

May/June 2023

# CRUSADE<sup>®</sup>

MAGAZINE

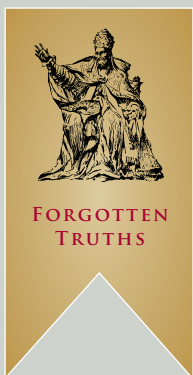


TRADITION  
FAMILY AND  
PROPERTY<sup>®</sup>



HOPE  
*for a*  
Hopeless World

# The Doctrine of Indulgences\*



**1.** The doctrine and practice of indulgences which have been in force for many centuries in the Catholic Church have a solid foundation in divine revelation which comes from the Apostles and “develops in the Church with the help of the Holy Spirit,” while “as the centuries succeed one another the Church constantly moves forward toward the fullness of divine truth until the words of God reach their complete fulfillment in her.”

For an exact understanding of this doctrine and beneficial use it is necessary, however, to remember truths which the entire Church illumined by the Word of God has always believed and which the bishops, the successors of the Apostles, and first and foremost among them the Roman Pontiffs, the successors of Peter, have taught by means of pastoral practice as well as doctrinal documents throughout the course of centuries to this day.

**2.** It is a divinely revealed truth that sins bring punishments inflicted by God’s sanctity and justice. These must be expiated either on this earth through the sorrows, miseries, and calamities of this life and above all through death, or else in the life beyond through fire and torments or “purifying” punishments. Therefore it has always been the conviction of the faithful that the paths of evil are fraught with many stumbling blocks and bring adversities, bitterness, and harm to those who follow them.

These punishments are imposed by the just and merciful judgment of God for the purification of souls, the defense of the sanctity of the moral order, and the restoration of the glory of God to its full majesty. Every sin in fact causes a perturbation in the universal order established by God in his ineffable wisdom and infinite charity, and the destruction of immense values with respect to the sinner himself and to the human community. Christians throughout history have always regarded sin not only as a transgression of divine law but

also—though not always in a direct and evident way—as contempt for or disregard of the friendship between God and man, just as they have regarded it as a real and unfathomable offense against God and indeed an ungrateful rejection of the love of God shown us through Jesus Christ, who called His disciples friends and not servants.

**3.** It is therefore necessary for the full remission and—as it is called—reparation of sins not only that friendship with God be reestablished by a sincere conversion of the mind and amends made for the offense against His wisdom and goodness, but also that all the personal as well as social values and those of universal order itself, which have been diminished or destroyed by sin, be fully reintegrated whether through voluntary reparation which will involve punishment or through acceptance of the punishments established by the just and most holy wisdom of God, from which there will shine forth throughout the world the sanctity and the splendor of his glory. The very existence and the gravity of the punishment enable us to understand the foolishness and malice of sin and its harmful consequences.

That punishment or the vestiges of sin may remain to be expiated or cleansed and that they in fact frequently do even after the remission of guilt is clearly demonstrated by the doctrine on purgatory. In purgatory, in fact, the souls of those “who died in the charity of God and truly repentant, but before satisfying with worthy fruits of penance for sins committed and for omissions” are cleansed after death with purgatorial punishments. This is also clearly evidenced in the liturgical prayers with which the Christian community admitted to Holy Communion has addressed God since most ancient times: “We are being justly punished for our sins, but be merciful and free us for the glory of your name.”

For all men who walk this earth daily commit at least venial sins; thus all need the mercy of God to be set free from the penal consequences of sin. ■

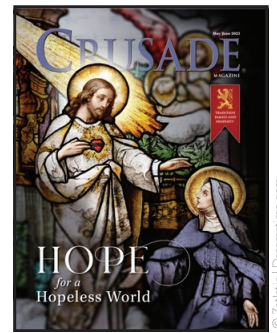
\*Taken from *The Enchiridion of Indulgences*, Authorized English Edition. Issued by the Sacred Apostolic Penitentiary, 1968.



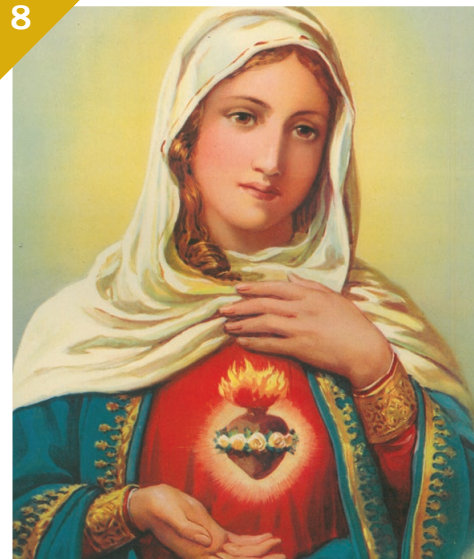
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Stained glass image of Our Lord's apparition to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Zagreb, Croatia



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The Immaculate Heart of Mary: the essence of all devotion to the Blessed Mother

Catholics across America come out in support of God's marriage = 1 man + 1 woman



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Helpful rebuttals to Drag Queen Story Hours at your fingertips



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America Needs Fatima delivers 16,231 roses to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn

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## CRUSADE

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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

### Switzerland Rejects Gender Ideology

Earlier in December 2022, the government of Switzerland rejected a proposition to change its constitution in order to accommodate a “third gender” or “no gender” option for official records. Swiss residents will continue to be registered as either male or female. “The binary gender model is still strongly anchored in Swiss society,” the Swiss Federal Council said. “The social preconditions for the introduction of a third gender . . . are not there.” On the other hand, Switzerland’s neighbors, Germany and

Austria, as well as other Western European countries have modified their civil registries to include “third gender” or “no gender” options.

### Catholic High School Student Arrested for Opposing Transgenderism

On February 6, sixteen-year-old Josh Alexander was arrested at St. Joseph’s Catholic High School in Renfrew, Ontario for defying a year-long suspension over his opposition to the school’s transgender policies. Alexander became the target of persecution at his Catholic school for defending the truth that there are two genders, a person cannot change their sex, and for refusing to use transgender pronouns. In November of 2022, Alexander led 200 students in a walkout against the school’s policy allowing biological males to use female restrooms, resulting in his suspension on the grounds of “bullying.” Alexander, who is being represented by the law firm Liberty Coalition Canada, has since filed a human rights complaint for violation of his religious freedom.

the wounded man and called for help. After receiving medical assistance, the man was turned over to the police to face charges.

### Satanic Temple Announces Opening of “Religious Abortion Clinic”

The Satanic Temple, an organization opposed to moral values and promoting Satanism nationwide, announced the opening of the “world’s first religious abortion clinic” based in New Mexico. The abortion facility offers telehealth appointments and abortion pills to patients who wish to take part in a “religious abortion ritual.” The Satanic Temple describes the ritual as a “protective rite” consisting of a series of Satanic chants designed to “cast off unwanted feelings” associated with taking the life of an unborn child. The Satanic Temple has stated it hopes to expand its abortion operations into other states as part of its agenda to claim abortion as a religious sacrament protected under the First Amendment and federal law.

### Ukrainian Soldier Saved by the Rosary

Fr. Josafat Boyko, a Ukrainian Catholic priest providing spiritual assistance to soldiers fighting in the war against Russia, firmly believes that the rosary saved a fellow soldier. During an interview with Catholic News Agency, Father Josafat recounted how the soldier had temporarily left his position to pray the rosary. While he was away, a bomb fell and obliterated his post. Father Josafat also stressed the relevance of Our Lady of Fatima’s message in the outcome of the war. “We continue to preach the Gospel and continue to pray for the conversion of Russia, as well as what Our Lady of Fatima said in 1917.”

### Sports Star Proudly Declares His Catholic Faith

Kansas City Chiefs football star Harrison Butker, who kicked the winning field goal at the Super Bowl LVII, is an outspoken pro-life Catholic who wears a scapular during games and served at the altar of a local traditional Latin Mass parish. Despite the money and fame that come with being a professional athlete, Butker has stated that he doesn’t let football define his life. Rather, he told EWTN, “I want to be a saint. And that’s the most important thing, and that’s why I’m here on this earth.” According to him, he has not received “any negative feedback to my face, at least from teammates or coaches,” about his Catholic and pro-life views.

### Thief Stabbed by Saint Michael Statue in Catholic Church

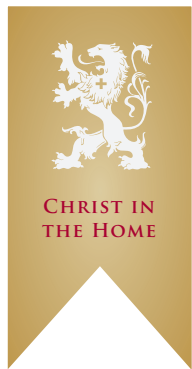
In an incident many have called Divine Justice, a criminal was seriously injured by a statue of Saint Michael the Archangel while robbing a church. During the early hours of January 14, the drunken thief broke through the glass doors and entered the Christ the King Parish in downtown Monterrey, Mexico.

In the darkness, the man attempted to steal the statue of Saint Michael the Archangel when he tripped and fell on the angel’s sword, seriously injuring his neck. Fortunately for him, some passersby noticed



# Girls Versus Boys, Part I

BY FR. RAOUL PLUS, S.J.



The training of adolescence ought to make much allowance for the difference between the sexes and for the difference of individual temperaments within each sex. The boy as he grows older becomes more and more individualistic. Everything exists for him. His little person makes itself conspicuous without fear. He loves to make noise not only because of his love for activity but also to assert his presence. In games he likes to direct and if he envisions the future he always sees himself in the role of a leader. . . He must be taught that other people exist and what is more, that he has

the duty not only to refrain from harming them but to help them. Every opportunity for him to render service should be used to advantage—to take care of his little sisters gallantly and willingly, to run on errands for father or mother or someone else in the household. The boy and later the man is a great egoist. It is wise to counteract very early this tendency of his to make himself the center of interest, to turn his attention to careers of devoted self-sacrifice, to impress him with the repercussions his actions have upon others and to enlighten him on his duty to give much since he has received much and to penetrate him with the realization that he has a responsibility toward his own.

The little girl as she advances toward womanhood—and this begins quite early—very quickly becomes conscious of herself as part of a relationship. She feels herself physically weaker than her brothers and her powers of feeling orient her even at that early age, whether she is aware of it or not, toward love—in the beginning toward the couple “mamma and baby” but later toward the couple “husband and wife.” Much less individualistic than the boy—although she can be so in her own way and sometimes fiercely so—she is above all family-minded. She loves to rock the baby, to help her mother.

If she prefers one study more than another, history, literature or mathematics, it is more often because of the teacher who teaches it than the subject itself. Early in the little girl’s life are verified the words of George Sand concerning woman, “Behind the things that she loves there is always someone.”

Because of the complexities of feeling, the education of the adolescent girl is more delicate and more difficult than the education of the adolescent boy. The boy is more heavy, more blunt, more matter of fact, less given to fine distinctions; the phenomena of puberty are more tardy in him and are generally not at all or scarcely ever accompanied by any fits of feeling but rather a mere hunger for sensations: he is still the individualist.

Because of her periods, a phenomenon which often troubles the adolescent girl even after its mysterious significance has been chastely and adequately explained to her, she becomes more curious and uneasy about all that bears on the problem of life and is much more susceptible to emotional unbalance and the fascination of abandoning herself to daydreams than a boy of her age. If the adolescent boy is healthy, he doesn’t indulge in dreaming; he makes noise or pulls all kinds of pranks.

The girl, even when she loves study, loves still other things and she is much attracted by the perspective of an eventual giving of herself. Beautiful is the task of giving her a clear idea of her essential vocation; to guard her from false notions; to get her to be diligent in the tasks of the moment, her house duties and school assignments; to direct her need for unreserved giving so that what is but a vague instinct within her becomes translated into terms of clear duty; to impress her with the immense responsibility of having been chosen to give life unless God chooses her to renounce this power, for love of Him, in virginity. ■

Taken from *Christ in the Home* by Fr. Raoul Plus, S.J., Frederick Pustet Co., Inc. Publishers, New York and Cincinnati. Look for Part II of “Girls Versus Boys” in an upcoming issue of *Crusade Magazine*.



# Refuting the Arguments That Promote Drag Queen Story Hours

BY EDWIN BENSON

One of Satan's most effective tools is to present vice as a virtue. It is a trick as old as the Garden of Eden, in which the serpent convinced Eve that eating from the forbidden tree would make the first couple "as gods" (Gen. 3:5).

The same deception is at work in modern life. One example was an article in the *Boston Globe* about Drag Queen Story Hours (DQSH) which attempted to portray them as virtuous. The heroes of the report were librarians who continue to hold the events in the face of public protests.

The *Globe* article pretended to be objective reporting while presenting many common arguments favoring the DQSHs. This article will quote those arguments. Following each will be a simple counter-argument. Hopefully, readers will find these rebuttals helpful when facing relatives, colleagues, and others who accept the left's premises.

## FALSE ARGUMENT #1:

**"[T]he targets are characters and voices from the LGBTQ community, Blacks and Latinos, and Native Americans."**

The so-called LGBTQ community has spent the last generation successfully grafting itself onto the remnants of the Civil Rights Movement. However, there is a critical difference that often goes unspoken. Those of Black, Latino, and American-Indian heritage belong to those groups by birth.

On the other hand, everyone in the alphabet soup concoction that is LGBTQ is there by choice. The popular belief among many is that these people were "born that way." However, there is no scientific basis for that assumption. Indeed, some are more tempted in that direction than others, but that is true of all sins. Ultimately, illicit sexual behavior is still the result of choice.

## FALSE ARGUMENT #2:

**"This is a program that teaches inclusiveness and tolerance."**

In this case, the leftists set themselves up as the arbiters of acceptable and unacceptable discourse. They pretend to be inclusive while rigidly excluding expressions of opinion that they do not share. The truth of this statement is easy to prove. Go into any library that has host-

ed a DQSH and request space to explain the view that the practice of homosexuality is inherently sinful. After all, this is still the official position of the Catholic Church, the largest single religious body in the world. The librarians' reactions are easy to imagine.

## FALSE ARGUMENT #3:

**"Our message is the more democratic message."**

Americans are in love with democracy. That is the reason that it shows up in so much leftist literature. However, their use of the word shows that they deliberately misinterpret it. The most straightforward and accurate definition of democracy is "majority rule," usually measured in some sort of voting process. No one ever voted for DQSH.

Indeed, the whole movement is the creation of a tiny group of people actively trying to recast American society. No extensive collection of people has ever petitioned a library to demand DQSHs. No community had ever taken a vote about these exhibitions before they took place in a taxpayer-funded building facilitated by public employees.

Indeed, leftists are only interested in democracy when the word can be used as a cudgel to bend others to their will.

**FALSE ARGUMENT #4:**

**“We respect where families are and whatever is right for them.”**

In recent years, the left has redefined the family to include any grouping that lives together with bonds of affection. Thus, the defenders of DQSH seek to control the debate by using this definition.

While this argument is superficially respectful, it implies that the traditional families are selfish and only look after their particular families, while the library is looking out for the interests of all families. Such a distinction distorts and destroys the notion of what a family is.

Drag Queen Story Hours are “deemed objectionable by a rapidly growing number of parent groups.”

Leftists enjoy using the word “deemed” as a way to undercut the views of their opponents. This usage paints the revolutionaries as people who think deeply about these subjects. They are the wise ones who understand the various interests at play. On the other hand, they see their opponents as knee-jerk reactionaries who react instinctively and negatively to social change. Therefore, the left can safely ignore the conservative view—it simply does not count.

**FALSE ARGUMENT #5:**

**“This is super well-organized.”**

In the *Globe* article, a librarian described her fear of the anti-DQSH protesters. In truth, the protesters do not need organization because the danger is readily apparent. It favors the idea of a conspiracy or hidden direction behind the protests.

However, if anyone is super well organized, it is the DQSH people. These exhibitions are well organized under the auspices of the American Library Association. The organization’s web page reveals who entered this fight and is prepared to do battle.

“Many libraries across the country have been hosting or participating in Drag Queen Story Hours. A few have experienced pushback from some members of their community. To support libraries facing challenges we have established this collection of resources. ALA . . . is instrumental in creating a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive society. This includes a commitment to combating marginalization and underrepresentation within the communities served by libraries through increased understanding of the effects of historical exclusion.”

**FALSE ARGUMENT #6:**

**“About 20 neo-Nazis shouted [at participants] as they arrived for a Drag Story Hour.”**

The *Globe* asserted that neo-Nazis had organized the protest, although the newspaper presented no photos, organizations or facts to bolster that assertion. This is pure guilt by association. Having participated in several of these protests, this author can assure readers that these rallies consist of parents and people who are sincere in their desire to protect their children and communities from real moral danger.

The left is very adept at character assassination. For it, anyone who respects tradition is automatically a fascist. From that, calling them “neo-Nazis” is a tiny step.

**FALSE ARGUMENT #7:**

**“PEN America, a non-profit organization that promotes free expression. . .”**

DQSH supporters promote the idea that their allies are interested purely in freedom for all. However, this assertion is far from reality. Consider this paragraph from PEN America’s website.

“PEN America is a national leader in fighting educational censorship in both higher ed and K-12. Our signature campaign against educational gag orders—legislative restrictions on the freedom to learn and teach that have swept the country since January 2021—has generated media coverage in over a hundred publications.”

What are the “educational gag orders” that have PEN America so concerned? They are legislative responses to parental demands that the state protect their children from ideas that they are ill-equipped to understand and interpret. A prime example would be the famous Florida law often mislabeled the “Don’t Say Gay Bill,” which says that schools cannot teach gender ideology to children under Grade Three.

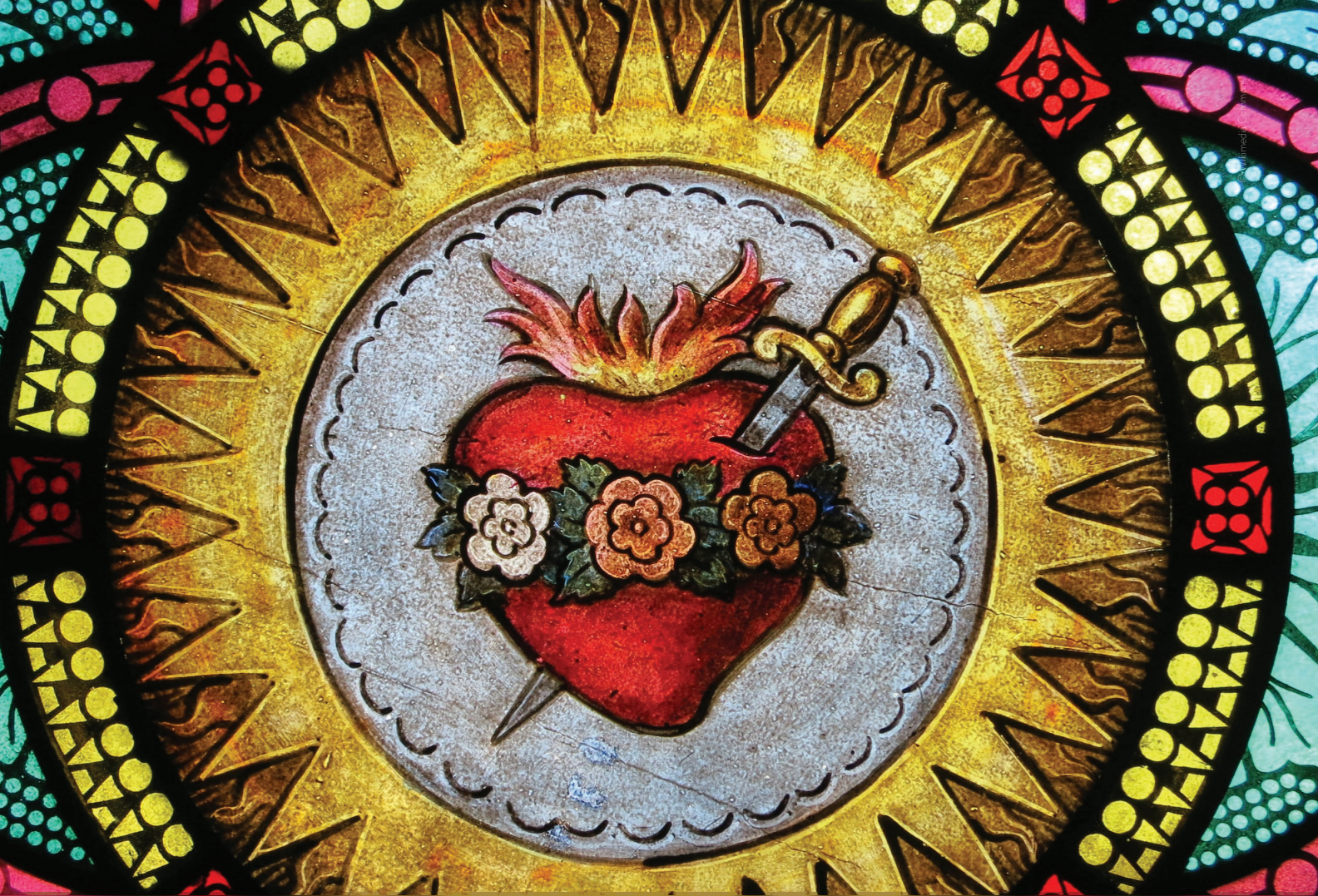
Unlike the machinations of the American Library Association, these legislative acts were proposed and passed by representatives elected by the people of their states.

**Conclusion**

These are some arguments used by DQSH promoters. One thing is evident from the objections: protests against the shameless exhibits are causing major problems for those who want to mainstream the LGBTQ agenda and ideology into society. This conclusion should encourage protesters to keep up the good fight for childhood innocence. ■



A rally of reparation in Reading, Pennsylvania against the moral corruption of childhood innocence by Drag Queen Story Hours



# Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Is So Crucial for Our Days

BY LUIZ SÉRGIO SOLIMEO



RELIGION

**D**evotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is at the very core of the Fatima message. The Blessed Mother presented it as the solution to the problems of the world and to save souls from going to Hell.

## Jesus Wants Devotion to the Immaculate Heart

At the third apparition of Fatima, in July 1917, after the terrible vision of Hell given to the children, Our Lady presented devotion to her Immaculate Heart. She did this together with the Communion of Reparation of the First Five Saturdays and the consecration of Russia, as the means to avoid the perdition of souls, the chastisement of a new world war, and the expansion of communism.

At an earlier apparition in June, Our Lady had told Lucia, “Jesus . . . wants to establish devotion to my Immaculate Heart in the world. To those who accept it, I promise salvation and those souls will be loved by God as flowers I have placed to embellish His Throne.”

## Devotion of Reparation

As recommended by the Blessed Mother, this devotion is intended to make reparation for the ongoing offenses suffered



by the Immaculate Heart. At the June 1917 apparition, Our Lady opened her hands, which gave off an intense light: “In front of the palm of Our Lady’s right hand was a heart surrounded with thorns that appeared to be piercing it. We understood it was the Immaculate Heart of Mary, insulted by the sins of humanity, which wanted reparation.”

What is the meaning of this devotion? Why should we venerate the Immaculate Heart of Mary? Given our limited space, we will detail a few aspects, rich in meaning, of this admirable devotion.

### A Symbol of Our Lady’s Love

From time immemorial the heart has symbolized love, the most noble of all sentiments. In relation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, it represents the Savior’s redeeming love to the point of delivering Himself for us and the co-redeeming love of Mary Most Holy that is united intimately with her Divine Son’s sacrifice.

Thus, the object of devotion to the Sacred Heart is His merciful love. This is why Pope Pius XII affirmed the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus—it is fundamental. Based on his argument, theologians say the same about the Immaculate Heart of Mary: it is well understood and it is the essence of all devotion to the Blessed Mother.

### Devotion to the Persons of Jesus and Mary

In addition to their specific functions, the parts of the human body serve to symbolize an aspect of a person’s most salient characteristics. Thus, a discerning person is said to have “eagle eyes” and a very courageous man has “a lion’s heart.” The same happens with devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary: it emphasizes a body *part* to symbolize a salient aspect of the whole adorable Person of Jesus Christ and the venerable person of His Most Holy Mother, which is their merciful love. Devotion to these Hearts addresses therefore to the Persons of Jesus and of Mary.<sup>1</sup>

### Immaculate, Most Holy, Full of Grace

The absence of any sin in a creature implies a most abundant help of grace, which would not be possible without the extraordinary help from God. This is why the Angel Gabriel greeted Mary as being “full of grace” (Luke 1:28). Likewise, the absence of all sin implies a high degree of perfection and sanctity. Therefore, the Immaculate Heart of Mary symbolizes the hallowed purity and sanctity of Mary Most Holy and her complete fidelity to God.

### Dolorous Heart

The Immaculate Heart of Mary is also a dolorous heart, pierced with sorrow. Soon after the joys of the Savior’s birth, at the Presentation in the Temple, the old Simeon, turning to the Mother of God, prophesied, “Behold, this child is set for the ruin, and for the resurrection of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be contradicted. And *thy own soul a sword shall pierce*, that, out of many hearts thoughts may be revealed” (Luke 2:34–35).

### A Wise Heart

Mary Most Holy is the Mother of the Incarnate Wisdom, Jesus Christ, and for this reason she is venerated as the Seat of Wisdom. Her Immaculate Heart also is, therefore, a *wise* Heart, and Catholic liturgy has applied to her, since the eighth century, texts from the Sapiential Books of Scripture.<sup>2</sup>

This sapiential aspect is emphasized in the two references that Saint Luke makes to the Heart of Mary. “Heart” here is a symbol of Our Lady’s interior life and of her continuous contemplation of God’s marvels, particularly as manifested in her Divine Son.

The first reference is to the scene of the shepherds visiting the newborn Savior. Saint Luke comments, “But Mary kept all these words, *pondering them in her heart*” (Luke 2:19). The second reference is about the loss and finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple. Saint Luke repeats the same comment, with a slight difference, maintaining the same sense, “And his mother *kept* all these words in *her heart*” (Luke 2:51).

### A Maternal Heart, Full of Tenderness

It would be impossible in a short article to cover all aspects of the Immaculate Heart. But one cannot fail to recall that it is a motherly Heart filled with the tenderness that the best of all mothers has for the best of all sons. This tenderness is reflected in the love, full of mercy, that she has for us; which is why we invoke her as *Mater Misericordiae*.

### A Devotion Suited to Our Days

We find ourselves today in a time when sentiment is dying and relationships between persons are increasingly dominated by brutality, cynicism, self-interest, and sensuality.

*Just think of abortion!* Is this not the most cruel and brutal suppression of the most noble of all affections, which is motherly love? Isn’t this love often shortchanged by the attachment for a professional career or a transitory promiscuous relationship? Isn’t something similar happening to fatherly love? Isn’t this tragic egoism that destroys family relationships, and thus the family itself, spreading to all other types of human relationships? Thus one understands the Blessed Mother’s 1917 prophetic wisdom in Fatima when men would witness the death of sentiment.

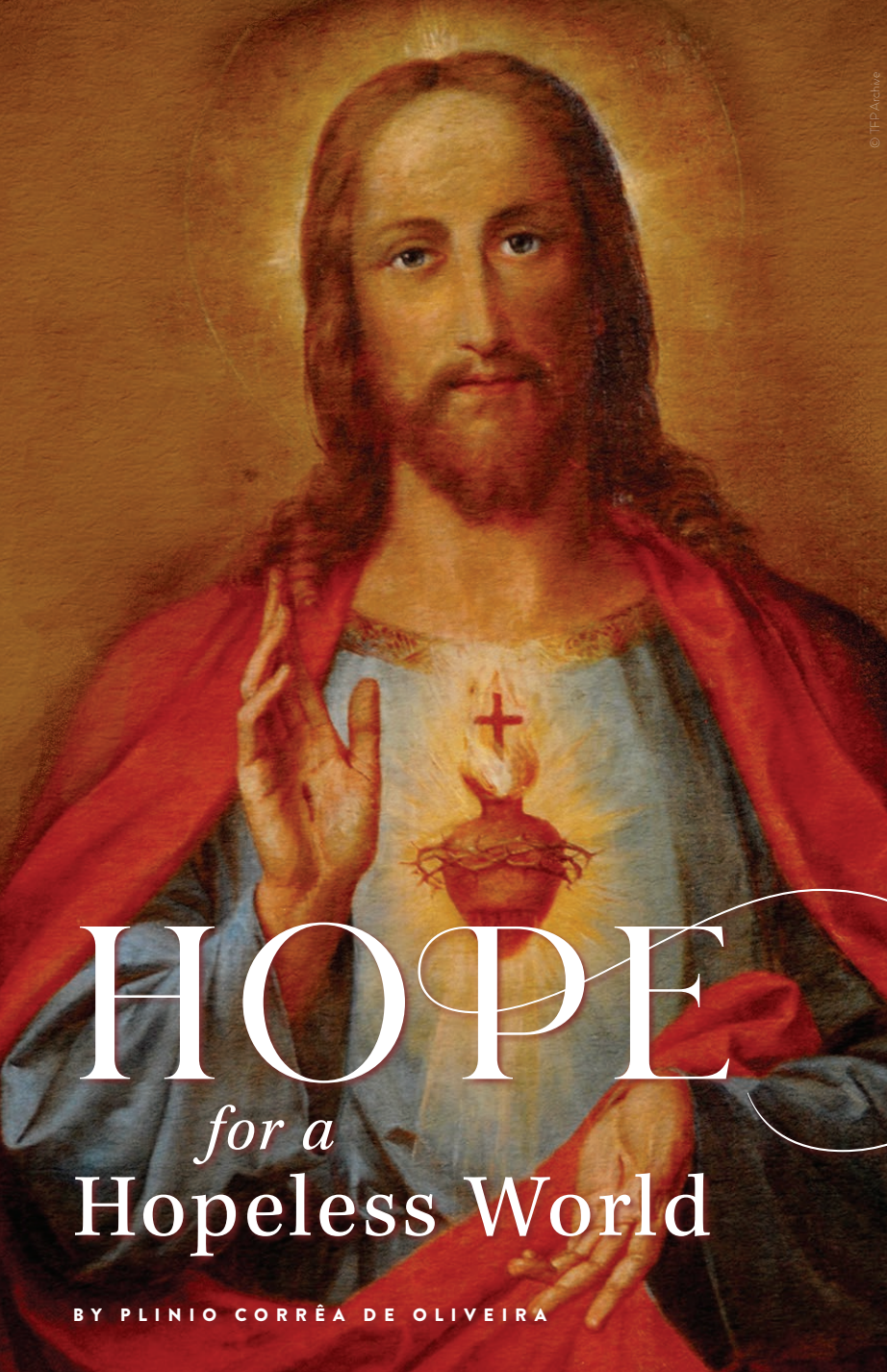
Hence the remedy for the immense crisis we find ourselves in is devotion to that venerable and most holy Heart capable of restoring true feelings of love, affection, and mercy, and the purity of which our times are so needful. The Immaculate Heart is the source, overflowing with motherly love, of the one who is “full of grace” (Luke 1:28). ■

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#### Notes:

1. The Sacred Heart of Jesus can be the object of adoration. Indeed, Pope Pius XII taught: “. . . His Heart, the noblest part of human nature, is hypostatistically united to the Person of the divine Word. Consequently, there must be paid to it that worship of adoration with which the Church honors the Person of the Incarnate Son of God Himself. We are dealing here with an article of faith, for it has been solemnly defined in the general Council of Ephesus and the second Council of Constantinople.” Pope Pius XII, Encyclical *Haurietis Aquas*, May 15, 1956, 21.

2. The books of the Scripture that teach wisdom, known as Sapiential Books, are Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Wisdom, and Ecclesiasticus (or Sirach).



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# HOPE

for a  
Hopeless World

BY PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA



*This June, the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we publish an adapted article written by Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira in 1940. The thoughts of this illustrious Catholic thinker over eighty years ago remain astonishingly valid today. He stated, "If an impenitent humanity can expect every catastrophe, a repentant humanity can expect every mercy." Since then, humanity has not shown "the least beginning of an efficacious, serious, and profound repentance," but instead has further aggravated its sinful state. Hence, it is no surprise that God is compelled to apply His justice, making Our Lady's role as Advocate of Sinners only more urgent.*

If there is an age whose sole hope lies in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, it is our own. The evils committed by mankind today can scarcely be exaggerated. To mention just a few, these include blasphemy, the destruction of the family through abortion, divorce, euthanasia, widespread pornography, immoral fashions and lifestyles, homosexuality, and so on.

As Pope Pius XI once said, the contemporary world is so morally depraved that at any moment it could be plunged into a deeper spiritual misery than that reigning in the world when Our Blessed Redeemer was born.

In consideration of so many crimes, the idea of divine vengeance naturally comes to mind. When we view this sinful world, groaning beneath the weight of a thousand crises and a thousand afflictions but nevertheless unrepentant; when we consider the alarming progress of neo-paganism, which is on the verge of conquering humanity; and when, on the other hand, we consider the lack of resolve, foresight, and unity among the so-called remnant, we are understandably terrified at the grim prospects of catastrophes that this generation may be calling upon itself.

There is something liberal or Lutheran in imagining that so many crimes do not deserve punishment, that such a widespread apostasy of humanity is merely the fruit of some intellectual error without moral guilt.

The reality is otherwise, for God does not abandon His creatures. Rather, He continuously assists and supports them with sufficient grace to aid them in choosing the right path. If they choose to follow a way other than His, the responsibility is theirs.

Behold the grim picture of the contemporary world: on one hand, an iniquitous and sinful civilization and, on the other, the Creator holding high the divine scourge.

Is there nothing left for mankind but fire and brimstone? As we face the dawn of the new millennium, can we hope for a future other than the scourge foretold by Sacred Scriptures for the final impenitence of the last days? Were God to act solely according to His justice, there is no doubt what we should expect. Indeed, could we even have made it as far as this century?

Nevertheless, since God is not only just but also merciful, the gates of salvation have not yet been shut against us. A people unrelenting in its impiety has every reason to expect God's rigor. However, He Who is infinitely merciful, does not want the death of this sinful generation but that it "be converted . . . and live" (Ezech.18:23). His grace thus insistently pursues all men, inviting

them to abandon their evil ways and return to the fold of the Good Shepherd.

If an impenitent humanity has every reason to fear every catastrophe, a repentant humanity has every reason to expect every mercy. Indeed, for God's mercy to be poured on the contrite sinner, his repentance need not have run its full course. Even while still in the depths of the pit, if the sinner but sincerely and earnestly turn to God with a budding repentance in his heart, he will immediately find help, for God never disregards him.

The Holy Ghost says in Sacred Scripture: "Can a woman forget her infant. . . . And if she should forget, yet will not I forget thee" (Isa. 49:15). That is, even in such extreme cases where even a mother gives up, God does not. God's mercy benefits the sinner even while divine justice cuts him down on the way of iniquity. Modern man cannot lose sight of these two basic concepts of divine justice and divine mercy—justice lest we dare presume that we can save ourselves without merits; mercy, so that we do not despair of our salvation as long as we repent and start anew.

God is charity, so the simple mention of the Most Holy Name of Jesus evokes love. It is the infinite, limitless love that drove the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity to become man. It is the love expressed in the utter humiliation of a God Who comes to us as a poor infant, born in a cave.

It is the love shown in those thirty years of hidden life spent in the humility of the strictest poverty, in the three grueling years of evangelization, when the Son of Man traveled highways and country roads, climbed mountains, crossed valleys, rivers and lakes, visited cities and villages, walked through deserts and hamlets, spoke to rich and poor, dispensing love and, for the most part, reaping ingratitude.

It is the love manifested in that supreme moment of the Last Supper when, after generously washing the feet of His apostles, He instituted the Holy Eucharist. It is the love of that last kiss bestowed on Judas, of that poignant look at Peter, of those insults received and born patiently and meekly, of those sufferings endured until the last drop of blood was shed.

It is the love in that last pardon to the dying thief that enabled him to steal heaven. Finally, it is the love manifested in the supreme gift of a heavenly mother for a wretched humanity! Each of these episodes has been painstakingly studied by the learned, wondrously reproduced by artists, devoutly contemplated by saints, and, above all, incomparably celebrated in the Divine Liturgy.

In venerating the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Church specially praises the infinite love demonstrated by Our Lord Jesus Christ to men.

Since His Heart is the symbol of love, by venerating His Heart, the Church celebrates Love.

### **Our Lady of the Sacred Heart**

Many and beautiful are the invocations used by Holy Mother Church in reference to Our Blessed Lady. Yet, every single one of these clearly underscores her relationship to God's love. Each celebrates either a gift of God to her, to which she was perfectly faithful, or some special power or influence she has with her Divine Son.

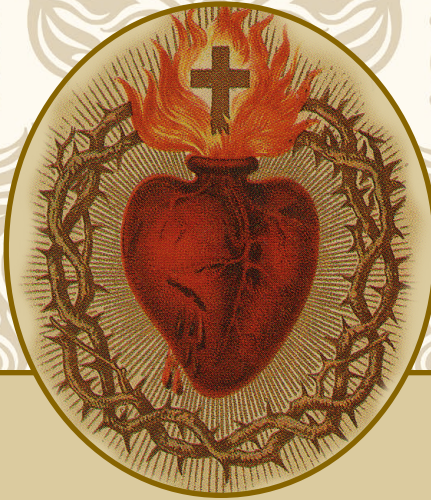
Now, what are God's gifts but a special manifestation of His love? And what is Our Lady's power of intercession with God in our favor but a sublime aspect of God's special love for us?

Thus, it is perfectly appropriate to call her *Speculum Justitiae*, "Mirror of Justice" on one hand and "omnipotent intercessor" on the other. She is the mirror of justice because God so loved her that He concentrated in her all perfections possible to a human creature. In no other creature is He so well reflected as in her. Thus, she mirrors His justice perfectly. She is the omnipotent intercessor because no grace is obtained without Our Lady and there is no grace she cannot obtain for us. Thus, on invoking Mary as Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, we make a beautiful synthesis of all the other invocations; we recall the purest reflection of the Divine Maternity; we simultaneously strike all the chords of love in beautiful harmony, the same chords we strike when we recite her litany or sing the "Salve Regina."

Yet, there is one other invocation of Our Lady that I especially wish to recall. It is "Advocate of Sinners." Our Lord Jesus Christ is our judge, and as great as is His mercy, He nevertheless remains our supreme judge and cannot fail to exercise His judicial duty.

However, Our Lady is our advocate and does solely what an advocate is supposed to do—defends the accused. Do we not have in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, the Advocate of Sinners, an all-powerful advocate before the bar of divine justice whose pleas for mercy will not be refused? To say then, that Our Lady of the Sacred Heart is our advocate is equivalent to saying that we have an omnipotent advocate in heaven who holds the golden key to an infinite store of mercy. So, what better solution for a sinful humanity, a humanity that falls deeper into sin if justice is not mentioned but despairs of salvation if it is mentioned?

By all means, let justice be mentioned; it is a duty; its omission has produced only sorry fruits. But right alongside justice, which targets the sinner, let us never forget mercy, which helps the seriously repentant sinner to abandon sin and thus be saved as He desires with all His Heart—the Sacred Heart of Jesus. ■



# PROMISES *of the* SACRED HEART OF JESUS

*given to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque  
to Those Who Honor His Most Sacred Heart*

1. I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their families.
3. I will bless every house in which a picture of My Heart shall be exposed and honored.
4. I will console them in all their difficulties.
5. I will be their refuge during life and especially at the hour of death.
6. I will shed abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
7. Sinners shall find in My Heart a fountain and boundless ocean of mercy.
8. Tepid souls shall become fervent.
9. Fervent souls shall rise speedily to great perfection.
10. I will give to priests the power of touching the hardest hearts.
11. Those who propagate this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart, never to be blotted out.
12. I promise thee, in the excessive mercy of My Heart, that My all-powerful love will grant to all who communicate on the first Friday of the month for nine consecutive months the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in My displeasure nor without the sacraments; My Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

# King of Our Hearts, King of Our Homes

BY MICHAEL GORRE

## The Revelations of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque

On the Feast of Saint John the Evangelist, December 27, 1673, Our Lord Jesus appeared to His servant Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, a nun of the Visitation Order. He showed her His Divine Heart all aflame and radiating light on every side.

Saint Margaret Mary describes the Sacred Heart: "It appeared more brilliant than the sun, and transparent like crystal. The wound He received on the Cross appeared clearly. There was a crown of thorns around the Sacred Heart, signifying the punctures made by our sins, and a cross surmounted It. . . . He then gave me to understand the great desire He had of being perfectly loved by men and snatching them from the ways of perdition down which Satan leads so many. This caused Him to decide to manifest His Heart to men, with its abundant treasures of love, mercy, grace, sanctification, and salvation, so that all those who would be willing to render to It and procure for It all the love and honor in their power would be profusely enriched with these divine treasures of which this Sacred Heart is the source. He assured me that He takes a singular pleasure in being honored under the figure of this heart of flesh, whose image He wishes to be exposed in public, in order to touch the unfeeling hearts of men. He promised me He would pour out in abundance into the hearts of all those who would honor It, all the gifts that fill It, and that in every place that this image is exposed and specially honored It would draw down all kinds of blessings. . . ."

## Safeguarding Our Families by Enthroning the Sacred Heart of Jesus as King of Our Homes

Family life today can be likened to the plight of a small ship in a raging sea: The precious vessel of domestic life and relationships is threatened with being swamped or rent asunder by surging waves on all sides. A skilled pilot is needed to navigate the ship through the peril.

Fortunately, we have such a pilot, and more, such a friend, in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, not only to guide us but to comfort us in the storms that rage about us. The Sacred Heart, Christ Our Lord, is, par excellence, our Pilot, our Friend, our Savior. In His own words, He is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

And He is so not just remotely or theoretically. Knowing the great human necessity for a tangible presence, something that can be seen, felt, perceived with all our senses, this Friend made and makes Himself present to us. He acknowledged this need of ours at the Last Supper, when He allowed the apostle



Our Lord appeared to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque on June 16, 1675, saying "Behold the Heart that has so loved men that it spared nothing to bear witness to this love."

Saint John to hear the divine beating of His Most Sacred Heart. He acknowledged it when He allowed poor, doubting Thomas to put his finger in His sacred wounds. He acknowledged it in a most ineffable way when He instituted and gave Himself to us in the Holy Eucharist. And He acknowledged it when He revealed to the world, through Saint Margaret Mary, the devoted Heart that burns in His divine and human chest with the sheer wish of doing us good.

Yes, as human beings we need to see, to touch, to hear. Just as we keep pictures of departed or absent loved ones, Our Lord wishes us to keep before our eyes an image of His Sacred Heart so that we may always be reminded of His burning love



# The Actual Enthronement

Any family wishing to enthrone the Sacred Heart of Jesus in its home must follow two simple steps:

1. They must obtain a suitable, pious statue or picture of Our Lord Jesus showing His Most Sacred Heart.\*
2. A date for the ceremony must be set with the parish priest or any other Catholic priest who is willing and able to officiate.

Only one enthronement ceremony is necessary for any particular statue or picture. Once an image is enthroned in the family home, it is automatically enthroned in any subsequent home to which the family might move.

for us. When we place a statue or a picture of Him in our homes we are saying, “You are in our midst. You are a part of this family. We do not want to forget this.”

## Our Lord’s Own Words

Just as Our Lord was received into the house of Matthew, the tax collector, and gave Matthew a place in His Kingdom in exchange, through Saint Margaret Mary He promised the same to every Catholic family: “I will bless every house in which an image of My Heart shall be exposed and honored.” And He went on to explain in detail what this great blessing would entail: “I will establish peace in their families; I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life; I will comfort them in all their afflictions; I will shed abundant blessings on all their undertakings. . . .”

In this Our Lord, a divine beggar so to speak, entreats us to accept Him into our midst. Unique among beggars, however, He begs not in order to receive but so that He may give to us, and give to us in abundance.

Holy Mother Church, the Bride of Christ ever solicitous to fulfill His every wish perfectly, established for this purpose the ceremony of the enthronement of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in the home.

## The Enthronement

Like all of the Church’s traditional rituals, the enthronement ceremony is beautiful and inspiring. Gathered together at home in the presence of a priest who officiates, the family publicly and solemnly acknowledges that Christ is the King and loving Master of their home and family. The head of the family installs a picture or statue of the Sacred Heart in a place of honor in the

principal room of the home as on a throne. After this solemn acknowledgment of the sovereign rights of Christ the King over them, the members consecrate themselves to the Sacred Heart. They thereby pledge to live as though the Sacred Heart were actually dwelling in their midst as He did at Nazareth, treating Him as an intimate member of the family, as a friend and brother.

The ceremony, nevertheless, is just the beginning of a new life, in several aspects. It is a life of love, of loving obedience to all the commandments of Christ and His Church; a life of prayer, especially of family prayers before the image of the Enthroned King; evening prayers and rosary in common; a Eucharistic life, thereby linking the sanctuary of the church with the sanctuary of the home; finally, it is a life of Christian penance, especially in rejecting the pagan ideas and customs that are steadily engulfing and destroying Christian homes and by making reparation for the terrible crimes of divorce, birth control, abortion, and sensuality in general.

## How Will the Enthronement Restore the Family to Christ?

With the enthronement, the family gives first place to Our Lord and His interests. In return, the Sacred Heart assumes responsibility for the family’s well-being. Our Lord Himself promised that He would bless and sanctify those families who enthrone Him as King. He asked Saint Margaret Mary that He be allowed to reign over the homes of the rich and the poor; that He be solemnly received as King and Friend, and that His Sacred Heart be honored and loved. Hence we may safely say that this is the means Our Lord Himself has selected to restore His sovereign rights over the family, and through the family, over society itself. ■

\*To order your FREE image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus go to: [ANF.org/free-devotionals/free-sacred-heart-image-novena-prayer-card](http://ANF.org/free-devotionals/free-sacred-heart-image-novena-prayer-card)



# AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA<sup>®</sup>

MAY / JUNE 2023

PROGRESS REPORT

## *From the Desk of Robert Ritchie*

Dear Soldier of Our Lady,

The many TFP-ANF supporters who continue to host peaceful and legal rosary rallies are proving that the power of prayer will always thwart Satan!

Thanks to our dedicated rosary rally captains who host peaceful protest rallies, we succeeded in seeing more than 1,600 pornographic books be removed from 5,000 schools in the 2021-2022 school year.

But our work is not done. We will continue to protect our children. Our supporters came out in full force in April, hosting rallies and protesting school policies that promote the LGBTQ agenda, pornographic books for students, and “After School Satan Clubs.”

TFP-ANF rally captains and friends are making a difference in schools across the country! In Miami-Dade County, Florida, parents filed 278 objections to a pornographic “health” textbook. As a result of the petition and rosary rallies against the book, the school board reversed its decision to include the book in its schools by a five-to-four vote.

In Chesapeake, Virginia, an “After School Satan Club” at B.M. Williams Primary School was canceled because of the peaceful and legal rosary rally protests organized by our dedicated rally captains.

In Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, the Northern York School Board voted against allowing an “After School Satan Club” to operate at Northern Elementary School after TFP-ANF friends and supporters joined passionate community members at a school board meeting. TFP volunteers shared “Say NO to the Satan Club” signs with other meeting attendees and handed out fliers with talking points against Satanism. Another victory over Satan!

Our Lady reminds us that we possess the greatest weapon against the devil—the Most Holy Rosary! With your help, what Saint Joan of Arc declared will be true: “In God’s name the soldiers will fight and God will give the victory.”



Sincerely,  
In Jesus and Mary,

*Robert E. Ritchie*

Robert E. Ritchie  
Executive Director



# BATTLELINES



TAKEN FROM ANF'S PUBLICATION, *BATTLELINES*



## Defending the Virgin Mary Against Drag Queen Show Defamation

TFP-ANF supporters held a peaceful and legal rosary rally of reparation against a drag queen show in Highlands, New Jersey, that aimed to defame and mock the Virgin Mary. With the help of the rally captains and their friends, management was finally convinced to stop the performer from denigrating Our Lady.

Rally Captains Patricia and Daniel and their group wrote letters to the restaurant management and to the performer speaking out against the show's plan to profane the Blessed Mother. Patricia said the manager understood the protest, and the restaurant's employees didn't feel comfortable with the attack on Our Lady.

Patricia said, "Daniel and I and many others thank you for this opportunity to fight to defend God and Our Blessed Mother. Our Lord Jesus Christ is always protecting the virginal image of His Mother. We need to say 'yes' once He calls us into battle, and trust we will accomplish His will."

## Protecting Wichita's Children

Rally Captain Martha and many TFP-ANF supporters held a rosary rally of reparation against a drag queen show in their town. Martha said many traveled a distance to attend it.

They faced opposition from supporters of the drag queen show who tried to dance in front of their banner and take

pictures of themselves. Martha said Father Michael Kerschen, a priest praying with the group, told them to stop and they left immediately.

Martha said, "We were only sixteen people, but we prayed loudly and full of love for Our Lord and His Blessed Mother. We hope that this type of event will not be scheduled anymore here in our town. But if it happens again, we will be there to pray and protect God's children."

## Parents Speak Out—Pornographic Books Removed from 5,000 Schools

The protests of parents and members of groups focused on parental rights in education resulted in more than 1,600 age-inappropriate and pornographic book titles being removed from 5,000 schools across the country in the 2021-2022 school year.

Parents and concerned citizens protected children from being exposed to immoral books featuring explicit descriptions of sexual encounters because they ACTED!

In Missouri, books were removed from more than 300 school libraries. In Utah, there were 280 book complaints since May, and Alpine School District, the state's largest district, removed 52 books. At a school board meeting in Dearborn, Michigan, parents also protested against immoral, inappropriate books.

With prayer and sacrifice, God will have mercy on America.





### Pray the Rosary; Make a Difference

Rosary rally captains across the country profess that the power of public prayer makes a difference in their lives and their communities. Just read these inspiring testimonials:

Deborah in Mechanicsville, Maryland, said, “My husband and I want to 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 dearly need Our Blessed Mother’s love.”

Priscilla in Madawaska, Maine, said, “Thank you for your great faith and devotion to Mother Mary. I am grateful for this opportunity to pray for the sin of denying God. I am committed to continuing as a rosary rally captain until I leave this world.”

Paula and Teresa in Orlando, Florida, said, “We have been doing rallies since 2016 and have a monthly one we’ve been doing for over a year. We feel blessed to do these rallies and we know we are reaching souls.”



**Will you, accompanied by friends and family, offer your own peaceful, prayerful rosary rally against immoral books being made available to innocent children in your school library?**

Contact Jose Ferraz toll-free at (844) 830-3570, or email him at [Protest@TFP.org](mailto:Protest@TFP.org) and he will help you organize a successful rosary rally!



## Right Is Still Right. Traditional Marriage Campaigns 2023

BY TONIA LONG

In the words of Saint Augustine of Hippo: “Wrong is still wrong, even if everyone is doing it; right is still right, even if no one is doing it.”

With the most recent Gallup poll showing the highest approval rating to date among Americans for same-sex “marriage” at 71%,\* Saint Augustine’s words serve as a good reminder to the intrinsic and never-changing value of sacramental marriage between one man and one woman.

Courageous Catholics across America gathered on March 18 to participate in Traditional Marriage Rosary Rallies on the Saturday before the Feast of Saint Joseph. The size of over 1,087 rallies varied from ten people in some towns, to fifty or more in larger cities. Participants ranged from eighty-eight years old to eight days old; but one thing they all had in common was a deep respect for God’s marriage, defined as the union between one man and one woman.

The rally captains reported that the general spirit of their attendees was cheerful and upbeat, with lots of holy enthu-

siasm. Many rallies started with praying the Angelus at noon and then proceeded with the Holy Rosary, praying for the conversion of America, the Catholic Church, and making an act of reparation for the sins committed against holy matrimony.

Despite the findings reported in the Gallup poll, the response from the public was overwhelmingly positive with many honks of approval. Most passersby gave the “thumbs up,” including lots of young couples. There were even shouts of enthusiasm and great joy at seeing the “God’s marriage = 1 Man + 1 Woman”

banners. One could sense the general and pervasive happiness radiating from people at seeing the truth about God’s marriage displayed in the public square, which is so rare today.

In conclusion, it is interesting to note that in the poll mentioned above, those Americans who attend church on a weekly basis are the final “holdouts,” refusing to ascribe to the popular acceptance of homosexual unions. Americans who report that they attend church weekly remain the primary demographic holdout against gay marriage, with 40% in favor and 58% opposed.\*

As the battle over marriage and the family wages on, may God infuse His followers with the conviction of Saint Augustine that right is still right, even though only 29% of Americans polled are willing to choose the definition of marriage that promotes life and a stable society. And for the 71%, may He have mercy on their souls.

\*<https://news.gallup.com/poll/393197/same-sex-marriage-support-inches-new-high.aspx>.



# Post-Roe Delivery of Roses to Our Lady, Patroness of the Unborn

BY ANNE DRAKE AND LORA LUCAS-BAILIE

No one thought *Roe v. Wade* would be overturned, yet to everyone's surprise on June 24, 2022 (the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus), the unexpected happened. For years prior, America Needs Fatima (ANF) supporters beseeched Our Lady through its campaign of presenting roses at her Shrine in Mexico City on behalf of the unborn for the end of the modern diabolical practice of human sacrifice that we euphemistically refer to as abortion.

Once again, the Blessed Virgin Mary stepped into history and showed her great power. *Roe v. Wade* has been overturned. In thanksgiving for her intercession, ANF once again conducted an online effort, offering our dear friends and supporters the opportunity to send roses to Our Lady of Guadalupe at her miraculous shrine in Mexico City. Early on the morning of Saturday, February 18, 2023, 13,333 multicolored roses along with 2,898 red roses—**16,231** roses in all—were carried on the broad shoulders of many men to the Basilica of *La Virgen de Guadalupe*.

Then the representatives of the Basilica's security team approached after having prepared the area to the left and right of the miraculous image of Our Lady inside the Basilica for this great floral tribute. They directed the placement of the 168 arrangements. It was beautiful to see the surprise and awe in the eyes of children enchanted by the sight of so many colorful roses.

As is our custom, along with the presentation of the roses to Our Lady, we light a candle for each year that *Roe v. Wade* has been the law of the land. This year we lit fifty votive candles in gratitude to Our Lady for the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* in its fiftieth year.

Next year we will again light fifty candles but these votive candles will burn before Our Lady in supplication to help the struggle to abolish abortion in all *fifty states*.

The thousands of petitions and intentions submitted were then presented to Our Lady and a Mass was offered for them.

## A Gift from a Mother to Her Son

To our surprise, while doing a holy hour in the old Basilica where the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for public veneration, an extraordinary event occurred. While kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the main altar above which the miraculous *tilma* was originally displayed, the sanctuary attendants began filing in with a number of the flower arrangements that we had presented to Our Lady earlier in the day.

Soon after, the attendants started to remove all the flower arrangements that were in the sanctuary and on the altar and replaced them with the stunning arrangements of roses sent by ANF supporters. In a matter of minutes, the altar and the sanctuary were transformed with roses of every color.

As the final touches of this transformation were made by the attendants, we spontaneously turned to look at each other, with a wide smile on our faces. The same thought had occurred to both of us: *Our Blessed Mother had just sent roses to her Divine Son!*

## Thank You

We would like to thank each and every one of you who sent roses and entrusted us with your very special intentions to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Without your help, support, and prayers, none of this would have been possible.

Let's redouble our efforts in prayer to the Virgin of Guadalupe and show her our gratitude and our profound desire to put an end to abortion once and for all. ■




## Our Readers Write

### “Socialists aim to tear families apart”

“Thank you for giving me—via your special participatory mailings and monthly *Child of Mary* program—the opportunity to get things right for myself. I knew our country had fallen down the rabbit hole when I learned of this insane program that the transvestites were teaching to such innocent little ones. Jesus and Mary don’t want that for the little ones. Socialists aim to tear families apart. Our current administration is focused on giving them power and control over the citizenry. They aim to break every godly individual and tear down what made us worthy world leaders, not to mention the corruption of our children (who are our future). We are in a state of anarchy and the Marxists love it.”

*S.K., South Bend, Indiana*

### Sharing ANF Materials

“I have enclosed a donation in thanksgiving for all that your group does! Could you please send me a few Fifteen Promises pamphlets for those who pray the rosary? There are some new people coming into our church and I would like to give them one to help with their Catholic journey! Thank you.”

*S.E., Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania*

“I just want you to know that when I get done reading each of your books you send, I leave them at church after Mass so that others can benefit from them too.”

*B.L., Tacoma, Washington*

“I’ve sent the book *The Glories of Mary* to my best friend Deborah who has fourth stage cancer! I thought she could use it more than me.”

*M.C., New York, NY*



“I pray daily and the Mother of God is always included. Our country is in sad shape, and most of the world is also. As predicted, the battle between good and evil is at fever pitch. I read Bible scripts daily and it seems to me that things are drawing to the time where Jesus returns and Satan and his demons are forever sent back to hell where they belong.”

*G.B., North Port, Florida*

“Today our beloved country must face—and overcome—those that would destroy our way of life and freedom; those that would seek power over mankind. I pray to Our Lady of Fatima for America—to destroy this socialist-communist rule of insanity that fights against our God-given freedom. We need the help of Our Lady, all of us who have faith that good will triumph over evil. I know we need God’s help. The health and wellbeing of America and the rest of the world is at stake. We must ask our dear heavenly Mother to pray for us and intercede on our behalf.”

*R.L., Commack, New York*

### Devotees of Our Lady, Rest in Peace

“My beloved husband Sam—and former devotee of America Needs Fatima—was called home to the God he so loved last year. We are broken-hearted to have lost such a wonderful gentleman who loved Our Dear Lord, Our Blessed Mother, and Saint Joseph so much. I am so grateful to Our Blessed Lady of Fatima for the fifty-six years together that we were blessed with. As fellow adherents of hers, I ask that you might please pray for his blessed repose. Finally, I ask dear Saint Michael the Archangel to protect all the volunteers you organize together who so courageously protest against the blasphemies that rear their ugly heads all too frequently these days.”

*G.L., McHenry, Illinois*

“Dear America Needs Fatima, I hope this note finds you all safe and well. I am so sad to tell you that my mother passed away in 2020. It was the most heartbreaking event in my lifetime. She was a long-time donor and huge fan of yours since 2009. She supported you with her prayers and donations constantly and encouraged me to do the same. In my desire to keep her memory alive, I would like to continue her charitable acts, despite being unemployed for a while and having an ailing son who suffers from hemophilia. Still, I desire and want to share in my own little way to help your work, which is truly missionary in spirit and act. Please pray for our intentions and I thank you for the prayers. I am praying for your community. May God bless us always!”

*J.D., Placentia, CA*



# Saint Michael the Archangel, Defend Us in Battle!

BY VINCENT GORRE

The name Michael is the fourth most popular name for male births in the United States for the last 100 years. This is a testament to Americans having a strong devotion to Saint Michael. The Archangel's popularity was evident when America Needs Fatima launched a campaign that offered a unique opportunity to its members. A chance to have a candle lit in their name, and their intentions prayed for, at the oldest shrine dedicated to Saint Michael in Europe! Thousands of tiny blue candles were mailed back by those who responded, which were then melted down into two large candles and brought to Monte Gargano, Italy by America Needs Fatima representatives. There, the candles were lit in the sanctuary and their intentions were prayerfully remembered.

The popular shrine of Saint Michael is a cave in a mountain called Monte Gargano, in southeastern Italy. The mountain sits in a peninsula surrounded by the Adriatic Sea. There, Saint Michael appeared three times in the fifth century.

The first apparition, referred to as *the bull episode*, tells the story of a rich lord who was searching for a bull of his herds, lost in the Gargano area. He found it on top of a mountain kneeling down at the opening of a cave. Filled with anger, he shot an arrow at the bull, but instead of hitting it, the arrow unexplainably wounded the foot of the lord. Upset by the event, he reported it to the bishop, who ordered three days of prayer and penance. On the third day, Saint Michael appeared to the bishop, spoke to him, and said, "I am the Archangel Michael, and I am always in the presence of God. The cave is sacred to me, I have chosen it and I am its watchful custodian... There, where the rock opens wide, the sins of men can be forgiven... What is asked here in prayer will be granted. Therefore, go to the mountain and dedicate a grotto to the Christian religion."

The second apparition known as *the victory episode*, is related to the victory of the town of Siponto against the invading Byzantine army. Saint Michael foretold the victory himself to the bishop, who attributed the victory to the intercession of the Archangel.

The third apparition is called *the dedication episode*. It is linked to the

discovery of a primitive altar already erected by Saint Michael, where his footprint was found imprinted in a rock. When the bishop decided to consecrate the grotto as a church, Saint Michael appeared and said, "It is not your task to consecrate the basilica I built. I who founded it, I myself consecrated it." Since then, the church is known as the "celestial basilica," since it is the only church consecrated by Saint Michael the Archangel, to whom it is dedicated.

The fourth apparition happened in the seventeenth century. A pestilence was spreading across southern Italy and around the town on the slope of Monte Gargano, now known as Monte Sant' Angelo. The bishop turned to Saint Michael for help through prayer and fasting. While he was praying, Saint Michael suddenly appeared and told him to bless the stones of his cave at Gargano and to engrave the letters "MA" for Michael the Archangel, with a promise that "anyone who devotedly keep the stone with him will be immune to the plague." The Archangel's promise was fulfilled, and since then, these stones have become popular relics used by the faithful to invoke Saint Michael's protection from the spiritual snares of the devil as well as from physical harm. Now, more than ever, Saint Michael's special power to overcome Satan and sin is badly needed.

May America's devotion to Saint Michael continue to grow and may his intercession protect us, strengthen our faith, and give us courage to face any danger. ■



Above: Inside the cave at Monte Gargano, where the archangel Saint Michael appeared four times

Bottom: America Needs Fatima representative Michael Gorre holds two massive blue candles, created from thousands of smaller ones sent from friends throughout America.

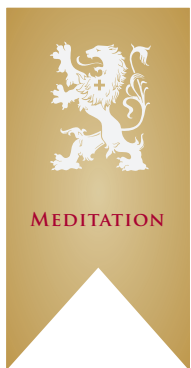


# Watching Over Our Heart

*The Imitation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus*

BY FR. PETER J. ARNOUDT, S.J.

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**O**bserve carefully, with what objects your heart busies itself; by what it is moved, towards what it tends.

*It is never at rest; when it escapes from one object, it is entangled in another. It is excited by curiosity, it is allured by cupidity, it is misled by vanity, it is defiled by pleasure, it is wasted by sadness, it is tortured by envy, it is disturbed by love and hatred, it is worried by its own misery, and by worrying itself it is broken down.*

## The Voice of Jesus

My Child, with all watchfulness, keep your heart safe for Me; for from it proceeds either life or death.

The greatest and most pleasing gift you can offer, is to present your whole heart irrevocably to Me; and you can have no better, nor more wholesome employment, than to preserve your heart faithfully for Me.

In vain do you devote your heart to Me, if you do not guard it carefully; for the enemy, even without your being fully aware of it, will corrupt it and tear it away.

## A Heart Not Watched Over

A man, loose in heart, and given up to outward things, may, indeed, on occasion of some swift passing fervor, devote his feelings to Me; but soon, when this warmth of devotion disappears, he will fall into a worse than usual low state.

A heart not watched over, is rarely self-present, and more rarely still, mindful of Me; in a short time, it becomes unfeeling, and grows hardened against things spiritual.

It lies open to everyone, like a public thoroughfare, through which thoughts, temptations, errors of every sort may freely pass.

All its enemies come and go through it; and, in various ways, disturb, defile, and corrupt it.

A man, given to outward things, never seriously gives heed to this; and, shrinking from the very thought of dwelling within himself, or of busying himself with what goes on in his heart, he endeavors to flee from himself, or to turn away his mind.

And thus the evil grows worse; and, from day to day, the condition of his heart becomes more dangerous.

### Recourse to My Heart

If you are unwilling to be the victim of miseries so great, remove their causes, and the effects will cease.

By calling to mind the divine Presence, by frequent recourse to Me, check all levity, and take heed, that you are not too indulgent to your ever-changing nature; which always seeks to go abroad, which is prone to vanity, which seeks to show itself everywhere, which studies continually how it may gratify the senses.

Shun trifling and useless things, shut out all outer things, which are not needful to busy yourself; accustom yourself to dwell within yourself, and to live interiorly in such a manner, as if you are alone with Me in the world.

Study, always and everywhere, to possess yourself and to be self-collected; until by grace, by effort, and by practice, it will become natural to you.

And, when you have acquired it, this self-presence of the mind will bring its own reward; for it is a boundless treasure to man.

### Turn Yourself Wholly to Me

The self-collected man keeps watch over all the avenues of the heart; Me, his God and Savior, he entertains within himself; with Me he deals generously, with Me he converses familiarly.

Everywhere self-possessed, he peacefully enjoys the Beloved of his soul, and is ever saved from weariness, and from numberless faults.

While inwardly recollected, he makes progress in virtue; and, in spite of every obstacle, he hastens on to perfection.

Do not allow your spirit to grow dissipated, My Child; neither on account of the appearance of external objects, nor on account of the varied throng of circumstances, nor on account of the urgency of labor, nor on account of the comfortless inward state of your soul.

Observe carefully, with what objects your heart busies itself; by what it is moved, towards what it tends.

Turn yourself wholly to interior things; and, intent on these, preserve inward peace, and rejoice in My presence.

### The Voice of the Disciple

Grant me, I beseech You, Lord Jesus, an inward spirit, that I may keep my heart for You, that I may watch over its employments.

For I find it ever busy; but, by reason of my neglectfulness, it heeds neither place, nor time, nor objects.

Frequently have I surprised it in strange places, pouring out its feelings, whether of love or of aversion, distracted

with emotions, becoming stained by the objects which engaged it.

Frequently have I found it to steal away and give itself up to dissipation, at the hours, at the very moments, which were specially consecrated to You; and when it ought to have been praying to You, praising You, loving You, and enjoying You.

How often have I seen it engaged with objects vain, or even forbidden, when it should have occupied itself with things good or useful!

When unguarded, it slips away, it runs here and there, it is carried towards different objects, according as it is swayed by different impulses of nature.

Thus is my heart busied, thus is it defiled, when I watch not over it, or when I am careless about it.

### Jesus, Replenish My Heart with Your Love

O Lord! How great the need of being vigilant! How great the need of guarding my heart! It must not only be made to stay at home in recollection, but it must also be kept busy, yet only with You or for You.

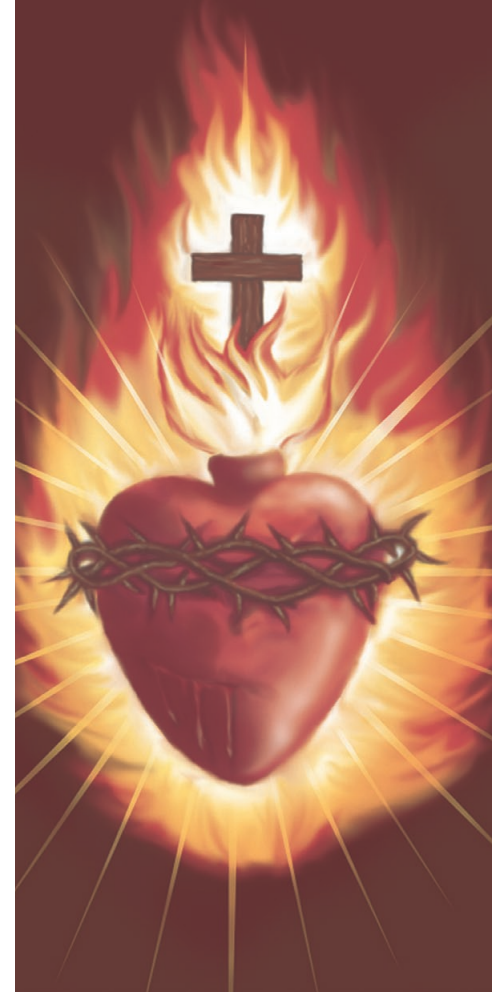
I must examine, then, by what it is impelled, whether by nature or by grace; how it acts, whether according to Your good pleasure, or according to its own natural likings; what it has ultimately in view, You or itself.

And I must watch constantly, until my heart, in some manner, has grown accustomed, sweetly and courageously to follow, for love of You, the motion of grace.

O Jesus! Of how great an importance is this work! Whatever efforts be needed to accomplish it, behold! I will not cease to pursue the same, until I see it perfected.

If I loved You, if I were all captivated with Your love, how easily, and how speedily should this work be completed! For, if my heart were filled with love for You, it would repose in You, it would not stray from You. In You it would find its happiness; all else it would, of its own accord, drive off or cast away.

O, sweetest Jesus! How wonderful is Your love! Replenish my heart with Your love and Your grace, and my heart will gladly stand watch over itself, will zealously reserve itself for You. ■



“Voice of Jesus” is taken from Arnoudt’s *Imitation of the Sacred Heart*, translated from the Latin of J.M. Fastre; Benziger Bros. Copyright 1866.



The moon over the chapel of Sainte-Chapelle at sunrise, Paris, France

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This demonstrates how natural beauty nourishes the soul. However, it alone does not suffice. Man wants to experience beauty in his fellow men as well. The beautiful things made by man should sate this appetite. Be it art, music, architecture, elegant furniture or the like, these man-made marvels are important because whenever someone makes something, he imprints it with something of himself. Indeed, the artist can only produce something if a model of that thing is present within him.

Thus, when man makes something beautiful, it is the expression of something beautiful that exists in his soul. Since God is the origin of all beauty, it proclaims that a reflection of God's beauty shines in the souls of men. It attests that man is made in God's image and likeness and therefore aids men in giving proper respect to each other, facilitating the practice of charity for one's neighbor.

Unfortunately, this kind of beauty is lacking in modern society. It has been replaced by what some have called a "cult of ugliness."

This immersion in ugliness has detrimental effects on society. If the presence of man-made beauty reinforces the reality that God exists and is reflected in the soul of man, the prevalence of ugliness asserts the opposite.

Father Brankin expressed this in these terms: "The subliminal message in every confused and misshapen piece of modern architecture, art, music, or drama is that there is no God. The subliminal message in every deliberate mutilation of natural forms, in every tribute to physical and personal perversion, is that there is no God. The subliminal message in every celebration of the weird and deathly is that there is no God. This subliminal message is as surely the 'Illuminated Gospel of Death' as any culture could have ever proclaimed, and by virtue of its omnipresence in every aspect of modern life, we are constantly encouraged to accept this gospel."

So, a society that possesses beauty reflects God and one that rejects it also rejects God. This is a crucial point. It is why any solution to the modern Revolutionary crisis that does not include filling society with beauty cannot hope to be permanent or sufficiently profound.

### Beauty's Direct Action on the Soul

However, once a society is filled with beauty, it will necessarily influence those in that society. This is because beauty can act almost automatically on the soul, even with little reflection or intellectual effort. Everyone has experienced this. There are times when one encounters a beauty so profound that, almost involuntarily, the mind is drawn to God and higher realities. This is especially advantageous today because contemporary man shuns reflection.

Years ago, a TFP member reported visiting the Sainte-Chapelle and seeing a shady character inside the shrine overcome with emotion. When he spoke to the poor man, all he could say was: "I feel like this place is cleaning my soul." That is the effect that beauty can have.

While this "cleansing" or influence that beauty can have is often automatic, it does not mean its effects are ephemeral. The famous nineteenth-century author Joris-Karl Huysmans converted from the depths of vice to Catholicism by analyzing the beauty of medieval chant and art. One could say that the apostle who brought him into the Faith was beauty.

### A Preferential Option for Beauty

This begs the question: How many souls languishing under the cult of ugliness in contemporary society could benefit, or even convert, by being exposed to beauty? As Michael Knowles commented, few American conservatives are asking this question.

This is unfortunate because it is an issue that should be taken seriously. Furthermore, it is a problem that must be acted upon.

That is why it is imperative that American conservatives exercise a preferential option for beauty. As much as possible, they should expose their children to beautiful things; they should decorate their homes in as fine a way as possible; they should do everything they can to fill society with the kinds of beauty for which Christian civilization is still known and admired. In this way, they will reject the cult of ugliness that surrounds them and invite God back into society where He belongs. ■

# THE MISSING INGREDIENT:

## *An Appeal to Beauty*

BY MICHAEL WHITCRAFT

God and beauty are one. Fortunately, beauty abounds throughout creation. Be it expressed through marvelous sunsets, brilliant flowers or majestic birds of prey, some form of beauty is accessible to everyone. When one experiences these marvels, they can transport the person's mind directly to God.

Whittaker Chambers experienced this as a child. Although God was never discussed in his home, he had three religious experiences in his youth. The second of these was provoked entirely by beauty. This is how he described it:

“One day I wandered off alone and found myself before a high hedge that I had never seen before. It was so tall that I could not see over it and so thick that I could not see through it. But by lying flat against the ground, I wriggled between the privet stems.

“I stood up, on the other side, in a field covered from end to end, as high as my head, with thistles in full bloom. Clinging to the purple flowers, hovering over them, or twittering and dipping in flight, were dozens of goldfinches—little golden yellow birds with black, contrasting wings and caps. They did not pay the slightest attention to me, as if they had never seen a boy before.

“The sight was so unexpected, the beauty was so absolute, that I thought I could not stand it and held to the hedge for support. Out loud, I said: ‘God.’ It was a simple statement, not an exclamation, of which I would then have been incapable. At that moment, which I remembered through all the years of my life as one of its highest moments, I was closer than I would be again for almost forty years to the intuition that alone could give meaning to my life—the intuition that God and beauty are one.”

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