the issue into their own hands. They pooled their money, went to Chicago's best Catholic gift shop, and bought the most beautiful Fatima statue they could find. They took that statue to the sister's bedside.

She looked at the statue, reached over, and patted the sister's hand, saying: “Thank you. But I’ll wait for the other one if you don’t mind.” Indeed, not all statues touch people in the same way.

Soon after, the lady flatlined in the hospital and was revived twice. She was then taken home on a Sunday so the family could be with her when the moment came.

The custodian was scheduled for visits in Chicago starting that Wednesday, but the schedule was full. He would need to find a slot of free time to answer the lady's request. He was unaware of the extreme urgency.

When he arrived at his 10:00 a.m. appointment, the people refused to open the door. They explained that the whole family fell ill that night and thus asked to reschedule.

He called ahead to his 2:00 p.m. appointment, and the same thing happened. Thus, the custodian found himself in the middle of Chicago with his whole morning and afternoon free. The thought came loud and clear to call the relatives of the dying lady. They said yes, bring Our Lady.

When the custodian arrived, the room was full of relatives. In the middle of the room was the dying woman. She was completely emaciated, literally just skin and bones. She was alert and eager to see Our Lady's face. The statue was placed where she could easily see her. She started crying. The way she looked at the statue's eyes was unbelievably intense.

This was not a death of a bitter person who questioned God's motives. It was instead a devotee who wanted the joy of looking into the beautiful face of the Mother of God one last time. She called the custodian over, pulled him closer by the hand, gripped him, and said, “Thank you. I’ve been waiting for her. I knew she would come again before I died. Now I’m ready to die.” She asked the custodian to lead the family in a rosary.

The visit exhausted her. Soon she was asleep. The family was utterly moved by her display of devotion and confidence in Our Lady. The following day, she passed away peacefully. ■

Young Catholics Oppose Blatant Satanism in Pennsylvania School

BY DOMENICK GALATOLO



Satanism should be nowhere near children.

On September 24, 2022, members of TFP Student Action, boys of the St. Louis de Montfort Academy, and local Catholics protested a “back-to-school” event hosted by The Satanic Temple at Northern York High School in Dillsburg, Pennsylvania. In all there were about seventy protesters.

The satanic event was part of The Satanic Temple’s After School Satan Club program.

The peaceful protesters, led by TFP Student Action, displayed signs and banners that read:

“Make every school a Satan-free zone.”

“Satan has no rights!”

“Stop satanism in this school.”

“Schools rightly discriminate against drugs and make ‘drug-free zones’ because drugs harm children,” said John Ritchie, head of TFP Student Action. “Likewise, all school districts should make schools Satan-free zones because satanism is worse than drugs and only harms innocent children.”

Catholic Boys Oppose Satanism

Boys of the St. Louis de Montfort Academy enthusiastically showed their opposition to satanism. They held signs, “Honk against Satan,” “Satanism destroys innocence,” and “Satan is the eternal loser.” They played Catholic hymns with their bagpipe, brass, and drum band.

The protesters prayed three mysteries of the rosary in reparation for the horrific event. Interspersed between rosaries, the band played religious and patriotic music and the students proclaimed slogans. These slogans demonstrated how the fight against satanism is on the supernatural level. Some of these included:

“Together with Saint Michael, we cry: *Quis ut Deus!* Who is like unto God?”

“America is one nation under God—one nation under God.”

“Satan has no rights! Shame, shame, shame! Reparation, reparation, reparation!”

“O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee, and crush the head of the wicked serpent!”

“Down with the father of lies, a murderer from the beginning” (John 8:44).



Cult of Ugliness

Because Satan hates all that is good, he despises beauty and loves ugliness. Thus, satanists are connatural with everything ugly and hideous. Many of those who entered the school for the satanic event were dressed in revolting ways, and mostly in black.

A heavily tattooed satanist man approached, dressed in black, escorting a woman in a black dress and a wide-brimmed witch-like hat with a veil covering her whole head so that no one could see her face. The two macabre looking satanists flashed a satan symbol at the protesters, and departed.

According to the *York Dispatch*, inside the school, children were able to hold animal skulls, handle snakes, and play on the theremin, a device used to make eerie music popular in horror films.

News reports showed that children as young as two years old attended the satanic event.

Ongoing Battle

The opposition to The Satanic Temple’s attempt to bring Satan into Northern York County School District started back in April of 2022. At that time, a proposal to start an After School Satan Club was defeated by the school board because of the large outcry against it.

However, the same school board approved the “back-to-school” satanic event in an August 2022 board meeting. When the terrible news broke, TFP Student Action and Return to Order web sites hosted petitions to stop the event.

TFP Student Action’s petition garnered 14,202 signatures and Return to Order 22,874, bringing the total to 37,076 protests.

A few days before the September 24th satanic event took place, members of TFP Student Action personally delivered both petitions to Steve Kirkpatrick, superintendent of Northern York County School District, to whom the petitions were addressed. Unfortunately, he did not cancel the satanic event.

Kick Satan Out

Satan has no place in schools or anywhere else outside of Hell. There can be no compromise with Satan. It is a lie to claim that satanists have a right to hold events in schools. Evil has no rights. Just as schools should not allow a neo-Nazi event or a pro-drug use event, so also should they reject satanic events.

“We are here to say that America is one nation under God,” said Ritchie. “We don’t want satanism in our schools and we need to do something about it.”

As the adage goes: “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” ■



FOUNTAIN CITY, WI



NAGUABO, PUERTO RICO



ST. LOUIS, MO

CONTINUED FROM THE BACK COVER

battle? These rallies and the captains who lead them and the children of Mary who participate in them are the very heel with which Our Lady will crush the serpent's head. As Sr. Lucia concluded: **however, Our Lady has already crushed its head;** a faithful echo of what she heard Our Lady promise at Fatima: "Finally, my Immaculate Heart will triumph."

So, on the morning of October 15, 2022, as 21,544 rally captains gathered their banners, manuals, rosaries, and other supplies, waves of grace flowed from Our Lady to her devout children, giving one and all the courage to pray in a public place. Whether surrounded by many friends and acquaintances or

just a few, every Captain represented his or her faith in and commitment to the Fatima message and for that God blessed them in abundance.

In closing, here is a report from Rally Captain D.R. from Mechanicsville, Maryland:

"I want to thank you for sending my husband and I the banner and for the enclosed info. We had about sixty-one people—double last year's total! We hope to have more people at the rally next year, and will keep our banner for it. Looking forward to it! Meanwhile, we continue praying the rosary. . . . We also thank you for allowing us the great opportunity to be a part of such a blessed group. Thank you for all that you do for all of us out here that need Our Blessed Mother's love dearly. I also was one of those who had to say: 'Bless me, Father, for I have sinned; my last Confession was over thirty-five years ago.' I have lots to learn. However, I was thinking that no matter if one is gone from the Church for a moment or for years (like me), the loving Hearts of Jesus and Mary are able to help us with our journey towards our heavenly Home."

May Our Lady continue to bless America, as Americans everywhere continue to pray the Holy Rosary, as she asked us to do in Fatima, Portugal, 105 years ago. ■

Add your city to our map! It's never too early to begin planning your OWN annual Public Square Rosary Rally for this year—**October 14, 2023!**

Just call Rosary Rally Central at **(866) 584-6012.**



On October 13th, ANF volunteers Matthew Shibler, Domenick Galatalo, Sr., and Nicholas Mak formed a stunning display of 21,544 red roses representing every rosary rally captain in 2022. Two banners also displayed the name of each rally captain. They also brought 8,276 white roses, one for each of the generous donors who helped financially support the rosary rallies all across America.

America Needs Fatima would like to thank all of our members, supporters, and friends. Without your generosity, help, and prayers, none of this would have been possible!



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CLEVELAND, OH



AUSTELL, GA



MOBILE, AL



BRICK, NJ

2022 RALLY REPORT

The Battle Wages on for the Soul of America

BY TONIA LONG

On the Saturday closest to the 105th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun, Our Lady of Fatima's face could be seen in 21,544 public places across the United States. America Needs Fatima's beautiful rosary rally banner with the message asking for a heavenly solution is fast becoming an annual part of America's landscape. Each October since 2007 when the first Public Square Rosary Rally Crusade took place, this banner has been unfurled on street corners, in front of highways, and near abortion clinics all across America, thanks to the bravery of our rally captains and the generosity of our donors.

And 2022 saw the tradition carried on and expanded. Our Lady's presence was felt strongly on October 15. Even if passersby didn't stop long enough to read the encouraging words on the banners, the gaze of the Queen of Heaven whispered volumes to their souls. Our Lady gazes as Americans go about their business. She sees so many pass, absorbed in their own cares. She sees others pause and read the banners. Some pull out their phones and snap photos. A few stop and join in the prayers. Regardless of how each person responds, Our Lady remains the same, pouring her graces over her children with love and compassion.

With each passing year the host of troubles weighing down the nation seems greater. But with greater challenges come greater graces and the opportunity to win more hearts for Our Lady. In 2022, just a few weeks after the Public Square Rosary Rallies, midterm elections took place. With the recent overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, the stakes couldn't be higher as the battle to protect the unborn child's right to life moves into each individual state. One is reminded of Sr. Lucia's prophetic words:

"The final battle between the Lord and the reign of Satan will be about marriage and the family. Don't be afraid, because anyone who operates for the sanctity of marriage and the family will always be contended and opposed in every way, because this is the decisive issue."

Is there any doubt that we have now arrived at this point? Is there any doubt how imperative it is that the Public Square Rosary Rallies are a powerful weapon of Our Lady in this

CONTINUED INSIDE BACK COVER



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