

March/April 2012

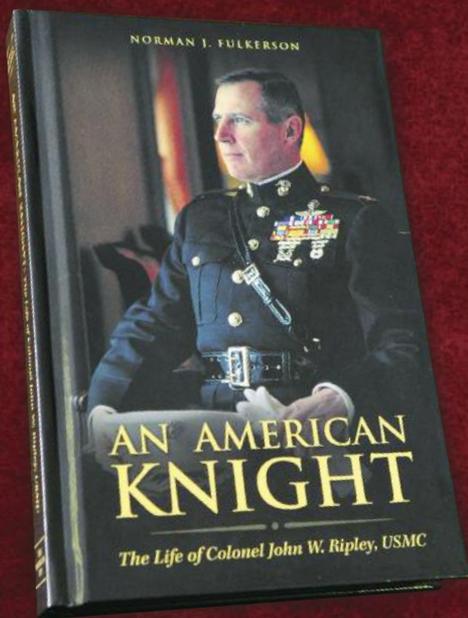
CRUSADE[®]

MAGAZINE



TRADITION
FAMILY AND
PROPERTY[®]

The
**CATHOLIC CHURCH
VERSUS CHINESE COMMUNISM**



AN AMERICAN KNIGHT

The Life of Colonel John W. Ripley, USMC

With political and public attention once again focused on the sacrifices made by our military, it's more important than ever to remember the American heroes who set an example for all of us. In this first cradle-to-grave biography of Colonel John W. Ripley, Norman Fulkerson tells the extraordinary life story of a Marine Corps hero of legendary stature; the selfless leader of combat troops and embodiment of "Semper Fi."

"If a young officer or Marine ever asks what is the meaning of 'Semper Fidelis,'" Colonel Ripley once told a friend, "tell them my story." This is his story! ■

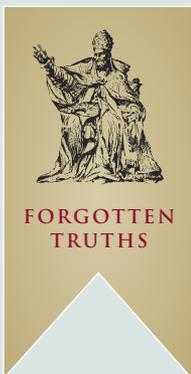
Norman Fulkerson,
*An American Knight: The Life of
Colonel John W. Ripley, USMC*

Hardcover, 218 pages
B63 \$13.95

To order, visit www.AmericanKnight.org or call (888) 317-5571.

The Evil of Slander

A LESSON FROM SAINT PHILIP NERI



One day a lady presented herself to Saint Philip Neri and confessed of being given to slander. "Do you frequently fall into this fault?" inquired the saint. "Yes, Father, very often," replied the lady. "My child," said the saint, "your fault is great but the mercy of God is still greater. For your penance, do as follows: Go to the nearest market and purchase a chicken just killed and still covered with feathers. Then walk on, plucking the bird as you go. When your walk is finished, return to me."

Great was the lady's astonishment at receiving so strange a penance. She replied, "I will obey, Father." Accordingly, she bought the fowl and set out on her journey plucking it as she went. In a short time she returned, anxious to tell of her exactness in accomplishing her penance and desirous to receive some explanation.

"Ah," said the saint. "You have been very faithful to the first part of my command. Now do the second part. Retrace your steps and gather up one by one all the feathers you have scattered."

"But Father!" exclaimed the poor woman, "That is impossible. The wind carried them in every direction, how can I now recover them?"

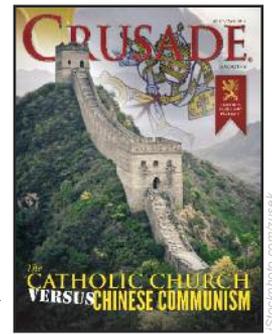
"Well, my child," replied the saint. "Your words of slander are like the feathers which the wind has scattered. They have been wafted in many directions. Call them back now if you can. Go and sin no more." ■



Adapted from *The Congregation of Holy Cross's Ave Maria* (Notre Dame, Ind. 1879), Vol. XV, No. 28, 20.

CONTENTS

MARCH/APRIL 2012



Cover:
The Great Wall of China cannot keep Catholicism out.

IN BRIEF	4
CHRIST IN THE HOME The Story of Your Child's Baptism	5
COVER STORY The Catholic Church versus Chinese Communism	6
COMMENTARY The March for Life: When Will It All End?	10
TFP IN ACTION ♦ Pro-Life Cross Holds 9,879 Names ♦ The 2012 March for Life Student Conference	10 12
ANF PROGRESS REPORT ♦ Two Years of Monthly Rallies ♦ Celebrating the Christmas Spirit ♦ Rally of Reparation in Brooklyn, New York ♦ Exposing "Kumar Christmas" ♦ The Uniqueness of the Each Fatima Visit	13 14 14 15 16
TFP IN ACTION ♦ Excommunicated Priest Leads "Occupy Fort Benning" ♦ "At Last: A Fall Camp!"	16 18
COMMENTARY Hero of the Easter Offensive: Colonel Gerald Turley	19
TFP IN ACTION ♦ A New Traditional Marriage Crusade ♦ More Important than Football	22 23
BACK COVER Night at the Coliseum	24



Page 10 When will it all end?



Page 19 The man who faced the Easter Offensive



Page 22 A New Marriage Crusade

Crusade Magazine is a publication of The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP). Direct all requests and inquiries to: *Crusade Magazine*, P.O. Box 341, Hanover, PA 17331 or e-mail to: crusade@TFP.org. Web: www.TFP.org, Tel.: 888-317-5571, Fax: (570) 450-6352. © 2012 by The Foundation for a Christian Civilization, Inc. This publication may include images from iStockphoto™ which are protected by copyright laws of the U.S. and elsewhere.
ISSN 1096-3782 LCCN 98-641433
M-116

CRUSADE

Editor: C. Preston Noell III

Associate Editors: John Horvat II, Michael Drake, Michael Whitcraft

Photography: Gary Isbell, Michael Gorre, Kenneth Murphy

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

THE AMERICAN TFP

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

IN BRIEF

Fishermen Saved by Rosary

In late November, a small fishing vessel, *Holy Virgin of Sameiro*, sank off the coast of Portugal. The six crew members got into a small raft and were adrift in the cold, rough sea for five days. Many doubted for their survival as they sighted ships searching for them and set off flares but were not seen.

As some began to despair, one crew member took out his rosary, began to pray, and led the others in prayer. On the fifth day, a helicopter unrelated to the search effort spotted their raft and airlifted them to safety. "We prayed a lot to Our Lady of Fatima. I have no doubt it was a miracle," the crew member told Portuguese media.

Three Reasons why Liberals are Sad

According to a PBS study, liberals are wealthier than conservatives but conservatives are happier than liberals. Liberal ideology considers all inequality as unfair while conservatives happily see that inequalities exist according to personal and family merits. Liberals also feel entitled to benefits while conservatives believe people get what they work for. Lastly, liberals consider income a bigger factor of happiness than conservatives.

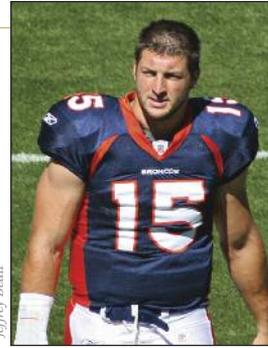
Worst Year for Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards, in a Thanksgiving note to her supporters called 2011 "the most difficult year in our history." Live Action released several undercover videos showing Planned Parenthood employees aiding sex traffickers and covering up the sexual abuse of minors. The U.S. House and the states of Florida, Indiana, Kansas, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin enacted legislation to cut tax-based funding for Planned Parenthood. And seven former Planned Parenthood employees will testify against their former employers in a Congressional criminal investigation to determine whether the group ignores criminal conduct or uses federal funding to pay for abortions.



The "Tebowing" Trend

Bronco football star Tim Tebow is a prolife, home-schooled Christian who likes to kneel on one knee to make a short prayer during his football games, especially at the beginning, and after scoring points. The practice of "tebowing" is now spreading and is defined as getting down on a knee and praying after an achievement, even if not in a religious setting, to give



Jeffrey Beall

thanks to God. www.tebowing.com has collected thousands of images of "tebowing" pilots, soldiers, surgeons and others from New York and Haiti to Singapore and North Korea.

France: Giant Protests against Blasphemy

Over 5,000 French Catholics protested a blasphemous play called *On the Concept of the Face of the Son of God*. The peaceful protests outside two theaters began on October 20, 2011 and continued night and day till October 29. The play features a huge picture of the Holy Face of Our Lord while an old, diarrhea-stricken man and his son perform on the stage. The show ends with the actors throwing pints of brown feces at the face of Our Lord while the words "You are not our shepherd" are written across His face.

During the premier showing, a group of young protesters entered the theater and climbed the stage, unfurling a banner declaring "Enough Christianophobia!" After the banner was torn from their



hands by angry actors and attendees the group locked arms and knelt down in prayer while many began hitting them with the feces which were intended to be thrown at Our Lord.

New York Nun to be Canonized

Marianne Cope, a Franciscan sister who lived in the 1800s, is only one step away from being declared a saint. She helped establish St. Elizabeth Hospital in Utica and St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse before going to Hawaii to care for those with leprosy. A woman on her death bed was miraculously cured through her intercession. The Congregation for the Causes of Saints approved the miracle and Pope Benedict the XVI is expected to soon approve the recommendation and set a date for the canonization ceremony.



THE STORY OF YOUR *Child's Baptism*

BY FATHER RAOUL PLUS, S.J.



By using a little drama, your child's baptism can hold tremendous interest for him. As soon as feasible, describe the ceremonies graphically for the little one and take him to a church. Before showing him the tabernacle, the Eucharistic dwelling, take him to the baptismal font: Here is where you became a living tabernacle of God. At the words of the priest, "Go out of this child, unclean spirit; give place to the Holy Spirit," the devil was forced to leave you, because of the power Our Lord gave to His priests. And then God came to dwell in you.

God does not have to use an airplane, but He does come down from heaven to dwell in your soul and His coming is very real. Yet His dwelling in all of us does not keep Him from continuing to dwell in heaven, too. He is all-powerful and can be at several places at once. And if He comes especially into the souls of the baptized, it is to dwell there in a dwelling of love.

When your grandmother or your grandfather comes to spend a few days at your house, how happy you are! They come to bring goodies and lovely presents. God does the same thing when He comes to stay in you - He brings presents which we call graces; that means favors He is not obliged to give but which He gives just because of His extraordinary goodness! He is much kinder than grandmother or grandpa; kinder even than Papa or Mamma. He is the One who made the kindness and goodness of fathers and mothers and of all good people on the earth. Think how much greater is God's good-

ness since He possesses all this goodness and a great deal more besides!

But then if God is like that, how should you behave? First of all, you should never do anything that would chase God from your soul; to do that is what we call mortal sin; mortal, because it forces God to leave just as if it killed Him. God cannot die, but it is just as if the person would say to Him, "I don't want anything more to do with You; if I could do away with You, I would do so!" That is why mortal sin is such a vile thing.

And it is not enough for you to keep from driving God out of your soul; no, there in the depths of your heart, you should try to keep Him company. Don't you think so? How sad that would be if He would be there within your soul and you would not pay any attention to Him, and seem to attach no importance at all to His Presence. That would not be very nice. You ought to visit Him there within your soul, in the morning, in the evening and often during the day; speak to Him; tell Him that you love Him very much. He who loves a

truly baptized soul, keeps God company since God is with him all the time. ■



How sad that would be if He would be there within your soul and you would not pay any attention to Him, and seem to attach no importance at all to His Presence.

Adapted from Raoul Plus, S.J.'s *Christ in the Home* (Colorado Springs, CO: Gardner brothers, 1951), 233-234. *Christ in the Home* is a treasure chest of advice for Catholics on the practical and spiritual concerns of raising a family. To obtain a copy of *Christ in the Home*, visit www.GardnerBrothers.com.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH VERSUS CHINESE COMMUNISM

An interview with Joseph Kung on China's ongoing persecution of its estimated 13 million Catholics.

Mr. Joseph Kung is president of the Cardinal Kung Foundation based in Stamford, Connecticut. After escaping China in 1950 and coming to the United States in 1955 as a refugee, Joseph Kung realized he needed to draw the world's attention to the fate of the Catholic Church in China, whose persecution began soon after the Communist takeover in 1949. Joseph Kung is the eldest nephew of the late Cardinal Kung Pin-Mei. In 1988, after Cardinal Kung was released after almost 33 years in prison, Joseph Kung arranged for him to come to the United States for medical care. In 1992, Joseph Kung founded the Cardinal Kung Foundation and has been an outspoken voice for the persecuted Church in China.



Crusade: Could you please describe the Cardinal Kung Foundation of which you are president?

Mr. Kung: It is named after my uncle, Cardinal Kung, who was Bishop of Shanghai from 1949 until his death in 2000, at the age of 98. He never retired as bishop in spite of his age. He was imprisoned by the Chinese government from 1955 to 1988—almost thirty-three years. In 1979 he was made a cardinal in pectore and was proclaimed cardinal in 1991. He died in exile in my house in Stamford, Conn. on March 12, 2000.

In 1992, the Foundation was started with his permission. Its primary mission is to call the attention of world opinion to the plight of the underground Roman Catholic Church. We help compile reports for news agencies, put out newsletters, run a web site and give speeches to disseminate news of the underground Catholic Church in China.

The Foundation also helps the underground church to foster religious vocations in China. We have provided financial assistance to approximately 300 underground seminarians and women religious studying both overseas and in China, 200 novice nuns, 100 orphans.

We also have a Mass Stipend program through which the public can have Masses offered for their intentions through the Cardinal Kung Foundation. The Mass Stipend is employed to support priests in the underground Church and various other projects.

The Foundation also serves to preserve the legacy of Cardinal Kung by collecting testimonies to support the cause of his canonization and the upkeep of his last earthly residence. Although I petitioned for his cause in 2004—more than 7 years ago—to Most Rev. Edward Lori, Bishop of Bridgeport, so far I have heard nothing from him or from the Vatican about opening the canonization process. The Foundation also provides prayer cards, relics and pictures to those who have a private



The holy Bishop of Shanghai, Cardinal Ignatius Kung, was exiled from China and died in March 2000.

devotion to Cardinal Kung.

Crusade: Could you give an example of Cardinal Kung's courage?

Mr. Kung: Cardinal Kung was a martyr of the faith. Not the type of martyr killed in the Coliseum but one who, though having survived, endured persecution every day of his life. He led a very heroic and holy life. He never compromised on his faith or neglected his duties as a shepherd to his people.

Keeping a close watch as the persecution began, Bishop Kung declared 1952 a Marian Year in Shanghai and organized a yearlong, round-the-clock rosary in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima which was carried from parish to parish. This pilgrimage ended at the Christ the King Parish where Bishop Kung led the rosary while armed police surrounded the crowd. After the rosary, the Bishop prayed, "Holy Mother, we do not ask for a miracle. We do not beg you to stop the persecution. But we do beg you to support us, who are very weak."

“Holy Mother, we do not ask for a miracle. We do not beg you to stop the persecution. But we do beg you to support us, who are very weak.” —Cardinal Kung

Months after his arrest, in 1955, Bishop Kung was summoned before a crowd to be accused of crimes and scandals. For many months, he had been tortured, maligned and harassed by the Communists. He was pushed in front of a microphone and told to confess his “crimes,” but instead he screamed into it as loud as he could, “Long Live Christ the King!”

At that point, hundreds of Catholics the Chinese government had unwittingly brought in to attend the show trial began shouting in unison, “Long Live Christ the King! Long Live Bishop Kung!”

Later, Cardinal Kung was brought before a chief prosecutor who told him that if he renounced the Pope of Rome, he would be made head of the Chinese Patriotic church and avoid prison. Cardinal Kung responded, “I am a Roman Catholic Bishop. If I renounced the Holy Father, not only would I no longer be a bishop, I would not even be a Catholic. You may cut off my head but you can never take away my duties.” At this he was sentenced to life imprisonment, stripped of his citizenship rights for life and placed in solitary confinement. Only when his health took a sharp turn for the worse was he released to the United States. By then he had spent almost thirty-three years in prison.¹

The example of Cardinal Kung has not ceased to inspire people after his death, nor is it confined to the underground Church or even to China. For example, on August 7, 2008, during the Beijing Olympics, three Christians, one Canadian and two Americans, boldly echoed his public declaration of faith by unfurling in Tiananmen Square a long yellow banner with “Long live Christ the King” printed on it in English and Chinese.

The three Christians were promptly arrested and deported. In a subsequent interview with Catholic Online, the three stated, “with the banner, we also wanted to honor Cardinal Kung, who in 1955 was called upon to renounce his Christian faith in front of a stadium filled with people. His answer was, ‘Long Live Christ the King!’ With him we wanted to honor all the men and women who will not renounce their faith in Christ....”

Crusade: Why does Communism want to control Catholicism in China?

Mr. Kung: Communism needs to control every aspect of life but especially religion. The *Communist Manifesto* says that one of the enemies of communism is religion. So in order to control religion the Chinese government made

“patriotic associations” of Buddhists, Islamists, Protestants, Catholics and so on.

Catholicism is particularly targeted because the Catholic Church is under the Pope in the Vatican, considered a foreign entity, and Catholics believe that the Pope represents Christ on earth. The Communists see the Catholic Church as a powerful “imperialist” force and fear her resilience and enduring resistance against socialist ideas, a resistance which proved very strong under communism, in countries of the former Soviet bloc.

A majority of Chinese Catholics belong to the “underground” Catholic Church. The Chinese government’s own figures show two-thirds follow the underground Church while the other third unfortunately obeys the government-run Catholic Patriotic Association, which proclaims itself independent from the Pope and ordains bishops without approval. A BBC study puts the total number of Catholics in China at 13 million while other reports will give numbers up to 15 million.

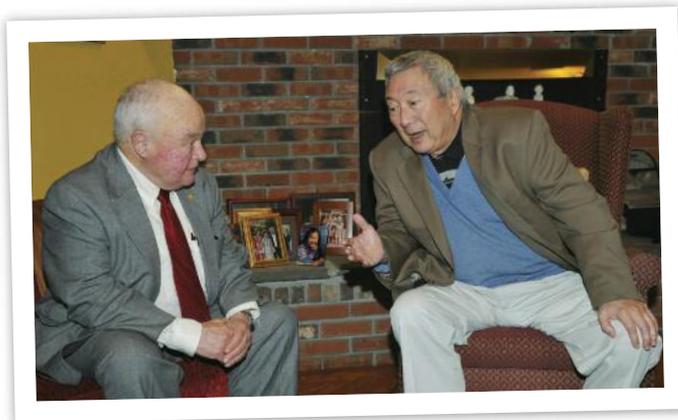
Crusade: What does the “Patriotic Church” teach about abortion?

Mr. Kung: You must understand that the “Patriotic Church” is a government entity and all its doctrines must agree with the Chinese Communist government’s policies. Instead of reporting to the Vatican these Patriotic Association churches answer to a “church congress” in Beijing.

So what are its policies on things like abortion,



A secret Underground Catholic Mass in a Chinese home



TFP member John Spann (left) interviews Joseph Kung (right).



Above: An Underground Catholic procession of religious and seminarians. **Right:** In rural China, far from the controls of Beijing, the underground Church still owns some large Churches.



sterilization, and euthanasia? In 1995 the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association issued a “pastoral letter” reaffirming that it adheres to the government’s position on women, meaning the government’s stand on contraception, sterilization, and mandatory abortion for families that already have one child.

Crusade: Can you please give an overview of the persecution against the Church?

Mr. Kung: First of all, Catholics must hide their Catholicism or risk heavy fines, imprisonment, or torture. In order to maintain their strict loyalty and fidelity to the Church and to the Holy Father and to practice their religion without compromise, they must hide or go underground. Catholics have had to practice their faith in this manner since 1950.

China now has only about twenty underground Catholic bishops and I would dare to say that every underground Catholic bishop in China is either in jail, under house arrest, under strict surveillance, or on the run. None of them are free.

Five years ago, Bishop Han of Yongnian in Hebei Province died under very suspicious circumstances. He was reported to have died of natural causes but his body was cremated within a couple of hours and no one knows how he really died. He had been in and out of jail for four or five years before his death. As far as we are concerned, he is a martyr. This year, Chinese Catholics will do a dangerous pilgrimage to his unmarked grave to commemorate the 5th anniversary of his death.

In 1994, New Jersey Congressman Chris Smith asked me to travel with him to China for a high level conference with Patriotic Association officials. Congressman

Smith wanted me to come with him to ascertain whether the report he was to receive from the head of the Patriotic Association was credible. As we met with two of the most senior leaders of the Patriotic Association, I refuted everything they claimed to be proof of a free Catholic Church. At a certain point I was told by a friend that my picture was being taken and that I should be careful.

During that trip I secretly invited three underground bishops to meet Congressman Smith. Either someone was not careful on the phone or our rooms were bugged; the fact is that two of the bishops were intercepted by police on their way to our meeting. Only Bishop Su Zhi-Ming was able to meet us in an apartment, where he said a Mass for us. He later talked to Congressman Chris about the persecution.

After we left China, Bishop Su was arrested, and since no one has heard of him for almost 16 years, it is hard to believe that he is still alive.²

Crusade: What difficulties must Catholics undergo to attend Mass?

Mr. Kung: Most underground Catholics have no Mass in a consecrated church or chapel. One underground Mass is in an open field hidden behind a city dump. The priest must don his vestments in a donkey stall. A team of Catholics with walkie-talkies patrol the roads and highways leading to the dump and use code words to disperse everyone if necessary.

In Shanghai there are no open fields suitable for the secret Mass. So Masses are said in different private homes and people learn about them by word of mouth. In other cities Catholics must endure a quasi ‘counter-insurrectional’ warfare and even I wouldn’t be able to tell you where Masses are held or to give details about

In 1995, the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association issued a “pastoral letter” reaffirming that it adheres to the government’s position on women, meaning the government’s stand on contraception, sterilization, and mandatory abortion for families that already have one child.

the priests, both of which are kept completely secret. Unfortunately, in places with this degree of hostility, Catholics are unable to attend Mass on most Sundays.

Crusade: Is there hope for Catholics in China?

Mr. Kung: There is much hope! The highest cause for hope is the promise from Our Lord Jesus Christ that the Church will prevail against the gates of hell. We will be martyred, persecuted and imprisoned, but the Church in China will continue till the end of time. We know that the blood of martyrs is the seed of new Christians, and this is definitely what is happening in China today.

The underground Church is also producing many seminarians. There are a number of underground seminaries in China, but many seminarians go to Western countries, primarily in Europe, to receive a higher education and formation. We currently have about 50 students being formed for the priesthood under our international program. The only reason we do not have more students under our program is the foundation's limited funds.

You have to be encouraged by these seminarians. They leave friends and family, often assuming a different name, to study in a foreign country by themselves, with very little money or support.

The most dangerous part of their journey to ordination is actually sneaking back into China. While sometimes people worry that the seminarians will simply stay in Spain or Germany or wherever they are studying because they would be much more comfortable there with a PhD and job, we have never had a single seminarian abandon us. They all brave imprisonment and death upon returning to China for ordination because of their desire to serve the Catholic flock.

Crusade: What can Americans do to help Catholics in China?

Mr. Kung: In April 2011 the Holy Father asked that Catholics all over the whole world pray for China in the month of May. Unfortunately only the Vietnamese, Taiwanese and Hong Kong Catholic bishops' conferences support a united effort to pray for the Chinese.

While the USCCB did not join in, I was happy to read that Archbishop Dolan, in a September 22nd *Catholic New York* editorial, asked everyone to pray for China. He is the Archbishop of New York and president of the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Conference. I hope that Archbishop Dolan's article will increase the awareness of other bishops of the universal Catholic Church and that they will speak out with a strong and uncompromising voice for liberty of the true Roman Catholic Church in China.³

Also, think twice before you buy anything from China. Buying Chinese goods keeps the Chinese people under Communist slavery and damages the American economy.

Do not listen to people who claim that only China

makes things. Make an effort to look for American-made products. And before buying something online, take a look at www.MadeInUSA.org.

Sometimes it is impossible to not buy a product made in China, but one can at least shop around a little. When the Cardinal Kung Foundation had to install new lighting in its office, after the contractor gave us an estimate I told him, "I only want light fixtures that are made in the United States." He answered, "That's impossible!



Everything is made in China." So I said, "Sorry. Then I can't have you do the job." The next day he called back saying, "We found American fixtures and they only cost two dollars more." He got the job! He was obviously used to going straight to Lowe's or Home Depot but in one day he found American light fixtures for only two extra dollars.

I received this note from a donor sometime ago: "Sometimes I have no choice but to buy a 'Made in China' product. Each time I do so, I make a donation to the Cardinal Kung Foundation to make up in a very small way for those who suffer in China at the hands of the Communist government, including the Underground Church."

The Cardinal Kung Foundation needs funding to carry out various projects for the underground Church in China. So I ask your readers to please consider making a tax deductible donation by check or by credit card at www.cardinalkungfoundation.org/contact/donation. ■

Notes:

1. Joseph Kung recommends a new book, *Church Militant—Bishop Kung and Catholic Resistance in Communist Shanghai* by Father Paul Mariani, S. J. It tells the story of how his uncle led the Shanghai diocese to resist the relentless assault of communism and to refuse renunciation of the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church.

2. For more on the disappearance of Bishop Su, please read *Searching for Bishop Su* by Theresa Marie Moreau at www.cardinalkungfoundation.org/articles/WhereIsBishopSu.

3. To read Archbishop Dolan's September 22, 2011 editorial, please visit: www.cardinalkungfoundation.org/articles/ArchdioceseNY-september-22-2011.



Top: A family's home is filled with Catholics wishing to secretly attend Mass.

Above: Catholics ready themselves to receive Communion at a Mass in the woods.



THE MARCH FOR LIFE: WHEN WILL IT ALL END?

BY JOHN HORVAT II

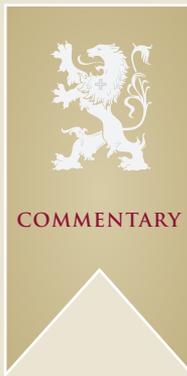
On January 22, 1974, the first March for Life was held on the West Steps of the Capitol. An estimated 20,000 committed pro-life Americans rallied that day on behalf of the unborn. Much has changed since that memorable day.

On the occasion of the 39th annual March for Life, the *American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP)* now joins legions of Americans nationwide who oppose abortion.

Indeed, the fight to defend God's Law against the taking of innocent life has been long and hard. However, to all who have followed the debate, the results are more than evident—the pro-abortion movement is suffering many defeats. The fight has been well worth it.

More Abortion Clinics Closing than Ever

Much has changed since 1974 when it seemed abortion clinics would sprout up all across the nation.



Instead, abortion death clinics are now closing in record numbers. In the past eighteen months alone, nearly 50 abortion clinics have closed their doors due to the protests and prayers of so many dedicated pro-lifers.

In 1991, there were over 2,200 abortion clinics nationwide. Today, there remain just over 670 and decreasing. Several states are reduced to only one abortion death clinic. Some facilities are open just one day a week. Pro-life activists have ensured that abortion clinics are not found in 90 percent of American counties.

Doctors and nurses to staff these death clinics are becoming increasingly hard to find and keep. Some resort to bringing out-of-state doctors in because local practitioners are loath to associate themselves with the deadly trade.

Legislative Offense

Much has changed since 1974 when the law unleashed itself

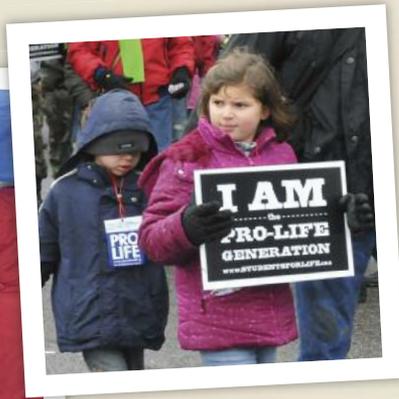


Pro-Life Cross Holds 9,879 Names

Each year America Needs Fatima gives its members the opportunity to join the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. by being represented by a large wooden cross. In November they were sent a two-inch piece of blessed wood, invited to write their names on it and asked to return it. The small pieces were then assembled into the form of a cross and carried during

the national March for Life.

This year the wooden cross was made up of 9,879 signed wood pieces. Thus assembled, the wood pieces acted as a signed petition to God for the end of abortion. It also reminded the hundreds of thousands at the march that there were also many more thousands who could not participate in person but who were nevertheless united in prayer. ■



Abortion survivors

increased exposure in 2011.

Groundswell of Opposition
 Much has changed in public opinion since 1974, when only the most dedicated and committed activists dared to voice their opposition to abortion. Back then, the media and culture proclaimed abortion to be a victory for sexual liberation and all those opponents were dismissed as backward and outdated.

Since then, the pro-life cause has recruited youth who swell its ranks and ensure its future. It has secured the support of bishops and priests who have begun to speak out against pro-death politicians receiving Holy Communion. We must also mention the countless prayers and rosaries that have been offered up by the faithful and which have served as a most efficacious means to our victories.

The result is that the battle over abortion has proven to be one of the most polarizing issues in our nation's history. Today, well over half of Americans consider themselves in some way to be pro-life while the pro-abortion portion of the population is declining. . . and aging.

Indeed, being pro-life has almost become mainstream.

When Will It End?

So, yes, much has changed since 1974—but much has also remained the same. While it is good to recall our victories and progress over the years, it is still painful to admit that abortion continues unabated. Despite all our efforts, millions of unborn are still dying. The questions we must ask are: When will it all

Today, well over half of Americans consider themselves in some way to be pro-life while the pro-abortion portion of the population is declining. . . and aging.



Top: The TFP distributed over 55,000 Saint Michael pictures.
 Above: The names of 8,663 ANF members who were not able to attend were carried the full length of the March for Life.

upon the unborn. It seemed as if this single court decision had sealed forever the fate of these innocent victims.

Today, the debate is still raging over *Roe v. Wade*. A record number of pro-life bills have flooded state legislatures in 2011, many of them passing into law. Many of these involved restrictions based on parental rights, preventing the abuse of minors, informed consent, or even health code violations.

Moreover, new legal concepts are finding their way into pro-life bills. Six states passed late-term abortion bans after 20 weeks based on fetal pain. There were groundbreaking clinic regulations in Kansas and the Heartbeat Bill in Ohio. Directly challenging *Roe v. Wade*, the Personhood Movement gained



The crowd seemed larger than last year's 400,000.



The rain did not deter the pro-lifers.



Many asked for additional Saint Michael pictures.



The TFP marching band



TFP members in ceremonial habit carry Our Lady

end? When can we stop fighting?

The answer is that we hope to end the scourge of abortion through our continued peaceful and legal efforts on every front. This may take yet more time. However, the fight for God's Law will never end.

In this vale of tears, we must always be engaged in the fight for God's Law. There will always be those who oppose this law and work to the contrary. The minute we cease to fight, we will be preparing ourselves for a new defeat.

A Need to Continue the Struggle

What led to abortion in the first place was the softness of those

who refused to react in face of the promiscuous sexual revolution of the sixties. We lacked vigilance while a culture of death took root.

If today we succeed in reversing the decisions that allow abortion, the battle will be only partially won. Unless we are continually engaged in the fight, those who oppose God's Law will come charging back by undermining the family, marriage and all other institutions that support a culture of life.

That is to say, like it or not, we are engaged in a constant peaceful and legal fight for God's Law and the worst possible defense is to abandon the fight after a partial victory. The best possible way of advancing our cause is to unify and fight ardently for it. When we lose our vigilance and become complacent, that is when things start to go wrong.

By this fight, we will ensure a pro-life future; however, if we do not continually fight for our values, we can easily lose them. If we do not give these values importance, it will be much more difficult to pass them down to our children. If our prayers do not continue to beseech the blessings of God through the intercession of the Blessed Mother, we will not prevail.

If the tragic abortion battle has taught us anything, it is that we must always march for life. ■

The 2012 March for Life Student Conference

Before the annual March for Life on January 23, 2012 in Washington, D.C., the TFP held its 2012 March for Life Student Conference, "The Fight for Christian Civilization in the 21st Century," at its national headquarters in Spring Grove, Pa.

The four-day conference focused on the importance for students to see the pro-life battle as part of larger struggle to keep morality in society. Its aim was to arm them with the tools they need to take a peaceful but strong stand in defense of innocent life and traditional moral values as they return to their campuses.

Connecting the Dots

Why is it that the same people and groups that promote abortion also promote homosexual "marriage," contraception, pornography, embryonic stem-cell research, and socialism? Seven lectures and presentations helped the students solve the riddle and

connect the dots between these seemingly disconnected agendas.

"Satanic Blasphemy-Terrorism and Hatred of God" by Robert Ritchie, "The Homosexual Revolution's Final Goal" by Luis Solimeo, and "The Ideology Behind the 'Occupy Wall Street'" by James Bascom were among the favorites.

The TFP headquarters' beautiful surroundings, wood-fired brick-oven pizza, animated discussions and the unifying desire for an end to abortion helped students forge true friendships. When the day came, all left to Washington, D.C., for the March for Life with enthusiasm, a new perspective, and courage. ■

To be invited to next year's March for Life Conference, please call John Ritchie at (717) 225 7147 ext. 229.



Top: "How Sublimity Can Destroy Evil" by Mr. Matthew Carlson Center: Each lecture helped the students to become better activists. Above: A group photo after the conference

AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA.

March/April 2012

PROGRESS REPORT

Two Years of Monthly Rallies

BY WALTER CAMIER

In October 2011, while America Needs Fatima celebrated its monumental 7,515 nationwide Public Square Rosary Rallies, a small group of Rally participants in Hometown, Pennsylvania celebrated something very special: their second anniversary of praying a public square rosary on the fourth Sunday of every month. As one participant noted, "It was a goal that none of us set out to achieve, but Our Lady must have had other plans." Through all kinds of inclement weather and adversity, the faithful participants never faltered. Few Sundays were missed, and even as a hurricane edged through, one of the participants actually called to see if the rosary had been cancelled. This illustrates the enthusiasm that helps achieve this remarkable goal. It also reveals that with Our Lady anything is possible and reminds us that devotion to her is necessary to obtain graces from God.

Didn't Our Lord prove this in Scripture during the Wedding Feast of Cana when His Most Holy Mother informed Him "publicly" that there was no wine? Though clearly saying, "My hour is not yet come," by promptly heeding His Mother, Our Lord showed how mankind should have confidence in her intercessory power. Our Lady told the servants, "Whatever He shall say to do, do ye." With that He turned gallons of water into wine, and His hour had arrived. We should always remember that for thirty years He had been subject to her, had always obeyed her requests, and wanted to show us that He would continue to do so until the end of time. This is why at Fatima, in order to further assist



A group of 5-25 faithfully pray the rosary every month in Hometown, Pa.

mankind, God wanted to establish devotion to her Immaculate Heart throughout the world.

Through Fatima Our Lord makes clear to us that the Blessed Mother will procure from Him all the graces necessary for mankind to turn away from sin. Even in the chaos of the modern world, with so many terrible things happening, and facing a crisis in the Church that has left a great many unsettled and questioning, we know that this state of affairs will not last forever: Our Lady proclaimed that "Finally, My Immaculate Heart will triumph and a time of peace will be given to the world." ■



Celebrating the CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

BY JOSEPH JORDAN

Nearly 300 people attended the annual Christmas Open House held at the national headquarters of ANF and TFP in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania on December 18, 2011.



The atmosphere of the event reflected a true joy in celebrating the spirit of Christmas together. The sound of conversation and music filled the house as people crowded the halls and rooms of the stately 1911 mansion. There was a steady stream of snacks and refreshments coming and going throughout the room. New guests spoke with TFP volunteers and became acquainted with the headquarters; others renewed



Rally of Reparation in Brooklyn, New York

Over one hundred members of TFP-America Needs Fatima gathered in front of the Brooklyn Museum of Art on November 20, 2011, to offer a public act of reparation against a video by David Wojnarowicz, who died of AIDS in 1992, called "A Fire in My Belly."

The video, which shows ants crawling over a crucifix, is part of an exhibit on homosexual and lesbian themes called "Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture." National controversy has surrounded the video wherever it is scheduled to show and it was removed from the Smithsonian last year after the uproar spread across the country.

As our readers can see from the pictures there was a tremendous sense of dedication and piety from those who stood at the museum in Brooklyn, praying the Rosary and singing hymns in reparation. ■



Top: Singing "Immaculate Mary" Above: Over 100 attended the rally despite the cold.



friendships and holiday cheer.

One particular treat was a German gingerbread village which was given away house-by-house in an intermittent raffle. When it seemed as if there could be no more treats, Saint Nicholas arrived in an unexpected visit to give even more delights to the young children. He told them stories and handed out presents, carrying on the tradition of this great saint known for his generosity. As in years past, all was concluded by singing Christmas carols to the accompaniment of keyboard, brass and violin. ■



Exposing "Kumar Christmas"

During the Christmas period, groups of America Needs Fatima members protested the blasphemous movie, "A Very Harold and Kumar 3D Christmas" at many theater locations. Thanks to an especially intense barrage of protests and complaints to the Gateway 8 Theater in Gettysburg, Pa., the theater canceled the blasphemous and pornographic "Christmas" movie.

At other protests, many drivers stopped to thank and encourage the protesters. In Hanover, Pa., a mother stopped with her family saying, "Thank you for warning us. I can't believe I was almost tricked into bringing my family to this! We thought it was just another Christmas story."

The movie includes homosexual and pedophile behavior among nuns and priests, insults against Our Lord and Our Lady and pornographic scenes under the misleading façade of being a Christmas tale. ■



Clear banners and friendly waves help alert families to the danger.



Passing drivers honk or wave to show support.



GUSTODIAN'S

ORNER

The Uniqueness of the Each Fatima Visit

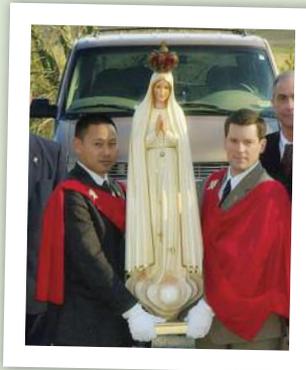
BY REX TEODOSIO

Rain or shine, ANF Fatima Custodians are always busy chauffeuring Our Lady from home to home. With over one million people in our database, we try to visit three homes a day to keep up with the demand.

Even though the numbers of people we meet are huge, each visit is always a unique experience. Such was the case with a family I visited in Central Illinois last winter. There were several young children present, from five to nine years old, and several teenagers. Already, from the start, I knew the children were going to have a high interest in the presentation.

One nine-year-old actually parked himself at the very front, closest to Our Lady, to secure the best seat in the house. Despite being so young, much to my surprise, the children paid full attention during the whole one and a half hour presentation and later led a decade of the Rosary.

After the presentation, two of them drew a crayon picture of Our Lady commemorating the event. When we were leaving, two older boys thanked me warmly and asked questions.



Rex (left) has been a Fatima custodian for sixteen years.

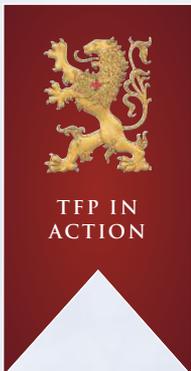
At length, I received this letter from the family: "Thank you for coming to our home with Our Lady's statue and for the beautiful presentation! I really didn't know what to expect from a visit such as this and we were all so moved! The message seemed to be renewed in our hearts as we all watched and listened. I can now see the importance of the home visits and how this can bring Our Lady's message alive and personal to each of us.

"Your knowledge and willingness to share was an inspiration not often seen in the world today.

"May God bless you for this awesome and holy work that you do for His Church and Our Lady!"

This wonderful letter illustrates how custodians go to unknown families who welcome us to their homes solely on the expectation that Our Lady will bring them blessings. We, in turn, go into their homes full of confidence that Our Lady will do exactly that. We don't have any doubt about the source of these blessings. Our Lady does the bulk of the work and, as many of us custodians say, we are just the drivers. ■

To schedule a Fatima visit in your home, call (888) 460-7371.



Excommunicated Priest Leads "OCCUPY FORT BENNING"

BY ALEXANDER MCKAY

For a fifth year TFP Student Action volunteers travelled to Fort Benning, Georgia, to rally support for our troops and counter the leftist SOA Watch protest this year calling itself "Occupy Fort Benning."

Rally for the Troops

Fort Benning is practically an annex to the city of Columbus, Ga., so on November 18, we kicked off our first rally in downtown Columbus with a banner saying "God bless our troops!" and signs encouraging passing cars to "Honk for our brave troops." The shouts of joy, thumbs up and waves from the public were constant;

the honks from trucks deafening.

The following day, when we moved near to the "occupy" protest site on Fort Benning Road, honks became especially noisy in a counter to groups of hippie protesters who passed by us from the "occupy" camp. Here, we displayed another banner: "No one can be at the same time a good Catholic and a true Socialist."—Pope Pius XI.

The phrase caused controversy and our rally rapidly became the scene of heated debates on SOA Watch, morality, Church teaching on Just War, and the role of harmonious inequality.

A U. S. Army Major approached with his son. "I live



We did not buy any food at the protest.

The peace flag holder (right) claims she is a Catholic priest and a religion teacher.

nearby and I just had to stop and say thank you for doing this." Moments later, a visibly upset Army wife asked if she could borrow one of our "God Bless Fort Benning" signs. She later returned to tell us she had walked deep into the "occupy" protest, holding the sign up high.

Excommunicated Priest Leads a Shrinking Protest

The excommunicated priest who leads the annual SOA Watch protest, Fr. Roy Bourgeois, is attracting a dwindling mix of dissident Catholics, aging nuns, socialists, communists, anarchists, and confused college students. In the *National Catholic Reporter*, he explains why: "Some people have said, 'My bones can't take it anymore.' This is our 22nd year, and if you started here 20 years ago and you were 60, you're now 80."

Protest vendors peddling books on Stalin, Marx, Che Guevara and Fidel Castro saw sales plummet this year. And despite the "Occupy" claim of representing 99% of America, few showed up. How many Americans really want offensive bumper stickers such as "F*** patriotism," "Lesbian," and "Feminist," or Che Guevara T-shirts? Not even 0.99%.

Capt. J. D. Hawk of the Columbus Police Department estimated the presence of 3,210 protesters, a 32% decrease from last year's attendance and a far cry from the 22,000 protesters that SOA Watch claimed to have in 2006.

What We Saw Inside the Protest

The most shocking aspect of the protest was the presence of many aging nuns, sporting t-shirts with the

name of their order and holding signs or operating booths supporting women's ordination and other dissident causes. Other groups supported illegal immigration or displayed posters to "free Bradley Manning," the suspected traitor who allegedly gave classified documents to Wikileaks.

Just as Fr. Bourgeois began his talk, we entered the protest perimeter and peacefully shared the TFP flyer with hundreds of people. Titled, "Who Do the 'Occupy Fort Benning' Protesters Represent?—Unmasking the 0.99%," the flyer sparked fresh discussions. Perplexed college students even questioned the motives behind the protest.

Disagreements broke out among the protesters themselves. "We need a socialist society with total equality," insisted one "No!" another disagreed, "We need to elect officials and that is hierarchical." "No," added a third, "the community will rule. . ."

An older pacifist quipped: "There is no authority. If a criminal broke into my home, I wouldn't call the police because they use force. I would rather die." A gray-haired woman donning a rainbow flag around her shoulders, screamed: "Jesus was not God!" and frantically complained that TFP volunteers were "all young." A shop owner near the intersection was delighted: "It's nice to see young men with their heads screwed on correctly!"

May God continue to bless our troops and our nation. ■



Top: The 99% supported the troops. Above: The flier helped college students understand why they should stop protesting.

Left: Some held street campaigns at busy intersections.

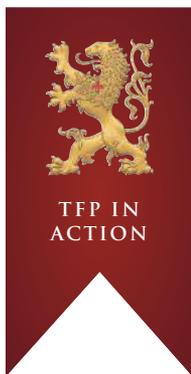
Center: Few protested despite the organizers' claim of representing 99%. Right: The protesters were divided and confused when confronted.



Read more about this at www.TFPStudentAction.org/Benning

“At Last: A *Fall* Camp!”

BY KENNETH MURPHY



Most of our readers will be familiar with the TFP’s Call to Chivalry Camps during the summer in California, Louisiana and Pennsylvania, but now there is a Call to Chivalry Camp during the fall in Arkansas. In 2011, it was held at the White Buffalo Resort in Arkansas’ northeast corner from November 19–23. A total of 42 attended the camp, not only from Arkansas, but also from most of the surrounding states.

Camp Highlights

Participants enjoyed myth-busting presentations on medieval society, siege warfare and the secrets behind building medieval castles and cathedrals. Lectures also revealed figures from Catholicism’s rich history, including the heroic Papal Zouaves who defended the Faith and the Pope during the time of Napoleon III, Our Lady of the Pillar from Spain, Saint John Bosco the school master, and Christopher Columbus, discoverer of the Americas.

The star attraction of the four-day camp was a visit to the Medieval Castle of the Ozarks. This castle is being built by period-dressed medieval enthusiasts who quarry, transport and shape the stones with authentic medieval tools and methods. It is scheduled for completion in 2030 but is already one-third finished. The subdued sounds of the human powered crane, horse drawn carts, and small handheld tools contrasted with the noise of generators, tractors and jackhammers

Pierce Ledet at the Medieval Banquet



one would normally expect at a work site.

The builders take pride in their unique work. The master stone layer explained to the wide-eyed audience that he loves nothing more than “uncovering a buried rock, cutting it to give it a personality, and helping it find its place in the wall.”



A group photo at the Medieval Castle of the Ozarks

The stone castle is guaranteed to stand—barring purposeful destruction—for thousands of years and the camp participants can count themselves among its builders, since they experienced every step of its construction. They helped make medieval ropes for construction, cut stone for the castle, and wove cloth for the workers, as well as calculating right angles, circles, and arches with simple but accurate rope techniques.

Conclusion

Like all Call to Chivalry programs, the camp ended with medieval games, a festive banquet, and a castle cake which did not withstand the attack of young boys.

Before it was time to go, 17-year-old Nicholas Werner from Missouri commented, “After so many years of just looking at pictures in *Crusade* I’ve finally enjoyed a legendary camp. I work on a farm and I’ve been too busy to attend the camps in the summer, so when my dad and I heard about this one, we said: ‘At last: A fall camp!’”

Dennis Ledet from Louisiana, father of 13-year-old Pierce said, “I enjoy the games and hikes just as much as my boy, so we weren’t going to miss this camp for the world. I also feel it’s imperative to learn about our Catholic heritage. Boys need role models and the presentations bring saints to life and show them as heroes who always did what is right instead of what is popular.”

The TFP organizes Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter Call to Chivalry Camps and weekend programs for boys aged 12–17. For a free *Call to Chivalry* information package please call Thomas Schneider at (717) 225-7147 ext. 255.



A meeting on the importance of devotion



Daily games challenge strategy and strength



Each activity begins and ends with a prayer.



COMMENTARY

HERO *of the* EASTER OFFENSIVE: COLONEL GERALD TURLEY

BY NORMAN FULKERSON

The history of the twentieth century saw the spread of Communism the world over and the virtual river of blood left in its wake was unprecedented. Communist expansion was greatly facilitated in the West through subtle psychological maneuvers and a policy of appeasement which weakened the anti-communists' will to resist.

From pingpong matches with China to baseball games in Cuba, Western leaders carried out a foolishly optimistic approach to the advancing red wolf. While Communist leaders conquered vast territories at gun point—putting hundreds of millions to death in the process—those same optimists dreamed of disarming the enemy with conciliatory smiles and concessions (a policy which continues until today).

That dream was proven to be a nightmare forty years ago when a handful of brave South Vietnamese soldiers and American servicemen faced and ultimately repelled the largest Communist onslaught of the entire Vietnam War. It was all made possible through fortuitous circumstances which placed Colonel Gerald Turley, then a Marine Corps lieutenant colonel, in a crucial position of authority for four critical days. His fearless decision-making and intestinal fortitude turned certain defeat into a stunning victory and prevented a humiliating outcome for American forces.



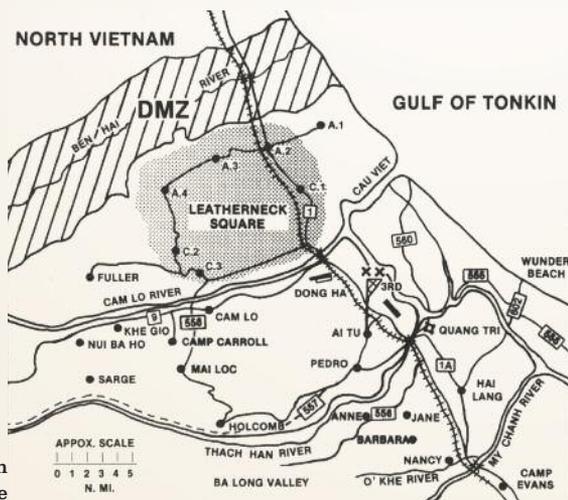
The author (left) with Colonel Gerald Turley.

First Salvos of the Easter Offensive

At the height of the Vietnam War in 1968, there were over 500,000 American servicemen in the country. Over the next years that number would be drastically reduced when President Richard Nixon took office in January of 1969. His “Vietnamization” program was aimed at getting American troops out of the country and turning the war over to the Vietnamese.

During this “Vietnamization”, massive amounts of Soviet and Chinese weaponry made its way to North Vietnam. This included Soviet MiG aircraft, T-54, T-55 and PT-76 Russian tanks, Surface to Air (SAM) and heat-seeking missiles and an abundance of 130 MM to 152MM artillery pieces and munitions.¹ In March of 1972 there were only 50,000 American servicemen in the country. The imminent withdrawal of American support and the buildup of armaments in the North proved to be demoralizing to the South Vietnamese anticommunist resistance. They had good reason to be discouraged.

However, what the Vietnamese did not realize at that time, was the quality of the American advisors who returned to help. One of those men was Colonel Gerald Turley. He had already served in the Korean War and had now voluntarily returned to Vietnam for a second tour of duty in a war that was becoming more unpopular by the day.



“Leatherneck Square” in northern Quang Tri Province

On Wednesday, March 29, only days after arriving in the country, Colonel Turley was in the middle of a four-day tour visiting the firebases along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). He spent the night at the 3rd ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) Division Headquarters in the AI TU combat base, located five miles south of the village of Dong Ha.

The following morning was spent in briefings followed by lunch. When he stepped out of the dining tent the area was suddenly struck by intense artillery fire. It was the first salvos of the historic battle that would come to be known as The Easter Offensive.

“So many artillery shots were going off,” said Colonel Turley, “you could not distinguish one from the other.”² Before the sun set that day, over 11,000 rounds³ had rained down on the South Vietnamese firebases and surrounding villages in the northern part of Quang Tri province; and more was to come.

The Hunted Become the Hunters

For eighteen hours the South endured a hellish barrage. On the morning of March 31, the Army colonel in charge of the 3rd ARVN Division began to suffer from combat fatigue. He eventually approached Colonel Turley with a surprising request:

“Would you mind taking over here for a couple of hours,” he asked.

“I am a Marine and am only here as an advisor,” Colonel Turley replied. “I can’t do that.” When the Army Colonel insisted, Colonel Turley finally accepted. This seemingly insignificant incident made Colonel Turley the Senior Advisor in charge of the entire 3rd ARVN Division and changed the course of the battle. For the next four days he made numerous critical decisions which ultimately broke the back of the adversary.

His task would not be an easy one however. His newly acquired area of responsibility was the five northernmost provinces of South Vietnam. Between his location in the command and control bunker (COC) and the DMZ were twelve firebases manned by South Vietnamese Marines and their American advisors. Over the following days, with the enemy advancing in a three-pronged attack, ten of those firebases, including the very strong Camp Carroll with 1,500 troops and twenty-six artillery pieces, fell into enemy hands.

By Easter Sunday over thirty thousand civilians were making their way down Highway 1 in a desperate attempt to flee the wrath of the adversary. Communist NVA artillery fire was targeted right on top of them. Those surviving the deadly rounds formed a massive throng and kept moving. Many South Vietnamese soldiers, fearing the futility of resistance, removed their military insignias and blended in with the frenzied mob.

“It was absolutely the worst scene I have ever witnessed,” said Colonel Turley,⁴ his words trailing off, as if the image was too painful to revisit.



Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Turley (far right) discusses the counter offensive with other advisors in May, 1972.

The NVA, seeing the South’s weakness, exploited it to the maximum degree and began an unhindered advance towards the Dong Ha Bridge with 30,000 troops and 200 tanks. They were in for a big surprise upon their arrival. The brave men of the 3rd Division under Colonel Turley’s leadership were about to turn the tables. From being hunted, they were about to become the hunters.

Caught In the Cross Hairs of Naval and Air Gunfire

Colonel Turley, who was personally given carte blanche for B-52 strikes in I CORPS by an Air Force lieutenant general, ordered over fifty such missions.⁵ He then ordered the 3rd ARVN Division to commit its reserve Battalion, the famed “Soi Bien” or Sea Wolves, commanded by Major Le Ba Binh, and legendary Marine Corps Captain (later Colonel) John Ripley. It was the equivalent of playing one’s last card.

Leaders in the Army Regional Headquarters at Da Nang, eighty miles south from AI TU, did not realize the



Vietnam War memorial sculpture titled “Three Fighting Men” by Frederick Hart, portrays a sense of unity that is common amongst men at war.

gravity of events along the DMZ. They ordered Colonel Turley not to blow the bridge since it would be useful for a counter offensive. Colonel Turley knew there would be no counter measure if the bridge was left standing and courageously ordered Colonel Ripley to destroy it.⁶

With the Dong Ha bridge in flames, NVA tanks made a futile rush for the Cam Lo bridge west of the city. Their elongated column provided a perfect target for naval gunfire from the USS Buchanan, sitting in the Gulf of Tonkin and the B-52 strikes which Colonel Turley had requested hours earlier. The column of Russian tanks was now caught in the cross hairs of naval and air gunfire.

“When the thundering noise and the violent shock waves of the 250 or more bombs. . . finally subsided,

to lose this battle.

“Fully realizing the fragile defensive posture of the 3rd Division and the seriousness of again violating a direct order,” Colonel Turley said, “I authorized the advisors to commence their pending fire mission.”¹⁰

It was decided that a three-mile radius around Lieutenant Colonel Hambleton was a sufficiently safe distance. In an act of selflessness, Colonel Turley accepted full responsibility for the pilot’s safety and directed Lieutenant Joel Eisenstein in the COC to continue coordinating naval gunfire with the USS Buchanan.

No More Ping Pong Games

The Easter Offensive continued through the rest of April. However, the Communists were simply unable to overcome the devastating blow given to them by a Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel who just happened to be in the right place at the right time. They were finally halted just outside Quang Tri City on May 1st. Thus the fall of South Vietnam to Communism was delayed for a full three years, and more importantly, America, the anti-communist bulwark in the world, was saved from a humiliating defeat.

It would be an exaggeration to say Colonel Turley’s actions alone are what halted the Easter Offensive. There were many brave men who fought and some who gave the full measure during those fateful days. However, there is a striking difference between Colonel Turley’s actions and theirs. If they survived they could only expect awards and praise—which they richly deserved—whereas Colonel Turley knew that he would likely receive reprimand, scorn and possibly jail time for his perceived insubordination.

It is for this reason that Colonel Turley is truly the hero of the Easter Offensive. He chose to make war against Communism at a time when so many others simply preferred to play games and smile at the enemy. ■



Days before the Easter Offensive began. *Left to right:* Captain James Johnson, Captain John Ripley, Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Turley and Captain William Weschmeyer.

[Colonel] Ripley reported “hearing the cries of the survivors, but no more engine noises.”⁷

“. . .Continue Naval Gunfire”

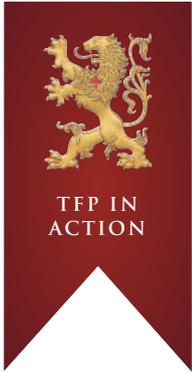
Later, in the afternoon of that same day, another problem developed when an EB-66 electronic intelligence aircraft was shot down. The only survivor, Lieutenant Colonel Iceal Hambleton, was a ballistic missile expert with top secret clearance.⁸

The Air Force called for a cease-fire in a seventeen-mile-radius of the downed pilot which practically encompassed the entire area of operations of the 3rd Division.⁹ When an American Jolly Green HH-53 helicopter tried to rescue the pilot it was struck by a SAM Missile and burst into flames. Ten more aircraft were lost during the eleven-day rescue mission.

Once again Colonel Turley would have to go directly against orders from higher command. To stop firing would have spelled certain defeat and he was not about

Notes:

1. Colonel Gerald Turley, *The Easter Offensive: The Last American Advisors, Vietnam 1972* (Annapolis, Md.: US Naval Institute Press, 1995), p. 27.
2. Comments made during a lecture Colonel Turley gave at the headquarters of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania. Hereafter referred to as TFP lecture.
3. Turley, *Easter Offensive*, p. 66.
4. TFP Lecture
5. From an official report about the Easter Offensive, prepared by Colonel Turley, for the purpose of getting Colonel John Ripley’s Navy Cross upgraded to the Medal of Honor.
6. The details of this daring feat, for which Colonel John Ripley earned the Navy Cross, are narrated in his biography, *An American Knight: The life of Colonel John Ripley, USMC*.
7. Turley, *Easter Offensive*, p. 205.
8. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iceal_Hambleton
9. Dale Andrade, *America’s Last Vietnam Battle: Halting Hanoi’s 1972 Easter Offensive* (University Press Of Kansas), p. 76.
10. Turley, *Easter Offensive*, p. 203.



A New Traditional Marriage Crusade

BY ROBERT RITCHIE

In order to promote the dignity of marriage, TFP is helping dozens of families to organize their own rallies for traditional marriage. The first salvo of rallies was timed for noon on December 8, 2011—the feast of Our Lady’s Immaculate Conception. Armed with prayers, smiles and banners that read “God’s marriage = 1 man & 1 woman” these families occupied twenty nine busy city squares during the height of Christmas shopping. Moreover, they held the now famous “Honk for Traditional Marriage” signs, which are great for gaining the attention and participation of passing traffic.

What better day to launch the Traditional Marriage Crusade than on the feast of the Immaculate Conception? Our Lady is called the Immaculate Conception because she was never touched by the slightest stain of sin, not even Original Sin. Our Lady is the most immaculate, most pure creature of God and we need her help more than ever to promote purity and oppose impurity.

On December 8, the enthusiasm shown by marriage rally captains expressed the same joy and desire that every Catholic should have to promote good and oppose evil.

Pat Ashcraft from Cincinnati, Ohio, sent this report after his rally:

This campaign was an incredibly beautiful opportunity to witness for traditional marriage, especially since it was the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.



Barbara Renner's marriage rally in Littlestown, Pa.

A total of twenty-three people participated in our rally. We selected the busiest shopping destination in the Cincinnati metro area to assure that thousands of people would see the clear message on the TFP’s traditional marriage banner: God’s Marriage = 1 man + 1 woman.

What struck us the most throughout the entire event was the extreme contrasts

that it brought up: extreme in the two totally opposing viewpoints on marriage, one based on love and the other on disordered passions; extreme in the ages of rally participants, from the barely over eight months of age to those celebrating over eight decades of life; extreme in the contrast between what this time of year should represent in our hearts and souls and the hyper-active shopping “Mecca” behind us; extreme in the very supportive vs. the very vulgar passersby; and extremes in the weather, from the bright sunshine offering eternal hope to a sharp westerly December wind that seemed to want to blow right through us like so much of our culture does today.

Despite, or perhaps helped by, all these extremes, we carried on to the end: praying the Rosary, reciting the Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary, reading the 51st Psalm recounting David’s remorse for his sins, and closing with a consecration of our hearts and lives to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. May these actions help change hearts here on earth and obtain for us God’s mercy at the time of judgment.

Lucas Pribble, aged 19, sent this report from Rockford, Ill.:

When I heard about the TFP’s new Traditional Marriage Crusade I saw it as a great opportunity to get people together and make a stand for the truth. I immediately ordered my free banner and my mom, little brothers and sister made some large “Honk for Traditional Marriage” signs.

I picked a busy intersection and made a few phone calls. I had the rally announced at our local Knights of Columbus meeting and sent the information to a local pro-life leader who kindly posted it on his blog. I wasn’t



Pat Ashcraft's rally in Cincinnati, Ohio

sure how many people to expect, but I figured that if we made the effort, Our Lady would do the rest.

On the day we had 25 people, mostly teenagers! We started off by praying three Hail Marys together, ask-



Nineteen-year-old Lucas Pribble's Rally in Rockford, Ill.

ing Our Lady for Her protection and guidance. At first we were a bit worried that no one would honk, but honk people did! In the middle of the rally, we decided to pray the Glorious mysteries, and it was hard to hear each other over the noise of the honking! There was

“Every one therefore that shall confess me before men, I will also confess him before my Father who is in heaven.”

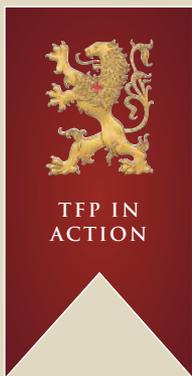
some opposition, but it was clear that, besides being on the side of God, we are also on the side of the majority of Americans in opposing same-sex “marriage.”

We ended the campaign with the prayer to St. Michael and resolved to do this again on a regular basis. I hope the Traditional Marriage Crusade continues to spread. It reminds me of the words of Our Lord in the Gospel: “Every one therefore that shall confess me before men, I will also confess him before my Father who is in heaven.”

To learn how you can join these rallies or to receive your free Traditional Marriage Crusade instruction package and banner, please call Alexander McKay at 717-225-7147, ext. 228. ■

More Important than Football

BY ELIAS BARTEL



On January 21, 2012, TFP-Louisiana was once again pleased to join thousands of pro-lifers at Louisiana's Life March. Starting at 9 a.m., the rally gathered at the historic old capitol building of Baton Rouge and processed about a mile to the current state capitol building at 10 a.m.

As in the national March for Life in Washington, D.C., the majority of attendants were Catholic and proudly and publicly prayed the Rosary and sang Marian hymns while progressing through Louisiana's capital. Thus, the march perfectly combined the humble piety of pilgrims with the spirit of crusaders on their way to victory.

Recruiting Students

In the days leading up to the march, TFP members went to Louisiana State University to distribute a flier inviting the students to the march and giving 5 convincing arguments against abortion. Most of the students had not heard about the rally but upon see-



The Louisiana Life March at the capitol steps.

ing the TFP members waving fliers and hearing them say, “Save Human Life. Don't miss Saturday's march!”, students quickly approached to learn about the event. To the students who said they could not attend the march, the members asked, “If it was a LSU football game would you come?” In Louisiana sports is king, so all the students responded in the affirmative, to which members asked, “Isn't human life much more important than football?” On the day of the march, some of those students helped carry the America Needs Fatima banner and the tall red TFP standard. ■



Above: Cesar Franco talks to students at LSU

Below: Most students wanted to join the march. ■



NIGHT AT THE COLISEUM

BY MICHAEL GORRE

Among Rome's great monuments and ruins, the Coliseum never fails to make a lasting impression, especially at nighttime. No doubt, the Coliseum is very impressive in daylight. However, the imponderables increase when the sun sets. The crowds of tourists dissipate and the traffic dwindles, allowing a more peaceful and reflective atmosphere. The small groups of people who stroll around speak in low, hushed tones. Just as flowering trees are wont to disperse their perfume in the evenings, the mute boulders of the Coliseum become loquacious at night.

Floodlights illuminate the stentorian edifice, contrasting it sharply with the blackness of the night sky. The mammoth size of the Coliseum befits the worldly might of Imperial Rome, whose legions conquered lands as far away as Palestine and the British Isles. One shudders, however, at the bloody gladiatorial fights the pagan Romans enjoyed watching inside. Contrasting with the Coliseum's stately grandeur, one can imagine the roar of 40,000 blood-thirsty spectators emanating from within, clamoring for a gladiator's death or a Christian's torture.

Nevertheless, what really gives the Coliseum its character is its dignified arches. They give the whole edifice an air of solemnity. Yet how many conquered slaves or vanquished warriors looked upon them with horror, knowing a gruesome death awaited them within? Imagine, however, the confusion of the Roman guards at the reaction of condemned Christians. How many early Christian Romans, instead of dreading those arches, looked upon them lovingly?

In a letter to the Christian Romans, the condemned Saint Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, proclaimed: "Suffer me to become the food of wild beasts, through which I may attain to God. I am God's grain, and I am ground by the teeth of wild beasts, that I may be found the pure bread of Christ." It is true that Christians feared the executioners' axe and the teeth of wild beasts. Even more, they feared the shame of being stripped naked before thousands of eyes. Yet, by the most extraordinary of graces, they looked upon the Coliseum as Our Lord Jesus Christ looked upon His Cross: with love and open arms, for those arches were the gateways to their heavenly reward. ■