

September/October 2013

CRUSADE[®]

MAGAZINE



TRADITION
FAMILY AND
PROPERTY[®]



**Equality's
Next Victims**

The Real Saint Francis

BY MICHAEL WHITCRAFT

When we think of Saint Francis, what comes to mind is the image of a fragile man, in a green meadow surrounded by awestruck birds and rabbits. However, reality challenges this false portrayal of the great saint.

In the controversial book, *St. Francis of Assisi and the Conversion of the Muslims*, author Frank Rega, dispels many myths about the saint. Mr. Rega states, "To reduce this saint to a glorified social worker, a nature lover, or 'the first hippie' is a great disservice to his true heritage."¹ Mr. Rega paints the true picture of Saint Francis: a saint of prayer, courage and action, who actually supported the Crusades.

The second section of *St. Francis of Assisi and the Conversion of the Muslims* proves this contention.

This part stands alone for those who are only interested in reading about the saint's correspondence with the Muslims.

However, it is sandwiched between two other sections, which recount the saint's life before and after his missionary journey to the Middle East.

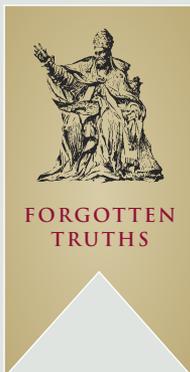
Together, these three sections make up an informative and highly readable biography of the Seraphic Father.

The book's main thrust deals with Saint Francis' tremendous desire for the Muslims' salvation and how he even risked torture and death to bring them the Gospel. However, he explicitly denounced Islam as a false religion. Thus, addressing the sultan, Saint Francis said, "If you do not wish to believe, we will commend your soul to God, because we declare that if you die while holding to your law, you will be lost; God will not accept your soul."²

This contrasts with the false idea of ecumenism commonly promoted today. Mr. Rega explains, "Saint Francis' dialogue with the sultan was a dialogue of conversion to Jesus Christ, not a dialogue of finding common ground in order for the two religions to coexist peacefully."³

Mr. Rega also refutes the misconception that Saint Francis was opposed to the Crusaders taking military action to regain the holy land. Saint Francis felt that war was justified if the Muslims did not accept Christ and adamantly held to the regions they had stolen from Christians.

Thus, when the sultan argued that the Crusaders were not following the Gospel teaching to "turn the other cheek," Saint Francis quickly rejoined, quoting Our Lord's words taken from



the same verse, "And if thy right eye scandalize thee, pluck it out and cast it from thee" (Matt 5:29).

Saint Francis explained:

"Here He wanted to teach us that every man, however dear and close he is to us, and even if he is as precious to us as the apple of our own eye, must be repulsed, pulled out, expelled if he seeks to turn us aside from the faith and love of our God. That is why it is just that Christians invade the land you inhabit, for you blaspheme the name of Christ and alienate everyone you can from His worship."⁴

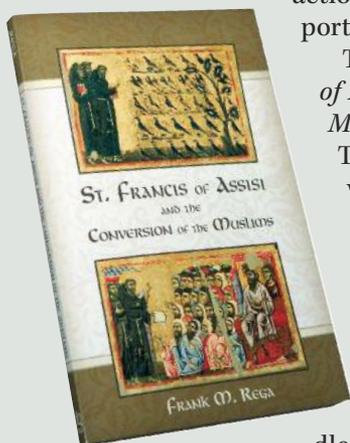
Mr. Rega engages in his own crusade against revisionists who paint a less virile Saint Francis. He decries those for whom Saint Francis, "was not a bold

Christian evangelist, but a timid man, whose goal was to have the friars live passively among the Saracens and 'to be subject to them,' rather than convert them to the True Religion."⁵

This book is mandatory reading for those who are intent on discovering the true Saint Francis. It can serve to shatter the current false impression and reveal the true and strong spirit of a great saint. ■

Notes:

1. Frank M. Rega, *St. Francis of Assisi and the Conversion of the Muslims* (Rockville, Ill.: Tan Books and Publishers, Inc., 2007) xvii.
2. Ibid. 60. 3. Ibid. 96. 4. Ibid. 69. 5. Ibid. 95.



For a limited time, receive *St. Francis of Assisi and the Conversion of the Muslims* for **FREE** when you order this devout statue of Saint Francis of Assisi.

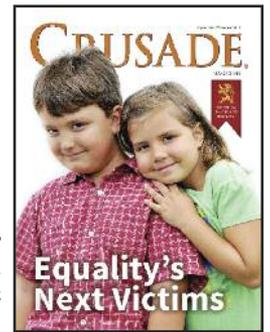
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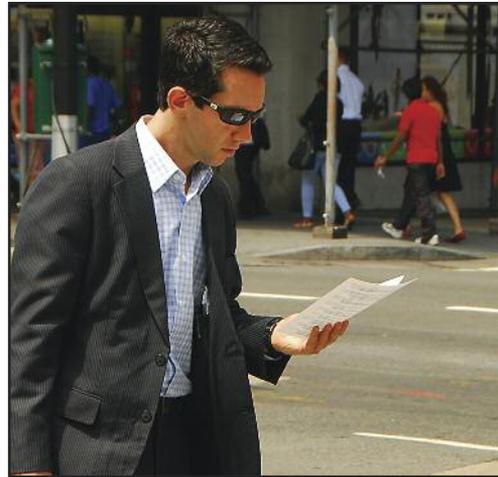
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013



Cover:

A young brother and sister comfortable with their natural differences—the opposite of what the LGBT movement would like.

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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

Real Halloween Horrors

After purchasing Halloween tombstone “decorations,” one Oregon mother uncovered more horror than expected. Between the gray plastic tombstones she found a letter describing a Chinese political prisoner labor camp—the hidden cost of many “made in China” trinkets.

The letter began with, “Please, kindly resend this letter to the World Human Right Organization. Thousands [of] people here who are under the persecution of the Chinese Communist Party Government will thank and remember you forever.” The letter continued, “people who work here, work 15 hours a day without Saturday and Sunday break and no holidays—otherwise they suffer torture.” They serve “an average of 1-3 years but without court sentence,” receiving beatings and only \$1.63 a month.

In June the authenticity of the letter was confirmed after the forty-seven-year-old author secretly met with the *New York Times* after his three-year sentence had ended. He hid twenty such letters over a two-year period in packages he knew would ship to the United States.



Promiscuous Ads Stopped

Estonia’s Foundation for the Protection of Family and Tradition, a TFP-related organization, successfully stopped an International Planned Parenthood Federation contraceptive ad campaign in Estonia. The graphic ads held little information on health but were instead guides on how to pursue a promiscuous lifestyle. After the Foundation for the Protection of Family and Tradition’s complaint, the Consumers Protection Board agreed that the campaign violated decency laws of advertising.

A Texas-Sized Victory

In July, Texas legislators passed four pro-life bills. They prohibited abortion after five months and prohibited the distribution of abortifacient drugs by unlicensed doctors. The bills also potentially closed thirty-five abortion mills which are outside a thirty-mile radius of a hospital, which lack admitting privileges to a hospital, and which do not meet the minimum safety standards of a surgical facility.

Model Homosexual “Fathers” Update

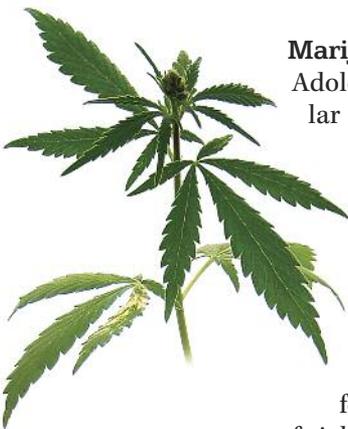
In 2005, American born Mark Newton and his homosexual boyfriend Peter Truong travelled to Russia to adopt a five-day-old child for \$8,000. The boy has been named “Adam” for his protection. According to Lifesitenews.com, the couple was featured in a 2010 ABC (Australia Broadcasting Corporation) broadcast titled “Two Dads are Better than One” which described the three as “a happy, relaxed family.”

Unknown to ABC, the homosexual pair had been abusing their son since he was twenty-two months old and supplying footage to an international child-porn network called Boy Lovers. Later, they began making him available to other members of the child-porn ring. Their flights to Germany, France and the United States coincided with footage of abuse by at least eight other men. While only five, Adam was abused at his home over a dozen times in one month.

Mark was arrested in February, 2012. It took the prosecution over a week to review the videos. No testimony was needed from the now eight-year-old Adam. In July, Mark was sentenced to prison for forty years—the maximum sentence. Peter awaits prosecution in New Zealand.

Marijuana Kills IQ

Adolescents who smoke marijuana on a regular basis face a decline in intelligence and brain function, even if they quit using the drug as adults. This is the conclusion of a recent study in New Zealand which followed 1,037 teenagers who are now in their late thirties. Approximately five percent of the “Dunedin Study” participants began using marijuana as teenagers. Those who smoked marijuana four times a week or more lost an average of eight IQ points and suffered declines in executive functioning and processing speed. The decline was not associated with factors such as other drug or alcohol use or years of education.



The Tide Has Turned!

BY JOHN HORVAT II



COMMENTARY

All right, hear me out! The tide has turned. After decades of resistance, the latest polls show that a slight majority of Americans have now changed their opinions on the issue. It is only a matter of time before it will be resolved. Let's face it, the tide has turned. Youth are all going in favor. The only ones on the other side are the older generations. State legislatures are changing the laws. It is time to get modern. These people should have the right to live a normal life. They should later have the right to get married, adopt and raise a family! The tide has turned. It is futile to resist. Let's get on the right side of history!

The issue I am referring to is, of course. . . abortion. A recent Gallup poll now says that 53% of Americans, many of them young, identify themselves as "pro-life." If ever there was a dramatic turnaround against all odds, abortion is that issue. If ever the tide has turned, this is one not to be missed.

But the media, ever ready to report dramatic news, have little enthusiasm for this breaking story. They yawn with indifference at the droves of young women marching for life and relish every word of aging feminists parroting their worn-out slogans.

But all this is to be expected. It has long been a favorite tactic of the left to engage in selective tide-watching. Whenever a liberal cause gains some traction in public opinion, the media are all aquiver with expectations of turning tides.

When thirty-one states passed constitutional amendments in support of traditional marriage, there were yawns aplenty and no talk of rising tides. But when three liberal states narrowly voted for same-sex "marriage" and two others rammed it through their legislatures, the trend became an overwhelming tsunami incapable of being resisted.

The problem is that so many "tides have turned" only to return like real tides. Many times an issue will seem "settled" only to find public opinion return to moral principles and rekindle the debate in the opposite direction. As the abortion debate has proven, not even the Supreme



When liberal causes gain traction, the media begins to talk of turning tides. When conservative causes gain traction, the media's response is silence.

Court can turn tides.

At times, the left will declare the tide has turned and then abandon the issue when the tide returns. At other times, the left will simply ignore the returning tide and shout all the louder, surrounded by the rushing sea, insisting the tide has turned despite all evidence to the contrary.

The tide supposedly turned with the "theory/dogma" of evolution, yet a majority of Americans still believe in creation. There was a time when it seemed the "peak oil" theory was gaining traction, but the ecological left is now silenced by a world awash in fracked oil. Even the famous global warming theory seems to be in trouble as more and more Americans have chilling doubts about it. Such tides have hardly turned.

The lesson to be learned is that, although statesmen must be concerned about public opinion, these issues are not decided by such a fickle factor but upon sound moral and scientific principles and facts. No one builds upon the beach but upon firm foundations away from the raging tides and shifting sands. Why is it not this way with burning moral issues? Let them be decided upon the firm foundation of moral principles and a natural moral law that does not change as both favor the common good. Tides go in and out. Principles and morals endure forever. ■

John Horvat II is the author of *Return to Order: From a Frenzied Economy to an Organic Christian Society—Where We've Been, How We Got Here and Where We Need to Go*. If you would like to invite Mr. Horvat to speak at your church, school or association, please call (855) 861-8420.

It's Time for GRACE *at* MEALS

BY FATHER RAOUL PLUS, S.J.



A celebrated economist, LePlay, once wrote “Until I can say grace at meals without astonishing any of my guests, I will not believe that I have done enough for the return of good habits.”

Grace at meals seems to be a simple detail. Am I not perhaps attaching too much significance to it? Consider it a detail, if you wish, but it is a detail which proves much.

Author Rene Bazin relates how edified he was while visiting in the north of France as a preparatory study for one of his novels, to observe how the family of an industrialist said grace faithfully before meals, assigning each child a day to lead.

Another author relates the profound impression made on him by his visit to the home of an outstanding businessman. Before and after dinner, the eight children stood with their parents around the table while the father devoutly recited the meal prayers.

Where the practice of saying grace is found in a family, there is also found true family life blessed with children and with solid piety; there will be no selfishness; instead there will be found a love for tradition, respect for authority, and an undisputed reign of Christ over the home. The saying of grace may be a small thing, but it is an indication of great things.

The Christian family will not be restored, nor will it be maintained, without the restoration and the maintenance of Christian practices—the noblest practices surely, and the most obligatory, but likewise the most insignificant in appearance. However, are there any which are truly insignificant?

“But these things will em-

barrass our visitors,” one may object. Nothing forces them to pay you a visit, and if they want to, they will undoubtedly respect all customs of the house: the crucifix on the wall, the normal acts of Christian life, as well as the menus prepared for them. No one is obliging them to adopt your conduct, but they can at least accept it while they are with you.

The real motive for not wanting to say grace before meals, if you are truly honest, is not charity for others, but human respect and a concern for yourself. You are afraid; you do not dare.

The fact is that your visitors will be either Christian or non-Christian. Why among Christians should one blush because of Christ? If the guests are not Christians, will they be astonished at Christian acts, knowing the atmosphere of the home and the character of those who dwell in it? It is good to wish that the homes of our nation become Christian again. But to realize this, we must begin with our own.

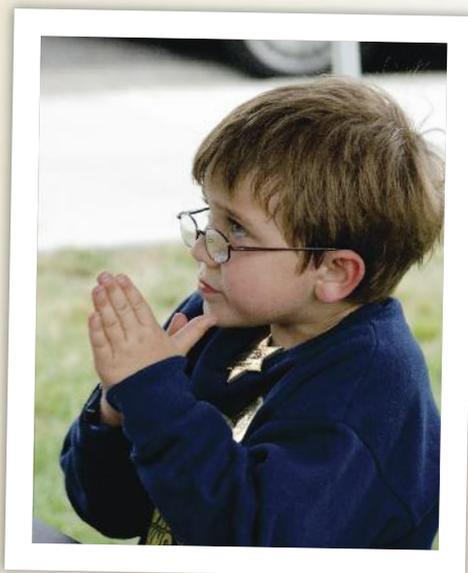
Blessing Before Meals:

Bless us, O Lord,
and these Thy gifts
which we are about
to receive from Thy bounty,
through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.
(Preceded and followed by the Sign of the Cross.)

Blessing After Meals:

We give Thee thanks, Almighty God,
for these and all Thy benefits,
and may the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. Amen.
(Preceded and followed by the Sign of the Cross.)

Adapted from Raoul Plus, S.J.'s *Christ in the Home* (Colorado Springs, CO: Gardner Brothers, 1951), pp. 243 – 245. This book 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.



Children of piety are found in families that ask God to bless them and their food.



Whom Do Americans Trust the Most?

BY VINCENT GORRE

While reading an online magazine, I recently came across a *Reader's Digest* poll of "100 Most Trusted People in America." Among the top ten, seven were movie actors and actresses. Those who made it to the list were chosen for their "integrity, character, exceptional talent, drive to personal excellence, internal moral compass, message, honesty and leadership."¹

I immediately pulled out my copy of *Return to Order: From a Frenzied Economy to an Organic Christian Society* by John Horvat II. As part of the solution to our impending crisis, Mr. Horvat talks of the need for "representative characters" in our society "who would take upon themselves the arduous task of seeking the common good."² Who are these "representative characters?" In reality, these are the people whom we should trust. Mr. Horvat defines a representative character as "a person who perceives the ideals, principles, and qualities that are desired and admired by a community or nation, and translates them into concrete programs of life and culture."³

The question is this: Do Americans believe that these movie stars are trustworthy because they embody American

ideals and principles, that in their real lives, not in the acting roles they play, they live out those ideals and principles? Mr. Horvat adds that "modern culture discourages the idea of representative characters and proposes false and unrepresentative characters that correspond to our mass society."⁴ I think this is precisely what is happening here. The transformation of American society into masses of people is promoted by the mass media, which explains why a poll of the most "trusted" people in America would most likely result in movie stars and media celebrities occupying the top ten on the list.

Who then should we find in a list of America's most trusted people? In times of crisis, we must trust those natural leaders in all levels of our society who are not only virtuous in their private lives but also willing to sacrifice for the good of all. ■

Notes:

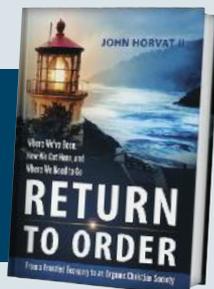
1. *Reader's Digest* Trust Poll: Denzel Wahington, Robin Roberts Among America's "Most Trusted Celebs," (The Huffington Post, May 21, 2013).
2. John Horvat II, *Return to Order: From a Frenzied Economy to an Organic Christian Society—Where We've Been, How We Got Here and Where We Need to Go* (York Press, York, Penn., 2013), p. 200.
3. *Ibid.*
4. *Ibid.*

Return to Order Hits the Streets

The concept of an organic Christian society is now being found in a most unlikely place—the frenzied centers of business and industry. Young volunteers of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) are out on the streets of cities like Chicago and New York. Their efforts are part of the outreach to spread the ideas of the book, *Return to Order: From a Frenzied Economy to an Organic Christian Society—Where We've Been, How We Got Here, and Where We Need to Go*, by John Horvat II.

The June street campaigns featured flyers offering the book to passersby, bagpipe music and the TFP standard—all of which garnered the attention of pedestrians on the busy city streets. It is yet one more way the news of the book *Return to Order* is being spread far and wide as Americans look at the new solutions the book proposes, solutions based on timeless principles. ■

Order at www.ReturnToOrder.org
or call 855-861-8420
Only \$21.95 | FREE SHIPPING



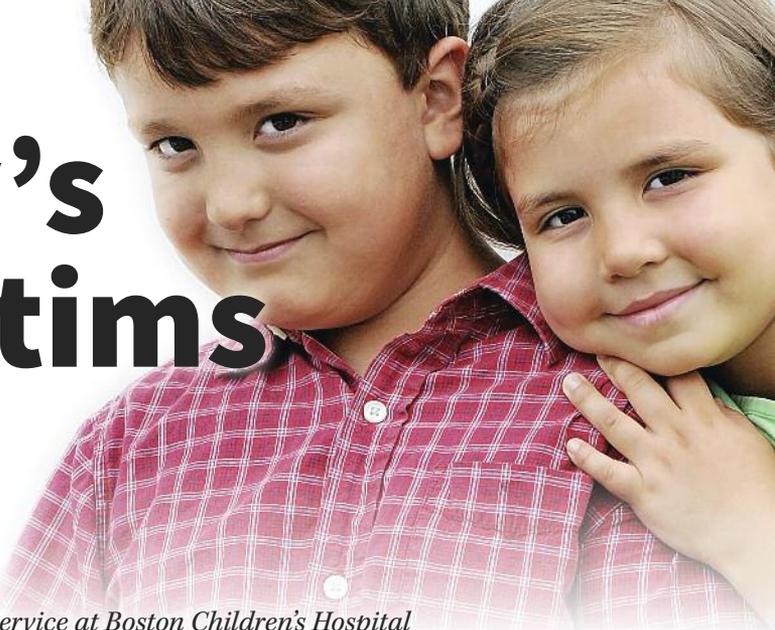
Top: A New Yorker stops to read book testimonials.
Center: Selling the book on one of Chicago's busiest pedestrian bridges.
Left: Author John Horvat II joins the campaign in New York.





Equality's Next Victims

BY JAMES BASCOM



"We can do wonders if we get them early."

—Dr. Norman Spack, director of Gender Management Service at Boston Children's Hospital

After decades of relentless activism, propaganda, and indoctrination, the general public associates homosexuality not with the lewd scenes of a 1970s drag march, but the Hollywood image of a mild-mannered, hardworking same-sex couple that simply wants "equality" and "tolerance."

This politically correct myth obscures reality. As the gears of the sexual revolution grind on, the homosexual movement seeks nothing less than the complete rejection of natural and divine moral law, the elimination of the natural differences and complementarities between the sexes, and the reengineering of human nature itself. Nowhere are these goals more clearly revealed than in the so-called "transgender" movement, the "T" of "LGBT" (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender).

But most alarming is the movement's latest goal: sex-changes for children and the promotion of homosexuality in schools.

"Born in the Wrong Body"

"Transgender" or "transsexual" people are those who think that, because of some accident of nature, their biological sex is in conflict with what they feel to be their true sex. In other words, they claim that they were "born in the wrong body." Psychologists call this condition "Gender Identity Disorder" (GID), which consists of "conflict between a person's physical gender and the gender he or

she identifies as."¹

Until recently, doctors treated GID with psychiatric therapy to address its causes and helped people accept their true sex. A person with GID may sincerely have a confused, conflicted, and mentally disturbed perception of his or her true sex, but personal feelings must give way to biological reality.

The causes of GID are varied and complex. Some are physical, such as pre-natal hormone disorders. Others are social. Children of divorced or emotionally distant or abusive parents are particularly vulnerable to developing feelings of disgust or rejection of their own biological sex, of identifying as a member of the opposite sex, and of developing GID or homosexual feelings. "Gender identity disorder in children regularly leads to same-sex attraction in adolescence," writes Dr. Rick Fitzgibbons, a Pennsylvania psychiatrist and principal contributor to the Catholic Medical Association's study "Homosexuality and Hope."

Should Emotion Trump Science?

Like the sexual revolution in general, the transgender movement bases itself on several errors about human nature and society. Although there are multiple, contradictory opinions among the various LGBT schools of thought (a subset of so-called "Gender Studies"), proponents of transgenderism mostly agree on certain key concepts that are fundamentally at odds with human nature.



A child with "Gender Identity Disorder" may be confused and conflicted, but personal feelings must give way to biological reality.

Their very idea of human sexuality and the vocabulary they use to describe it conflicts with traditional biology. For example, the distinction between gender and sex is fundamental to transgenderism. First introduced by sexologist John Money in the 1950s and popularized by the feminist movement in the 1970s, they claim that the traditional, external manifestations of maleness and femaleness, such as the traditional "gender roles," ways of dressing, speaking, acting, thinking (i.e. one's gender) are imposed social constructs, unconnected to biology (i.e. one's sex).

Stephanie Brill, author of *The Transgender Child: A Handbook for Families and Professionals*, explains:

"For many people, the terms 'gender' and 'sex' are interchangeable. This idea has become so common,

particularly in western societies, that it is rarely questioned. Yet biological sex and gender are different; gender is not inherently connected to one's physical anatomy.

"Sex is biological and includes physical attributes such as sex chromosomes, gonads, sex hormones, internal reproductive structures, and external genitalia. At birth, it is used to identify individuals as male or female. Gender on the other hand is far more complicated. Along with one's physical traits, it is the complex inter-relationship between those traits and one's internal sense of self as male, female, both or neither as well as one's outward presentations and behaviors related to that perception."²

According to transgenderism, a person's "gender identity" is entirely subjective, determined by his or her own feelings and emotions. If a man feels that he is a woman, that feeling automatically overrides any biological evidence to the contrary. A person can be biologically male, but his "gender identity" can be female, male, a combination of both, or neither one. All that matters is what one's "internal sense" dictates.

However, when morality and science are dictated by subjective feeling, then reason, natural law, and self-evident reality are rendered meaningless. We truly slide down the "slippery slope." What if a person's "internal sense" dictates that they are sexually attracted to immediate family members? Or children? If they are in a "loving" and consensual relationship with a child, why shouldn't their "internal sense" be respected and protected by law? Why not bestiality? Polygamy?

Transgenderism states that "gender identity" is entirely subjective. But like homosexuality, once it is chosen (at least if it contradicts one's physical sex) it is absolute and immutable. Yet thousands have left both homosexuality and transgenderism. Sarah Yang, for example, lived 19 years believing that she was a man, but later left the transgender lifestyle.

It is basic biology and scientific fact that there are two, and only two, physical sexes. Science has long proved that the DNA of every cell of the human body



released court footage

Sarah Yang says she is living proof that gender confusion can be overcome. She lived her first nineteen years as a boy and blames societal pressure for keeping her in her depressed and gender-confused state for so long.

contains either the male XY chromosomes or the female XX chromosomes, and that these chromosomes determine the sex of the child from conception. And science is continuing to prove what most people knew all along: that cultural masculinity and femininity are not artificial "social constructs" imposed on humanity.

The Brave New World of Transgender Surgery

Due to the homosexual movement's influence in the medical establishment, people with GID often have medical operations to change their sex. According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), the recommended treatment for GID consists not only of "individual therapy for adults," but also "sex reassignment through surgery and hormonal therapy." However, NIH admits that "identity problems may continue after this treatment."³ Rather than conform a person's "gender identity" to biological reality, it is biology that must conform to an agenda.

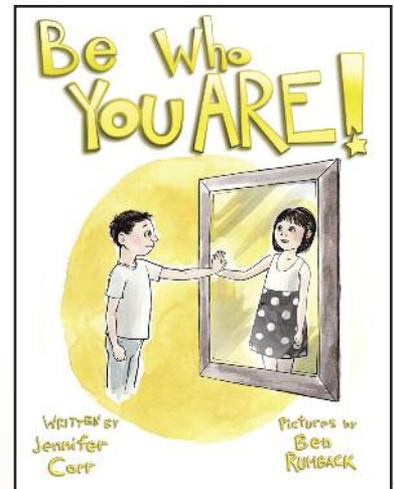
With cutting-edge technology, patients undergo full-fledged hormone replacement therapy (HRT). Men seeking to become women take daily injections of estrogen; women seeking to become men take testosterone. Cross-gender HRT induces many physiological changes to the body that mimic the appearance of the opposite sex, many of

which are irreversible. At the very least, they are left physically mutilated and permanently sterile.

The End of Childhood?

Since 1990, the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) has promoted the homosexual agenda in America's schools and colleges. To date, they have founded approximately 3,600 "Gay/Straight Alliances" at K-12 schools, colleges, and universities nationwide. They are the primary organization behind the annual "Day of Silence" which recruits innocent children by highlighting real or imagined cases of "bullying" and "discrimination."

"Give me four years to teach the children and the seed I have sown will never be uprooted," said communist leader, Vladimir Lenin. Likewise, the homosexual movement understands that in order to change society's persistent rejection of homosexual behavior it must target the youngest generation. In fact, the landmark 1996 feature film "It's Elementary" served as a training tool for



fair use commentary

According to the author's website *Be Who You Are* was "written to open minds and hearts to the concept of children who do not identify with their birth gender."

teachers on how to introduce concepts such as "two mommies" or "two daddies," "alternative family structures," and "bullying" to children as young as five.

One of the model elementary schools profiled in the film, Cambridge Friends School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, holds "Gay/Lesbian Pride Day," reads

pro-homosexual children's books such as "King and King" to kindergartners, invites homosexual activists to give talks and presentations to the older students, and has participated as a school in the Boston Pride Parade since 1998.⁴

However, the homosexual and transgender revolution is about more than mere re-education.

"We Can do Wonders if We Get Them Early"

Even with modern technology, it is impossible for adults to entirely hide or eliminate their male or female characteristics. Those who "transition" as adults usually fail to pass as members of the opposite sex, further exacerbating the mental disturbance that prompted them to undergo the surgery in the first place. For this reason, transgender proponents recommend that children with GID begin "transitioning" to their desired gender as young as possible.

Endocrinologist Dr. Norman Spack is the founder and director of the Gender Management Service, or GeMS at Boston Children's Hospital and a pioneer in transgender therapy for children. Created in 2008 and modeled on a Dutch program, GeMS is the first of its kind in the United States. Its mission: "Help children cope with the disconnect they may feel between the body and gender they were born with and the body and gender in which they identify. Therefore, we try to help them develop a body that is consistent with their identity."⁵

Dr. Spack "treats" children as young as nine. After diagnosing them with GID, he administers hormone blockers to prevent the onset of puberty. At around sixteen, he puts them on full-fledged hormone treatment, injecting testosterone for girls who want to be boys, and estrogen for boys who want to be girls. "We can do wonders if we get them early," he says. "In my experience, the patients just blossom physically and mentally when they get the hormones of the gender they affirm. . . It's quite amazing."⁶

On December 11, 2011, the *Boston Globe* published a glowing, front-page report about Dr. Spack and one of his



More than just the elimination of the family, the homosexual movement wants to re-engineer human nature itself.

child "transgender" patients, Wyatt Maines. According to his parents, Wyatt expressed his desire to be a girl from an early age. While his identical twin brother, Jonas, always liked to play sports and masculine games, Wyatt always preferred more feminine toys and clothing.

Although the article portrays his parents as initially conflicted about their son's abnormal behavior, whatever objections they had rapidly gave way to full-fledged "transgender" activism. By fifth grade, they had already legally changed his name to "Nicole," sued their local school district to allow Wyatt to use the girls' bathroom, and began transgender "treatment" under Dr. Spack in Boston. At age eleven, they put him on puberty blockers, and at fourteen he received daily doses of estrogen. When he turns eighteen, Wyatt plans to have full-fledged sex reassignment surgery.

"She really is a girl," affirms Kelly Maines, Wyatt's mother. "A girl born with a birth defect. That's how she looks at it. . . My children taught me who Nicole is and who she needed to be."

Wyatt ("Nicole") Maines has become a poster child of sorts for the burgeoning child transgender movement. His father Wayne has a blog on the leftist online news site "The Huffington Post," specializing in transgender and homosexual "rights" issues⁷ and they have spoken at events sponsored by GLAD⁸ (Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders), the ACLU,⁹ and Equality Maine.¹⁰

Imposing the Transgender Revolution

The Maines' case is not an outlier. There is a growing trend among parents who deny biological-based sexuality and impose the transgender revolution on their own children.

Last year, a Canadian couple made headlines for refusing to reveal the sex of their newborn child. The mother, Kathy Witterick, declared that her four-month-old baby Storm "should be able to develop its own sexual identity without having to conform to social stereotypes or bow to predetermined expectations associated with gender."¹¹

Zach Avery is the youngest case of GID in the UK, diagnosed at age four. He lives and dresses as a girl and his elementary school has even changed its bathrooms to unisex to accommodate him. His mother, Theresa Avery, affirmed: "He just wants to be like a little girl and he's very happy with his long blonde hair, pink and red bedroom and a wardrobe full of girls' clothes."¹²

True to form, the liberal media has given this attack on childhood its support. The *Washington Post* recently wrote about "Tyler," a transgender five-year-old girl who, ever since she was two, wanted to be a boy. "Tyler. . . doesn't really like to talk about his earlier existence as a girl. 'I'm not transgender,' he fumes when he hears the word, often spoken by his mom as she explains things. 'I. Am. A. Boy.'"

"This is what Tyler's parents wanted when they asked me to tell their story," wrote Petula Dvorak, "to spark discussion and educate people about the transgendered."¹³

The title of a recent article in the *New York Times Magazine* says it all: "What's So Bad About a Boy Who Wants to Wear a Dress?"¹⁴

Transgender children even have their own summer camp. Camp Aranutiq, located in rural Connecticut, is a camp where "gender-variant youth" can find a "safe space to relate to others like them, away from home. . ."¹⁵ Honorary board members include Chaz Bono, the transgender daughter of singer Cher, and Dr. Spack from GeMS in Boston.

Delirious Equality

What drives this sexual revolution?

Pride, sensuality, and radical equality.

Transgenderism and homosexuality clamor for absolute liberty. They reject law at its most basic level: the natural law. Man's base instincts, emotions, and impulses, no matter how depraved, must enjoy absolute liberty, regardless of what human reason says or biological fact demonstrates. Restraint and submission to a higher law is considered onerous. Indeed, the very concept of law, of authority that prohibits or punishes, is seen as an evil in itself. The only maxim that survives is the famous slogan of the Sorbonne Revolt of May, 1968: "*Il est interdit d'interdire!*" ("It is forbidden to forbid!")

In their equality delirium, transgender activists deny the innate, God-given and natural inequalities between men and women. Transgenderism affirms that sex has no meaning, that words such as "male" and "female" are artificial constructs, and that changing one's sex is like changing one's clothes. It is perhaps the most radical application of equality in history. The same Revolution that hates traditional sex roles, that ridicules women who choose to stay at home to raise their children, and that demonizes masculine displays of strength or knightly virtue, also promotes transgenderism and homosexuality.

"A leopard can't change its spots," the old proverb says. Human nature can be



To change society's persistent rejection of homosexual behavior, the LGBT movement understands that it must target the youngest generation.

mutilated, but not changed. In spite of appearances, a "transgendered man" or a "transgendered woman" will always be a woman or a man, respectively.

God Is Not Mocked

A society that approves of transgenderism is one bent on self-destruction. It is the ultimate expression of hatred for our human nature and of the natural law inscribed upon it by God Himself, and a mockery of the Divine command: "Be fruitful and multiply" (Gen. 1:28).

To impose this agenda on innocent children is unspeakably wrong. In the words of our Divine Redeemer: "But he that shall scandalize one of these little ones that believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone should be hanged about his neck, and that he

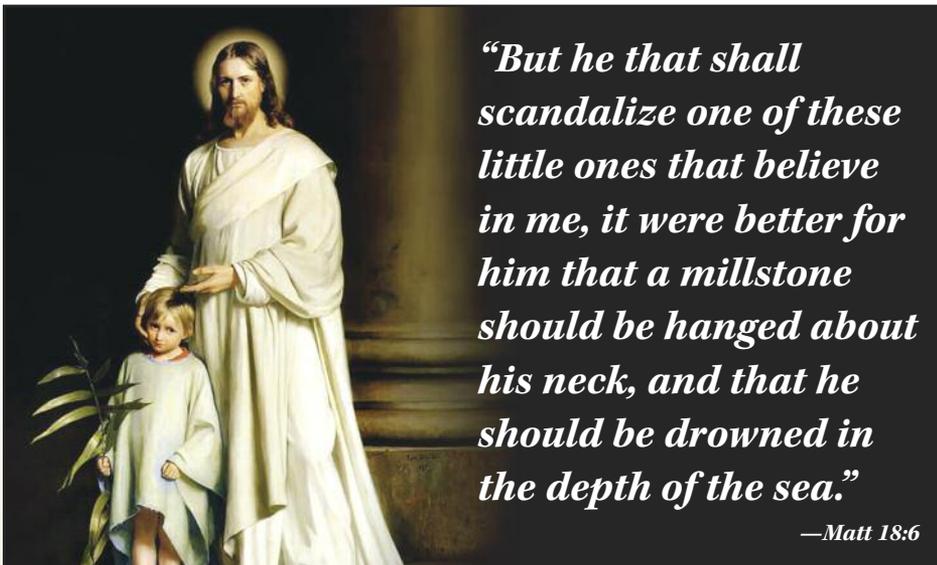
should be drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matt 18:6).

Not Inevitable

Throughout much of the twentieth century, it was common to hear that communism was the "wave of the future," that anyone who stood up to communism was resisting the "wheel of history" and unable to see that it was the next step of humanity's inexorable evolution towards "progress." Fighting the advance of communism, it was said, was like fighting gravity: equally pointless and utterly futile.

This prediction, however, was nothing but a self-fulfilling prophecy that failed. Although some of the ideas of communism, such as radical egalitarianism and hostility to private property, have become more or less prevalent in certain fringe sectors of American society, communism as a governing ideology was roundly rejected. A decisive number of concerned Americans actively and successfully resisted the communist onslaught. Today, not even the most extreme-left politicians would dare to publicly label themselves admirers of Marx and Lenin, and those that do are completely ostracized.

In a similar fashion, proponents of the homosexual agenda parrot the prediction that acceptance of homosexuality, transgenderism, and their involvement with children are all but inevitable. As with communism, it is a self-fulfilling prophecy that will only



"But he that shall scandalize one of these little ones that believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone should be hanged about his neck, and that he should be drowned in the depth of the sea."

—Matt 18:6

come to pass if the majority of people believe it will, and only if good people do nothing.

The homosexual movement is built upon error. But just as darkness is forced to give way when confronted by light, so too does error collapse when confronted with reason and logic guided by the traditional teachings of the Holy Catholic Church. The light only fails when it covers itself up for fear of “offending” or “provoking” the darkness. Unless evil is vigorously denounced and opposed, it will gain the upper hand.

Nevertheless, the gates of Hell will never prevail. When Our Lady of Fatima appeared to three shepherd children in 1917, she told them that the Great War then raging was sent by God as a chastisement for the world’s sins, and that a second war would come if mankind did not convert. She also gave them a promise of great hope: “Finally, my Immaculate Heart will triumph!” ■

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5. Gender Management Service (GeMS) Clinic: <http://www.childrenshospital.org/clinicalservices/Site2280/mainpageS2280P0.html>
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8. Plaintiff Nicole Maines’ Remarks at GLAD’s 2011 Spirit of Justice Award Dinner <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJQmdw-JCu8>
9. Family wins ACLU award for work on transgender issues in Maine <http://bangordailynews.com/2011/10/27/news/bangor/orono-family-wins-aclu-award-for-work-on-transgender-issues/>
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An Official American TFP Statement

Court’s Decisions Must Strengthen Pro-Family Resolve

The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) strongly decries the June 26, 2013 Supreme Court decisions on aspects of same-sex “marriage.” The first decision struck down section 3 of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act that confers federal benefits only to the marriage of one man and one woman. The second decision nullified the votes of a California state referendum that enshrined the definition of marriage as the union of a man and woman in the state’s constitution.

In both decisions, the Supreme Court solemnly renounced the duty imposed by natural law on every government to uphold morality in striving for the common good. The decision also represents a serious disconnect from American legal tradition and a disenfranchisement of 7,000,000 California voters who approved Proposition 8 at the ballot box.

In the first decision, *United States v. Windsor*, the Supreme Court arrogated to

itself the right to redefine marriage, creating a privileged class inside federal law and gratuitously conferring benefits upon a sterile relationship which by design cannot perpetuate society or fulfill the function for which the benefits were created.

In *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, the court refused standing to ProtectMarriage.com which appealed to the court not to leave the majority of California voters defenseless against the shameless behavior of the governor and state officials who refused to defend the state constitution which they had sworn to uphold. The decision represents the victory of anarchy imposed upon citizens by authority.

Both decisions provided a much-needed platform to the homosexual movement that has suffered defeats in thirty-one popular referenda from states that have enshrined marriage between one man and one woman into their constitutions. The rulings are yet one more example of how this agenda advances

above all by judicial fiat or is rammed through legislatures.

The decisions do not change the laws or marriage amendments outside of disenfranchised California. They must not affect our resolve to fight for the sacred institutions of marriage and the family. The court’s ruling cannot nullify God’s definition of marriage which cannot and will not change. In California itself, the battle may not be over if one or more counties sue to uphold Proposition 8 in their jurisdictions. ProtectMarriage.com has vowed to fight on at every level.

In the cultural war fiercely raging today in America, these decisions represent one more step in a brutal offensive that obliges all pro-family forces to take the initiative. The American TFP prays that the court’s decisions will serve as a call for all morality-loving Americans to engage in a legal, principled, and uncompromising fight against the homosexual agenda. ■



AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA[®]

September/October 2013

PROGRESS REPORT

Your Prayers and Petitions Arrive in Fatima

BY MICHAEL GORRE

On the idyllic Spring days of May 11th to the 13th, I had the honor and privilege of representing America Needs Fatima in Fatima, Portugal, for the 96th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady.

Accompanied by my parents, longtime members of ANF, we were there to offer all of our prayers during the pilgrimage for all of America Needs Fatima's members, especially those in most need. Likewise, we prayed for those who sent in their names for the online "Pray for Me" signup.

On the afternoon of May 12, I was honored to deliver the impressive prayer banner made up of 8,194 little blue cloth pieces, each one signed by an ANF member. While doing so, I was inspired by the devotion of so many pilgrims who walked on their knees for a distance of over a quarter of a mile, from the back of the Cova da Iria to the Chapel of the Apparition. All of these little things make an enormous difference to God.

Then, on the night of May 12, the vigil night of the 96th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady, we participated in the great candlelight procession with 300,000 people in the Cova da Iria. Seeing such a



Above: Vincent and Michael Gorre unfurl the America Needs Fatima prayer banner in front of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary in Fatima, Portugal. *Right:* ANF members sent thousands of small red candles that were melted down to make two large candles.

multitude of Catholics bearing candles, praying the rosary and singing hymns, seemed like a miracle in itself!

And then, in the very place where the Miracle of the Sun occurred, we lit two large red candles; the accumulation of many thousands of small candles that continually arrived at our headquarters from ANF members all across the United States. While lighting the two great red candles, I could not help but be moved by the thought that I was lighting them, on behalf of America Needs Fatima, for the thousands of faithful devotees of Our Lady of Fatima in the United States. The two flames I lit, in your stead, joined with the 300,000 other flames that burned that night, flames that sparkled like stars in the night to honor the "Lady more brilliant than the sun." ■



Michael holds the stack of "Pray for Me" names in front of the Chapel of the Apparitions.



Testament of Love

BY ANDREA PHILLIPS

On the evening of April 22nd, answering the rallying call of America Needs Fatima and the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP), a crowd of 300 strong assembled before the Walter Kerr Theater on 48th Street, New York City. They were there to peacefully and prayerfully protest the opening of another offensive play, *The Testament of Mary* by Colm Toibin.

Toibin's play divests Mary Most Holy of her iconic aura, portraying her as a common, disgruntled, resentful woman, skeptical of her Son's redemptive mission. At one point, the "Mary" actress strips naked before the audience.

To portray the immaculate, the virginal mother of God as a faithless secularist, denying the divine plan of salvation, is a blasphemous, callous offense to all who love and revere Mary as blessed among women, and as the *Stabat Mater* heroically offering her Son for our salvation.

Once more, the sound of public prayer



Over 300 Catholics assembled at the Walter Kerr Theater in New York.



The *Testament of Mary*'s attack on the Blessed Mother was turned into a testament of love by the hymns and prayers of the protestors.

and song was heard in New York City as viewers arrived for the play. This time the theater prepared by parking a huge moving truck in front of the theater, shielding attendees from the prayerful protesters.

The sweet, regal effigy of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima stood on the shoulders of members and friends of ANF and TFP in stark contrast to the crass portrayal going on across the street. The rhythmic cadence of the rosary, the Magnificat and other prayers rose in loving reparation, as "God Bless America," "Holy God," "Immaculate Mary," and "Hail Holy Queen" were sung intermittently.

One lady from San Francisco, CA enthusiastically joined the rally, having come across a notice in a church bul-

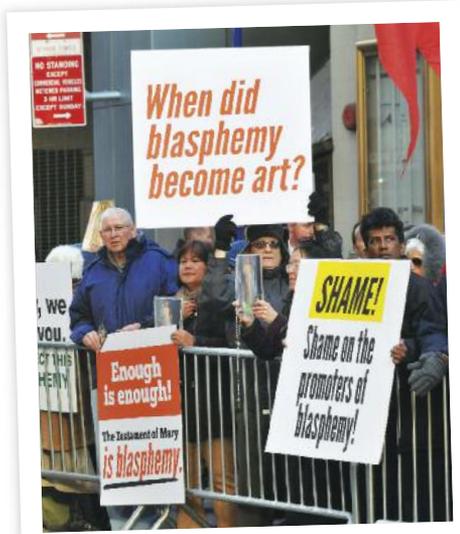
letin. She was happy to find an organization fighting blasphemies and was delighted to be a part of the protest.

All present were happy to be there as well, basking in a sense of camaraderie, peace, and fulfilled duty to all we hold most sacred.

May God bless all those who interrupted their busy schedules, braving traffic and chill to offer reparation and protest yet another callous, offensive distortion of the mysteries of our Holy Faith.

As long as secularist authors and artists refuse to leave alone that which they do not understand—much less revere—they can line up the trucks, for we will always be there. ■

The blasphemous play was scheduled to run for twelve weeks, but it was cancelled less than two weeks after its first public view.



America Needs Fatima members from all over New York came to join the protest.





An Unhappy “Gay Day” Experience

Prior to the May 31st–June 2nd “Gay Days” weekend event at Disney World in Orlando, Florida, America Needs Fatima petitioned Disney to drop this and all future celebrations of homosexual behavior. Within ten days, 14,077 petitions were gathered and sent to Disney’s CEO Robert Iger.

Later in June, America Needs Fatima received the following testimony from a French mother of nine. Her story perfectly illustrates why innocent children and unsuspecting families deserve better than a promotion of unnatural vice when they pay for Disney tickets.

My husband and I experienced the “Gay Days” in Orlando, in 2002, and it was a horrible experience. We went with our three first boys; seven, five and three years old.

We knew that something was going wrong when we noticed that everybody was dressed in red t-shirts (we still hadn’t gazed at the “Gay Days” on them).

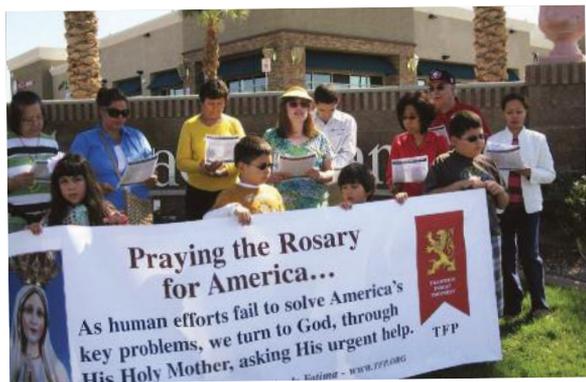
Inside Magic Kingdom (the park intended for kids ages one to ten) things got worse. Some men were dressed with minimal spandex shorts, revealing everything, and with women shoes. Other men began kissing scandalously in front of our kids, in the waiting lanes, where we couldn’t flee away. We tried to cover the eyes of our kids with our hands; they enjoying our anguish, smiling meanly, doubled their kisses and hugs.

I’m not exaggerating if I tell you that [the] evil in the air could be sliced with a knife.

Finally we left the lane and sought a park executive. We told him that we had come from a far away country to have a pleasant and innocent day with our little kids in this park, and not to witness hell on earth. The executive told us he couldn’t do anything and gave us tickets to return another day. But the magic of Disney had fallen forever. Disney would never return to the fantastic park it was in the past. The magic had gone forever.

Thanks for hearing my testimony.

Eliana de Ambrosini, France



HELP SAVE AMERICA Become a Rosary Rally Captain

America is in a terrible spiritual and moral crisis. We need the spiritual power of the rosary to help us. You can help save America by being a rally captain in the 2013 Public Square Rosary Crusade. It's simple. A Rosary Rally is you and your friends praying the rosary in a public place on October 12, Saturday, at 12 noon. We'll send you a free banner, instruction manual and a booklet with suggested prayers, hymns and instructions for the event.

The Rosary Rallies have grown year after year; beginning in 2007 with 2,107 rallies to 2012 with 9,077 rallies. Our goal is 10,000 Rallies this year. By being a rally captain, you will be a spiritual front-line soldier to save America.

Register now. Find out how easy it is to hold a Public Rosary Rally by calling 866-584-6012 or going to www.ANF.org/2013Captain.



G U S T O D I A N ' S

C O R N E R

"Our Lady Broke Her Promise"

BY KENNETH MURPHY

In early June, I had the pleasure of doing a Fatima Home Presentation at the home of Mrs. Ethelbert in Arlington, Virginia. During the course of the visit, I described how to fulfill the Five First Saturdays Devotion and asked, "Does anyone know the promise of this devotion?" "Assistance at the hour of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation," Mrs. Ethelbert replied, paraphrasing the promise Our Lady made to Lucia, the oldest of the three seers at Fatima.

I had never received the correct answer before and asked how she knew of it so readily. "My husband was very devoted to that devotion and I did it with him many times," she explained. "However," she continued, "my husband died quickly and it seemed that Our Lady broke her promise."

I of course asked how that was and so she explained. Sadly, her husband was driving over snow-covered roads when he suddenly suffered a heart attack, lost control of his car and crashed. He was rushed to the hospital, but unfortunately died in the ambulance. When she arrived at the hospital too late to call for a priest she became saddened and disappointed that her husband had passed on without receiving the sacraments. She feared for his soul. Apparently, Our Lady had not kept her promise attached to the devotion of the first Saturdays.

Three months after burying her husband, a priest knocked on her door and asked, "Are you Mrs. Ethelbert?" She confirmed and the priest proceeded to tell his story. He was driving on icy roads on his way to say Mass when the car in front of his spiraled out of control and crashed. "I knew right away that the driver had suffered a heart attack



Kenneth became a Fatima custodian six years ago when he was nineteen.



Mrs. Ethelbert in the center of the photo surrounded by her children, grandchildren and friends.

and was in danger of dying," the priest said. The priest rushed to the scene of the accident, hoping to help. While waiting for the ambulance, the priest asked Mr. Ethelbert if he was Catholic. Mr. Ethelbert confirmed and then began to give his confession. The priest then had time to give absolution and administer the last rites.

Once the ambulance arrived, the priest left for the church to say Mass. When he later learned the crash victim had died on the way to the hospital, the priest felt it was important to let the family know that their loved one died in the state of grace. Because of the hospital's privacy policy, it took three months for the priest to obtain an address from someone at the hospital. Only after this was he able to visit Mrs. Ethelbert and reassure her that Our Lady had not failed to keep her promise. Mr. Ethelbert had indeed died "with all the graces necessary for salvation." ■

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

DISCOURAGED BY BLASPHEMY?

Join America Needs Fatima's e-mail list at www.ANF.org/Alerts

Let America Needs Fatima help you do something about the attacks against Our Lord, Our Lady and the Faith by signing up for free e-mail alerts at www.ANF.org/Alerts

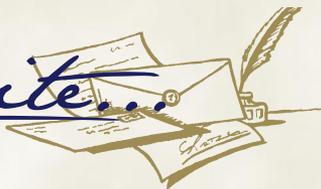


Fulfill your obligation of defending the honor of God, His mother, His Holy Church, and good order in society by being part of this growing and powerful network. With a few clicks you will be able to sign petitions and send protest messages to those responsible for public blasphemy.

You will also be notified of reparation and protest rally locations near you.



Our Readers Write...



Summer Camps

I am a Catholic priest from the Philippines. I love the Blessed Mother Mary, the protectress of the faith. I am happy to know that you have youth camps where you train young men, new knights



of our time, to defend the Catholic Church and its doctrines, the lives of babies in the womb, and to restore the decaying morality of the whole world. May you continue to host these camps so we can have plenty of defenders of the faith as soldiers of Christ.

B.B., Philippines

My son and my husband both went to your camp this year and I can see such a wonderful change in both of them. Your camp has been an answer to my prayers. I desire the sanctification of my family, in order that we can bring other souls to Christ, and your boldness and example has strengthened their convictions and desire to be courageous in their faith.

R.G., Tampa, Florida

Anti-Blasphemy E-mails

Thank you for the updates, especially the ones about the desecration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. May God bless you for your efforts to see the Eucharist honored.

P.M., Highland Lakes, New Jersey

I want to continue to get these updates and others relating to the onslaught against God, Jesus, Mary. This is tearing our nation apart. I believe the Constitution, Bill of Rights and Declaration of Independence were written by Christian

men, intended for a nation under God.
H.M., Weatherford, Texas

I depend on your emails to alert me and give me the opportunity to defend Our Lord and Our Lady. So thank you very much. I always forward your emails to my Catholic relatives and friends inviting them to protest as well.

J.B., Greenwood, Minnesota

I am not a devout Catholic, and I agree with your protests and praise your efforts in defending Our Lord! May God bless this protest campaign, and may He convict the hearts of those who are so willing to mock Christ for entertainment's sake.

H.F., Huntington Beach, California

I see so many things happening in the Church which make me less than enthusiastic, but when I happen to see something like this, it gives me authentic hope.

J.V., Cleveland, Ohio

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

Will America Needs Fatima be there for our grandchildren?



Mr. and Mrs. Jay Duncan

Like Mr. and Mrs. Jay Duncan of Conyngham, Pennsylvania, many Catholics 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.

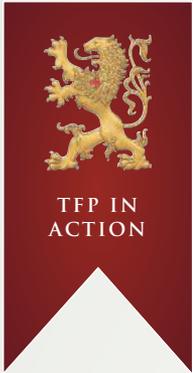
You will be deeply satisfied to know that your generosity will help future generations to know, love and practice a message of such importance, that God sent His Holy Mother to personally deliver it to us at Fatima in 1917.

Your help will make the following works possible:

- Home visitations with 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
- Thousands of Public Square Rosary Rallies annually
- Family pilgrimages to Marian shrines
- Outreach programs for high school and college students

Use your will to give devotion to the next generation!

Louisa is waiting to help you. Call her at (888) 317-5571.



Would Saint Ignatius Approve?

BY JAMES BASCOM

Founded by Saint Ignatius of Loyola in 1540, the Society of Jesus became perhaps the most formidable religious order in the history of the Church. The order served as the centerpiece of the Catholic Counter-Reformation against the new-born Protestant Revolt sending missionaries around the globe.

Their militant structure, intense zeal for the Catholic cause, intransigence toward error, and absolute obedience to the Pope earned them great admiration. Indeed, the Jesuits' love for the Papacy included an additional vow of obedience specifically to the successor of Saint Peter and the Supreme Magisterium of the Church.

Such holy and illustrious origins highlight just how far many Jesuit universities have drifted away in recent times. On Monday, May 20, Jesuit-run Boston College hosted Enda Kenny, Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland, as the 2013 commencement speaker. Such a choice by a Catholic university is a scandal since Mr. Kenny was promoting pro-abortion legislation. In fact, Marty Walz, President of the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts, praised the choice as an "appropriate commencement speaker."

Mr. Kenny had already raised the ire of Catholics for his attack on the Church through proposed legislation that would punish priests with up to five years in prison for not breaking the Seal of Confession to report certain crimes.

Catholics in Boston and beyond were outraged by the choice of Mr. Kenny. Cardinal Sean O'Malley declined to attend the ceremonies, stating that, "It is my ardent hope that Boston College will work

to redress the confusion, disappointment and harm caused by not adhering to the Bishops' directives," referencing the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' instruction that Catholic institutions not honor those whose views contradict the moral teachings of the Church.

Approximately fifty faithful Catholics protested outside the Beacon Street entrance of Boston College as Mr. Kenny took to the podium. The peaceful rally and press conference was organized by Students for Life and supported by the Catholic Action League of Massachusetts, Operation Rescue (Boston) and local pro-life leaders.

A contingent of volunteers from TFP Student Action also participated, bringing large signs and a fourteen-foot banner which read: "Boston College honors pro-abortion politician Enda Kenny. Catholics Protest!" and "Real Catholics never promote abortion."

Some graduates and their parents arriving by car expressed support with a honk and thumbs up. Many had no idea Taoiseach Kenny was pro-abortion. Others, unfortunately, were more upset over the presence of protesters than the honors being conferred on a pro-abortion politician.

The TFP drums and bagpipes lifted the spirits of the group and magnified the impact of the peaceful protest. National and international media outlets mentioned the pro-life demonstration. *The Christian Post* mentioned TFP Student Action's protest petition to Boston College which gained over 8,700 signatures.

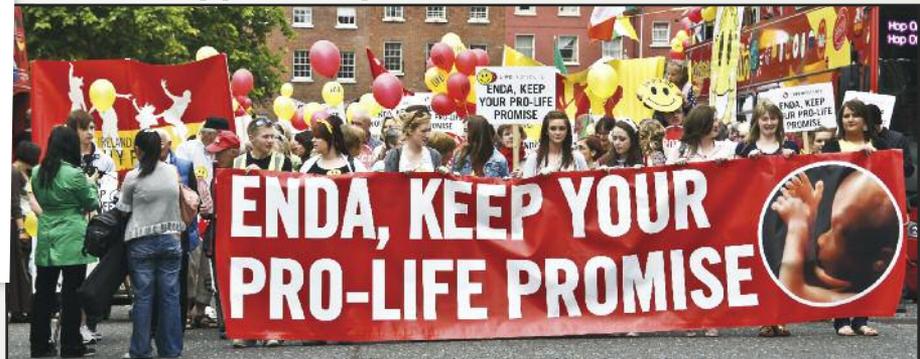
Unfortunately, Taoiseach Enda Kenny did ram through abortion legislation in Ireland. Please pray for the Irish that they may use their new pro-life movement to save as many lives as possible and prevent Ireland from turning into a wasteland of Margaret Sanger. ■

About fifty Catholics protested outside the university entrance.



The quick passage of abortion in Ireland by a Taoiseach elected on a pro-life platform has shocked even Irish Americans into pro-life activism.

Pro-life rallies in Ireland topped 60,000, a remarkable achievement considering the island's total population of only 6.4 million.



infomatique

TFP-Louisiana Call to Chivalry Camp participants at the Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succour in New Orleans.

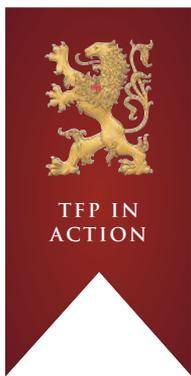
Where Boys Discover CATHOLIC CHIVALRY

BY GABRIEL JORDAN

After a grueling lineup of competitive medieval games followed by a solemn rosary procession and sumptuous banquet, the annual ten-day TFP-Louisiana Call to Chivalry Camp came to a close on July 10th.

The theme of this year's camp focused on the history and culture of Italy: the fall of the Roman Empire, examples of holy Popes, the Swiss Guards, the Papal Zouaves, Saint Philip Neri, the Shroud of Turin, Saint Francis of Assisi, the Roman Military Martyrs, the Siege of Malta, and the heroic Battle of Lepanto. In addition to illustrated talks on these subjects, the boys also enjoyed hardy Italian cuisine complete with Tiramisu and Cassata cake.

But for many the highlight of the event was the opportunity to put the



virtues of chivalry into practice with a campaign in defense of the unborn. Dozens of enthusiastic boys lined the sidewalks of a busy New Orleans avenue where Planned Parenthood plans to build a new abortion facility. Between the recitation of the rosary, camp participants waved signs, flew banners, played bag-

pipes and drums, chanted Marian hymns and encouraged passersby to oppose the construction of a new abortion mill. What a sight!

Just as the knights of old defended orphans and widows, the modern-day knight must know how to legally and peacefully defend the unborn against the scourge of abortion and stand up for God's Law.

"My son Daniel attended his first camp this year and he is a changed young man," stated one parent.

Another parent added that her son "has not stopped talking about the camp, the men, their heroic example and the wonderful time that he had. It has been an amazing event in his life, one he wishes would not end. He has been to other camps, but none like yours. Nothing can touch what he has seen at your camp. He is on fire to live and dedicate himself to Our Lady."

May God continue to inspire more boys to fight for the greater glory of God with holy boldness, honor, courage and integrity. ■

The virtues of chivalry were put into practice in front of an abortion clinic.



Indoor games to challenge the brain.



Unique and creative medieval games.



Adoration of the relic of the True Cross.

A Worldwide Moral Battle

BY VINCENT GORRE



COMMENTARY

In the wake of the twin Supreme Court decisions favoring same-sex “marriage” handed down on June 26, 2013, homosexual activists and supporters in the United States are still celebrating and, with the help of the mainstream mass media, they are claiming that the majority of American public opinion now supports their cause. Meanwhile, in France, the battleground has shifted from the national legislature to the local towns and municipalities, where LifeSiteNews.com reports that close to 15,000 mayors will defy the new law by refusing to perform same-sex “weddings.” Leaders of opposition groups are vowing to continue the fight throughout the French countryside.

Some analysts find the strength of the French opposition to same-sex “marriage” perplexing, due to France’s history of secularism and liberalism. Millions of protesters from all sides of the ideological and religious spectrum flooded the streets of Paris in four separate demonstrations before, during and after the heated debates in Parliament, where the bill passed only by a small margin. The socialist majority in Parliament hurriedly passed the bill despite pressure from the continuing protests and chaos on the streets. On May 18, 2013, French president Francois Hollande signed the bill into law, making France the fourteenth country in the world to have legalized same-sex “marriage.”

The arguments mounted by the French opposition surprisingly focused on the effects on children brought up by same-sex couples. According to Georgetown University’s Jocelyne Cesari, 170 law professors sent an open letter to the French Senate stating their opinion that children adopted by same-sex couples will be deprived of knowing their biological origin. The letter further stated that “same-sex ‘marriage’ legitimizes the commodification of procreation by producing a market where children can be fabricated and sold like goods.” Cesari concludes that the open letter “highlights that French collective values remain unconsciously connected to a traditional vision of society, and that the religious conception of the family has not been completely eroded by centuries of French secularization.”¹

Right after France’s same-sex “marriage” law

was passed, Russia announced the suspension of all adoptions from that country, and passed a new law that protects children from homosexual propaganda. When President Obama visited Senegal in Africa recently, he tried to promote the idea of same-sex “marriage,” but was promptly rebuffed by its president, who reiterated Senegal’s strict anti-homosexual behavior laws. A second African country, Kenya, made a similar contradiction to the president’s pro-homosexual agenda during his African tour. Deputy president William Ruto made a strong statement against homosexual “marriage” by declaring that Kenya is “sovereign and God-fearing.” With only fourteen countries in the world that have legalized same-sex “marriage,” it is safe to say that same-sex “marriage” is far from enjoying world-wide acceptance.

Closer to home, in the United States, despite claims by homosexual activists that they are closer to attaining their goal of marriage “equality” throughout the country, the reality is that a majority of the states have taken the necessary steps to protect traditional marriage by amending their constitutions. There are currently thirty states that

... a strong statement against homosexual “marriage” by declaring that Kenya is “sovereign and God-fearing.”

have these constitutional provisions. Seventy percent of Americans live in these states.

In its efforts to sway public opinion towards its side, the homosexual lobby relies mostly on public opinion polls heavily influenced by the mass media, with the help of Hollywood celebrities, television and sports personalities and the most homosexual-friendly president the country has ever had. However, public opinion can also change for the better as evidenced in France and even in the United States, where in the case of abortion, a majority of Americans now identify themselves as “pro-life.” ■

Note:

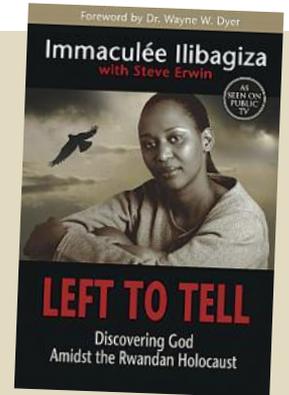
1. <http://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/essays/france-peculiar-same-sex-marriage-debate>



INTERVIEW

Lessons from *Left to Tell*

Immaculée Ilibagiza is the world-famous author of *Left to Tell*, a harrowing but true story of her survival during the infamous Rwandan Genocide of 1994. Impassioned by the assassination of Rwanda's Hutu president, many Hutu tribe members began to exterminate the Tutsi tribe members. By some estimates, over one million were killed within a hundred days. When it ended, almost all the Tutsi in Immaculée's community had been slaughtered. She survived only by hiding for ninety-one days in a tiny bathroom with seven other women. To avoid discovery, they could only move twice a day and never spoke. In this interview with *Crusade*, Immaculée describes some of the things she learned during that ordeal.



Crusade: In your story you describe how all you could count on was supernatural help. Could you tell us how that changed your idea of confidence?

Immaculée: During the genocide, my idea of confidence really changed. People are "confident" because they think they have a good family, connections, diplomas, health and the like. I saw all that taken away. Those with money were paying their killers to use a gun rather than a machete. Leaders or people with diplomas were killed because of their tribe or because someone didn't like them. The same ones who were "confident" a day before were stripped of their shoes and clothes by street boys and had to run naked.

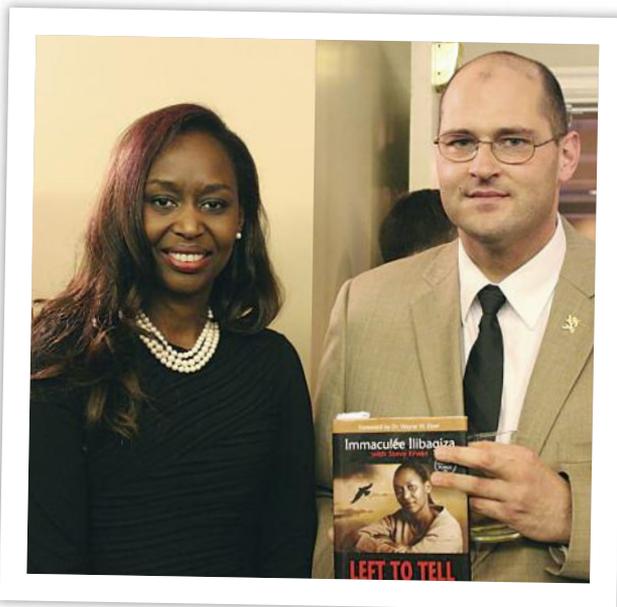
As a child I remember being tucked into bed by my mother and thinking she would never go anywhere. But during the genocide she didn't even know where I was. God was the only One with me and I felt He was leading me to discover more about Him.

True confidence can only exist if you really trust in God because He is the only One that stays the same.

If there is no confidence in the family it is because of selfishness. If there is no peace in the family it is because the Commandments are not respected. Truly, the only freedom of conscience is to know the will of God. How does God want us to act? How would He act today? Even if you are being beaten and fall, you are confident if you are doing the right thing.

Interestingly, true confidence rubs off on people and they ask, "How can you be so confident?" After the genocide, the only place to work near me was the United Nations center. Every day I went there looking for a job. UN employees wore business suits or uniforms and I was a sixty-five pound skeleton in the same clothes I had been wearing for months. They laughed at me but I knew that it is God who controls the world, not people. I trusted in Him and dismissed their laughter. Unable to get a job, I would go home and pray my rosary. People would ask, "What takes you back to that place? Why are you not ashamed of yourself?" Because I truly believed in God, He was the only One I cared about.

True confidence can only come from deep faith and from doing what is morally right no matter how difficult. It can be painful and you might die, but there is heaven if we die.



Immaculée Ilibagiza with Michael Whitcraft of *Crusade Magazine* after the interview.



US AirForce

Bodies line a Rwandan roadside. Approximately one million died in the genocide.

Crusade: Can you talk about the role the rosary played and its importance?

Immaculée: First of all, I am a Catholic so I believe that Mary the Mother of God is truly the Queen of Heaven and Earth. In her apparitions to Saint Dominic, Our Lady gave us the fifteen promises of the rosary; and if you read them, you will pray the rosary, too.

Like everybody, I had to go through a crisis. In a crisis especially you must pray, and the most powerful prayer is the rosary. Our Lady affirmed that nothing is impossible if you ask her through the rosary.

People ask why it is powerful; it is because you meditate on the life of Jesus. From the beginning when the Angel Gabriel came to Our Lady to the time Our Lord was born; then and lost and found; and then crucified for our sake until He goes to heaven and sends the Holy Spirit; and then takes His Mother back to heaven. It is the Word of God, the whole story of His life.

During the killing, when I said the rosary I began to weep with Jesus and Mary rather than alone. Mary was so good to have had Jesus, but it was not easy. He was born in a manger and so on. So right away I started thinking how my life was hard, but look what God and His sinless Mother had to go through for me! Slowly, the rosary heals

and teaches us how to live. Every day with the rosary you learn how to live and become a real, selfless Catholic. The key to understanding the rosary is to pray it sincerely. That's what I learned.

Crusade: I found the story about your family life very charming. Could you tell us about it and how it formed you to become the lady you became?

Immaculée: My family was really a gift from God but its strength came from the fact that my mom and dad leaned on God. Not one evening was ever finished without family prayer.

Sometimes men resist prayer, but our dad, as head of the family, led us in the faith and made sure we prayed every night. Even when not feeling well, my mom would always say: "your dad will not be happy if we do not pray" and she would pray with us from her sickbed.

People would ask my dad, "Why are your children going to school?" "Why are you not drunk like the other men?" "Why are you together with your wife?" "Why does your family keep growing and not breaking up?" "Why are you peaceful?" The answer was my father's insistence to keep everyone's faith.

When my dad would go away and work for two days or a week, he would always appoint my elder brother to lead the prayers and report to him on his return. When my elder brother went to boarding school, my father told my younger brother to lead because he always wanted the man of the house to do so. My mother would always say, "Father told you to do it, so you have to do it." I would laugh and ask her, "Do we really have to do it?" But my brother would reply, "We do, for I don't want to face father when he comes back and lie to him that we did pray."

And we did it father's way, on our knees, in front of the cross. It all took only ten minutes: Act of Contrition, of Faith, of Love, the Apostles' Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary and a song or litany to Our Lady or the Holy Spirit. And before going to bed, a prayer to the guardian angel. We had to memorize it; and it became the strength in our family.

My father also corrected us. He spent a lot of time at night giving us counsel. If you listened to bad songs, he would say, "Switch that off," and I would ask, "Why? I like it. It sounds nice." And he would ask, "Do you know they are singing about sinning against God? Is that what you enjoy?"

It is so refreshing to think about it because the world has gone crazy with its fashions and you need to be taught the truth.

Crusade: I was really touched to see how you were able to strike a balance between personal forgiveness and avoiding hatred but still wanting to have justice reestablished and criminals brought to justice. Could you say a word on how true forgiveness should be practiced?

Immaculée: One of the misconceptions out there is that if you forgive you are saying that what that person did is good or that you are wrong to try and stop him. A false idea of forgiveness is that you run and hug the offender, try to forget it all and give him the right to do whatever he wants. This is a lack of true love for the offender.

Whenever someone sins he acts out of a kind of blindness. We all go through blindness sometimes, but then we go to confession. Each time I go to confession I think, "How did I not see that? I was blind when making a promise I could not keep"—or whatever.

In Rwanda, one group of people was killing another and I truly forgave them but thought, "Wait a minute, they haven't changed and are still killing!" So what is the right thing to do? Go out and hug them? No, they would kill you!

I can see them acting out of selfishness, fear, or anger. All these are forms of blindness. True forgiveness first wants to remove that person's blindness. We should hope he will realize he is blind even if it takes ten or twenty years. You must take steps that may help him see the truth. You might have to hold him in prison to give him a chance of seeing his fault.

Why put him in prison if we forgive him? Because he must not hurt others and he needs time to learn his lesson. And if he still fails to realize his guilt, the state can at least use his punishment to remove the blindness of others to show what he did is wrong. These things are right and must be done, otherwise forgiveness can be a weakness and the murderer becomes another victim of his crime.

Crusade: As a society we try to avoid suffering, but the Church teaches that it is necessary for salvation. Could you comment on suffering?

Immaculée: A common proverb in Rwanda says, "When the body is too satisfied, the soul sleeps." So,



When Immaculée Ilibagiza was 22 years old, her peaceful life was interrupted by the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

"...Our Lady gave us the fifteen promises of the rosary; and if you read them, you will pray the rosary, too."

suffering is a kind of wake-up call which we need because, when everything is going our way we become spoiled and our soul goes to sleep. By fasting we tell our bodies, "I am not letting you have what you want. I will only give you what you need so my soul remains awake."

Only when we suffer do we wake up and see what is happening around us. People choose to wake up or turn to

drinks or drugs to try to sleep more. So, don't try to escape suffering; embrace it and try to understand it. Ask, "What am I trying to see here?" "What can I learn from this?" The more you pay attention to it, the quicker the suffering ends. When God allows us to suffer He is looking for a way in; and by suffering well, we give Him a chance to come in.

Crusade: Another ongoing epidemic is loneliness. Never have we lived in such large and highly populated cities, and yet I don't think there has been a time in history when people felt so alone. Could you tell us how you dealt with loneliness?

Immaculée: The sad part is that it seems that the more blessings we have, the lonelier we get. The more things we acquire to become self-sufficient, the lonelier we are because we stop asking for help.

Someone said, "When you feel helpless, go help somebody." A priest once gave me advice I will never forget. I was crying for my deceased mother and he said, "The only sure way to get the affection you lost is by giving it, not just to anybody but to those who need it most." And he told me to go and find people in hospitals who have no one to visit them. Go and show your love for them; take them food, laugh with them and they will love you back. Go find orphans and hug them and let them play with you. And your heart will be filled with the love you are lacking.

I started doing it, and when I think about it, it all goes back to Jesus. He was the smartest Person ever and gave us this tip on how to live our lives: "Love your neighbor as yourself." This is the secret of all joy. ■

My Lord, What Have We Done?

BY ANTONIO FRAGELLI

Years ago while walking through an antique store in Baton Rouge, I came across a graceful statue of a young couple twirling to a folk minuet. It spoke to me of the innocent and simple joy of times gone by. It is a bronze representation of a young boy and girl perhaps dancing for the first time and enjoying the natural complementarities which the Creator placed in nature when He created man and woman. (Gen. 2:18)

To the man God gave strength and the means to spread security to those around him; the woman He made feminine and graceful with the power to reflect the pure joys of living. Despite his youth, the young man in the statue stands like a pillar holding the girl's hand so she feels the security to spin and smile. She is secure in his support and he is pleased to provide it so she can sparkle.

While the girl holds out her apron with delicacy and grace, the young man holds his hat in respect for his dancing partner. Her dress is simple and modest but her smile reflects the beauty of a soul which the young man recognizes as a jewel. He will need to protect this jewel and make it his life's duty to provide an atmosphere for such a flower to blossom. In real life we may have found such a scene during a rural celebration in a small Austrian village many years ago, when mankind was happier and teenage suicide unheard of. Now resting on my bureau, the statuette has become for me a beacon of hope, a point of sanity.

But the world has drastically changed and there are those who proclaim that there are not two genders, but six or even seven. One recent category includes those who do not "know" what gender is theirs. Another recent report proposes that one ought to treat children neither as male nor female in case they should want to "change" their gender later in life.

Has the world gone mad? Well, yes. . . We have abandoned truth, reality and common sense and replaced them with a man-made madness—something mankind historically produces when it presumes to improve on God's creation.

Today, this beautiful statuette stands almost as a religious symbol. It represents so well the reality of what God created that it aptly reminds us of the beauty of "La Difference" between the only two genders our Heavenly Father actually made, for our own good. Yet, dare we look out a window, or open a newspaper today? For if we do, we may hear ourselves exclaiming, "My Lord, what have we done with Your creation?" ■

