

September/October 2014

# CRUSADE

MAGAZINE



TRADITION  
FAMILY AND  
PROPERTY®

**“Honor Thy Father  
and Thy Mother”**

*The Spirit of the Family in Society*

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**FORGOTTEN  
TRUTHS**

## Modesty Is Essential to Chastity and the Salvation of Souls

BY FATHER FRANCIS SPIRAGO

The human body has its beauty, and this beauty attracts us. Due to the disorder which original sin left in man, a disorder called concupiscence, which is the delight aroused in contemplating bodily beauty, particularly of the feminine body, can lead to temptation and sin.

That is not to say that some parts of the body are good and can be shown and others are bad and must be covered. Such a statement is absurd and was never part of Church doctrine. All parts of the body are good, for the body is good as a whole, having been created by God. However, not all body parts are equal, and some excite the sexual appetite more than others. Thus, exposing those parts through semi-nudity or risqué, low-cut dresses or wearing clothes so tight as to accentuate one's anatomy poses a grave risk of causing excitation, particularly in men in relation to women.

**Immorality in Fashions and Destruction of the Family**  
Garb that fails to stress a person's self-respect as an intelligent and free being (and, through baptism, as a child of God and a temple of the Holy Ghost) largely contributes to the present destruction of the family. It does this by favoring temptations against purity. Such garb also accomplishes this by its vulgarity

and childishness that corrode the notion of the seriousness of life and the need for self-discipline, all of which are fundamental elements that maintain family cohesion and stability.

The struggle for the restoration of the family by opposing abortion, contraception and homosexuality will be much more effective if done along with efforts to restore sobriety, modesty and elegance in dress.

### Jacinta Marto of Fatima

During a long illness, Jacinta Marto, the youngest of the Fatima seers to whom Our Lady appeared in 1917, made a startling revelation to her caregiver, Mother Godinho. From her sickbed, she declared, "The sins that lead more souls to hell are sins of the flesh." Both Jacinta and her brother Francisco died a few years after the apparitions at a very young age, fulfilling Our Lady's prophecy and promise that she would soon take them to heaven. ■



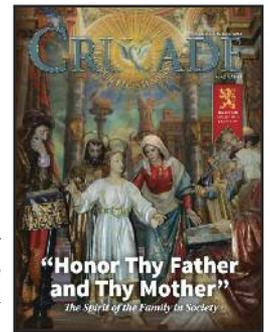
A 2014 folk celebration in Valencia, Spain, in honor of Saint Joseph, patron of the city. Although these are costumes of the past, it shows how modesty in dress is not an obstacle to joyful living.

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**Cover:**

Sculpted ensemble representing the Boy Jesus teaching in the temple. Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, São Paulo, Brazil.



**Page 16** Intentions offered before the miraculous Virgin of Guadalupe



**Page 19** Learning early to fight for life



**Page 21** No piece of cake



**Page 22** The Seal of Confession under attack

## 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

### Supreme Court Affirms Constitutionality of Public Prayer

In a 5 to 4 decision, the US Supreme Court upheld the tradition practiced at every town council meeting in Greece, New York, to open its monthly meeting with a predominantly Christian prayer. Moderate Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote the majority opinion, considered by legal scholars as the Court's best piece of Establishment Clause work in decades. The decision on the case *Greece v. Galloway* was handed down on May 5, 2014.

### Baker Would Rather Go to Jail Than Bake Cakes for Homosexual Couples

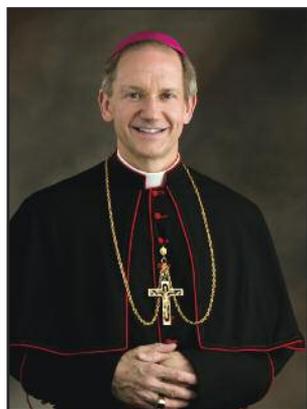
A Colorado cake baker was ordered by a judge to service same-sex "weddings" or face a fine. "I would rather shut down my business and serve a jail term than violate my beliefs and play a role in facilitating gay nuptials," cake maker Jack Phillips told Elizabeth Hasselback from Fox News in an interview. Phillips owns Masterpiece Cake Shop in the Denver suburb of Lakewood.

### Slovakia Becomes Seventh EU Country to Protect Traditional Marriage

Members of the Slovakian parliament voted overwhelmingly to define marriage as a "unique bond between a man and a woman" in the nation's constitution. Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Hungary and Croatia have similar laws in place to protect traditional marriage. This disproves the general perception that all of Europe tend towards recognition of same-sex "marriage."

### Bishop Excommunicates Woman Attempting to be Ordained Priest

In Springfield, Ill., Bishop Thomas Paprocki wasted no time in issuing a decree of excommunication to a woman in his diocese who ignored his warning and went ahead with her plan to be ordained a "priest" at a Unitarian Church. The decree of excommunication was addressed to Mary F. Keldermans, who was "ordained a priest" for Roman



Catholic Women Priests, Inc.

In this way, Bishop Paprocki once again proves

to be a good shepherd who protects his sheep from error and confusion. The power to excommunicate was included in the "power of the keys" when Our Lord founded the Church by declaring to Saint Peter, "Thou art Peter and on this rock I will found my church. Whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose upon earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven." (Matt. 16:18)

### Satanists Call Homosexual "Marriages" Their "Sacrament"

The national spokesman for the Satanic Temple told Detroit's *Metro Times* that abortion restrictions violate satanic religious beliefs and homosexual "marriage" is a satanic "sacrament." Lucien Greaves made the statement to help women avoid pro-life laws. Regarding same-sex "marriages," he said, "To us, [same-sex] marriage is a sacrament. We recognize it, and we think the state would have to recognize the marriage on religious liberty grounds."

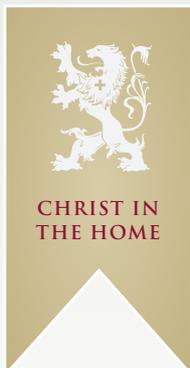
### Fictional Internet Horror Character Linked to Stabbing Attacks

Two cases of attempted stabbing attacks by teenagers were recently attributed to a fictional character and internet meme (a piece of media which spreads, often as mimicry, from person to person via the Internet) called Slender Man. Two twelve-year-old girls in Wisconsin brutally stabbed their friend nineteen times and just missed a major heart artery by one millimeter, according to police. One of the suspects told police investigators that the girls were trying to impress the Slender Man character who is the leader of the Internet website where it resides. To climb into his realm, a user must kill someone. In Ohio, a thirteen-year-old girl stabbed her own mother as a result of being "obsessed" with the same internet meme. The mother suffered multiple minor injuries including a puncture wound on her back. The Slender Man character has spawned a handful of video games and thousands of YouTube videos. Hollywood movies have also been produced based on the same type of monster-like character.



# Parents—not Too Little, not Too Much; Balance Is in the Middle

BY FATHER RAOUL PLUS, S.J.



Andre Berge in his book on “Bewildered Youth” gives us the story of a young man who had been left completely to himself by his parents. Taken up with their own affairs, business and pleasures, these parents let their son grow up with no concern for his soul, his ambitions, his difficulties, his temptations, his failings.

At first, the youth relished this liberty which he interpreted as detachment on the part of his parents. But soon he came to realize that it was nothing more than cowardice, abandonment of duty and flagrant desertion of parental obligation; he was living in the home but was not of the home—a mere boarder in a hotel.

As soon as he was out of his childhood, they showed no more care for him; he found himself confronting life alone, confused, cut off. He should have been able to expect counsel, affection, protection, light. Nothing of the sort did he receive. Instead he met with selfishness. Faced with loneliness, life began to close in on him. He had no one to untangle his problems, no one to point out definite steps to follow on the bewildering way.

Unable to bear living any longer this way, with no vital ties binding him to those who should have been nearest to him, he decided to break all connections, and to go away. Material separation from his own parents would but serve to accentuate the separation of their souls.

He left this note as an explanation of his conduct and a reproach for theirs:

“To my parents,

“Why do you desert me? You do not understand that I am stifled between these walls and that my heart is bursting. Do you not understand that I am growing up and that life is calling me, that I am alone all day with its voice? You who could have so lovingly directed me in life, why do you abandon me? Well, so much the worse, I will meet life alone. I am so far from you already through your fault.”

How heavy the obligations of parents! Let us not consider now the case of grossly selfish parents as



described in the preceding story. We shall consider parents who are concerned about accomplishing their mission.

These face two extremes in the fulfillment of their duty: either to exaggerate their control or to exaggerate their detachment.

If they try to exercise too much control over the young adventurers in freedom who are making ready for their first flights, will they not incur the blame of tyranny, excessive watchfulness and supervision? If, on the other hand, they try to avoid this reproach, are they not lacking firmness? By trying to win their child’s confidence by too permissive a gentleness, and by giving too much slack, will they not see all wholesome discipline broken down, and their good advice ignored?

Parents must ask themselves: How have I succeeded in this problem of training? Do I steer my bark with proper mastery? The reefs are many; a solid craft is needed, a steady hand at the helm. Am I acquainted with the route, the true merits of my crew?

Parents must pray:

My God, grant me the grace to know how to rear my little world as you want me to; to know how to form each of my children according to Your plans; to know how to attain balance in sharpness, firmness and restraint. Grant that the youth formed in my home may never be confused, lost before life, but rather know always where to find counsel, support, the warmth of love and guidance, and an understanding and patient heart that can give help and light with true insight. ■

Adapted from Father Raul Plus, S.J.’s *Christ in the Home* (Colorado Springs, CO: Gardner Brothers, 1951). 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](http://www.GardnerBrothers.com).

# STOP THE WAR ON INEQUALITY

BY JOHN HORVAT II



Advocates of equality are only too eager to overthrow the present economic structures in the name of fairness and opportunity. According to their logic, inequality begets a two-tiered society where moneyed interests rule, while all others languish. In this oversimplified, ever richer/ever poorer scenario, some kind of action is deemed necessary to level the playing field. Hence, the need for a war on inequality.

This war has taken on a new emphasis with the recent bestseller, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* by Thomas Piketty. The author claims that while capitalism is an excellent tool to allocate resources, it is grossly insufficient when allocating income.

Naturally, the leveling instrument of choice is the government. Only government has the size, power and capacity to tax and regulate the richness out of the rich. It need not take all riches, but rather focus upon the “excessively” rich—whatever that means.

While all this might sound like typical socialist boilerplate that is easily refuted, there are actually those who claim such views can even be free-market friendly. Indeed, economists like Joseph Stiglitz believe that a free economy must be held in check by regulation to avoid the “excessive” concentration of too much power in the hands of the few.

Excessive inequality, Stiglitz and those of his school hold, leads to lesser efficiency, lower growth and lack of opportunity. Such ideas represent a kind of economic determinism where economy alone determines destiny. Thus, when inequality rules, the have-nots will never realize their full potential since the economic structures in place will always work against them. They claim that only government action will help people reach their full potential and therefore favor free markets.

Piketty takes the Stiglitz theory a step further by dropping the free-market window dressing altogether and calling for reallocation for realloca-

tion’s sake regardless of whether it leads to economic growth, efficiency or prosperity.

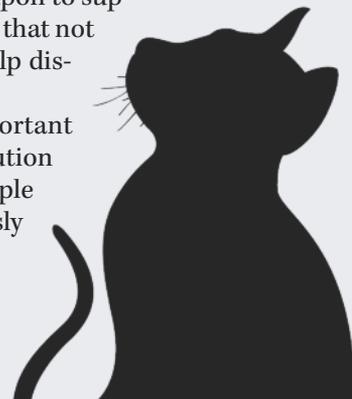
Government, playing the role of Robin Hood, can bring things back to balance, the equalizers claim. Some advocates even long to go back to the halcyon days when income taxes for the “excessively” rich were sixty-three percent, seventy percent or FDR’s ninety-four percent. Piketty settles on an eighty percent tax rate for incomes starting at “\$500,000 or \$1 million” among other punitive taxes.

There is one major thing wrong with this reasoning. If indeed there is too great a concentration of wealth in a society, this view assumes that government is the only effective field leveler. It fails to realize that society has natural institutions that can effect a just and voluntary distribution of wealth. Any present imbalance is much more a product of the moral breakdown of society than the result of unjust economic structures.

Natural distributing institutions are those of family, community and faith. Indeed, the family is an economic powerhouse generating great wealth. However, it is also constantly distributing that wealth to its numerous members during life and even in death through inheritance. When the institution of the family is healthy, members help other members. In every generation, family fortunes at all income levels are divided and distributed, much more equitably than by big brother government.

When people have healthy and vibrant links to their communities, schools and associations, they are constantly called upon to support projects and programs that not only help the needy, but help distribute wealth generously.

However, the most important dynamo for wealth distribution is the church. When people have faith, they take seriously





History has shown that the most efficient organization for wealth distribution and help to the poor has been the Church. Hospitals, universities, orphanages, hospices and charitable associations were founded by religious institutions; these institutions by their very nature provided a level of personal care much more conducive to the healing of body and soul than government ever could. *Painting of Saint Vincent de Paul, Emmitsburg, Pa.*

Christ's mandate of loving one's neighbor out of love of God. Such ardent charity opens the floodgates of wealth and applies it to vast works. It gave rise in the past to hospitals and universities, orphanages and hospices, churches and monasteries, charitable associations and pious confraternities—all at the service of the poor. A vast social infrastructure was one of the greatest achievements of Christendom against which no other civilization can compare. Remnants of this order exist today and still benefit all society.

These natural regulating institutions allow everyone to develop their full potential as social beings because they facilitate mutual support especially when working in the social context of family, community and Church.

Moreover, these institutions distribute wealth much more efficiently and effectively than government programs. More importantly, they create personal bonds of affection that unite society. A moral tie is formed when benefactors take personal interest in those receiving aid and recipients express gratitude for help given. This differs from the cold bureaucratic arm of government aid which is po-

larizing the nation by creating resentment among those forced to pay for programs, and ingratitude by recipients who now consider such benefits as entitlements.

It is time to stop the war on inequality. It is tearing the nation apart. The problem today is the natural regulators of wealth have been undermined. Society and economy are admittedly out of balance. The solution lies not in suppressing "excessive" riches or losing more trillion-dollar wars on poverty through government programs. Rather it lies in a return to that Christian order that will restore balance and favor solutions that promote social harmony. ■

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**John Horvat II is a scholar, researcher, educator, international speaker, and author. Recently, his book *Return to Order* ranked first on Amazon in four countries.**

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**To get your copy of *Return to Order*, go to [www.ReturnToOrder.org](http://www.ReturnToOrder.org) or call (855) 861-8420.**



# “Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother” *The Spirit of the Family in Society*

*“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother that it may be well with you and that you may live long on earth.” Ephesians 6:1-3*

BY REX TEODOSIO & VINCENT GORRE

**A**t first glance, the Fourth Commandment might seem childish, something that simply means to obey one’s parents until becoming an adult. This is far from the truth. In fact, this commandment is so profound, it touches on the very core of the family, and so vast, it touches on absolutely all aspects of society. This commandment is the very principle of what might be called the spirit of the family.

The family’s role in society is irreplaceable since it is the only true channel for the existence and perfection of society including Church and State. Families, imbued with the Fourth Commandment, are the true foundation of any organic Christian society.

Many American families have the impression that the Fourth Commandment is mainly directed at children, as if children are emanci-





"Grandpa's Birthday" by  
Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller,  
Museum of Vienna.

### The Concept of "Honor"

The few authors who write about the subject of "honor" agree that it is one of the hardest human concepts to fully define. Perhaps, one of the most prominent images in people's minds relating to honor is dueling. Although wrong in its conception, and contrary to Church teaching, dueling did reflect a remnant of an age where honor was given the highest value, more than life itself. You were either a man of honor or you were nothing. In duels, honor is mistakenly used in one of its highest meanings.

What honor really involves is the esteem and good reputation in face of one's peers because of a quality that shines forth. Some examples of this use of the word "honor" might be found on a bumper sticker that says: "My son/daughter is an honor student in whatever Middle School"; in the expressions, "It's an honor to meet you," or "Can you do the honors?"; when we address a

*The family's role in society is irreplaceable since it is the only true channel for the existence and perfection of society including Church and State. Families, imbued with the Fourth Commandment, are the true foundation of any organic Christian society.*

pated from this obligation once they become adults. They take this emancipation so seriously that some states even have laws granting emancipation at the early age of sixteen. In California, it's fourteen. Did God intend a statute of limitations for the Fourth Commandment? Is the application of this commandment different for a thirteen-year-old than it is for a thirty-one-year-old; one who has attained the age of sixteen or sixty-one? Is the meaning of the commandment simply "to obey?" Then why did God use the mandate "honor" instead of simply "obey?" To really understand this commandment, we need to delve into the meaning of "honor."

judge as "your honor," and prominent political figures as "the honorable Mr. Smith"; or a Marine recruitment billboard that says, "Honor" giving the impression that the word defines the soul of the Marine.

A further study of honor reveals more complicated meanings and applications, especially in the context of various cultures and traditions. But scholars do agree on at least three characteristics of honor: it is universal; it can be acquired, lost, diminished or increased; and finally, it involves enjoying good esteem among groups of people. As Christians, we will limit ourselves to how the Hebrews, Romans and Greeks understood honor, as these were the main cultures during the time of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Hebrews use the word honor to describe a person of importance or value. The Romans use honor to describe a person of respectability and high esteem. The Greeks, however, use the word honor to describe a person of great renown, glory, splendor and almost divine quality, or “the unspoken manifestation of God.”

The great Catholic thinker Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira defined honor as the esteem given to the standards of excellence we see in people, especially when they reflect God. One has honor by holding oneself to standards of excellence which may or may not be recognized immediately. From this definition of honor, there is honor in the saintly hermits who lived lives completely isolated from public esteem. There is honor in the martyrs who died for the faith, even though the Muslim public hated them. There is honor in the pro-life activists who wait hours in the cold to counsel a mother contemplating abortion. All these hold themselves to standards of excellence that will one day be recognized as praiseworthy.

**The Highest Application of Honor:  
“The Spirit of the Family”**

According to Saint Thomas Aquinas, the honor we owe our parents, according to the Fourth Commandment, must necessarily be the highest in the natural order for three reasons: first, they participated with God in the act of creation; second, they participated with God in His Divine Providence; and third, they were our first teach-

ers. Here we have the first insight into what the “spirit of the family” means. It is based on the reality that our parents have the honor of participating with God as co-creators, co-providers and co-teachers. It is also based on us, the children, receiving so much from our parents gratuitously. In the same spirit that God, out of His goodness, created heaven and earth and blessed it with an abundance of gifts, likewise our parents gave us an abundance of gifts.

Saint Thomas Aquinas further explains that it is necessary to honor our parents with both word and deed and that by virtue of justice, we need to give back more than we received. Since this is impossible, it is necessary to bring honor to our parents in other ways. The book of Ecclesiastics points out that “For the glory of a man is from the honour of his father, and a father without honour is the disgrace of the son” (Ecclesiasticus 3:13). We need to remember that honoring our parents is based on excellence. Mediocrity and lukewarmness are not honorable qualities.

Therefore, the “spirit of the family” is the unity of virtues expressed in this relationship. This includes the virtues of temperance, justice, fortitude, prudence, charity and sacrifice. This spirit is seen reflected in all of creation. We see this in the plant and animal kingdoms and in pagan people. This is expressed as well in temporal society, like in the feudal relationship, in calling a king the father of his subjects, or referring to the signers of the constitution as the founding fa-

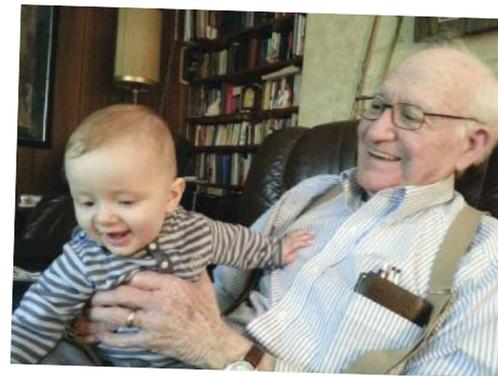
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Family members celebrating their parents' 25th anniversary.

# TEN WAYS TO HONOR OUR PARENTS

- 1 Cultivate an interior attitude of respect and esteem for parents as co-creators and co-providers with God as well as first teachers.
- 2 Offer for them a sincere daily prayer. Once in a while have a Mass offered for their intentions, and tell them about it.
- 3 Bring them to Mass and the Sacraments if they are able and willing.
- 4 Visit often. Sympathize with them in their sorrows, worries and troubles. Listen to them, and do them the honor of consulting them, making them feel needed. Although you may not be bound to follow their counsels, you may, however, walk away surprised and enriched by their wisdom.
- 5 Bring the children to see them. Encourage your own children to make them cards and small gifts.
- 6 Write them a card on their birthdays, anniversaries and holidays. Give them something they enjoy. Include them in the celebrations.
- 7 Seek to do small favors for them, such as paying the bills or providing a meal. Take them out to eat periodically.
- 8 Provide for them when they lack financially.
- 9 Take care of them when they are sick. Accompany them to the doctors. If a nursing home becomes an unavoidable contingency, do not let them feel abandoned.



New life can be a lift to aging parents. Bring the children to see them.

- 10 See that they make a clear and just will. If they are troubled about final arrangements, help them resolve everything so as to set their minds at ease.

thers. We see this in the Church when Our Lord Jesus Christ addressed his followers as “my brothers and sisters,” and when He instructed us to pray to Our Father in heaven. We call the Church, Holy Mother Church and Mary, Our Heavenly Mother. We use titles like Holy Father, Reverend Father, and Mother Superior. All these are expressions of the “spirit of the family.”

## The Necessity of Honoring our Ancestors

It is only logical that if we are obliged to honor our parents and they are obliged to honor theirs and so on, we must honor all our forefathers. “When speaking of the traditional family, we must see it as more than just the sum of living members composed of father, mother and children. Throughout history, the family has always been understood to mean the unity of the whole lineage of ancestors and descendants,” says John Horvat II in his book, *Return to Order: From a Frenzied Economy to an Organic Christian Society*. He further affirms that if the Fourth Commandment is truly understood and practiced, “families would cease to be modern nuclear families with all the defects inherent to it. Each

family would become dynasties of tradition, where each generation tries to outdo the former in the realm of honor.”

To illustrate this principle, it is interesting to see the importance of genealogy. John Horvat further explains that “family members share qualities and appetites, defects and disordered passions. Yet the family, especially the large family, is also rich in solutions since the individual draws upon family traditions, past figures serving as role models, and corrective or counterbalancing traits from the two family lines to hold defects in check.” To that we can add that families also share common virtues and blessings. In short, our lineage is part of who we are, like it or not, good or bad.

The importance of bringing honor to one’s lineage is clearly evident with Our Lord Jesus Christ. The gospels of Saint Matthew and Saint Luke both begin by tracing His lineage. While Saint Matthew traces Our Lord’s legal and royal lineage through Saint Joseph (Matt 1:1-17), Saint Luke traces His biological lineage by starting with Saint Joseph, going all the way back to Adam (Luke 3:23-38).

## Institutionalized Honor: the Role of the Natural Leaders and Elites

When people hold themselves to standards of excellence over generations, they form true elites and leaders. Such figures take the Fourth Commandment and make it into an institution. Not only did they trace their lineages, but most importantly, they became a dynasty of honor. This explains why so many true elites sought honorable acts. They founded new continents; fought great wars in defense of the Church; established the best universities and hospitals; and joined religious orders. This is in stark contrast to today's pop culture of narcissism, apathy and mediocrity. These noble figures sought all forms of honor, especially the honor of heroism and sanctity. In his last published book, *Nobility and Analogous Traditional Elites in the Allocutions of Pius XII*, Prof. Plinio Correa de Oliveira lists a number of canonized saints who were members of the nobility and true elites as proof of this dedication to the spirit of the family.

### The Family Spirit and Society

The spirit of the family is based on the relationship of children with their parents and theirs with God. From this relationship flows all

the qualities, virtues, temperaments, customs, and habits, that first are concentrated in the home and then permeate all society.

The institution of the family existed at the beginning of history. But by itself, it can only reach a certain level of perfection. Society needs the Church and State. As God took soil, formed it into a body, infused it with a soul, and called it "Adam," so He did with the family. The family is the material from which God formed the State, infused it with the Church and called it "Christendom," or, if you will, organic Christian society.

When the balance between the family, Church and State is destabilized, society breaks apart. If the State becomes socialist and consumes the family with unjust laws, taxes and regulations, society becomes unbalanced. If the State becomes atheistic and encroaches on the rights of the Church, society becomes unbalanced. If Church leaders neglect to temper the abuses of the State, society becomes unbalanced. If the family withdraws to itself, abandoning both Church and State, society becomes unbalanced. Or worse, if the family loses the family spirit entirely, society will collapse and mankind will soon cease to exist. Simply stated, without the family, the Church would have no members, and the State would have no subjects. As long as the spirit of the family persists, the family will survive every challenge, and so will society at large. ■



**THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE DEFENSE OF TRADITION, FAMILY AND PROPERTY** firmly believes that in attacking the family as God created it, our modern society is engaging in self-destruction. The family came before—it preceded—both the State and the Church. The family has never been under such a severe attack in history. It is as if the family is a castle under siege, incessantly battered. At the same time, there is no better plan employed by the enemy of mankind, the devil, better suited for the destruction of God's creation than to bring down the family. And this is why we will never cease to defend the family and the institution of marriage—the union of one man and one woman.

# Nativity Scenes in the Public Square



Last year, *Crusade Magazine's* November/December issue featured the cover article "Give America a New Nativity," an interview with Mr. Jim Finnegan. Mr. Finnegan is a concerned American who founded the Nativity Scene Committee to help keep Christ in Christmas in our country's public places. (See [www.tfp.org/](http://www.tfp.org/); *Crusade Magazine*; past issues)

To the secular push of replacing "Merry Christmas" with "Happy Holidays," the American public has offered an increasing resistance, making it a point to enunciate the rightful greeting.

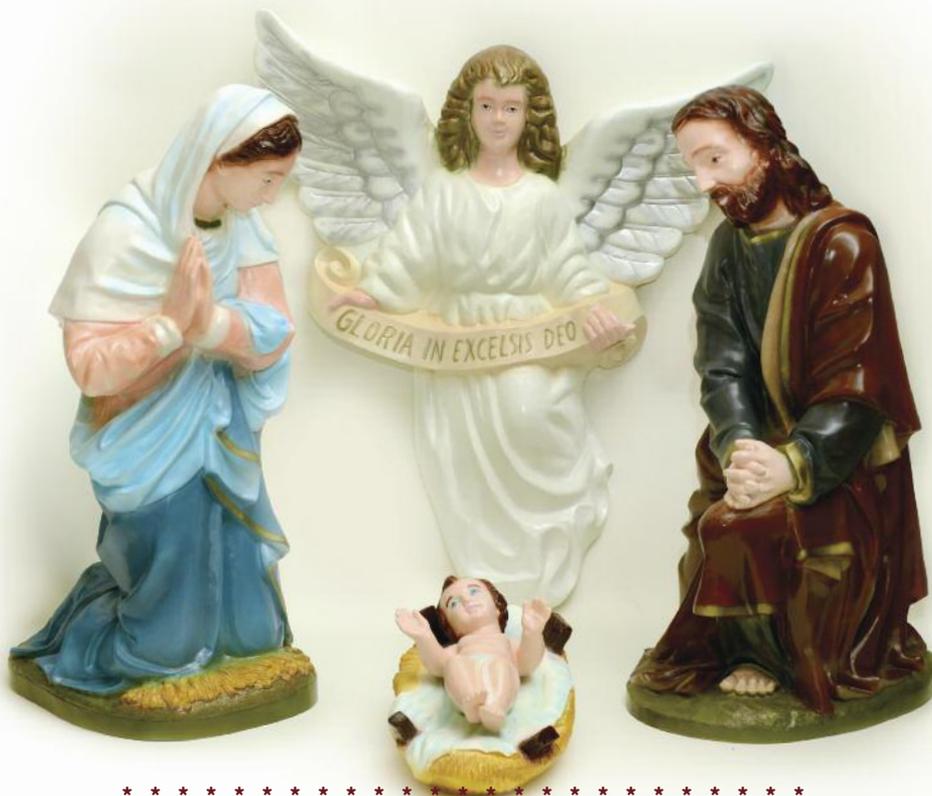
In a further, proactive effort to keep Christ in Christmas in our country's public square, Mr. Finnegan and the Nativity Scene Committee have been leading a bold effort to display nativity scenes in state capitols and high traffic public places.

Through the years, the Nativity Scene Committee and its well-orchestrated program has not only upheld our well-defined American legal right to display nativity scenes in public places, and worked out any legal kinks, but has garnered the support of a person of means who generously supplies beautiful, large nativities for the asking.

As a result, nativity scenes are currently featured in state capitols in Illinois, Florida, Mississippi, Wisconsin and Rhode Island, as well as in numerous public places in New York, California, Tennessee, Florida, Massachusetts, Iowa, Minnesota, Maryland, Michigan, Kansas, South Carolina, Georgia, and Rhode Island. From *Crusade Magazine's* 2013 November/December article, many orders were garnered.

The Nativity Scene Committee hopes to add more state capitols and public places such as town halls and city parks to the list in 2014.

**Help put Christ back in Christmas in your town! With the help of the Nativity Scene Committee you will have all you will need to place a representation of Our Lord's nativity where you live: practical information, strategic suggestions, and a beautiful, large nativity ensemble ready to be shipped free of charge to your door.**



\*\*\*\*\*

**EMAIL**

[info@americannativityscene.com](mailto:info@americannativityscene.com)

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**CALL**

**Jim Finnegan: (847) 526-1152**

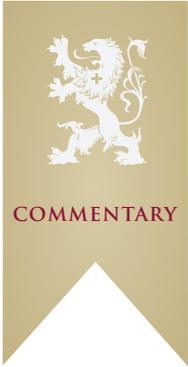
**Edward O'Malley: (847) 894-6315**

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The nativity scene is provided and shipped by a benefactor dedicated to keeping Christ in Christmas. The Nativity ensemble, including the Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus with crib, plus the Angel, is provided at no cost to those willing to stand up and be counted on this important issue. The statues are an average of 25 inches tall and have a combined weight of 27 pounds.

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**To learn more, go to  
[www.americannativityscene.com](http://www.americannativityscene.com)**



# Is the Red Menace Over?

BY ANDREA F. PHILIPS

With the fall of the Iron Curtain and the end of the Cold War, there was a general sense that communism is over. Suddenly the “red menace” had paled pink, many a Catholic affirming that the peace mentioned by Our Lady at Fatima was at hand.

One of the greatest mistakes of our epoch is to confuse the crumbling of the Soviet world with the end of communist ideology. Of course, the fall of the Berlin Wall caused geo-political changes around the world. But as Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira, great Catholic leader of the twentieth century, often said, the red ideology only mutated.

We need only look at the present convulsions in Venezuela or at the iron fist that continues to grip Cuba, to understand what Georg Hegel, German philosopher and precursor to Marx, meant when he said that defeats are only “negative contradictions”<sup>1</sup> leading to reformulations.

Indeed, communist ideologues don’t go away. Rather, they make it an ongoing practice to re-hatch the failed experiments of the past.

Such is the case in Brazil, where, following socialist president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, the people elected his Minister of Energy, Dilma Rousseff, as the nation’s first woman president in 2010.

Rousseff, from an upper middle class family, chose armed struggle as a young woman after reading *Revolution in the Revolution* by Regis Debray, a friend of Fidel Castro and Che Guevara. She joined several subversive guerrilla groups, consequently serving a prison term for her involvement with bank robberies, stolen vehicles and bombings.

Always connected with leftist groups, she made her way to the top position of her large, wealthy South American nation, formerly the greatest Catholic country on earth.

Rousseff makes no bones about her Marxist/Leninist ideals. In the photo below, she appears seated at the center of the conference table at the 13th Congress of the Brazilian Communist Party.

“Russia will spread its errors throughout the world”<sup>2</sup> Indeed, communism is not only alive, but continues to spread its errors throughout the world as Our Lady predicted in 1917 a few months before Lenin’s Bolshevik Revolution.

Unfortunately, Our Lady’s prediction does not exclude our country, and the red menace is certainly making daring inroads. Socialist exploits, which only a few years ago would have been deemed unthinkable in America, are all over the news, often in our backyard. To cite only one example among many, the nation watched as a popular commercial chain, all-American, arts-and-crafts, Hobby Lobby, fought to keep its doors open against a government mandate that requires the owners to violate their religious beliefs. Thankfully, on June 30, 2014, the Supreme Court voted 5 to 4 in favor of the for-profit chain, as well as in favor of Conestoga Wood, a manufacturing company that also objected to the mandate. Other non-profit entities, such as the Little Sisters of the Poor, EWTN and others fight on.

Presently, the American family suffers a relentless siege, one more communist tactic. Both Marx and Engels, leading communist theoreticians, affirm that if communism is to succeed, there must be the abolition of the family.<sup>3</sup> Today, in our land and around the world, the family is attacked on all sides, from conception to natural death. All around the United States, magistrates are redefining the very nature of the family, denying God’s definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman, often against the expressed wish of the people.

Indeed, communism is far from dead. Whether red, orange, or pink, whether symbolized by the sickle, red star, or rose, whether it frowns, scowls or smiles, the red wolf is always the same scheming prowler stalking the God-given freedom of peoples and nations. ■



#### Notes:

1. [http://www.abim.inf.br/o-perigo-vermelho/#.U2JmG\\_ldVvG](http://www.abim.inf.br/o-perigo-vermelho/#.U2JmG_ldVvG) *O Perigo Vermelho* by Jose Carlos Sepulveda da Fonseca
2. <https://www.americaneedsfatima.org/ANF-Articles/the-third-appearance-of-our-lady-of-fatima-july-13-1917.html>
3. Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Archives—Communism

Dilma Rousseff, president of Brazil, sits in the center presiding over the 13th Congress of the Brazilian Communist Party.



# AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA<sup>®</sup>

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014 **PROGRESS REPORT**

## America Needs Fatima Fights Blasphemy

BY VINCENT GORRE

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing,” says Edmund Burke. God commands those who are good not just to avoid evil but also to actively oppose it. As Saint Jerome said, “A dog may bark in his master’s defense, and am I to stand by silent when God’s holy name is blasphemed? I would sooner die than forbear to speak.”

The America Needs Fatima Anti-Blasphemy Network continues to fight against several blasphemies online across the United States. In April, the Smithsonian Channel premiered *The Gospel of Jesus’ Wife*, a direct attack on the Sacred Person of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Such lies need to be opposed first and foremost for the glory of God. It is also important to fight this blasphemy in order to rescue the youth from blasphemers sowing confusion about Our Lord’s divinity by reducing Him to the status of an ordinary man and, subsequently, discrediting Him in the eyes of an already weakened faithful.

Other recent anti-blasphemy campaigns were against a Tampa, Florida rendition of *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*, a play depicting Our Blessed Mother as a lesbian. Another campaign was against a group of satanists from the Satanic Temple in New York City who attempted to erect a satanic Christmas display at the Florida Capitol. This is the same group that attempted a black mass at Harvard University on May 12, 2014, the vigil of the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, which was cancelled at the last minute due to strong protests nationwide.

In July 2013, America Needs Fatima protested a Facebook post that said “Our Lady should’ve aborted.” Because of the protest, it was taken down for three days but was allowed to be re-posted with even more malicious content. A manipulated photo was added showing the Blessed Mother with an image of a baby with a crown of thorns in Her womb.

Fighting blasphemy in this day and age is indeed a heavy



Like it or not, we were born to fight. To fight for what is right and good—this world certainly allows little space in between. America Needs Fatima keeps a close watch on the blasphemers and continues to oppose their efforts to desecrate the sacred. When a physical protest is not possible, online campaigns become the order of the day.

cross to bear. As Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira pondered on his *Way of the Cross* meditation, “To be obligated to struggle unremittingly against oneself in order to keep the Commandments seems to be an extravagant exception in a world that flaunts the joy of life in licentiousness and opulence.” The temptation is to “drop the cross here by the roadside and sink cozily into a life of pleasure.” But just as Simon the Cyrenian was plucked from obscurity and self-absorbed reality into a most exalted glory as Our Lord passed by his path, we too are faced with the same question: “And what do I do when Thou passes by me?” ■

**Go to [www.ANF.org/CurrentProtest](http://www.ANF.org/CurrentProtest) to see more anti-blasphemy campaigns.**



# Our Readers Write...



### Crusade Magazine

Praise be Jesus Christ! We thoroughly enjoyed the May/June issue of *Crusade*. It's a blessing to read something we, too, believe in and can relate to. Please continue to send this blessed magazine to us. Thank you!

*David and Ann G., Santa Fe, N.M.*

### Miraculous Medal

Wow, I reached into a drawer for some lost articles—low and behold, I came across your letter of “Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.” I was in shock. The letter was dated August 2011; I’ve had much trouble in my life since then.

I know the letter is my wake up call from Our Lord and Our Blessed Mother to join their forces to spread Miraculous Medals. I lost mine and I could “hear” Them asking “Where have you been all this while?” So: enclosed is a check to help with shipping of as many Medals as you can send. Sorry for the long delay.

*Nick and Helen Macchia, Kearny, N.J.*

### America Needs Fatima

I absolutely love ANF and Robert Ritchie for everything. Mostly

for being peacefully proactive, well informed and loving protectors of everything good. Infinite peace, blessing and love to you all.

*K.S., New York, N.Y.*

Hurray for America Needs Fatima! I joined the Public Square Rosary Rally for the first time and now I love the rosary and say it daily. Praise God! He is working overtime.

*J.R., San Antonio, Texas*

### Sacred Heart

What you are doing to bring people closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is truly wonderful. I made my consecration to the Sacred Heart in 1941 along with every other student in my Catholic school. I wish you much success and a sincere “God bless you.”

*I.M., Los Altos, Calif.*

I thank you very much for sending me the information on the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in every Home. I know from experience what this devotion to the Sacred Heart can do for a couple. There are so many divorces and remarrying in our parish alone.

*C.L., Jackson, La.*

Send us your feedback by writing to us at [Crusade@TFP.org](mailto:Crusade@TFP.org)

## Paying Homage to the Patroness of the Americas

BY BENJAMIN HIEGERT

As we pulled each large blue candle out of the suitcase, a friendly Mexican lady asked why we were coming to see Our Lady of Guadalupe. She had seen us lugging a suitcase up the steps to the top of Tepeyac Hill to the church marking the spot where Our Lady appeared the first two times to Saint Juan Diego almost 500 years ago. My friend explained that 11,554 members of America Needs Fatima had mailed us their own small candles to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe and to ask her for an urgent end to the sin of abortion in our country. We melted all those candles down into six large candles, each just under three feet tall.

Carrying the tapers to the top of the mountain, we walked through the crowd gathered before the Tilma (*garment used by Saint Juan Diego where Our Lady of Guadalupe's image was miraculously imprinted*) and said a prayer for the intentions of those who sent in their candles. Then, we proceeded to the “*quemavelas*”—the place where pilgrims placed their votive candles. Melting the bottom of each candle, we were able to stand them up securely, then began to light each wicker, a slow task due to the gentle breeze blowing. Finally, our candles burned brightly among the others, an offering representing the petitions and intentions of thousands of ANF members and friends at the very sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico.

Many large blue candles were taken to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. These large candles were composed of thousands of little blue candles sent by ANF members with their intentions thus be presented to the Patroness of the Americas.



The sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe may have never seen such large blue candles as the ones delivered and lit by ANF members Matthew Carlson and Benjamin Hiegert.





Consider putting America Needs Fatima in your will and your generosity will help win the

# FUTURE OF AMERICA

... because the Fatima message is one of the most powerful gifts to give to the next generation.

## 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



Use your will to give devotion to the next generation!

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

## Offering a Crown of White Rosettes at Fatima on July 13th

BY FELIPE BARANDIARAN

A marvelous moon, larger than usual, slowly receded, giving way to dawn. In the dim light, the tired pilgrims making their way to the sanctuary of Fatima tugged at our hearts, as my friend and I shared coffee and cookies with them by way of starting a conversation.

“Where are you from?” they asked, detecting our accent.

“We are volunteers of America Needs Fatima, bringing this rosette wreath to offer to the Blessed Mother. In response to an appeal of our organization in the United States, thousands of Americans sent in these rosettes, and we now bring them to Fatima in their name.”

They were amazed, edified.

“Did you see how bright the moon was?” we remarked.

“Yes!” they said with feeling, “It was exactly on July 13th, ninety-seven years ago, that the Virgin announced the great light that would appear over Europe as a warning of a chastisement to come upon humanity for its many crimes.”

In fact a blazing light, which the newspapers called “a great conflagration,” was seen over Europe and America on January 25, 1938. Sister Lucia confirmed the phenomenon as the light Our Lady had predicted. Indeed, soon after, WWII



America Needs Fatima representatives Felipe Barandiaran and Plinio Antonio Rodriguez traveled to the sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima to deliver the White Rosette Wreath on behalf of thousands of ANF members.

broke out.

As we continued to walk, we spied the tower of the Fatima Basilica. The esplanade teemed with encamped pilgrims, waiting for the celebrations to begin.

Making our way through the crowd, we reached the place of the apparitions where we offered the rosette wreath along with the prayers, the thanks, the tears, the pains, and all that is in the hearts of each ANF member and friend represented by each rosette.

And as we knelt there, we felt that Our Lady of Fatima looked kindly on that wreath—brought from so far. May she bless each and every friend of ANF. May she bless America. ■



INTERVIEW

# Staying the Course With Catholic Radio: An Interview with JMJ Radio

**Crusade Magazine is pleased to present the fascinating account of how Mr. Ed Niewinski and his wife Carol Ann saved Catholic radio station, WQOR, known as JMJ Catholic Radio 750, near Scranton, Pennsylvania.**

*Crusade:* How did it come about that you and your wife became the owners of the station?

**Mr. Niewinski:** I never intended to be the owner of a radio station and how that came about was kind of unique. I had been chairman of the Board of Advisors for the station for some time. The owner, Jim, called me one day and informed me that he was selling the station. He couldn't sustain the cost to maintain it because there wasn't much local financial support. Knowing JMJ was a part of a group of stations owned by the same company out of Buffalo, many locals thought their donations might be helping the other non-local radio stations.

At the next meeting of the board with Jim on speaker phone, he announced to the other members of the board that he was going to sell the station. I asked him, "Jim, if you sell it, will it still be a Catholic radio station?" He replied that he couldn't guarantee it. To everyone's surprise I told him that I thought I found a buyer. Shocked, he said: "Who?" I looked at my wife and said: "You and me, honey!"

*Crusade:* What happened then?



**Mr. Niewinski:** Well, we negotiated back and forth and arrived at a price for the station that was agreeable for both of us. I had no idea how to run a radio station but, because of my years in banking, I knew how to do balance sheets and how to save money and make this thing work. I believed that this was going to be a journey and it really became what I called a great "leap of faith."

The day we bought the station (which was a little over five years ago on the Feast of Saint Joseph), I had a conversation with Father Leo McKernan, the Superior of the Oblates here at Saint Joseph's. I asked him if we could come aboard and do the station from the Oblates' center here in Pittston, Pa.

Father Leo opened his arms and told me that he would love to have Catholic radio here with one specification—that it had to remain a Catholic radio station. We cut expenses everywhere we possibly could. The manager is my wife. The program director is my wife. She takes care of everything to the left of the dot and I take care of everything to the right of the dot.

*Crusade:* You are on 750 AM and you told me that you worked very hard to also acquire an FM translator. Please explain to our readers the importance of this step for the future of the station.

**Mr. Niewinski:** AM radio was good but FM is much better because the sound is clearer. It is not affected by weather and there are no distortions during transmission. But the downside was that it is a very expensive way to transmit. An opportunity arose when I received a call from a man who

Without any previous experience, Edward Niewinski took a "leap of faith" and found himself the owner of a Catholic radio station in Scranton, Pennsylvania. In the background, friend and associate, Robert Baseski, is a great help in keeping the project alive and well.

owned a lot of FM stations. He informed us that a Christian-based FM radio station had closed and asked us if we would be interested in taking over their translators.

We negotiated a deal that we could all live with and so now we are on 750 AM and 98.9 FM. The advantage is that while with AM we were on strictly sunrise to sundown, with FM, we are now on twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

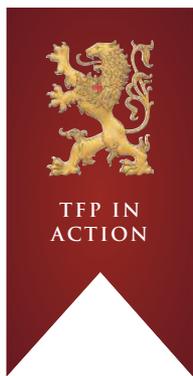
*Crusade:* Ed, before we end the interview, could you tell me something that you experienced while you were doing this that you never expected?

**Mr. Niewinski:** Yes I can, and this event I will always remember. As you know, we are very blessed to have this station at the property of the Order of the Oblates of Saint Joseph. Of course, every day when I start work at the station I stop and pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

One day I stopped at the chapel to pray. For some reason, I asked God: "I don't know if this is what You want me to do. Am I doing the right thing?" I then paused and as clear as a bell I heard the words: "Stay the course!" It wasn't like someone was standing behind me but those words came into my head as clear as a bell. So that's what we are doing: staying the course!

*Crusade:* Ed, this is a very beautiful story and we thank you and I'm sure many people are thanking you for your efforts to keep Catholic radio on the air. So "stay the course!" Thank you, Ed.

**Mr. Niewinski:** I thank you and the TFP's *Crusade Magazine* for giving me this opportunity, not only to share my story, but also to convey to Catholics everywhere how important Catholic radio is for our country. I want to also thank the TFP for all the work they do for the Catholic cause. ■



BY VINCENT GORRE

This year's Call to Chivalry camps had medieval Germany as their theme. As always, the camps are designed to impart to all their participants, ages twelve to eighteen, the spirit of chivalry and Catholic militancy through prayers, talks, field trips and games. Dedicated TFP volunteers carefully manage the camps, always mindful of their ultimate goal, which is to inspire all the young

participants to the practice of virtue.

A typical day begins with awaking to the tune of pipes and drums. Beds are tidied up and inspected. While singing the Credo, the colors are raised. Then all proceed to breakfast singing the hymn, "We Want God," composed by Saint Louis de Montfort. The morning program includes either a talk by a TFP member on such topics as the life of a saint, a virtue, the crusader

spirit, devotion to Our Lady and similar topics or outdoor games are played. After lunch, indoor games are played. On occasion, special outings are an exciting part of the day's activities. After dinner, the boys participate in a rosary procession, ending with the singing of the *Salve Regina*. Lights are out at 10:00 p.m.



Some shots from the Pennsylvania camp. Besides the need for prayer, the participants are also taught concepts of order and discipline. The challenge of keeping boys on a straight V formation for more than five minutes are greater than one may imagine. The camp ended with a hearty medieval banquet well appreciated by hungry boys.

## PENNSYLVANIA

June 4 to June 15, 2014

Thirty-two boys participated in the camp held at the campus of the St. Louis de Montfort Academy in Herndon, Pa. The boys visited the most decorated battleship in US Naval history, the *USS New Jersey* in Camden, N.J. While there, they put into practice the spirit of Catholic militancy by demonstrating outside Planned Parenthood. Another outing was a day hike to Hawk Mountain, located in central-eastern Pennsylvania. The medieval banquet was held at the American TFP headquarters in Spring Grove, Pa.

## LOUISIANA

July 1 to July 9, 2014

Forty-nine boys participated in the camp held at the Feliciana Retreat Center in Norwood, Louisiana. Aside from the inspiring talks and exciting games, other highlights included a Holy Mass at Saint Patrick's Church in New Orleans, followed by a peaceful prayer rally in defense of the unborn in front of Planned Parenthood. A self-defense class was conducted by a black-belt in Judo and a sword demonstration was presented. As their brothers in Pennsylvania did before them, the participants in the Louisiana camp concluded their adventures by feasting on a sumptuous meal and a cake decorated to resemble Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany.

You can find out more about the *Call to Chivalry* Camps by calling (888) 317-5571.



Some of the activities during the Louisiana summer camp included a canoe trip, rosary procession, lively meals, and an impressive protest rosary rally in front of New Orleans' Planned Parenthood abortion clinic.



# NO PIECE OF CAKE

## *Building Castle Cakes for the Louisiana TFP Boys' Summer Camps*

BY ANDREA F. PHILLIPS

The last feature of every TFP boys' summer camp is a castle cake, the finishing sweet touch to a "medieval" banquet. The banquet often features a magnificent roasted pig, complete with an apple in its mouth. Louisiana style, the side dishes are just as well prepared and appetizing.

Every year, the TFP coordinators settle on a theme focusing on the Catholic heroes and history of a particular country. Thus, through the years, the young participants have learned about Catholic Spain, Portugal, Poland, Austria, France, Italy and others. Often, the cakes feature a historical castle as well.

Beginning with Summer Camp Louisiana 2002, I was approached about baking the castle cake. With only basic baking skills, I delved into the project with more "brave" than "sage."

Twelve cake mixes later, and not a little overwhelmed, I recruited my husband, Brian, to help me assemble the daunting project on site, several hours before the banquet.

I will never forget that first assemblage as we sweated through melting icing, and tottering, sliding towers. Subsequent yearly episodes were just as daunting.

Around cake #7, felicitous circumstances introduced Melinda Howze, who contributed her invaluable cake-baking skills to our amateur group. Suffice it to say, we no longer dread but tread with a lighter step.

Still, no castle cake is "a piece of cake."

This year, the theme of the camp being Germany, we were probed about attempting Neuschwanstein, a marvel of architecture, with not only massive proportions but sky-rocketing towers.

"Not a chance," was my reaction.

But then, inspiring pictures of Castle Cake Neuschwanstein from TFP Summer Camp Pennsylvania, by Cecilia Shibler and her young team, began appearing in my inbox.

I e-mailed Melinda, "Do we 'oldies' have courage for this?"

"We can do it!" was her answer.

Fifteen cake mixes, 2.6 gallons of icing, and 10 cups of filling later, we had a convincing semblance of Neuschwanstein.

We thought to share with our readers, not only a few pictures of castle cakes, but also a glimpse of the process involved in producing these all-edible structures.

Many, many hours go into each of these cakes,



*From top to bottom, and left to right:* 1. Melinda Howze and Andrea Phillips assembling castle cake Neuschwanstein. 2. Kimberly Marin, Melinda Howze, Andrea Phillips and Brian Phillips with finished edible Neuschwanstein. 3. "Torre de Belém" cake for Summer Camp 2010 with theme of Catholic Portugal. 4. Castel Sant' Angelo for Summer Camp 2013 with theme of Catholic Italy.

but every effort is amply paid when the boys, coming in from their last games and exercises, give us thumbs-up, "coooooo!" and shining eyes.

Indeed, baking a castle cake for a TFP boys' summer camp may not be a piece of cake, but as soon as we finish one, we are looking forward to the next baking adventure—albeit glad for the year in between. ■



# Court Orders Catholic Priest to Violate His Sacred Vow

If a decision of the Louisiana Supreme Court holds, the Seal of Confession will soon be a thing of the past. The doors will be open for all priests to be called before tribunals to testify about what they heard from their penitents. Those who refuse will be imprisoned. This is not China or Cuba, it's now America.

The chilling ruling was an April 4, 2014 decision by Louisiana's Supreme Court in the case of *[Parents of minor child] v. George J. Charlet, Jr., Deceased, Charlet Funeral Home, Inc., [The Priest], and The Roman Catholic Church of the Diocese of Baton Rouge*.<sup>1</sup> The court intends to compel Father Jeff Bayhi—a Roman Catholic priest and pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church in Clinton, La.—to testify under oath in court whether or not he heard in 2008 the confessions of a 14-year-old girl that purportedly included information on sexual abuse she was then suffering at the hands of a now-deceased lay fellow parishioner, “and, if so, what the contents of any such confessions were.”<sup>2</sup>

The Supreme Court ruled that under state law the privileged confidential status for Confession is for the sole benefit of the penitent, not the priest-confessor, so that once the penitent has waived confidentiality and disclosed the Confession's details, then no further privileged protection exists in law and the priest-confessor can be compelled to provide sworn testimony in court on what he heard or did not hear during the sacrament.

While the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property—TFP and its Louisiana sister organization, Tradition, Family, Property-Louisiana, abhor and do everything they

can to oppose the widespread collapse in sexual mores in society, we cannot remain silent when the Church and the Seal of Confession come under attack.

This Louisiana Supreme Court decision is not an isolated threat to the freedom of the Catholic Church. The Seal of Confession has come under fire in recent years from legislative bills introduced in Louisiana, New Hampshire, Kentucky, Maryland, Connecticut, and improper court action in Oregon. Abroad, the Seal of Confession has been threatened in Australia and even in Catholic Ireland.

To our knowledge, not even during the nineteenth century heyday of Know Nothing anti-Catholic mob violence, did any branch of federal or state government ever force a Catholic priest to violate the sacred confidentiality of the Seal of Confession.

Things may soon be very different unless Catholics stand up for their God-given right to believe, profess and practice their Catholic faith in full freedom, without improper government interference.

While the continued persistence of this persecutory trend against the Seal of Confession is shameful in itself, the fact that it is now occurring in a country that prides itself on its defense of freedom worldwide is simply cynical.

## Divine Law Forbids the Violation of the Seal of Confession

If, on the natural plane, confidentiality in legal or medical counseling is essential for the good functioning of society, in the supernatural sphere (where the sacrament of Confession is rooted) confidentiality is an absolute necessity. The



need for confidentiality does not stem merely from a law of the natural order, but from an imposition of Divine Law which brooks no exception.

Confession is a sacrament instituted by Our Lord Jesus Christ, whereby the Catholic priest, serving as a visible instrument of the Savior, in His name and by His Divine power, pardons the sins confessed to him. And since Confession would become odious and unbearable if private sins were to be known, an absolute guarantee of secrecy is an indispensable condition for the sacrament to function. Knowledge that the Seal of Confession is no longer absolute in the eyes of the State will have a chilling effect on all Catholics, possibly leading many to stay away from the sacrament.

## Diocese of Baton Rouge Issues a Courageous Statement

On July 7, 2014, the Baton Rouge diocese issued a courageous public statement

which affirms:

We contend that such a procedure is a clear violation of the Establishment Clause of the U. S. Constitution. The Supreme Court of Louisiana cannot order the District Court to do that which no civil court possibly can—determine what constitutes the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Catholic Church. Indeed, both state and federal jurisprudence make clear that there is no jurisdiction to adjudicate claims that turn upon such purely religious questions.

A foundational doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church for thousands of years mandates that the seal of confession is absolute and inviolable. Pursuant to his oath to the Church, a priest is compelled never to break that seal. Neither is a priest allowed to admit that someone went to confession to him. If necessary, the priest would have to suffer a finding of contempt in a civil court and suffer imprisonment rather than violate his sacred duty and violate the seal of confession and his duty to the penitent.<sup>3</sup>

### Faithful Priests Prefer Death to Betraying the Seal of Confession

A court decision forcing priests to break the Seal of Confession places them in the excruciating dilemma of having to choose between obeying God and His Church or a secularist court of law! All priests who are faithful to their sublime vocation will answer with Saint Peter: “We ought to obey God, rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

Saint John Nepomucene (1340–1393), vicar general to the Archbishop of Prague, was a martyr for the Seal of Confession when he refused to reveal to the cruel and unjust King Wenceslaus IV the contents of the Queen’s confession.

Confessors under Communism and Nazism suffered prison, torture and execution rather than fail in their duty to preserve the Seal of Confession.

### Attack on the Freedom of the Catholic Church

Once the Seal of Confession is broken, the Sacrament of Mercy—through which God forgives sins through the ministry of the priest—becomes unviable.

In other words, the Church loses Her



What the priest hears in Confession is between him, the penitent and God.

freedom. The Church will effectively become an instrument of the State since She will be compelled to report on all activities of citizens that the State deems necessary—even tax evasion. She loses the ability to obey Jesus’ command to “Go, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:19-20). She loses the ability to fulfill the mandate received from the Divine Savior after His Resurrection: “Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained” (John 20:23).

### Appeal to God’s tribunal

All authority comes from God, the Lord of Heaven and Earth, and human laws cannot oppose Divine Law. “There is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been established by God” (Rom. 13:1).

When human justice fails us, and we are deprived from our right and our freedom to practice the Catholic faith in its fullness, we must turn to the Supreme Tribunal of God Almighty, “just Judge, searcher of mind and heart” (Jer. 11:20), and urge His Divine intervention to restore order and justice among men.

### Appeal to all Louisianians, to all Americans

But to our ardent prayers for God’s help, He expects us to add our indignant protest.

And thus, as civic organizations of Catholic inspiration, *The American*

*Once the Seal of Confession is broken, the Sacrament of Mercy—through which God forgives sins through the ministry of the priest—becomes unviable.*

TFP and its sister organization in the Bayou State, *Tradition, Family, Property—Louisiana*, jointly call on all Louisianians and all Americans to legally and peacefully manifest their profound rejection for this secular, persecutory and offensive meddling by the Louisiana Supreme Court in the Sacrament of Confession—an issue that is clearly religious, and strictly within the Church’s spiritual sphere.

We urge all Louisianians and all Americans, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, to register their protest with the Court through its public information officer (always respectfully, even when being firm):

Valerie S. Willard  
Court Public Information Officer  
Louisiana Supreme Court  
400 Royal Street, Suite 1190  
New Orleans, LA 70130-8101  
Tel.: (504) 310-2550  
E-mail: vsw@lasc.org

May Our Lady, Patroness of the United States, protect us from religious persecution, and obtain from her Divine Son courage and perseverance in the struggle to defend the freedom of the Roman Catholic Church in America. ■

### Notes:

1. [Parents of minor child] versus George J. Charlet, Jr., Deceased, Charlet Funeral Home, Inc., [The Priest], and The Roman Catholic Church of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, at <http://www.lasc.org/opinions/2014/13C2879.pc.pdf>, accessed July 9, 2014.

2. Ibid. (Our emphasis)

3. Diocese of Baton Rouge, “Official Statement of the Diocese of Baton Rouge Regarding Order to Break Confessional Seal” July 7, 2014, at <http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?recnum=10609>, accessed July 9, 2014.

A photograph of a pizza being cooked in a brick oven. The pizza is in the foreground, slightly out of focus, showing a thick crust and various toppings. In the background, a bright fire burns in the oven, creating a warm, golden glow. The overall scene is cozy and rustic.

# Friday Night Pizza

BY ANTONIO FRAGELLI

Every Friday night at the American TFP and America Needs Fatima headquarters we enjoy a homemade, brick oven pizza, an eight-year-old tradition that hopes to go on for eighty.

Once a month we invite friends and local ANF members for a program consisting of a talk on a historical or educational topic followed by pizza, beer and ice cream. Many friends bring extra desserts, adding to the variety. The evening closes with the rosary.

Attendance is never a problem, visitors numbering from forty to over ninety. There's no need for lobbying or advertising; a simple monthly e-mail from America Needs Fatima's director, Robert Ritchie, and the pizza tradition sails on.

Though making pizza for a hundred is not exactly a cinch, a crew of three or four volunteers and a brick oven make it not only expedient but a hearty experience.

The brick oven is built with yellow bricks, which are exceptional for heat retention. Two hours before baking, a wood fire is started inside the oven; sometimes a small, metal fan is used if the wood is not totally dry. The fire heats the oven to an ideal temperature of 700-800 degrees. Such heat cooks a pizza in a minute or two.

The large oven size allows for three pizzas to be cooked at once, one coming out every minute. The

fire is pushed to the back and sides of the oven, its proximity to the dough disks adding the flavor of burning wood. Believe it or not, a bit of ash on the pizza is a great ingredient.

Following an old custom, we abstain from meat on Fridays in remembrance of the passion and death of Our Lord and Savior. But a bit of imagination offers an array of meatless toppings. A recent favorite is that of caramelized onions, artichokes and sautéed spinach, spread over the mozzarella, and sprinkled with chopped capers. Another favorite is a light white cheese sauce made with cream cheese, olive oil, and fresh garlic.

Looking at oven-ready pizzas in the frozen section of a supermarket one day, I shuddered. One of our age's ideals is to save time. Always seeking time-saving devices, frozen meals are one such solution, allowing us to eat in front of a TV and do more, faster.

Indeed, this modern, technological age sacrifices flavor and goodness for convenience. For the sake of time and expediency we sacrifice the inimitable comfort of a freshly-made pizza baked in a genuine brick oven, creating that "charred" charm that gathers friends and makes for memorable nights.

The key to life is not speed, but quality. And a good, homemade, brick oven pizza proves the point every time! ■

**If you live near zip code 17362, come and join us! Call Robert at (717) 225-7147, ext. 236.**