

July/August 2012

CRUSADE[®]

MAGAZINE



TRADITION
FAMILY AND
PROPERTY[®]



Tradition
Family
Property

*Sebelius persecutes the Church,
yet Georgetown welcomes her.
Faithful Catholics protest.*

*Obamacare
mandate
persecutes
Catholics*
WWW.TFP.ORG

*Georgetown
honors
pro-abortion
Sebelius
Sebelius persecutes
We protest the Church*
WWW.TFP.ORG

*Georgetown:
We need
Catholic role
Models, not
Pro-abortion
speakers.*

*...can't be
...atholic
...abortion
...A Child
...a bless
...not a
...disease
WWW.TFP.ORG*



KATHLEEN SEBELIUS GOES *to* GEORGETOWN

Announcement

CALL TO CHIVALRY

Summer Camps

Much more than just a camp, this first-rate program invites boys ages 13 to 18 to follow in the footsteps of Crusader saints, and discover the treasures of Christian civilization. Activities include informative talks, Rosary processions, challenging games, adventurous hikes, treasure hunts, skits and medieval banquets.

The Call to Chivalry Summer Camps will be held in Louisiana from June 30 to July 7 at the Feliciana Retreat Center in Norwood and in Herndon, Pennsylvania from August 1 to August 12 at the St. Louis de Montfort Academy.

For details, please contact:

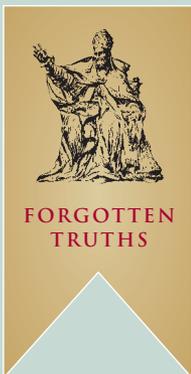
Louisiana Camp ■ Cesar Franco at (717) 852-8013

Pennsylvania Camp ■ Thomas Schneider at (717) 225-7147 ext. 255



Why Contraception is Wrong

AN EXCERPT FROM *FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO*



It is precisely by moving [away] from “an integral vision of man and of his vocation, not only his natural and earthly, but also his supernatural and eternal vocation,” that Paul VI affirmed that the teaching of the Church “is founded upon the inseparable connection, willed by God and unable to be broken by man on his own initiative, between the two meanings of the conjugal act: the unitive meaning and the procreative meaning.” And he concluded by re-emphasizing that there must be excluded as intrinsically immoral “every action which, either in anticipation of the conjugal act, or in its accomplishment, or in the development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end or as a means, to render procreation impossible.”

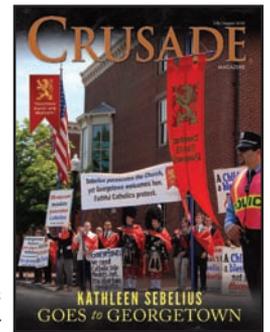
When couples, by means of recourse to contraception, separate these two meanings that God the Creator

has inscribed in the being of man and woman and in the dynamism of their sexual communion, they act as “arbiters” of the divine plan and they “manipulate” and degrade human sexuality—and with it themselves and their married partner—by altering its value of “total” self-giving. Thus, the innate language that expresses the total reciprocal self-giving of husband and wife is overlaid, through contraception, by an objectively contradictory language, namely, that of not giving oneself totally to the other. This leads not only to a positive refusal to be open to life, but also to a falsification of the inner truth of conjugal love, which is called upon to give itself in personal totality. ■

Pope John Paul II. *Familiaris Consortio: An Apostolic Exhortation on the integral role of the Christian family in the modern world*, November 2, 1981, 32.

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A peaceful protest outside the gates of Georgetown University

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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



IN BRIEF

“I Don’t Need Luck”

In 2010, Cpl. Christopher Ahrens received two headshots while fighting in the Marjah province of Afghanistan. Fortunately, the bullets passed through his thick Kevlar helmet without causing serious injury. When interviewed about the encounter, Cpl. Ahrens folded back the camouflaged cloth cover of his helmet to expose the holes where the bullets had entered and exited. He then turned it upside down to display a holy card of Saint Michael the Archangel killing Satan and said, “I don’t need luck.”

Heat From All Sides

In April, Bishop Jenky of Peoria, Ill., delivered a sermon in which he drew similarities between the anti-Catholic policies of President Obama and those of Hitler and Stalin. Following this homily, Americans United for Separation of Church and State filed a complaint with the IRS accusing the bishop of interfering with the 2012 presidential elections. Also, one hundred and thirty one professors from the Catholic University of Notre Dame signed a letter asking the bishop to retract his statement or resign from the university’s Board of Fellows and board of trustees.

“Mainstream” Media

In April, a Gallup poll showed that 55% of Americans have little or no confidence in the national media’s desire to report fully, accurately, and fairly. According to Media Fairness Caucus co-chairman, Congressman Larry Smith, this has been caused by “the bias of journalists.” By way of an example he cited a University of Connecticut study which found that only 25% of journalists believe the Second Amendment is “essential,” while a Gallup survey found that 73% of Americans believe it is.



Hellish Homosexuality

Homosexual groups are seeking the prosecution of Spanish Bishop Juan Antonio Reig Pla of Alcala de Henares after he called the homosexual lifestyle “pure hell” and recommended professional help for those who suffer from same-sex attraction. Instead of retreating, the Spanish bishop published testimonies sent to him by former homosexuals who agreed with him and explained why.

More Babies, Longer Life

Childbearing brings more than just one benefit. The changes in the mother’s immune system can cure multiple sclerosis, psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis and some types of cancer. According to a study by researchers at Australia’s University of New South Wales, women with children live longer than those without and women with six or more children live longer than those with fewer. The research used information collected from over 1500 women who have been regularly examined since 1988.

China’s Human Rights

Amnesty International estimates that 500,000 Chinese are currently enduring punitive detention without charge or trial, and millions are unable to seek redress for grievances. Harassment, surveillance, house arrest, and imprisonment of human rights defenders is common. Forced abortions and sterilizations are once again being performed. China’s Communist government has also increased its censorship of websites and the TFP’s website is among those censored.



Thirty-one States Protect Marriage

In May, North Carolina joined thirty states to pass a constitutional amendment protecting marriage as the union of one man and one woman only. Despite Vice-President Joseph Biden’s endorsement of same-sex “marriage” the state passed the amendment by a

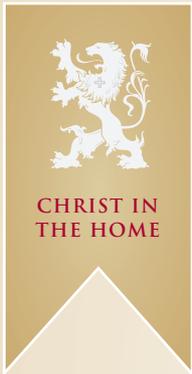


landslide vote of 61 percent to 39 percent. Similar ballot initiatives have been tried in thirty other states and all of them voted in favor of traditional marriage.

Like twenty of these thirty states, North Carolina’s amendment also banned civil unions. The first line of the amendment states that “Marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State.”

Training in DETACHMENT

BY FATHER RAOUL PLUS, S.J.



Children are instinctively selfish, but easily learn detachment.

Little Rose of Lima's childhood was marked by a series of accidents, maladies, and sufferings which the crude treatment of that time often aggravated rather than relieved. When only three months old she crushed her thumb under a trunk lid and the nail had to be removed. She also had to undergo an ear operation which was followed by a skin disease that began on her head; her mother treated it with a salve which burned her so severely that the surgeon had to treat her for weeks, removing damaged flesh so that the healthy skin could heal.

Thanks to her mother's exhortations, this little girl of four years bore the cruel pain with an astonishing calmness and in perfect silence. Are not the staggering mortifications we see her imposing on herself later due to her early training?

Like all little girls, she was vain and took considerable care of her hair which was very beautiful. Her brother used to throw mud at it and get it all dirty just to tease her. Rose would become very angry, but the brother, recalling perhaps some sermon he had heard, assumed a preaching tone on one of these occasions and said to her solemnly, "Take care, vanity will be your ruin; the curled hair of girls are cords from hell which bind the hearts of men and drag them into the eternal flames."

Rose did not answer, but bit by bit began to understand. . . and she detached herself. That detachment prepared her for greater sacrifices and soon we see her offering her virginity to God.

Jacqueline was another little girl, who learned the lesson of sacrifice. She was sick and suffering much. "Oh, I believe nobody has ever had a pain like mine!"

"Where does it hurt?" her mother asked.

"In my stomach, in my head, everywhere!" she replied.

"Think of St. Francis who had a red hot iron applied to his eyes as a treatment."

This time her attention was caught. She forgot her



Teaching children to make sacrifices prepares them for the future.

own misery to sympathize with her dear saint whom people had hurt.

"Did they cure him after all that?"

* * *

Guy de Fontgalland had to have many strychnine injections in his leg.

"Offer it to Jesus, my darling," suggested his mother. "He was crowned with thorns for love of you."

"Oh yes, that is true, and He kept the thorns in His head while they quickly removed the needle from my leg."

* * *

A mother had three children; the oldest was four, the second, three, and the baby, twenty months. It was Good Friday. Why not encourage them to offer Jesus on the Cross some small sacrifice which would cost them a little?

"My children, I will not deprive you of your chocolate candy at lunch today; but little girls who love Jesus will know themselves how to sacrifice their chocolate."

She made no further reference to it. None of the children answered. That evening the mother was very much moved to see the three chocolate bars at the foot of the Crucifix. Our Lord must have smiled at the childish offering; one of the candy bars bore the teeth marks of the baby who had hesitated before the offering and begun to nibble on her chocolate.

These stories of successful lessons in detachment are encouraging. What others have achieved, can we not achieve too?

Adapted from Raoul Plus, S.J.'s *Christ in the Home*, (Colorado Springs, CO: Gardner brothers, 1951), 314–316. It is a treasure chest of advice for Catholics on the practical and spiritual concerns of raising a family. To obtain a copy, visit www.GardnerBrothers.com.

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS GOES *to* GEORGETOWN

BY JOHN RITCHIE



The oldest Catholic university in America invited one of the nation's most radical pro-abortion politicians, Kathleen Sebelius, to speak at its graduation awards ceremony on May 18. She will be a "great inspiration to our students," promised Judy Feder, professor at Georgetown's Public Policy Institute.

In the wake of the unjust Obama/HHS contraception mandate, however, the scandalous invitation was like a deliberate poke in the eye of Catholics.

After all, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius is responsible for unleashing a fierce persecution against the freedom of the Church—the Obamacare mandate—which forces Catholic individuals and institutions to violate non-negotiable moral principles by including contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs in their health care coverage.

This unprecedented attack has been strongly denounced by every U. S. Catholic bishop. In short, our Catholic shepherds have said: "We cannot—we will not comply with this unjust law."

Sebelius' Pro-Abortion Record

Georgetown can hardly pretend to ignore Sebelius' public and notorious pro-abortion record. While governor of Kansas, she repeatedly blocked life-saving legislation aimed to curtail late-term abortions.

When she was appointed to the Cabinet, the abortion industry celebrated. "She is an excellent choice," declared Planned Parenthood president Cecile Richards.

Archbishop Joseph Naumann

Thankfully, Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann took measures to with-

hold Holy Communion from Sebelius in the Archdiocese of Kansas City. His 2009 statement explains why:

"...Because of her long history both as a legislator and governor of consistently supporting legalized abortion and after many months of dialogue, I requested Governor Sebelius not to present herself for communion.

"I did this in the hope that it would motivate Governor Sebelius to reconsider her support for what is an intrinsic evil—the destruction of innocent human life by abortion. I

also took this pastoral action to protect others from being misled by the Governor's public support and advocacy for legalized abortion."

Cardinal Raymond Burke

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, also expressed concern.

In 2009, the then Archbishop said Sebelius' appointment was a "source of the greatest embarrassment because she has publicly and repeatedly betrayed her Catholic faith, in the most fundamental tenet of the moral law, that is, the law to safeguard and foster human life from the moment of its inception to the moment of natural death."

Departing yet further from Catholic moral teaching, more recently, Sebelius joined Dan Savage's pro-homosexual "It Gets Better Project" and recorded a public video message in support of "LGBT youth."

A Petition to Stop Georgetown

After her invitation was announced, TFP Student Action urged its members to sign a prayerful online message of concern to the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education. The Congregation is charged with the oversight of Catholic institutions of higher learning. Well over 10,000 Student Action members signed this petition, but Georgetown University insisted on



Top: Sebelius' pro-abortion record is clear. Bottom: Many thanked the pro-lifers for being there.



We hope Sebelius heard the honking!



TFP member Michael Drake being interviewed by CNN.



The protestors used public sidewalks outside the university.



Pro-lifers debate with university staff.

giving Sebelius a platform.

At the Gates of Georgetown

On May 18, TFP Student Action volunteers rallied students and pro-lifers to protest at the gates of Georgetown.

They hoisted aloft the American flag, the TFP standard, and a banner reading: “Sebelius persecutes the Church, yet Georgetown welcomes her. Faithful Catholics protest.”

One man, entering the gate to attend his daughter’s graduation, commented: “I am with you guys on this; I just cannot understand why a Catholic school would invite someone like this.” Others were less positive: “You’re ruining this graduation. Why did you choose to come today?” to which we responded: “We didn’t choose the day; Georgetown did when it invited Sebelius.”

“Thank you for your respectful approach,” said another graduation attendee. “You make the Catholic Church look good.”

In response to our sign reading, “Georgetown: You can’t be Catholic and pro-abortion,” one man proclaimed: “Why are you guys even here? Catholic is just a name!” Sadly, it seems that Georgetown would agree. In contrast with this attitude, the assembled pro-life supporters joined together in the recitation of the rosary in reparation for the grave scandal underway at that moment on the campus.

Between rosaries, we also chanted slogans. “Catholic Fidelity: YES! Pro-abortion Sebelius: NO!” and “Keep America strong, defend innocent life!”

The TFP protest was covered by several news outlets including CNN, Fox News and *The Washington Post*.

After a campaign of several hours, complete with debates, interviews, and, more importantly, the recitation of the rosary, we departed, ready to continue defending Catholic moral teaching in the ongoing battle for the soul of America. ■

Obamacare’s Contraception Mandate Sparks Huge Protests

BY ZECHARIAH LONG



About 800 people protested outside the Health and Human Services building in Washington, D.C.

The controversy over socialist Obamacare and its HHS Mandate is now pouring out onto the streets. “We will not comply! We will not comply!” echoed across Capitol Hill as hundreds of God-fearing Americans demonstrated outside the Health and Human Services building in Washington, D. C.

On March 23, Catholics and pro-life groups in 140 cities, including New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and San Francisco, gathered at federal buildings nationwide to defend the freedom of the Church. Twenty-two Catholic bishops and other public figures spoke at these rallies, attracting more than 50,000 people.

Organized by Citizens for a Pro-Life Society and the Pro-Life Action League, the rallies opposed the mandate issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that requires all employers to provide free contraceptives, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs through their health plans.

“With the HHS Mandate, the Obama administration has presumed

upon itself the authority to decide what counts as a religious institution in this country,” said Eric Scheidler, executive director of the Pro-Life Action League. “This is an unprecedented attack on the free exercise of religious faith protected by the First Amendment.”

“We are calling on all people of good will to rise up and vigorously oppose this ruling,” said Monica Miller, director of Citizens for a Pro-Life Society. “Truly, we see that the Church is stepping up to the social and political attacks on faith that seek to send Christians (and all people of faith) back to the catacombs.”

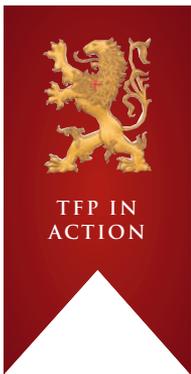
TFP Student Action members joined the Washington, D.C., rally with banners and signs. Speakers at the event included Fr. Marcel Guarnizo; pastor Patrick Mahoney, Director of Christian Defense Coalition; Star Parker, founder of the Center for Urban Renewal and Education; Lila Rose of Live Action, and Kristan Hawkins, Director of Students for Life of America. ■

Clockwise from top left: This issue has recruited many new pro-lifers. Obamacare is the source of the problem. Fr. Marcel leads a rosary. A large family with lots to say.



Viral Video Unmasks “Tolerance”

BY CHARLES SULZEN



In a newly released video, volunteers with TFP Student Action describe how they were violently assaulted by pro-homosexual “marriage” advocates while promoting traditional marriage on college campuses and in the public square.

The video speaks for itself. They don’t tolerate God’s marriage. In fact, TFP volunteers have been bullied, pepper sprayed, hit with glass bottles, sprayed with pesticide, punched, and spit on for peacefully stating that marriage is what

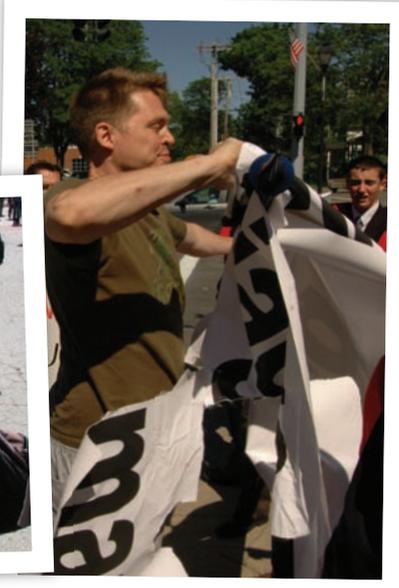
it is—the union between one man and one woman.

When same-sex “marriage” activists destroy signs, desecrate the Bible, blaspheme, and burn traditional marriage literature, it becomes clear that the homosexual agenda is not really about tolerance. It’s about the formation of a strange dictatorship—a dictatorship of pseudo-tolerance and make-believe equality—where freedom of speech is only allowed if it advances sinful lifestyles; where God, family values and public morality are off limits and targeted for destruction.

During the French Revolution of 1789, the unruly mob screamed “equality” as they broke the rule of law and committed all sorts of atrocities. Today, a new movement is chanting “equality” as they at-



Students at Berkeley University, San Francisco, burn pro-family fliers.



A man in New York rips the “One Man, One Woman” banner.

tack peaceful Americans who affirm the positive, self-evident truth that marriage is between one man and one woman.

But despite these attacks, TFP Student Action volunteers are upbeat and planning more campaigns in defense of marriage. The more God’s marriage is under attack, the more TFP Student Action will defend it. ■

To watch this video please visit www.TFP.org/Tolerance



Should We Judge Others?

BY LUIZ SÉRGIO SOLIMEO

In today's ambience of philosophical and moral relativism in which we live, whenever we criticize objectively immoral actions or behaviors such as abortion, homosexual acts, adultery, and so forth, we often hear someone citing the words of the Divine Savior, "Judge not."¹

The Absurdity of Not Judging

Yet a literal and out of context interpretation of these words leads to an absurd conclusion. For if we could not judge the actions of others, that would be tantamount to denying that moral principles can be applied in practice, even though they must be accepted in theory. The final consequence is that morality would be rendered meaningless as a standard to guide human actions. That leads to the most complete subjectivism—a free-for-all in which everyone does what he fancies.

That also causes people to completely lose their moral sense; and it is perhaps one of the causes of the amorality of our present age. Since religious people become insecure facing the "judge not" argument of the Gospel, let us examine more closely what it actually means.

Does the Gospel Forbid Judging?

Judging others is condemned in a part of the Sermon on the Mount in which Jesus teaches us how to proceed in order to attain perfection. After dealing with the Beatitudes and condemning murder, adultery, perjury, and commanding us to love our neighbor and avoid ostentation, Our Lord deals with judging others.

He forbids judging others unfairly and maliciously, as this will turn against us: "Judge not, that you may not be judged, for with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged: and with what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again."²

Moses with tablets of the Ten Commandments

It would be hypocritical to condemn others for faults of which we ourselves incur without first seeking to eliminate them in our own behavior: "And why seest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, and seest not the beam that is in thy own eye? Or how sayest thou to thy brother: Let me cast the mote out of thy eye, and behold a beam is in thy own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam in thy own eye, and then shalt thou see to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."³

Objectively Immoral Actions Should be Condemned

When it comes to secondary defects or ambiguous actions that lend themselves to various interpretations, we must be ready to avoid interpreting them negatively as much as possible. However, when faced with actions clearly contrary to the principles of morals, or scandalous actions, we must not fail to make a strict moral judgment.

This is what Saint Augustine explains when he analyzes this passage of the Gospel: "I suppose the command here to be no other than that we should always put the best interpretation on such actions as seem doubtful with what mind they were done. But concerning such as cannot be done with good purpose, as adulteries, blasphemies, and the like, He permits us to judge; but of indifferent actions which admit of being done with either good or bad purpose, it is rash to judge, but especially so to condemn."⁴

And in another sermon the saint presents another aspect of the question saying: "Concerning those things, then, which are known to God, unknown to us, we judge our neighbors at our peril. Of these the Lord hath said, 'Judge not, that you may not be judged.' But concerning things which are open and public



Our Lord "cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money changers." Matt. 21:12

evils, we may and must judge and rebuke, but still with charity and love, hating not the man, but the sin, detesting not the vicious man but the vice, the disease more than the sick man. For unless the open adulterer, thief, habitual drunkard, traitor, or proud man were judged and punished, in them would be fulfilled what the blessed martyr Cyprian hath said, 'He who soothes a sinner with flattering words provides fuel for his sin.'⁵

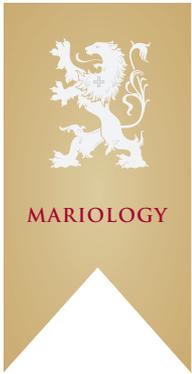
Judge According to the Truth

The Gospel precept is not, therefore, that we abstain from judging and condemning those acts that are objectively bad, but that we do it according to the rule given by the Savior Himself: "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge just judgment."⁶

Therefore, those who quote the Savior's words in order to impose a state of complete amorality in which no one would judge anyone, and accept, in practice, the worst moral outrages in an attitude of complete subjectivism and moral relativism, are simply wrong. ■

Notes:

1. Matt. 7:1
2. Matt. 7:2
3. Matt. 7:3-5
4. De Sermone Domini in Monte secundum Matthaeum. ii, 18
5. Sermo 202 de Tempore
6. John 7:24



TEARS, A MIRACULOUS WARNING

BY PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA

Born in 1908, Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira was the founder of the Brazilian Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property and inspirer of twenty-five other sister organizations around the world.

A brilliant scholar, writer, university professor and lawyer, Professor de Oliveira was above all a great Catholic leader whose only ambition was to defend Christian civilization against its systematic destruction. Thus, he dedicated his life to the service of the Church in the temporal sphere, fighting particularly the errors of Communism, Socialism and the resulting Cultural Revolution.

He felt a special calling to work for the sanctification of families and temporal society, and had a special charisma to spot the subliminal evil influences of today's culture. By the time of his death in 1995, he had produced a wealth of writings in the form of meditations, articles and books sharing with us his unique gift and insight. This article has been adapted without his revision.

On July 21, 1972, newspapers around the world published this photograph from New Orleans showing a statue of Our Lady of Fatima shedding tears.

The best source of information on the matter is found in an article with the title: "The Tears of Our Lady Wet My Finger" by Fr. Elmo Romagosa. It was published on July 20, 1972, in the *Clarion Herald*, a New Orleans weekly, distributed in eleven Louisiana parishes or counties.

The background to this event is universally known to Fatima devotees. During 1917, Our Lady appeared six times to Lucy, Jacinta, and Francisco, three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal. The authenticity of these visions was confirmed by the miracle of the sun, witnessed by a whole multitude, even as the Virgin spoke to the three children.

In general terms, Our Lady charged the little shepherds to tell the world that she was deeply upset by the wickedness and corruption of men. She warned that if men did not amend, a terrible chastisement would come that would annihilate many nations. Russia would spread its errors throughout the world. The Holy Father would have much to suffer.

The punishment could only be avoided if men converted, Russia and the world were consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and men did the communion of reparation on the first Saturday of each month.

* * *

In view of the above, a question naturally comes to mind:

Were Our Lady's requests heeded?

In 1942, Pius XI consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Sister Lucy said the consecration lacked some characteristics Our Lady had requested. I do not intend to analyze this complex subject here. I simply mention, in passing, that whether Our Lady's request for the consecration of Russia was heeded is open to debate.

As for Our Lady's second request for an amendment of life, it has so obviously been neglected that no further comment is necessary.

Our Lady stated that obedience to her requests was a condition to avoid the apocalyptic punishments that she predicted. Therefore, since her requests have not been irrefutably kept, it is logical that God's vengeful and purifying wrath should fall upon mankind. Yet, furthermore, Our Lady promised that, after the punishments, "Finally, my Immaculate Heart will triumph and there will be a certain period of peace."

* * *

[I]t is logical that God's vengeful and purifying wrath should fall upon mankind. Yet, furthermore, Our Lady promised that, after the punishments, "Finally, my Immaculate Heart will triumph and there will be a certain period of peace."

Of the three Fatima children, only Lucy survived beyond her childhood. She became a Carmelite nun in Coimbra. Under her supervision, a sculptor carved two statues that reproduced as closely as possible the facial expression of the Most Holy Virgin as she appeared at Fatima. Both of them were called "pilgrim statues" and have been taken around the world by priests and laity. One was in New Orleans, where it shed tears.

Father Romagosa, author of the above mentioned report, was told of the statue's tears by Fr. Joseph



*"I saw much liquid in the statue's eyes,
and a large drop hanging from the tip of her nose."*

Breault, M. P., the statue's custodian. However, he was reluctant to admit the miracle and thus asked Father Breault to call him if any further weeping occurred.

Father Breault noticed moisture in the eyes of the Pilgrim Virgin statue on July 17 and immediately called Father Romagosa, who reached the statue at 9:30pm, bringing along photographers and reporters. In fact, they all noticed the moisture in the eyes of the statue, which was soon photographed. Father Romagosa then touched his finger on the moist surface and collected a drop, which was also photographed. According to Father Breault, this was the thirteenth weeping he had witnessed.

At 6:15 the next morning, Father Breault called Father Romagosa saying that the statue had been crying since 4am. Father Romagosa arrived shortly afterwards. In his words: "I saw much liquid in the statue's eyes, and a large drop hanging from the tip of her nose." This drop, so graciously hanging, was captured in the famous photograph that came out in the press.

Father Romagosa adds that he saw "a tear move as it slowly formed on the lower eyelid."

However, he wanted to eliminate all doubt. He noticed that the statue had a crown fixed on its head by a small metal connecting rod and thought: can it be that water was poured into the hole where the crown is fixed on the statue, and this water drains into the eyes?

Once the weeping ceased, Father Romagosa removed the crown from the statue: the metallic connecting rod was entirely dry. He then inserted into the hole a wire wrapped in a special paper which would ab-

sorb any liquid that might be there. The paper remained absolutely dry.

Still not satisfied with his efforts, he poured some water into the hole. Yet the eyes remained absolutely dry. Father Romagosa then turned the statue upside down. The water he had poured into the hole drained normally. He was finally convinced that no water could come through the hole in the statue's head into her eyes, and there simply was no other hole.

Father Romagosa knelt. At last, he believed.

These mysterious tears show Our Lady of Fatima crying over the modern world, as Our Lord once cried over Jerusalem. Tears of most tender affection, tears of deep pain for the punishment that will come.

It will come in God's due time if mankind does not reject immorality and corruption. It will come if we do not fight especially against the self-destruction of the Church, the cursed smoke of Satan that, according to Paul VI, has penetrated even into the sacred places.

There is still time, therefore, to stop the punishment!

But, some will say, these thoughts are not those for a pleasant Sunday afternoon. I answer: Is it not better to read this article now under the tender manifestation of our Mother's prophetic sadness than to live through the days of tragic bitterness that will come if we do not amend?

If they come, I am convinced a special mercy will be shown to those who, in their personal lives, have taken the miraculous warning of Mary seriously. I offer my readers this article so they may benefit from that mercy.

Will America Needs Fatima be there for our grandchildren?

Like Mr. and Mrs. Jay Duncan of Conyngham, Pa., many want America Needs Fatima to be around for their grandchildren. . . and beyond. So, please consider making a charitable bequest to America Needs Fatima when you write or amend your will.

You will be deeply satisfied to know that your generosity will help future generations to know, love and practice a message of such importance, that God sent His Holy Mother to personally deliver it to us at Fatima in 1917.

Pass on Devotion to the Next Generation

To pass on devotion to Our Lady of Fatima to the next generation, ask your attorney to include in your will either of the two following phrases:

OPTION 1

"I give and bequeath the sum of \$ _____ dollars to be used for the general purposes of America Needs Fatima, a special campaign of The Foundation for a Christian Civilization, Inc., a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt charity located at 1358 Jefferson Rd., Spring Grove, PA 17362."

OPTION 2

"I give, devise and bequeath to America Needs Fatima, a special campaign of The Foundation for a Christian Civilization, Inc., a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt charity located at 1358 Jefferson Rd., Spring Grove, PA 17362, for its general purposes all [or you can state fraction or percent] of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, whether real or personal."



Mr. and Mrs. Jay Duncan

YOUR HELP WILL MAKE THE FOLLOWING WORKS POSSIBLE:

- Home visitations with the Pilgrim Virgin statues of Our Lady of Fatima, reaching tens of thousands of families annually
- Acts of reparation and protests nationwide to stop blasphemous attacks against the Sacred Persons of Jesus and Mary
- Massive promotion of religious literature, books, medals and especially Rosaries
- Hold thousands of Public Square Rosary Rallies annually
- Family Pilgrimages to Marian Shrines
- Outreach programs for high-school and college students

For more information, please call Louisa at (888) 317-5571.



AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA.

July/August 2012

PROGRESS REPORT

Bringing Your Candle to Fatima

BY ELIZABETH FERRAZ

Fatima is surrounded by a blanket of peace. The atmosphere of the small town, shrouded and protected by this peaceful veil, seems safe from the clutches of the world. The evening of May 3, 2012, was a cool and rainy one, with gusts of strong wind that made the trees surrounding the Fatima shrine bend and groan under the pressure. This didn't deter pilgrims—many of them young adults

and children—from devoutly paying their respects to Our Lady of Fatima. Even in the chill and rain, some still did the penitential, grueling walk on their knees around the basilica.

My friend and fellow ANF staffer, Maureen Willett, and I travelled to Fatima to deliver the twenty red candles that were made from the melted wax of thousands of small candles sent to ANF's headquarters. We also brought prayer intentions of supporters that were sent in with the candles. As we carried the large red candles across the grounds of the shrine and lit them in the grotto, several of our fellow pilgrims expressed their amazement at our mission. One gentleman from Washington, D.C., was so touched by our purpose, that he decided to brave the wind and rain to join us in prayer for ANF members' intentions.

Delivering the intentions of ANF supporters and candles to Fa-

tima is a great honor. It gives us the chance to thank Our Lady for the constant kindness our supporters show us, while we gratefully pray for them and remember their intentions in our hearts. ■



The nightly rosary procession at Fatima.

Top: Maureen Willett lights the candles with solemnity.
Bottom: Elizabeth Ferraz arranges candles in the grotto.



Save America and Send a Rose!

Now's the time to sign up as a Rally Captain for the October 13, 2012, Public Square Rosary Crusade and have a complimentary red rose sent to Fatima in your name.

All you need is a banner and a few friends to display it with you in a public place. It's that simple. The sooner you start organizing your rally, the better it will be!

The staff at the coordination center in Rossville, Kansas, is ready to help you through each step of the process. Please call them at (866) 584-6012 today or sign up online at: www.ANF.org

Our goal for this year's rallies is to counter the advance of the destructive secular agenda—abortion, homosexuality, immorality and so forth—and ask God to guide every aspect of our society.

“As human efforts fail to solve America's key problems, we

turn to God, through His Holy Mother, asking His urgent help,” is the message on banners currently being shipped to Rosary Rally Captains.

God will hear our prayers, especially if we pray the Rosary of His Blessed Mother.

Without prayer, and specifically the Rosary, we will not find solutions to our nation's many problems.

Last year, America Needs Fatima organized over 7,515 Rosary Rallies. This October we aim to organize at least 8,000 Rosary Rallies for October 13, which is the 95th anniversary of the day God worked the miracle of the sun at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917. America needs a monumental miracle of conversion, and with your help it can happen! ■



Last year 7,502 red roses went to Fatima.

Please call our center at (866) 584-6012 today or sign up online at www.ANF.org/2012Captain

Rallying to the Rosary and to Fatima

BY THOMAS SCHNEIDER

Usually, conferences are held in comfortable hotels with all the amenities. However, at the American TFP's National Spring Conference in Kansas City, participants suddenly found themselves on the sidewalk of a busy intersection with blustery winds praying the rosary.

Such was the program at the April 21-22 event, which mixed lively talks with “hands-on” experience. Its theme was, “Why the Rosary and Fatima will Decide Our Future.” Special emphasis was given to America Needs Fatima's Public Square Rosary Rallies. Naturally, the theory of how to organize rallies led to actually holding one at the nearby Country Club Plaza, as part of the conference.

Many participants were, in fact, Rally Captains from across the country. They came to hone their skills for the coming rallies later in October. To this effect, conference organizer Michael Drake spoke on the lessons learned from the rallies over the years. TFP Student Action director John Ritchie held a lively talk/workshop on Ten Ways to Improve Your Rosary Rally and Reach More Souls. Mr. Kevin Ritchie



A Public Square Rosary Rally was part of the conference program.



Many of the attendees were Rosary Rally Captains.

made the connection between the rallies and the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary promised at Fatima. TFP speaker Michael Whitcraft gave a masterful presentation on applying the Fatima message to the present situation of the United States. American TFP Vice President John Horvat spoke on how Fatima calls Catholics to heroic sanctity.

Other speakers included Mr. Mario Navarro da Costa of the TFP's Washington Bureau, who showed how TFP founder Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira is an example of how one committed Catholic can make a difference. TFP speaker and author Norman

Fulkerson demonstrated why devotion to Our Lady is crucial for the times, while Cesar Franco, from TFP Louisiana, gave an excellent talk on the need for confidence in the Blessed Mother. Byron Whitcraft, of the TFP-run St. Louis de Montfort Academy, presented a general history of the TFP and its America Needs Fatima campaign.

The event proved to be an excellent opportunity for TFP supporters, old and new, to meet and exchange ideas, and also publicly witness to the fact that the rosary and Fatima need to be in the public square now more than ever! ■



Crowning Our Lady at School

BY KENNETH MURPHY

On May 16, 2012, five America Needs Fatima volunteers traveled to Saint Elizabeth's Catholic School in Rockville, Maryland, to assist with their annual May crowning and procession. Saint Elizabeth's Elementary is the second largest Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Washington. Over 700 students, parents and faculty attended the event.

The procession began at the front doors of the school and ended at the nearby parish church. Those who had made their First Communion dressed in First Communion attire. The eighth graders played a central role in the procession, four carrying carrying the statue of Our Lady from the school to the church, while five crowned her, and another five each led a decade of the Glorious Mysteries.

Students from the pre-kindergarten to seventh grades were asked to bring flowers, which were placed at Our Lady's feet.

"This school is great because it has a great devotion to Our Lady," announced school Principal Vincent Spadoni. "This is my favorite day of the school year," he said. "It is a great honor to have the same Blessed Mother who visits thousands of



Saint Elizabeth's Catholic school is the second largest in the Washington Archdiocese.

homes spreading the Fatima message."

America Needs Fatima gave each participant a remembrance holy card of Our Lady and distributed 427 blessed rosaries to those who did not bring their own. The eighth graders were each rewarded with a Miraculous Medal for their hard work in leading the event. ■



Eighth graders carry Our Lady.



Students who recently made their First Holy Communion.



Each student brought a flower for Our Lady.



Over 700 attended the crowning.



Crowning the Blessed Mother as Queen.



Over 154,300 Pictures of a Miracle Distributed

BY ROBERT RITCHIE

Forty years ago, in July 1972, a rare and unusual phenomenon put the spotlight on the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima when it visited some churches in New Orleans.

On the evening of July 17, Father Joseph Breault, custodian of the statue at that time, phoned Father Elmo Romagosa, the executive editor of the archdiocesan newspaper *Clarion Herald*, because the statue was weeping.

With camera gear in hand, and fellow editor Hal Ledet in tow, both rushed to the place to investigate. When they arrived, the then skeptical Father Romagosa saw moisture still

pooling around the eyes. Both newspaper men took pictures. Based on Fr. Breault's previous account, it would be the 13th time the mysterious weeping would occur under his watch. Those tears were later subjected to lab tests and were found to be of a human origin.¹

It was the first of two shedding of tears that the priest-editor would witness; the second, much more copious and longer, would occur on the following morning when he witnessed the statue's eyes fill to the brim and a large tear form at the tip of her nose. This crucial and poignant moment he aptly captured on his camera for the entire world to see. ■



This statue miraculously cried 40 years ago.

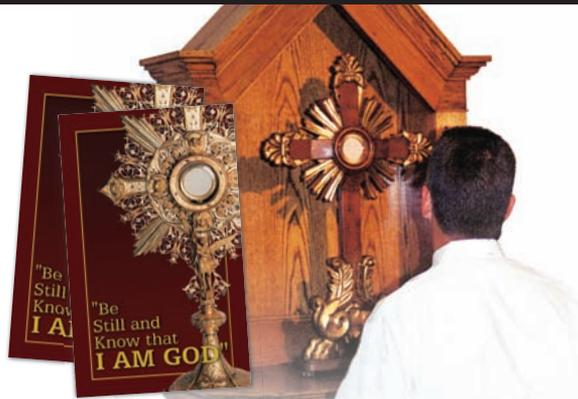
Note:

1. George Plagenz, "Could Virgin Mary's statue really be crying tears?" *The Cedartown Standard*, April 1, 1997, p.4

Since 2007 America Needs Fatima has distributed 154,300 reprints of this picture with a complete story of the miracle. To claim yours, please visit www.ANF.org/Tears

“BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD”

(Psalm 46:11)



Today, in the United States, there are 842 chapels where Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is exposed twenty-four hours around the clock for the adoration of the faithful. Another 6,605 chapels have partial adoration hours. Each adoration chapel is like an oasis of peace in a busy, hectic world—all a Catholic needs to do is walk in and “be still.”

Since 2004, America Needs Fatima has been encouraging and improving Eucharistic adorations by distributing the “*Be Still and Know that I Am God*” adoration booklets. A total of 226,478 of these pocket-sized booklets have been distributed and you can claim yours by calling (888) 317-5571. As can be seen from the feedback below, this booklet will encourage you to visit your nearest adoration chapel and increase your devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

“I would like to say that this booklet, “*Be Still and Know That I Am God*,” is the most powerful prayer book I have ever read. The section

“Fifteen Minutes before the Blessed Sacrament” casts a new outlook on communication with God. And the “Irresistible Novena to the Sacred Heart” has, I believe, led to an almost miraculous cure of my wife’s illness. I look upon this prayer book as a gift from God.”

D.D., Midland, Texas

“I’ve been going to adoration for over a year now, but now that I have your booklet I find that being with my Lord is so amazing. Thank you! Even after using your booklet for several months, I find that my one hour isn’t enough time. I want to spend more time.”

D.U., Clinton, Massachusetts

“Believe it or not, I distributed all 60 copies of “*Be Still and Know That I Am God*,” among the people in my church. I see that now more people go to visit the Holy Sacrament!”

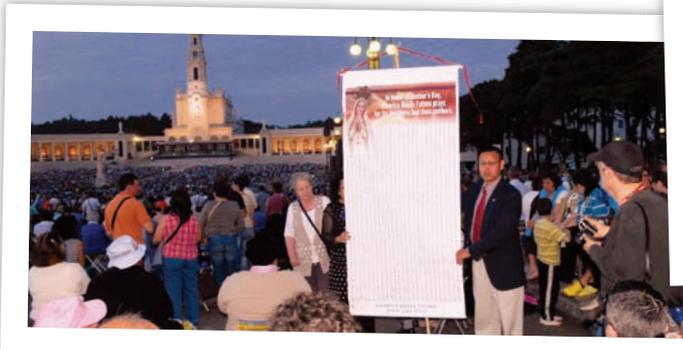
V.U., Miramar, Florida

To obtain copies of this booklet or for help locating your nearest adoration chapel, call (888) 317-5571.



Honoring 10,743 Mothers at Fatima

BY REX TEODOSIO



Rex Teodosio carried our two-sided banner in the procession. 21,486 total names of mother's and of those who entered their mother's name.



Over half a million attended the candlelight procession.

In May, those who receive the America Needs Fatima e-mail alerts were given a unique opportunity—to have a mother's name carried in the May 13, 2012, candlelight procession at Fatima, Portugal.

This year Mother's Day occurred on Sunday, May 13, and 10,743 fortunate mothers (including my own) had their names carried during the vigil candlelight procession.

The sea of candles was most impressive. An estimated half a

million laity, 265 priests and 22 bishops attended. As many curious onlookers asked about "the banner of names," I explained the honor with which I had been entrusted, and asked for their prayers. I explained that these mothers were being honored at Fatima not only because they had children but

also for their dedication in spreading devotion to Our Lady. I began calling them our "America Needs Fatima Mothers."

I placed the banner as near to the precise spot as I could get where Our Lady appeared exactly 95 years ago. Even though I had prayed many rosaries for everyone during the procession, I decided to pray several more at this special spot. Hopefully, with the help of my humble prayers, Our Lady will continue to bless all of our "America Needs Fatima Mothers." ■

To sign up for ANF e-mail alerts, please visit www.ANF.org/alerts

GUSTODIAN'S

ORNER

At the Hour of Death

BY DR. JOSE MARIA ALCASID

On April 16, 2012, fellow TFP member Michael Whitcraft and I gave a Fatima presentation on the west coast of Oahu, in Hawaii. We have been giving presentations in Hawaii for many years, and there was nothing unusual about this visit until someone in the group mentioned that a friend, who lived down the street, was dying. She was an elderly lady who had been very devoted to Our Lady and lamented that she could not be present at the visit. We offered to take the statue to visit the dying lady after the rosary. Her friends jumped at the opportunity and made the necessary phone calls.

The lady's home was filled with people. Most were members of her Samoan family. The Samoans are committed Catholics, family-oriented, and traditional. The patriarch of the family (usually referred to as the chief) greeted us and served as the spokesman. He directed us through the crowd to a back room where the dying lady lay in bed.

She was unconscious and clearly in her last moments. Her breathing was labored, and lacerations were visible on her tongue. We held Our Lady on a chair against her bed and her family poured into the room until it was quite full.

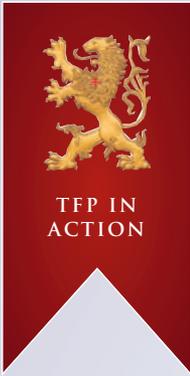
At age 29, Dr. Alcasid sacrificed his doctor's career to become a full time promoter of devotion to Our Lady.



We placed her hand on the side of Our Lady. Several of her family members said she was actually gripping the statue, as if knowing that Our Lady was with her. The family members then began to sing traditional Samoan songs in praise of Our Lady and her intercession, in the Samoan language.

After some time for private prayers, we left in silence. Merely hours after our departure, the lady entered eternity. It seemed clear that Our Blessed Mother wanted to pay a visit to her devotee in order to strengthen her in her last moments, when as we all know, the trials of the devil are most fierce. The words of the Hail Mary fit well in this edifying and poignant experience, "Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen." Truly, Our Lady came to this dying woman's assistance. The lady's name was Osie Morris. Please say a prayer for the repose of her soul. ■

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



Honoring Our Heroes

BY JAMES DONLON

The Saint Louis de Montfort Academy in Herndon, Pa., was founded 17 years ago as a private boarding school for boys. It encompasses the junior high and high-school grades and is staffed by American TFP members. Here, tenth grader James Donlon recounts the school's recent trip to Arlington, Va., to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The students of the Saint Louis de Montfort Academy come from all over the United States and are strongly patriotic. Bearing a special love for the selfless defenders of this great nation, this year we held a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

For the ceremony, four upperclassmen of Saint Louis de Montfort Academy stood at the top of the steps leading down to the tomb. To begin, a bugler, along with an Honor Guard sergeant and a guard holding the wreath, processed in step and stopped to the left of the tomb. The drill sergeant then walked up the stairs to meet the students and explain how the ceremony would proceed. Across the middle of the wreath was a red sash with a TFP lion on it. The four students wore these same sashes across their chests.

After the soldier explained the ceremony, the four lined up two abreast and stood at attention. The sergeant then gave the order, "Ready, Step." With this they processed down the twenty-one steps, halting in front of the tomb. The two students in front proceeded to take the wreath, guided by the military Honor Guard, and set it a few feet in front of the tomb. The sergeant then said in a loud, commanding tone: "Present arms!" All the soldiers saluted and the students held their hands over their heart to honor the heroes buried there.

After the wreath was laid and the students returned to attention facing the tomb, the bugler played "taps." The somber and heroic tune made everyone present think about the sacrifice made by the Americans buried there. These men, "known but to God," died selflessly for their country. After the last notes reverberated across the cemetery, the sergeant gave the command, "Order arms," at which the soldiers and four students returned to attention. The students turned around and processed in military cadence back up the steps.



The students enjoy a tour of the historic cemetery.



The students being given instructions.



An Honor Guard congratulates the students on a job well done.



The wreath laying ceremony at the tomb.



The Academy's wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

After the ceremony, the sergeant remarked, "Gentlemen, that was excellent!" He firmly shook hands with the four students, thanking them for taking part in the ceremony. The students were impressed by his military bearing; the sergeant was impressed by the students' politeness and character formation. The remaining students and TFP members took a moment to admire the wreath crossed with the red sash and TFP lion in front of the tomb. The students and teachers thoroughly enjoyed the ceremony, greatly honored to have participated in such an event. ■

To learn more about the Saint Louis de Montfort Academy, please visit www.MontfortAcademy.edu

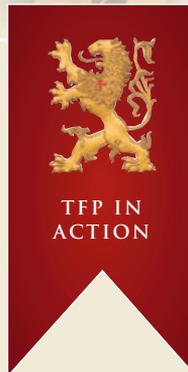
March for Life in Reading Draws Hundreds

BY JOSEPH JORDAN

Hundreds of pro-lifers spent Sunday afternoon on May 20 at the annual March for Life in Reading, Pennsylvania. The TFP Holy Choir of Angels Band provided patriotic music for the two-mile trek as marchers made their way through the streets of Reading to their final destination, Holy Rosary Catholic Church.

Before the march hit the pavement, several speakers exhorted those gathered to fight abortion as well as the HHS contraception mandate that especially targets Catholic individuals and institutions.

The sending forth speech was given by Fr. Paul



Rothemel who gave his blessing. During this final address, a group of children gathered around the podium to take up 503 crosses representing the millions of surgical abortions performed in America since *Roe v. Wade*.

The march passed by the Planned Parenthood center where some of those millions of abortions are performed regularly. It was a symbolic gesture, an act of reparation for the innocent lives lost to the horrors of abortion and the nihilistic culture from which this practice was spawned. May Our Lady present this prayerful march before the throne of God and hasten the day when abortion will finally become unthinkable in America. ■



The march concluded in front of Reading's Sacred Heart Church.



The march began at Reading's Catholic High School Stadium.

May Our Lady present this prayer before the throne of God and hasten the day when abortion will finally become unthinkable in America.



Each cross represented 1,000,000 surgical abortions.



The march traveled almost three miles.



Nearly 500 people attended the march.



RELIGION

WE NEED “HEROIC” CATHOLICS!

The following are excerpts from the homily of Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, delivered during the “A Call to Catholic Men of Faith” conference in Peoria, Ill., on April 14, 2012.

You know, it has never been easy to be a Christian and it’s not supposed to be easy! The world, the flesh, and the devil will always love their own, and will always hate us. As Jesus once predicted, they hated Him, they will certainly hate you.

But our Faith, when it is fully lived, is a fighting faith and a fearless faith. Grounded in the power of the resurrection, there is nothing in this world, and nothing in hell, that can ultimately defeat God’s one, true, holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

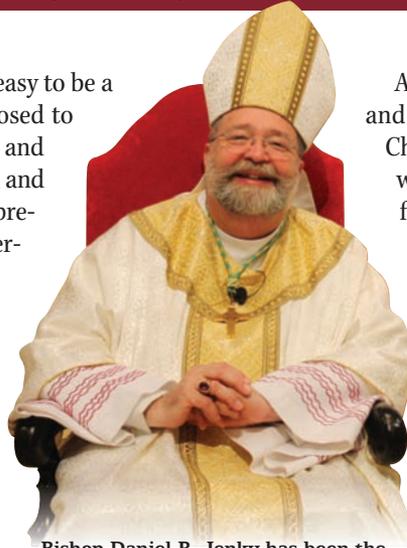
For 2,000 years the enemies of Christ have certainly tried their best. But think about it. The Church survived and even flourished during centuries of terrible persecution, during the days of the Roman Empire.

The Church survived barbarian invasions. The Church survived wave after wave of Jihads. The Church survived the age of revolution. The Church survived Nazism and communism.

And in the power of the resurrection, the Church will survive the hatred of Hollywood, the malice of the media, and the mendacious wickedness of the abortion industry.

The Church will survive the entrenched corruption and sheer incompetence of our Illinois state government, and even the calculated disdain of the President of the United States, his appointed bureaucrats in HHS, and of the current majority of the federal Senate.

May God have mercy on the souls of those politicians who pretend to be Catholic in church, but in their public lives, rather like Judas Iscariot, betray Jesus Christ by how they vote and how they willingly cooperate with intrinsic evil.



Bishop Daniel R. Jenky has been the bishop of Peoria, Illinois, for ten years.

As Christians we must love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us, but as Christians we must also stand up for what we believe and always be ready to fight for the Faith. The days in which we live now require heroic Catholicism, not casual Catholicism. We can no longer be Catholics by accident, but instead must be Catholics by conviction.

In our own families, in our parishes, where we live and where we work—like that very first apostolic generation—we must be bold witnesses to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We must be a fearless army of Catholic men, ready to give everything we have for the Lord, who gave everything for our salvation.

Remember that in past history other governments have tried to force Christians to huddle and hide only within the confines of their churches like the first disciples locked up in the Upper Room.

In the late 19th century, Bismarck waged his “Kultur Kampf,” a Culture War, against the Roman Catholic Church, closing down every Catholic school and hospital, convent and monastery in Imperial Germany.

Clemenceau, nicknamed “the priest eater,” tried the same thing in France in the first decade of the 20th Century.

Hitler and Stalin, at their better moments, would just barely tolerate some churches remaining open, but would not tolerate any competition with the state in education, social services, and health care. . . .

Now things have come to such a pass in America that this is a battle that we could lose, but before the awesome Judgment seat of Almighty God this is not a war where any believing Catholic may remain neutral. . . . ■



HEROES

Through the VALLEY of DEATH

BY NORMAN FULKERSON

Once in a while a story of heroism comes along which leaves us speechless. This is the case of Marine Sergeant Jeremiah Workman. On December 23, 2004, he was a squad leader clearing houses in Fallujah, Iraq, when a group of fellow Marines were ambushed and pinned down in a house across the street. The enemy was entrenched on the uppermost floor with machine guns, AK-47's and M-16s.

During a three-hour firefight Sergeant Workman was forced to climb two flights of stairs—on three separate occasions—to save them. He faced a nagging fear each time that “his time had come.” Yet this did not stop him from entering the proverbial “valley of death” for his fellow Marines.

The Tip of the Spear

In many ways Sergeant Workman is the paradoxical Marine. One can easily imagine him kicking down a door to face unknown danger. But his equally kind and “gentle giant” demeanor is also the type seen in Marines who give candy to a smiling Iraqi child.

When still very young, Workman was a star running back on his high school football team and a virtual celebrity in the tiny town of Richwood, Ohio. The success he achieved on the gridiron only served to fuel his quest to be the best and ultimately drove him to join the Marine Corps. He wanted to be one of the few, the proud.

“In my eyes,” he said, “the Marine Corps was the elite, the tip of the spear.”¹

It did not take long for him to see how true this is when, in September 2004, he was sent to a base outside Fallujah, Iraq, one of the most dangerous cities in the country at that time. In the spring of that same year, four American contractors had been killed and burned by the locals. After dragging their charred bodies through the streets they unceremoniously hung them on the Euphrates river bridge for all to see. While this was meant

to intimidate anyone attempting to tame this city, it did not touch the resolve of the men with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, particularly Jeremiah Workman.

Operation Phantom Fury

In November, coalition forces launched Operation Phantom Fury as part of the Second Battle for Fallujah. This mission, led by the United States Marines, was the most intense urban combat the Corps had seen since the 1968 battle for Hue City in Vietnam. After intense air strikes, Marine infantry units moved in while Sergeant Workman's platoon pounded an entrenched enemy with 81 MM mortars.

By the middle of December they traded their mortars for rifles, Humvees, and trucks. Under the command of Major Todd Desgrosseilliers, their new job was

to clear the houses of weapons, one by one. Maj. ‘D’, as his men called him, had earned a reputation for fearlessness when, only weeks before, he threw himself between one of his fellow Marines and a live grenade.² He would now lead the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines in one of the most violent firefights in this city.



CIA World Factbook

In 2004, Fallujah became the epicenter of resistance to US forces.

An Ambush inside a House in Sector 19

The work was initially boring and by the morning of December 23, 2004, the task was becoming downright tedious. On that day Marines split the platoon. A squad of ten, led by Sergeant

Workman, took the right side of the street in Sector 19, while Sergeant Jarrett Kraft³ took the left.

They found nothing in the first two houses. While searching the third, however, Jeremiah Workman distinctly heard the sound of AK-47's coming from across the street. Grey and white smoke was billowing out the second floor window of the building occupied by Sergeant Kraft. This was the first salvo of the last firefight in the city of Fallujah.

Sergeant Workman's squad endured enemy fire and

the cross hairs of a sniper as they ran across a one hundred yard area they appropriately dubbed “no man’s land.” When they entered the house, Sergeant Kraft informed them that some of his Marines were on the second floor, locked in a hellish close-quarter combat with a determined enemy. This house, they later learned, was occupied by eight high-profile targets with personal body guards, snipers, and loads of sophisticated weaponry. As the two Marines assessed the situation, the staircase above them was being ripped to pieces by a machine gunner armed with a seemingly endless supply of ammo.

Charging the Staircase... Alone

The Marines quickly formed what is called a stack and made ready to charge up the staircase. The Marine Lieutenant in charge of the operation stepped aside at the last minute. Suddenly, Sergeant Workman was the point man faced with a painful decision. He could either let his fellow Marines die, or pass through a sheet of hot lead to save them. He chose the latter and fearlessly led the charge.

With each step he took the machine gunner upstairs tore chunks of concrete off the wall. By the time he reached the first landing he noticed something wrong and looked back. He was all alone. The second Marine in the stack hesitated and caused the rest to remain frozen downstairs. “Get back down here,” the Lieutenant screamed.

Sergeant Workman was reluctant to obey the order. By now he had convinced himself that he was not going to leave this house alive. It was a realization that drove away the agonizing fear of death. Nevertheless he saw the futility of fighting this battle alone and made a hasty retreat. After reloading his weapons and organizing his men, together they made a second attempt to climb the staircase.

When they reached the landing this time, Sergeant Workman got his first glimpse inside the smoke filled room. It was then that he saw the expressionless face of his friend Corporal Raleigh Smith, who would not survive the battle.

“Give me a pistol, I can still fight.”

By now Corporal Phillip Levine, who had already suffered a horrifying eye injury, was shot in the shoulder. He was a native of the Bronx, New York, and lost friends during 9-11. This was very personal for him and he begged to be left in the battle, even though he could no longer lift his M-16. Sergeant Workman, however, knew it was time to make another tactical retreat.

They once again made it out of the house alive. Ser-



A Marine Corps Abrams tank destroys a building during a fire-fight in Fallujah.

geant Workman was in the middle of no man’s land on his way towards the Humvee and much needed water and medical attention for Corporal Levine when he heard a faint cry for help. When he turned around he saw a badly wounded Jerrad Hebert, barely able to walk and completely exposed to enemy fire. Forgetting his own safety, Workman summoned what little strength he had left, entered the crosshairs of a Taliban sniper and dragged the wounded Marine to safety.

Meanwhile Corporal Levine had received attention from the medic, but his only concern was getting back into that house. “Give me a pistol,” he pleaded with anyone who would listen, even though he could still not lift his arm to use it.

Suddenly, Sergeant Workman was the point man faced with a painful decision. He could either let his fellow Marines die, or pass through a sheet of hot lead to save them. He chose the latter and fearlessly led the charge.

“I will go out hard, fighting to the end.”

It was then that Sergeant Workman looked into the bed of a truck and saw the lifeless bodies of his friends, Corporal Raleigh Smith and Lance Corporal Eric Hillenburg, who had been evacuated during the firefight. He had never seen a dead Marine, and now, very much like Corporal Levine, the fight had become very personal for him too.

Sergeant Workman willed his battered body forward into the firefight, which by now had been raging for over two hours, in heat that exceeded 100 degrees. Barely able to walk, he entered the house once again. Their main job now was to make sure no Marines, living or dead, remained upstairs. “No man left behind” is a motto Marines take seriously.

Once again the Marines entered the jaws of death, with Jeremiah Workman leading the way. The Taliban now realized the Marines coming in their direction were content to fight to the death and placed their AK-47’s on full auto.

With his back pinned against the wall, Sergeant Workman decided to even the playing field with some



A Marine gives a line of children high fives while on patrol in a Fallujah neighborhood.

grenades. To toss them into the room he would have to expose himself to enemy fire and certain death. Once again he stood toe-to-toe with his own mortality and described how it was a comfort, not a curse. “I won’t disgrace myself,” he said. “I won’t die screaming. I will go out hard, fighting to the end.”⁴

A Pile of Smoldering Rubble

With this thought he propelled himself into the center of the staircase and tossed a grenade into the room, temporarily silencing the machine gun. Encouraged by the effort, he tossed another, then a third. The last one was kicked back by the enemy. With the subsequent explosion Sergeant Workman suffered serious shrapnel wounds and a temporary loss of hearing. The blinding smoke only increased the utter confusion that reigned in his mind as the battle raged on.

He would have died right there if not for Maj. ‘D’,⁵ who appeared out of nowhere and grabbed Sergeant Workman. The last thing Sergeant Workman remembers as the intransigent Maj. ‘D’ dragged him to safety was the way he continued to engage the enemy with his pistol. Maj. ‘D’s last gesture of good will towards the enemy was a well placed grenade he nonchalantly threw over the second floor balcony as he sauntered from the house.

By this time all of the Marines, both living and dead, had been removed from the combat zone. As they reached the safety of the Humvee, an M1 tank delivered a 120MM round through the second story window and utterly destroyed the house. All that was left was a pile of smoldering rubble.

Drugged up Taliban

The next day, Marines from Lima Company returned to the location for damage assessment. Much to their surprise they found a terrorist, amidst the ruins, who somehow survived the melee. He was still high on cocaine.

This did not surprise Sergeant Workman. He personally recalled seeing terrorists walk away from being shot multiple times during the firefight, “as if strolling through a park.” Their drug-induced brand of fearlessness was clearly the kind that is more commonly found at a rock concert rather than on a battlefield.

Sergeant Workman, on the contrary, did not need drugs to boost his bravery. What he possessed that awful day was the raw courage and sheer determination that comes from the willingness to sacrifice one’s life for a noble ideal. He refused to abandon his fellow Marines when they needed him most: even if it meant walking through the “valley of death.” ■



USMC Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Workman receiving the Navy Cross for his heroic actions.

Notes:

1. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/03/03/AR2007030301263.html>
2. <http://www.leatherneck.com/forums/showthread.php?48813-Todd-Desgrosseilliers-Bit-The-Bullet-In-Fallujah>
3. Sergeant Kraft would also earn the Navy Cross for his heroism during Operation Phantom Fury.
4. Jeremiah Workman with John R. Bruning, *Shadow of the Sword*, Presidio Press, Pg. 32
5. Major Todd Desgrosseilliers would go on to receive a Silver Star for his conspicuous gallantry on that day.

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KNOWN

Only To God

BY NORMAN FULKERSON

More than four million people visit Arlington National Cemetery each year. Most of them will take time to visit one tomb in particular. This is, however, one grave site where all the occupants are anonymous. Members of the 3rd United States Infantry—otherwise known as “The Old Guard”—watch over their mortal remains as if they were safeguarding the final resting place of a head of state. They have done so every day of the year since 1937. This hallowed ground is known throughout the land as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Although the idea of honoring a nameless warrior originated in England and France during World War I, it captured the imagination of Brigadier General William D. Connor. In October of 1919, he suggested an American version. The idea was originally rejected because, it was thought, we would be able to identify every soldier killed in combat.

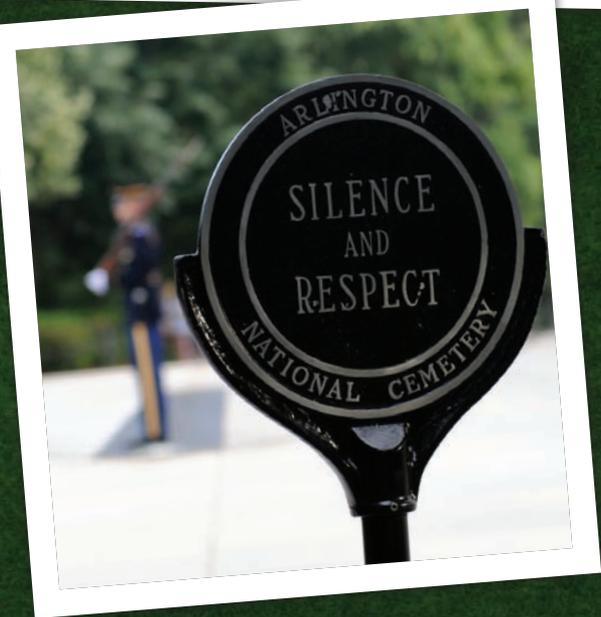
All of that would change later that same year when an unidentified American soldier was mortally wounded on a distant French battlefield. In the following year, New York Congressman Hamilton Fish introduced a bill before congress for the return of that unidentified soldier and the construction of a tomb outside Memorial Amphitheater in Arlington National Cemetery to house his remains.

In the first years after its creation, those visiting Arlington would often use the Tomb as a picnic area because of the panoramic view of Washington, D.C., it provided. It was for this reason that, in 1926, a guard was posted, during cemetery hours, to prevent further disrespect. In 1937, it was expanded to a twenty-four hour watch. Since then this soldier—and later unknowns from WWII, Korea and Vietnam—have enjoyed a treatment not even accorded to an American president.

Visiting this revered ground often provokes a spine-tingling sensation accompanied by a sense of disbelief and awe. “These men gave their lives for our freedom,” said one teenager from Chrisney, Indiana, “yet we don’t even know who they are.”

True, we might not know who they are, but this has not dampened the fervor of those in the “Old Guard” who have maintained a nonstop vigil for the last seventy-five years. They do so in order that those who gave the last full measure of devotion can rest in peace, overlooking the nation’s capital.

Such respect is a testimony to America’s love for those who pay the ultimate price. It is about gratitude. America does not forget her warriors, even those who are known only to God. ■



“These men gave their lives for our freedom, yet we don’t even know who they are.”