

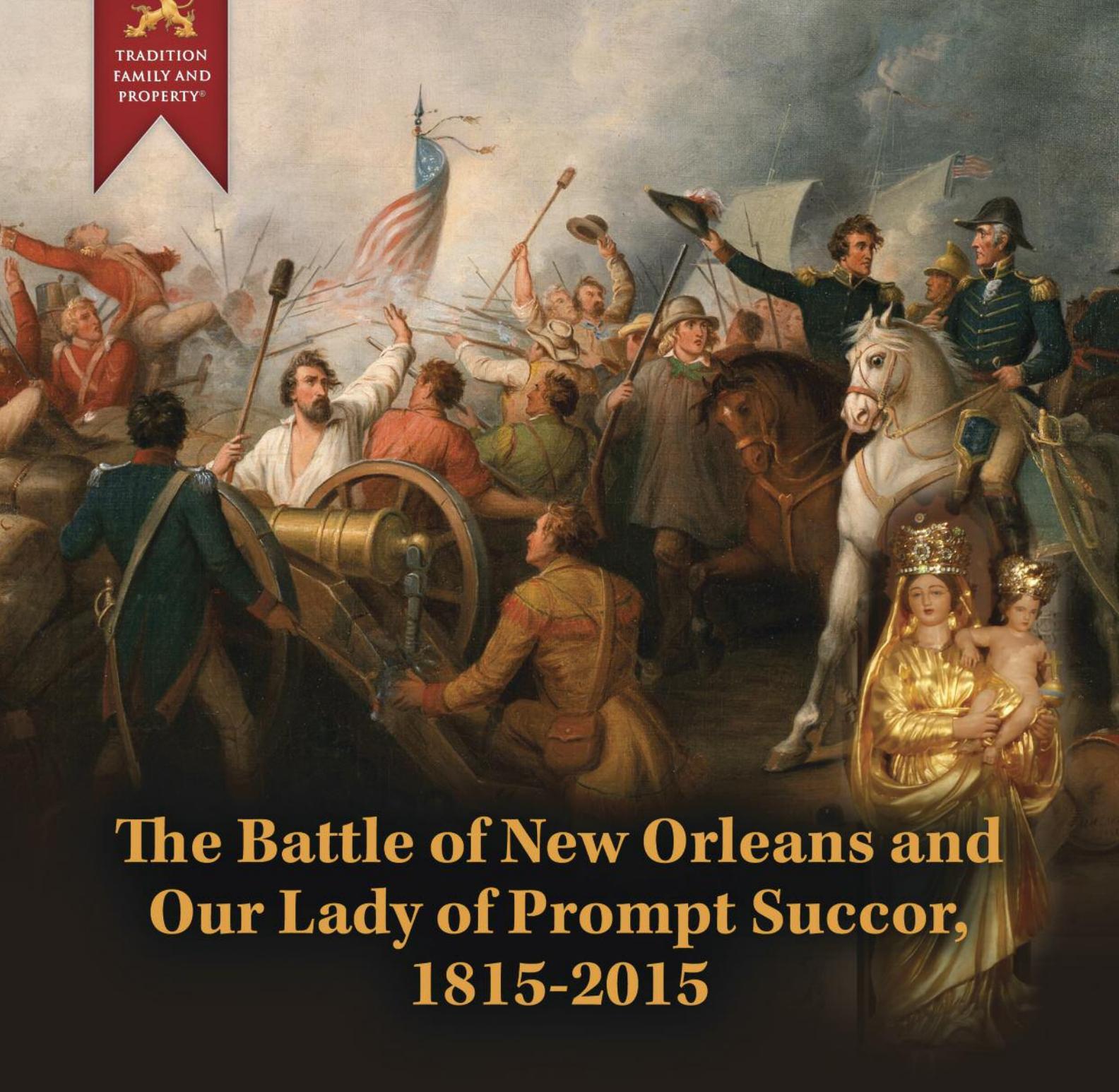
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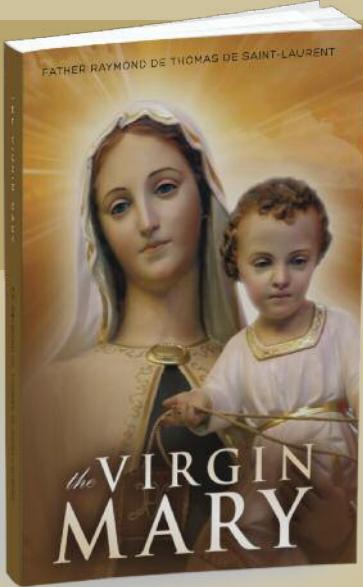
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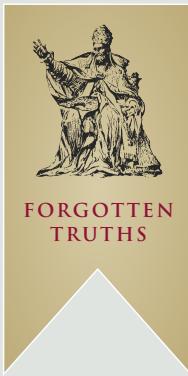
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On "The Great Sanctity of Christian Wedlock"

BY POPE PIUS XI

Looking with paternal eye on the universal world from this Apostolic See as from a watchtower, but you, also, Venerable Brethren, see, and seeing deeply grieve with Us that a great number of men, forgetful of that divine work of redemption, either entirely ignore or shamelessly deny the great sanctity of Christian wedlock, or relying on the false principles of a new and utterly perverse morality, too often trample it under foot. And since these most pernicious errors and depraved morals have begun to spread even amongst the faithful and are gradually gaining ground, in Our office as Christ's Vicar upon earth and Supreme Shepherd and Teacher We consider it Our duty to raise Our voice to keep the flock committed to Our care from poisoned pastures and, as far as in Us lies, to preserve it from harm.

We have decided therefore to speak to you, Venerable Brethren, and through you to the whole Church of Christ and indeed to the whole human race, on the nature and dignity of Christian marriage, on the advantages and benefits which accrue from it to the family and to human society itself, on the errors contrary to this most important point of

the Gospel teaching, on the vices opposed to conjugal union, and lastly on the principal remedies to be applied. In so doing We follow the footsteps of Our predecessor, Leo XIII, of happy memory, whose Encyclical *Arcanum*, published fifty years ago, We hereby confirm and make Our own, and while We wish to expound more fully certain points called for by the circumstances of our times, nevertheless We declare that, far from being obsolete, it retains its full force at the present day.

And to begin with that same Encyclical, which is wholly concerned in vindicating the divine institution of matrimony, its sacramental dignity, and its perpetual stability, let it be repeated as an immutable and inviolable fundamental doctrine that matrimony was not instituted or restored by man but by God; not by man were the laws made to strengthen and confirm and elevate it but by God, the Author of nature, and by Christ Our Lord by Whom nature was redeemed, and hence these laws cannot be subject to any human decrees or to any contrary pact even of the spouses themselves. This is the doctrine of Holy Scripture; this is the constant tradition of the Universal Church; this the solemn definition of the sacred Council of Trent, which declares and establishes from the words of Holy Writ itself that God is the Author of the perpetual stability of the marriage bond, its unity and its firmness. ■



Excerpts from *Casti Connubi*, encyclical of Pope Pius XI on Christian marriage, December 31, 1930.

CONTENTS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015

IN BRIEF	4
CHRIST IN THE HOME	
Education in the Supernatural	5
RETURN TO ORDER	
The Big One	6
TFP IN ACTION	
The 2014 TFP National Conference: A Sanctuary of Hope and Courage in a Crisis-Ridden World	8
COVER STORY	
The Battle of New Orleans and Our Lady of Prompt Succor, 1815-2015	10
ANF PROGRESS REPORT	
♦ 2014 Public Square Rosary Rallies: “Your Faith Has Cured You”	15
♦ Rain Fails to Stop Delivery of Tens of Thousands of Roses	17
♦ Reparation in San Francisco: Protesting the Blasphemous Play <i>Testament</i>	18
♦ With Our Lady, There Are No Chance Encounters	19
♦ Our Readers Write	20
♦ A Shower of 19,379 Rosettes for The Little Flower	21
TFP IN ACTION	
October Traditional Marriage Caravan	22
BACK COVER	
Heroes or Stars?	24

Crusade Magazine is a publication of The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP). Direct all requests and inquiries to: *Crusade Magazine*, P.O. Box 341, Hanover, PA 17331 or e-mail to: crusade@TFP.org. Web: www.TFP.org, Tel.: 888-317-5571, Fax: (570) 450-6352. © 2015 by The Foundation for a Christian Civilization, Inc. This publication may include images from iStockphoto™ which are protected by copyright laws of the U.S. and elsewhere.

ISSN 1096-3782 LCCN 98-641433

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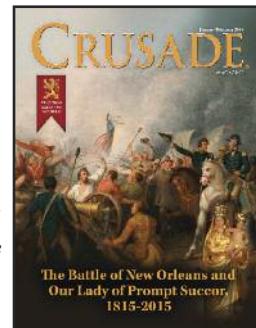
CRUSADE

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Cover:

The Battle of New Orleans

by Dennis Malone Carter.

From the Historic New Orleans

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Page 6 What Lies Ahead
for the Economy?



Page 15 Rosary Rallies
Across America



Page 18 Defending the Honor of Our Lady in San Francisco

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. Plínio 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



"So Help Me God" Restored in Air Force Oath

After allowing an atheist airman to skip the phrase "So help me God" a year ago, the Air Force announced recently that the phrase was restored and airmen are no longer authorized to omit it. Its spokeswoman told www.Military.com that reenlistment and commissioning oaths require language that includes the phrase as mandated by law, unless Congress changes it.

Home Schooling Continues to Grow

A report from *The Daily Signal*, a Heritage Foundation website, reveals that the home schooling

movement has grown to 1.8 million. In North Carolina, there are more home schoolers than private school children. According to the Education Department, the reasons vary: concern about school environment; desire to provide religious or moral instruction; and dissatisfaction with academic instruction.

Scandinavian Catholics Growing in Numbers

According to the Nordic Bishops Conference, the number of Catholics in northern Europe has tripled. Sister Anna Kaschner, Secretary General, has revealed that the number of conversions have increased significantly in addition to the influx of migrant workers from Poland, Croatia, Lithuania, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Survey Shows Catholics Shifting to the Political Right

According to a Pew Research survey, American Catholics, including Hispanics, have moved away from the political left towards the right. By a 53 to 39 margin, Caucasian Catholic registered voters now identify with the Republican Party. Just 20 years ago it was 57 to 40 in favor of the Democrats. Hispanics used to identify with the Democrat Party, but now Hispanic voters are inching towards the Republicans by a 67 to 26 margin.

Poll Shows Americans Want to Mix Religion and Politics

Another Pew Research survey revealed recently that an increasing number of Americans (49 percent) favor churches' freedom to have a say in political and cultural issues. This was an increase of

6 percent from the same poll in 2010. The survey shows that those who are identified with a religion are more supportive of their churches being allowed to speak out about political issues and political leaders talking often about religion.

Increase in HIV Infections Among Homosexuals as Support for Same-sex "Marriage" Dips

The *Wall Street Journal* reported recently that although homosexual and bisexual men comprise approximately 2% of the US population, they compose more than half of all HIV infections and 66% of new infections so far. In fact, they are the only population group for which HIV infections are rising. In the meantime, even as bans on same-sex "marriage" have been ruled unconstitutional in a number of states this year, a Pew Research study shows that the 59 percent support in February 2014 dipped to 49 percent in September 2014.

United States Now Biggest Oil Producer

The United States is now the world's largest oil producing country ahead of Saudi Arabia and Russia. *Bloomberg News* reported that the US production of crude oil, along with liquids separated from natural gas, surpassed all other countries. Socialist-run Venezuela, however, considered to have some of the largest oil reserves in the world, has now reached an all-time low in oil production and is on the verge of bankruptcy.

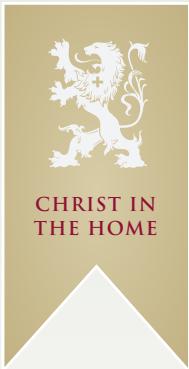
Global Warming Alarmists Proven Wrong

Global warming activists such as former vice president Al Gore warned that the North Pole ice cap would melt by this time. The reality was found to be the opposite, as the United Kingdom's *Daily Mail* published a report showing the Arctic ice cap actually expanding by as much as 63 percent since Al Gore's Nobel Prize acceptance speech in 2007. In their "People's Climate March" held recently in New York and California, marchers openly declared that capitalism is causing global warming and that the only "solution" is to replace it with a new "social and economic system," that is, communism.



EDUCATION IN THE SUPERNATURAL

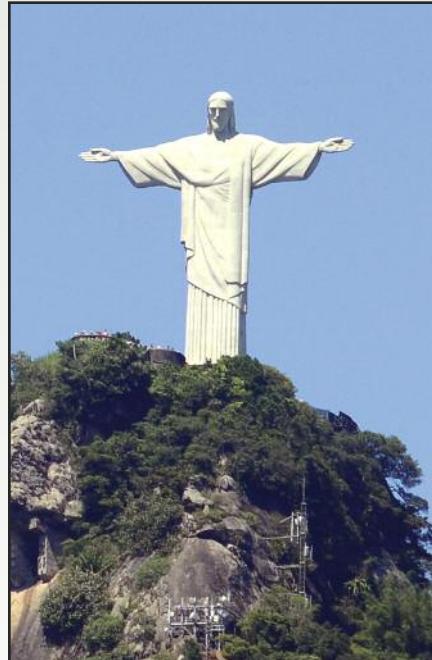
BY FATHER RAOUL PLUS, S.J.



Education in the supernatural does not mean education in piety. In Christian families, education in piety is properly provided. The children are taught their prayers, how to go to Confession, how to prepare for Holy Communion, how to assist at Holy Mass and other church services, how to say the rosary. All this is fine, but perhaps it is not the most essential thing!

The important thing is to teach the child who he is, who God is, and how God wants to mingle His life with his by coming to dwell in him, consecrating him thereby as a living tabernacle of the Most High. When the child knows all this—then and then only will there be a solid foundation on which to build religious instruction and to justify exercises of piety. It is absolutely essential that before all else the child be informed of the divine riches which his baptism brought him. It must be explained to him that on the day he was carried as a little baby to be received into the Church, God came to take possession of his soul. He should be taught that when people come into the world they do not possess this divine life. God gave it to Adam and Eve in the beginning, but they lost it. Right here is a splendid opportunity to explain the greatness and goodness of God and how He wanted to make all of us His children. The little one knows well what a father is. Explain to him that God is our Father in order to give him what is essential in all true piety, a filial spirit and an understanding of how true it is to call God, good.

The story of creation fascinates children; so too does the story of Adam and Eve and the Fall. What a lesson for the child is the example of the terrible punishment incurred by disobedience! The divine



Statue of Christ the Redeemer (Corcovado),
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

life is lost! But God still loves His poor human creatures just as mamma and papa continue to love their child after he has done wrong. And what is God going to do to give back this lost supernatural life? When one commits a fault, he must make up for it to obtain pardon. Who can make up for such a fault? God asks His own Son to do it. His Son will come down to earth. And then follows the beautiful story of the Christmas Crib and the timely application of these truths.

Not only will Jesus live upon earth with us but He will die for us after living more than thirty years over in a little country where we can find many souvenirs of His stay—the little town of His birth, the workshop of His foster-father,

that noble carpenter named Joseph, the villages that heard Him preach especially to children, on how to get to heaven and the place of His death upon the Cross, beneath which Mary His Mother stood. All of this happened so that John, Paul, James, Henry, Peter, Louise, Camille, Lisa, Susan may be living tabernacles of God who is Goodness itself. Later in heaven, they may be with the God of their hearts forever.

Without this, religious instruction is not sufficiently centered; it is not centered about the central mystery of Catholicism. Even the catechism with its divisions of Dogma, Morals and the Sacraments can, if we are not careful, make one forget the beautiful wholeness of Christianity which is superbly majestic, clear and pulsing with life. ■

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.

THE BIG ONE

BY JOHN HORVAT II

There is a major financial storm brewing on the horizon.

Such dramatic statements have long been the staple of naysayers for decades. Usually these warnings are dismissed by the financial establishment as the ravings of fringe analysts. Yes, crashes do happen, but the naysayers are never seen as prophets, just opportunists who happened to be right much the way a broken clock is right twice a day.

But maybe this storm is different.

There are still plenty of naysayers weighing in on the major problems with the traction-less, hobbling “recovery.” However, they are now joined by important players in the financial establishment who fear something big might be coming down the line. Indeed, this one might prove to be the big one.

The concerns come from the latest annual report issued by the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) that meets in Basel, Switzerland. The exclusive, invitation-only group is composed of



bankers from all the world's main central banks. If anyone knows what's going on in the economy, it should be these bankers. And their findings are hardly guarded behind closed doors. If anyone wants to see the report, it is readily available to the public.

What these bankers now see are turbulent times ahead.

The language in the 2014 edition of the annual report is unusually direct with warnings that the world could be hurtling itself toward a new crisis. With a note of déjà vu, it claims the climate is now more fragile and volatile than the buildup to the Lehman Brothers crisis in 2007.

The same old signs are there. Not much has changed. Debt levels remain high everywhere, encouraged by low interest rates. Dangerous new asset bubbles are forming.

What makes this storm different is that it is not only the developed countries that are out of balance but emerging nations have joined the party. Debt ratios in the developed countries have now risen to as much as 275 percent of gross national



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So many players in the game have thrown caution to the wind and participate in what might rightfully be called the “frenetic intemperance” of the times.

product, while the emerging economies of China, Brazil, Turkey and others are gorging themselves on private credit booms of their own, increasing their debt ratio significantly.

It would be wrong to put the blame on abstract economic indicators, financial instruments or debt ratios. The real blame falls upon the actual people engaged in the markets. So many players in the game have thrown caution to the wind and participate in what might rightfully be called the “frenetic intemperance” of the times.

Investors are ignoring the risks of monetary tightening and are engaged in the voracious hunt for yields. Assuming low interest rates, the constant search for higher returns is compelling investors to snap up ever more risky junk bonds and stocks. Equity markets have been termed “euphoric,” calling to mind the “irrational exuberance” of the Greenspan era.

Not only are investors operating at full throttle, but they are not taking the right measures to avoid collisions.

Banks should be raising more capital as a cushion against risk. Large firms should be looking for ways to add productive capacity but are buying back shares or engaging in mergers and acquisitions instead.

Of particular concern is China’s unbridled and frenzied credit growth over the last five years. Many fear that the state-controlled banking system lacks the flexibility to avoid a hard landing that will lead to a financial day of reckoning for China with worldwide repercussions.

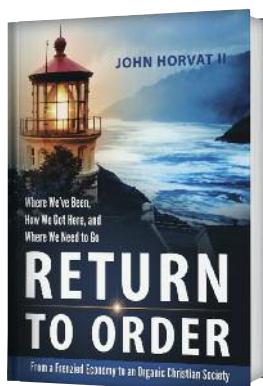
“The temptation to postpone adjustment can prove irresistible, especially when times are good and financial booms sprinkle the fairy dust of illusory riches,” the BIS report warns. “The consequence is a growth model that relies too much on debt, both private and public, and which over time sows the seeds of its own demise.”

The message from the central bankers is that the world has forgotten the lessons of recent years. Unfortunately, those who forget the lessons of history are often condemned to repeat them.

Thus, there is a major financial storm brewing on the horizon.

This is the conclusion not of fringe economists, but of world-class bankers. The result may well be not just an ordinary storm but a perfect storm with all major indicators converging.

Indeed, this might be the big one. ■

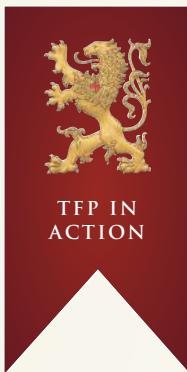


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The 2014 TFP National Conference:

A Sanctuary of Hope and Courage in a Crisis-Ridden World

BY VINCENT GORRE



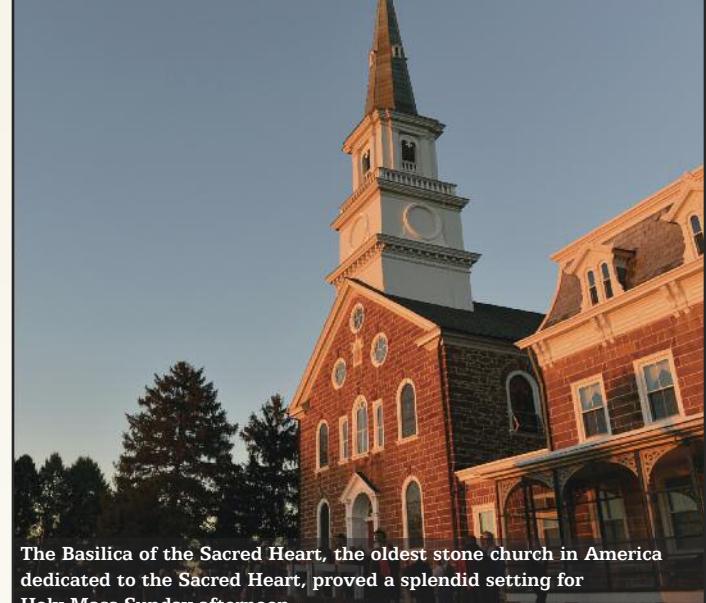
During a time of confusion, uncertainty and danger, wouldn't it be nice to find a place of refuge, where there is an ambiance of calm, affability, beauty, security, wisdom, inspiration and even spiritual comfort? Such a place was found at the 2014 TFP National Conference in Spring Grove, Penn., on October 25 and 26, 2014. The tranquil and friendly atmosphere at the TFP headquarters during the two-day annual event was the perfect setting to discuss this year's theme, "How to Prepare for the Coming Cultural Clash." The conference also observed the 100th anniversary of the death of Pope Saint Pius X, who fought against the heresy of modernism.

As always, when members and supporters of the American TFP gather for its annual National Conference, the occasion is replete with activities that are aimed at nourishing one's mind, body and spirit: enlightening and inspiring talks; enjoyable meals set in style; meeting up with old friends; a rosary procession; all of it capped by a Solemn High Mass.

This year's speakers dealt with key topics that addressed the present sad state of affairs in the world. The well-rounded talks were all given by American TFP members, whose breadth of knowledge captivated the participants.

After being welcomed by conference coordinator Michael Drake, the first speaker, Gustavo Solimeo, author and scholar, discussed "Resisting the Moral Revolution Inside the Church." His talk touched on the recent controversy surrounding the Vatican Synod on the Family, defining the differing positions of Synod participants and clarifying the true teachings of the Church regarding homosexuality and marriage.

American TFP vice-president and author John Horvat II spoke on "The Way of the Cross Society." Using a chapter out of his renowned book *Return to Order*, Mr. Horvat developed the intriguing idea of a society embracing the "cross" as opposed to a society that is "anti-cross." Such a society would have well-being, would rise to excellence and would be united to God. Members of an "anti-cross" society, however, would have lives without meaning, empty and shallow.



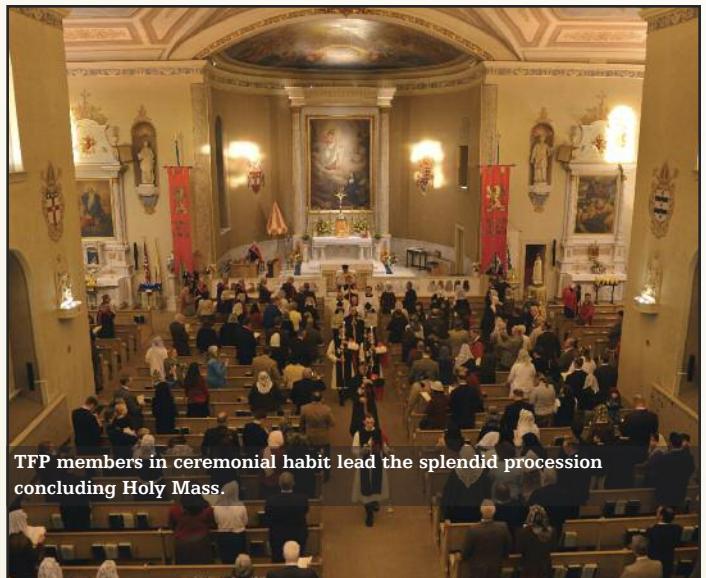
The Basilica of the Sacred Heart, the oldest stone church in America dedicated to the Sacred Heart, proved a splendid setting for Holy Mass Sunday afternoon.



A reverent silence filled the ambience at the conclusion of the solemn Rosary Procession.



Lively conversations filled every spare moment, the only disappointment being there wasn't more time to talk.



TFP members in ceremonial habit lead the splendid procession concluding Holy Mass.



Mr. Gustavo Solimeo engages his audience, speaking about the growing persecution.

The topics covered during the conference bore fruit in animated discussions.

“The Growing Homosexualist Persecution” was the subject of Mr. Luis Solimeo’s talk. Also a gifted author and scholar, Mr. Solimeo dug deeper into the disordered human behavior that is continually assaulting the integrity and stability of the Church’s moral teaching. However, he explained that the clarity and inflexibility of natural law, scripture, the popes, saints and Doctors of the Church make it impossible for any change to occur in the Church’s traditional teaching.

Mr. Norman Fulkerson, author of *An American Knight*, spoke passionately on “The Importance of America’s Attraction for Heroism.” Citing both civilian and military examples of heroism, Mr. Fulkerson declared that as much as heroism reflects an aspect of God’s grandeur, it also reveals the “legend” in a man, which is God’s plan for him.

On the second day of the conference, TFP member Michael Whitcraft, who heads the American TFP Center in Southern California and Hawaii Outreach, delivered a scathing review of Thomas Picketty’s 696-page book, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*. In his talk, “Taxes and the War on Inequality,” he successfully made the link between the left’s egalitarian agenda with taxation on a global scale. He then defended the right to private property and its vital importance to a robust and hierarchical organic Christian society.

TFP member James Bascom, an up-and-coming conference speaker, spoke on “Common Core and the Destruction of Education.” He outlined in detail Common Core’s origins and destructive effects on our schoolchildren, a matter of grave concern to all the parents in the room.

“Beyond the Bunker Mentality” was delivered by TFP member Michael Chad Shibler, who captivated his audience with real-life stories to illustrate his points. Citing Our Lord Jesus Christ as the supreme model, Mr. Shibler encouraged his audience not to flee, but to confront the crisis with faith and confidence and thus change the course of history.

Rex Teodosio, a traveling Fatima custodian, was tasked with presenting “TFP in Action,” an account of the American TFP and America Needs Fatima’s activities during 2014, using a ten-minute video to showcase its organization, reach and accomplishments. He also spoke in detail about the latest campaign to protest the satanic “black mass” recently held in



Prince Bertrand of Orleans-Braganza graced the conference with his presence, addressing the closing Medieval Banquet.



Participants from near and far packed TFP headquarters, captivated by presentations addressing today's many issues.

Oklahoma City.

A TFP national conference would not be complete without the Solemn High Mass. This year, it was celebrated at the first church in North America dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Hanover, Pennsylvania. TFP members in their ceremonial habits served and sang in the choir to add to the solemnity and grandeur of the Mass with the presence of a pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

After Mass, the traditional medieval banquet back at TFP headquarters was graced by members of the sacred clergy and HIRH Prince Bertrand of Orleans Braganza, a Brazilian TFP member, and direct descendant of numerous saintly nobles. His closing remarks ended a weekend full of nourishment of mind, body and spirit, the TFP way. ■



The Battle of New Orleans and Our Lady of Prompt Succor, 1815-2015

The Mother of God Grants a Miraculous Victory

BY BEN BROUSSARD



Nestled between dense swampland and the mighty Mississippi River on one side and the vast expanse of Lake Pontchartrain on the other lies the city of New Orleans. Spanish moss gently sways in the breeze from the live oaks lining the bayous, while alligators, brown pelicans, and choruses of bullfrogs make their homes nearby. The sweltering heat and the ever-present threat of hurricanes have long made this land, eight feet below sea level, appear inhospitable in the eyes of many.

Yet the ways of Divine Providence destined this unique corner of the earth to be the setting for one of the most stunning victories in all of history. In 2015, we celebrate the bicentennial of the event which brought about one of the greatest military triumphs at the hands of the Blessed Mother.

The Ursulines: Our Lady's Instruments

The Sisters of Saint Ursula arrived in Louisiana in 1727 to begin the education of young women and girls in New Orleans, only a small outpost at the time. The sisters quickly set themselves to their intended task, their work soon largely including the spiritual needs of the colonists.

Wars between the European powers saw the territory of Louisiana change from French to Spanish hands in 1769. Several Spanish Ursulines had come to help the growing convent, but with another change of government the sisters' stay was cut short, sixteen of them departing for Cuba. The seven remaining French Ursulines in New Orleans



The arrival of the Ursulines in New Orleans. These tireless sisters worked to alleviate the needs of the French colonists, both spiritual and temporal.

quickly became overwhelmed, doing their best to maintain their boarding school, a day school, an orphanage and a regular course of instruction for Negro slaves.

Meanwhile, in their mother country, the French Revolution brought with it the shuttering of all the religious orders in France. Sister Saint Michel of the Ursulines of Pont Saint-Esprit in the south of France was forced to quit her convent and return home. The dawn of the nineteenth century brought some relief to the French plight, and Sister Saint Michel quickly set about her apostolic tasks, establishing a boarding school for girls in the city of Montpellier. The new apostolate was progress-

ing well, to the delight of the bishop of Montpellier, who had in sight the full restoration of the Ursulines within his diocese. However, as the bishop would soon learn, man proposes but God disposes.

Sister Saint Michel received a letter from her cousin, an Ursuline in New Orleans, begging for help with the immense apostolic labors in Louisiana. Moved by the letter, Sister Saint Michel petitioned her bishop to allow her to go to the aid of her fellow Ursulines in the New World. The bishop denied the request, insisting the sisters' work in education was necessary for his diocese ravaged by the Reign of Terror. This lowly sister had only one hope of recourse: the Holy Father.

In 1807, sending a letter to the Vatican and receiving a reply would take at least four months. To make matters worse, Pope Pius VII was a prisoner of the Vatican, kept under house arrest by Napoleon and his soldiers. Given the circumstances of the time, Sister Saint Michel kept the letter for months, finding no opportunity to send her petition.

An Appeal to a Higher Authority

With nowhere else to turn, Sister Saint Michel confided in the Queen of Heaven. Locating a statue that had been discarded in her convent's attic, she fell on her knees before the Mother of God, and made the following vow: "O Most Holy Virgin Mary, if you obtain for me a prompt and favorable answer to this letter, I make the promise to have you honored at New Orleans under the title of Our Lady of Prompt Succor."

In just two days she was able to send the letter after many months with no success. The good sister then stood astonished when one month later a messenger arrived with the Holy Father's reply, sending his apostolic blessing to her and her fellow sisters to proceed with their mission in Louisiana. She immediately went about the task of honoring Our Lady as she had promised, commissioning a life-size statue of the Blessed Mother holding the Infant Jesus.

The bishop, stunned at such an outcome, could not help but be impressed and demanded to bless the statue when it was finished.

Our Lady Comes to New Orleans

Sister Saint Michel and her fellow Ursulines finally arrived in New Orleans on December 30, 1810. The statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor was placed in the chapel of the Ursuline convent, and the devotion to the Mother of God under this title soon began to spread.

In 1812, a great fire broke out, engulfing much of what would later be known as the French Quarter. The Ursuline sisters had to flee, their convent in im-



A replica of the original statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor brought from France, affectionately called "The Little Sweetheart."

minent danger of being destroyed by the inferno. One of the sisters wrote an eyewitness account:

"Hastily the Superior, Reverend Mother Saint Michel, commanded the nuns and school children to leave the building. As she herself turned to go, she was horrified to see Sister Saint Anthony, one of the old nuns, climbing the stairs. Following her, Rev. Mother discovered she was carrying a small statue of Our Lady. As the Superior watched, Sister Saint Anthony hurried to the window on the second floor. She set the statue on the sill facing the fire, then knelt and prayed with great confidence: 'Oh Lady of Prompt Succor, save us or we are lost!' At that very instant the wind veered and the flames were blown back over their path of destruction and soon died out."

Our Lady of Prompt Succor thus saved the city from a raging fire, and word spread quickly of the Queen of Heaven's intercession.

The War of 1812: America Invaded

With Napoleon's rise, France and England again found themselves at war, and the Royal Navy went to extreme measures to man their ships. After years of forced enlistment of American sailors into the Royal Navy, the British support of Indian raids on America's western settlements, and measures preventing American ships from entering French

ports, President Madison and Congress declared war on Great Britain on June 18, 1812.

At first the war was limited to small engagements in Canada and along the Great Lakes, but the Treaty of Paris in 1814 soon allowed the British to focus all their resources on defeating the Americans. British ships blockaded all American ports, and an invading army burned the capital of Washington in August 1814 before withdrawing.

Sir Edward Packenham was given charge of the British fleet in the Gulf of Mexico, with his sights aimed squarely at New Orleans. The final review of his expedition at Negril Bay, Jamaica, that would attack New Orleans is described by James Parton in his *Life of Jackson*: "Here was a force of nearly 20,000 men, a fleet of fifty ships carrying a thousand guns and perfectly appointed in every way... The elite of England's army and navy were afloat on that bright day of November, when that last review took place."

General Andrew Jackson was quickly dispatched for the defense of New Orleans, arriving in October 1814. President Madison issued urgent pleas to the governors of Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky, stating: "Hasten your militia to New Orleans; do not wait for this government to arm them; let every man bring his rifle or musket with him."

Of the 2,250 Kentuckians who arrived shortly before the battle, only one man in ten was well armed, and only one man in three had any arms at all.

A biographer of Jackson did not overstate the situation when he wrote, "There was neither money nor credit in the city. All kinds of arms and

munitions of war were scarce. Indeed, never was a city so defenseless as New Orleans in the fall of 1814." The British themselves were well aware of the total lack of defenses and therefore confident of their victory, to the degree that the future tax collector for the British crown and a full staff of civil officials had already been appointed and were aboard ship with the invading army.

Preparing for Battle

Jackson stood at the head of a few thousand men, composed mostly of militia from half a dozen states, groups of free blacks from New Orleans, Jean Lafitte and his Baratarian pirates, and a few groups of Indian fighters. As 1815 dawned, it became widely known that more than 8,000 British troops were preparing for an assault on the city. These were the finest soldiers in the world at the time, hardened by years of fighting Napoleon's armies in Europe. From every human perspective, all hope of defeating such a force was deemed impossible.

The residents of New Orleans had much to fear from a British invasion, not simply the loss of their property and wealth. Penal laws targeting Catholics for their faith were still in force in England and many of its colonies, and a religious persecution could come with the victorious invading army. Memories of persecution were still fresh in the minds of the descendants of Acadian exiles as well as any Irish or Scottish Catholics living in the city.

The entire population began storming heaven,



Painting of the Battle of New Orleans by Edward Percy Moran. General Andrew Jackson stands atop the makeshift rampart, leading the American defenders against the vastly superior British forces.

filling the city's churches while the battle preparations took place. General Jackson personally visited the convent of the Ursulines, begging their prayers for an American victory. On the night of January 7, 1815, Father Dubourg led all the people of the city in prayer before the statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor at the Ursuline Convent, praying for a miraculous solution. The sisters made a vow to have a Mass held in honor of Our Lady of Prompt Succor yearly should the Americans emerge victorious.

Earthworks had been set up at Chalmette Plantation, just seven miles from the convent. Large bales of cotton rested atop the rustic fortifications, to provide protection from the invading enemy. The men in the encampments on the American side watched and waited for the superior force they knew would come.

The 8th of January

General Packenham arrived at the battlefield and saw to the preparations for the British advance. His chosen day for attack finally came, and he rode out at the head of his men, only to discover the ladders necessary for storming the American position were left on the ships. Weary of many delays, he nonetheless ordered the assault on the defending soldiers.

The Americans readied for the assault, and as the morning dawned the British sent up rockets signaling the charge. A dense fog covered the battlefield, but what happened next stunned the American defenders. The British soldiers began hearing conflicting orders, and in the confusion the "elite of England's army" collided with one another. When American spies gave the signal that the British were in range, Jackson gave the order to fire. General Packenham was unhorsed and killed early on, and no natural explanation exists for the chaos and disorder that reigned among the invading troops. The lone remaining general sounded the retreat after a mere thirty minutes of engagement.

The aftermath of the battle had the defenders jumping for joy. According to numbers verified by General Jackson, more than 2,600 British soldiers lay dead or dying on the battlefield, while the Americans counted only 13. Numerous soldiers on both sides testified to the defenders firing with deadly accuracy. Yet half of the American troops never even fired a shot, and it was all said and done in only half an hour! Our Lady's victory was as prompt as it was complete.

"Victory Is Ours!"

A messenger was quickly dispatched to the city, and throwing open the door to the convent chapel

where Holy Mass was being offered, he shouted in French, "*Victoire! Victoire!*" Father Dubourg immediately switched to a Mass of thanksgiving, and had the *Te Deum* solemnly sung in gratitude.

General Jackson rode to the Ursuline Convent to thank the sisters for their prayers. Though a Protestant all his life, he later wrote to them, crediting the prayers of the sisters with this stunning victory against the British, and always visited them when in New Orleans.

*Our Lady of Prompt Succor,
make haste to help us in all our
necessities, that in this fleeting
life thou mayest be our succor!*



Saint Louis Cathedral today with the equestrian statue of Andrew Jackson in front. The statue was erected by the people of New Orleans in gratitude for his defense of the city.

The news of the victory spread like wildfire. The great numbers who, a few days before, had despaired and expected the worst, now rejoiced at this miraculous turn of events. Grand celebrations took place in cities throughout the United States. Andrew Jackson's reputation soared, and popular acclaim eventually propelled him to the presidency.

A triumphant parade took place two weeks after the battle in front of Saint Louis Cathedral in New Orleans, complete with processions and a solemn Mass in thanksgiving. The 8th of January was celebrated throughout the United States as a national holiday until the Civil War.

Two Centuries of Devotion

The Ursulines of New Orleans, faithful to their vow, have yearly honored Our Lady of Prompt Succor on January 8th with a Solemn Mass of thanksgiving.



The National Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor beside the Ursuline Convent in New Orleans. The golden statue high on the main altar is the original life-sized statue brought from France by Sister Saint Michel. For two centuries, Catholics have come here to seek Our Lady's intercession.

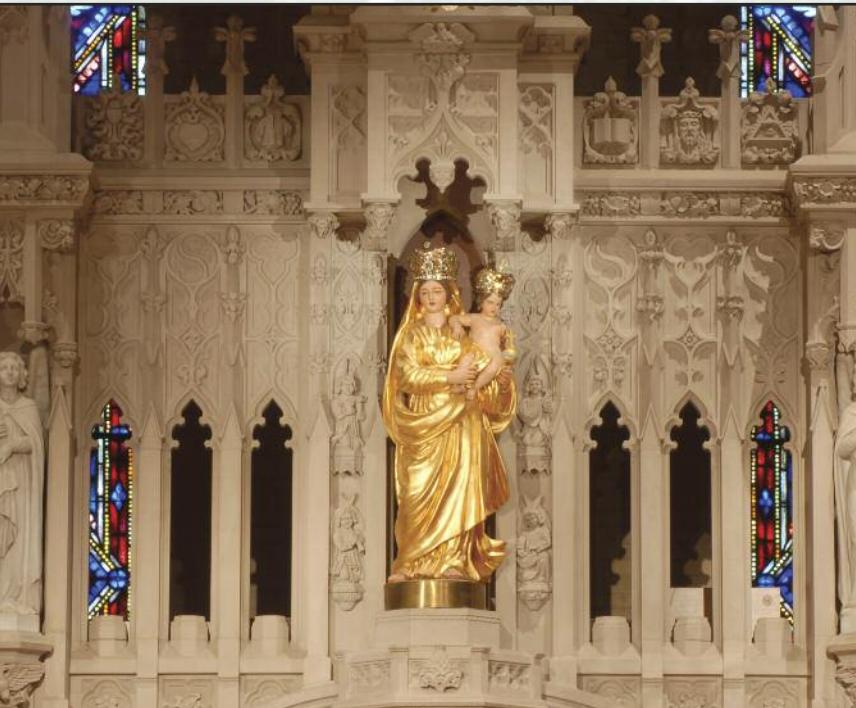
ing held in their chapel.

Since the miraculous victory granted through Our Lady of Prompt Succor, devotion to the Mother of God under that title has only increased, in Louisiana and throughout America and the world. The sisters' original convent soon became too small to host the numerous pilgrims, and a larger one was constructed in the French Quarter, and then an even larger shrine was built which stands today in uptown New Orleans. The life-size statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor stands above the high altar of the National Shrine, with Catholics coming to seek Our Lady's intercession in all their needs. In 1897, the statue

of Our Lady of Prompt Succor became the first Marian statue in the United States canonically crowned by a papal delegate.

Before World Wars I and II, pilots began visiting the shrine and begging Our Lady's protection before taking to the skies. Upon their safe return, the soldiers would leave their ribbons, wings, and other honors at Our Lady's feet. Similar testimonials of Our Lady's maternal care fill the shrine and serve as a living testimony to the power of her aid.

With great confidence, let us echo the cry of generations of Catholics as we recall this miraculous victory and pray for many more: Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us! ■



Prayer to Our Lady of Prompt Succor

O Mary, Mother of God, who amid the tribulations of the world, watches over us and over the Church of thy Son, be to us and to the Church, truly, Our Lady of Prompt Succor. Make haste to help us in all our necessities, that in this fleeting life thou mayest be our succor, and obtain for us (*here ask the particular favor you desire*).

Help us to gain life everlasting through the merits of Jesus, thy Son, Our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

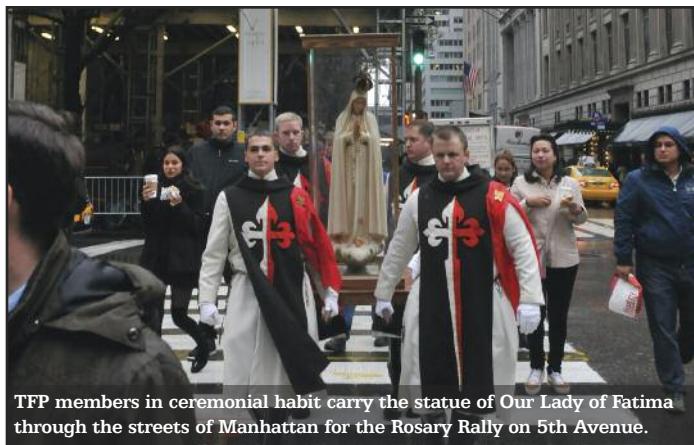
Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us! (*Three times*)



AMERICA NEEDS
FATIMA
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015
PROGRESS REPORT

2014 Public Square Rosary Rallies: “YOUR FAITH HAS CURED YOU”

BY VINCENT GORRE



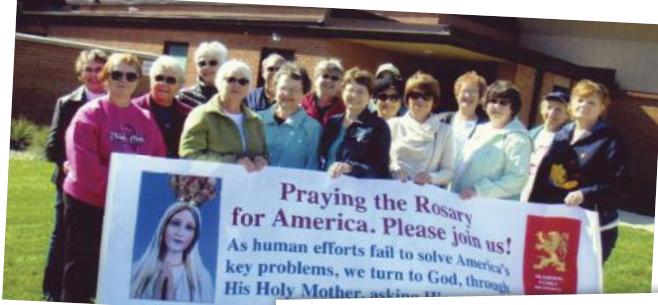
Through hard work, determination and courage, America Needs Fatima members and supporters across the country's fifty states held an unprecedented 12,629 rosary rallies on October 11, 2014. Since its start in 2007, the Public Square Rosary Crusade continues to grow in numbers and enthusiasm. More and more Americans firmly believe in the power of the Holy Rosary, especially with today's multiple crises—the chaos and atrocities in the Middle East and Africa, the continuing assault on religious liberty, the persecution of Christians, the onslaught of the homosexual movement and other perversions and the general moral decline in society.

Largely ignored by the mainstream media, little do they know the significance of such a powerful spiritual weapon unleashed from 12,629 locations at exactly noon that crisp autumn day. Thousands of hopeful Americans on that day held on to their rosaries, trusting in the intercession of the Mother of God. History is replete with victory after victory brought about by the public and private recitation of the rosary. “We do not hesitate to affirm again publicly that we put great confidence in the Holy Rosary for the healing of evils which afflict our times,” said Pope Pius XII.

Much of the success of the Public Square Rosary Rallies every year can be attributed to the untiring efforts and dedication of the volunteers and staff of America Needs Fatima's Kansas Office headed by Mr. Francis Slobodnik. Their skillful coordination and logistical support made the Rally Captains'



ANF PROGRESS REPORT



work much easier and more effective. "This has become a common bond that brings us together every year," said one Rosary Captain. "And it's becoming stronger and stronger each time. We look forward to next year!" Aside from the leadership of the Rosary Captains, thousands of generous supporters financially helped to make the event a success. As promised, 12,629 red roses, one for each of the Rally Captains, were delivered in Fatima, Portugal on October 13, 2014, the 97th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun.

"The Secret of the Rosary," as Saint Louis de Montfort described this popular Marian devotion, implies the idea that it is unknown. Actually, it is called a "secret" because it is guaranteed to work! Our Lady Herself promised to Saint Dominic and Blessed Alan de la Roche the many blessings that would be received by the faithful recitation of the Holy Rosary. It is not only a prayer for the sanctification of souls, but also

a proven spiritual weapon in times of historical crisis. The extent of public sin today requires that faithful Catholics must assert public reparation. Praying in public goes a long way in combating the public assaults of the proponents of cultural abominations and blasphemies towards God, His Mother and the Church. Members and supporters of America Needs Fatima's Public Rosary Rallies belong to this growing number of Americans who want to fight back, but with a "secret" weapon, guaranteed to work in God's time and in His Most Holy Will.

After another successful year, Robert E. Ritchie, executive director of America Needs Fatima, wrote on his blog: "Our Lord Jesus during His public life cured many people but He would then say to the person he cured, 'your faith has cured you.' If America can have faith in the Rosary, America will be cured! So let's never give up. Never. Because the Mother of God has given us a promise of God's final triumph: 'Finally, my Immaculate Heart will triumph!'"



Visit www.RosaryRallyTools.org to see more of the 2014 Rosary Rallies.



Rain Fails to Stop Delivery of Tens of Thousands of Roses

BY MICHAEL GORRE

Ninety-seven years ago, rain soaked the 70,000 witnesses of the miracle of the sun at the Cova Da Iria in Fatima, Portugal. Part of the miracle was that they were completely dry within just ten minutes. Although we did not witness a miracle and we remained wet to the bone, ANF members Mr. Alvaro Zapata and I presented over 13,000 roses to Our Lady in that very spot where she made the sun dance. Not letting the gusts of wind and driving rain deter them, our determined team of Portuguese volunteers, under the able direction of Mr. Felipe Barandiaran, set down huge containers full of roses and held up the banners containing the names of all 2014 Rosary Rally Captains (represented by the red roses) and the names of all Rosary Rally Sponsors (represented by the white roses). In all, the seven years we have been presenting the



ever-increasing number of roses to Our Lady of Fatima, we have never been rained upon. On this October 13, 2014, it was as if Our Lady was putting us to the test as the winds and storms of our current world situation continue to become more and more difficult to navigate.

Hoping we could get a respite from the rain, we went to the Cova Da Iria to present eighteen large candles, the conglomeration of the small candles sent by ANF members. The rain only increased as we strained to light the candles. Nevertheless, we managed to light them and their fiery glow was a beautiful contrast to the dark clouds that surrounded us. Those flames symbolized the faith of each and every ANF member who perseveres in difficult times, in times when the storms and trials of life should have snuffed them out.

As we prayed at the Chapel of the Apparitions, at the tombs of Blessed Jacinta and Francisco, also among the olive trees of Valinhos where Our Lady appeared once and where the Angel of Portugal appeared to the three shepherds, we remembered all the valiant Rosary Rally Captains who put aside their human respect to pray for our country in public places. We prayed for all ANF members and their intentions, asking Our Lady that she make of them shining examples of faith, hope and charity, in a world darkened by doubt, despair and rejection of God. ■



REPARATION IN SAN FRANCISCO: Protesting the Blasphemous Play *Testament*

BY BEN BROUSSARD

On Sunday, November 9, 2014, dozens of friends and supporters of the American TFP and America Needs Fatima gathered outside the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco to protest the blasphemous play *Testament*. Previously titled *The Testament of Mary*, the work makes a mockery of the Virgin Mary and Catholic teaching, going so far as to portray Our Lady as an idolatrous woman who denies the divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. When it first premiered on Broadway in March of 2013, TFP and ANF volunteers effectively staged boots-on-the-ground acts of reparation against this travesty, thankfully ending its planned two-month run several weeks early.

Arriving Sunday afternoon, it became clear to the protesters that their presence was not welcomed, as several cars were parked in the spaces where the protest was to occur. Undeterred, the faithful Catholics crowded the sidewalks, holding up banners and signs expressing their indignation. The twenty-foot standards of the American TFP, sonorous melodies played on the bagpipes, and banners with the names of 45,239 individuals who signed an online protest against the blasphemy were impossible to ignore, many passersby snapping photos of the manifestation with cell phones. The crowd prayed the Most Holy Rosary and offered up many other prayers in reparation, singing hymns in honor of the Mother of God being insulted a short distance away inside the theater.

As patrons of the play emerged, an older woman ap-



Volunteers hold banners with the names of 45,239 people who signed an online petition against the play *Testament* which attacks the Blessed Mother and mocks Catholic teaching.



Volunteers hold banners with the names of 45,239 people who signed an online petition against the play *Testament* which attacks the Blessed Mother and mocks Catholic teaching.

proached the protesters and asked, "How do you know it's bad if you haven't seen the play?" One of the men holding up a banner quickly responded, "I don't have to drink poison to know that it's harmful." Others passing by across the street attempted to mock the public act of prayer, saying, "Why don't you all go pray in church?" The faithful Catholics only responded by praying with greater fervor, drowning out these fruitless efforts to impede them.

The act of reparation came to a close as the evening drew on and the sun fell behind the buildings of the City by the Bay. Participants in the protest commented on the indifference of the majority who walked by, annoyed at the presence of the demonstration, but unconcerned about its purpose. However, all departed with the assurance that though the majority in this city, like so many others, care little to defend the honor of Our Lady, those gathered that Sunday afternoon were able to stand firm against blasphemy and console the Queen of Angels. May she send cohorts of the heavenly host to lead her faithful sons and daughters to victory against her enemies and the triumph of her Immaculate Heart. ■



CUSTODIAN'S

CORNER

With Our Lady, There Are No Chance Encounters

BY GABRIEL JORDAN

Just starting out as a Fatima custodian, it is truly humbling to see Our Lady's graces working in the lives of those we meet, as all of my fellow custodians have testified over the years.

Our recent travels brought us to Dayton, Ohio, where Mr. Matthew Shibler and I had the rare opportunity to give the Fatima presentation at a local Catholic bookstore. The small crowd gathered there greeted us as we arrived, and we proceeded to give the presentation after crowning the Blessed Mother.

Once the Rosary was concluded near the end of our time there, a middle-aged lady entered the store, stunned to find the beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima looking down on her. She sat for a few minutes in front of the Queen of Heaven, then approached me and said, "I don't know what is going on here, but I must tell you my story." The newly arrived visitor then explained how for the past eight years she had been studying the Catholic Faith, but there were a few key points that were holding her back from entering the Church. In learning about the Faith, she developed a devotion to Mary, and the morning of our encounter she awoke thinking, "I need a statue of Our Lady. I don't have one yet." She

drove to the Catholic bookstore that day, one of only two in downtown Dayton, and there we were with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima to greet her.

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



Mr. Gabriel Jordan joined the ranks of the Fatima Custodians for the America Needs Fatima Campaign in the fall of 2014.

Though the bookstore was not carrying any statues of Our Lady of Fatima, we gladly sold one of our smaller ones to her. She proceeded to ask us questions about the Catholic Faith. Our lively conversation touched on such topics as divorce, Purgatory, indulgences and confession. Taking time to answer her questions as best we could, the woman walked out the door with a smile on her face, carrying her new statue of Our Lady in her hands and the seeds of conversion in her heart.

Packing everything away before getting back on the road, we marveled at the impossibility of such a serendipitous meeting, knowing it was surely Our Lady who arranged it all. ■



America Needs Fatima warmly thanks all who donated time, effort and funds to make the 12,629 Rosary Rallies possible in 2014! May Our Lady of Fatima bless and reward each and every one as only she can.



Our Readers Write...



Virgin Mary Booklet

This book is a marvel! I have never read such a lovely history of Our Blessed Mother that has touched me so deeply—so very deeply! God bless you for sending it to me. I shall read it often with deep love. Thank you!

G. M., Wappingers Falls, N.Y.

Mr. Ritchie, as long as I live, you will never know just how grateful I am to have this book, *The Virgin Mary*. It is the type of book that one can read and re-read, and still find something new in it. Thank you and may our Father in Heaven always bless you for your thoughtfulness.

K.F., Weymouth, Mass

Thank you so much for sending this book to me. It is very beautiful and I really appreciate it. It is very inspiring. I really need to read a book like this, as I work in the public school. I try to stay positive, but sometimes it is hard. There is so much trouble for these children.

S. S., Pensacola, Fla.

This book is timely and Heaven's treasure. We, her spiritual children, consecrated (doing all) through Mary to Jesus get to know her better [by this book]. I continue to pray for you who are fulfilling Heaven's plans and, above all, persevere in protecting her honor.

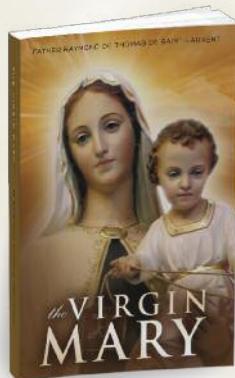
M. L., Mission, Texas

I did read it, twice! It was the most beautiful book about the Blessed Mother that I have ever read. Thank you so much!

C. C., Pilesgrove, N.J.

I've learned more about the Virgin Mary than I ever heard of in my 95 years! Please, send me two more [books], if that is allowable!

J. W., Cheyenne, Wyo.



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(888) 317-5571

The book is fantastic. I'm on Chapter 4, and can't wait to finish it. I'll read it over and over before I'll give it to my children.

B. M., Miles, Texas

The cover is beautiful; the words are inspiring. May this book be a stepping stone to a greater love for Our Lady. Since she always leads us to Her Son, Jesus, she is the remedy for all of our problems here on Earth.

L. V., Hawthorne, N.J.

Thank you for the book *The Virgin Mary*. Excellent, I enjoyed reading it. I read it in one day!

M. L., New Hope, Pa.

Thank you for this beautiful book. If I loved Mary before, I only love her more now.

P. S., Floral Park, N.Y.

The book is truly wonderful. I am passing it to my married son in North Carolina. His wife is a Methodist. We pray for her conversion to Catholicism one day, hopefully.

A. N., Staten Island, N.Y.

I was so overjoyed to find the gift of *The Virgin Mary* book. Thank you very much. I have had a love for the Blessed Virgin since childhood, with memories of preparing at our May altar that I loved to decorate with flowers, and kneeling in prayer with my mother who taught us to honor Mary as she did.

Thank you again, I do pray the Rosary daily, and thank you for organizing the [Rosary] rallies.

R. J., Moscow, Idaho

Thank you so much for this wonderful book. I love it. The more I read and meditate on it, the [more] it is helping me to come closer to our dear Blessed Virgin Mary. I pray that it helps many more Catholics and other faiths to love and understand what a beautiful gift the Lord is sharing [with us] in His wonderful, caring, and compassionate Mother, to bring us closer to Her Son and our salvation. God bless your ministry.

F. W., Baltimore, Md.

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



When writing your WILL...

Please consider including America Needs Fatima. Your generosity will help win the future generations for Mary.

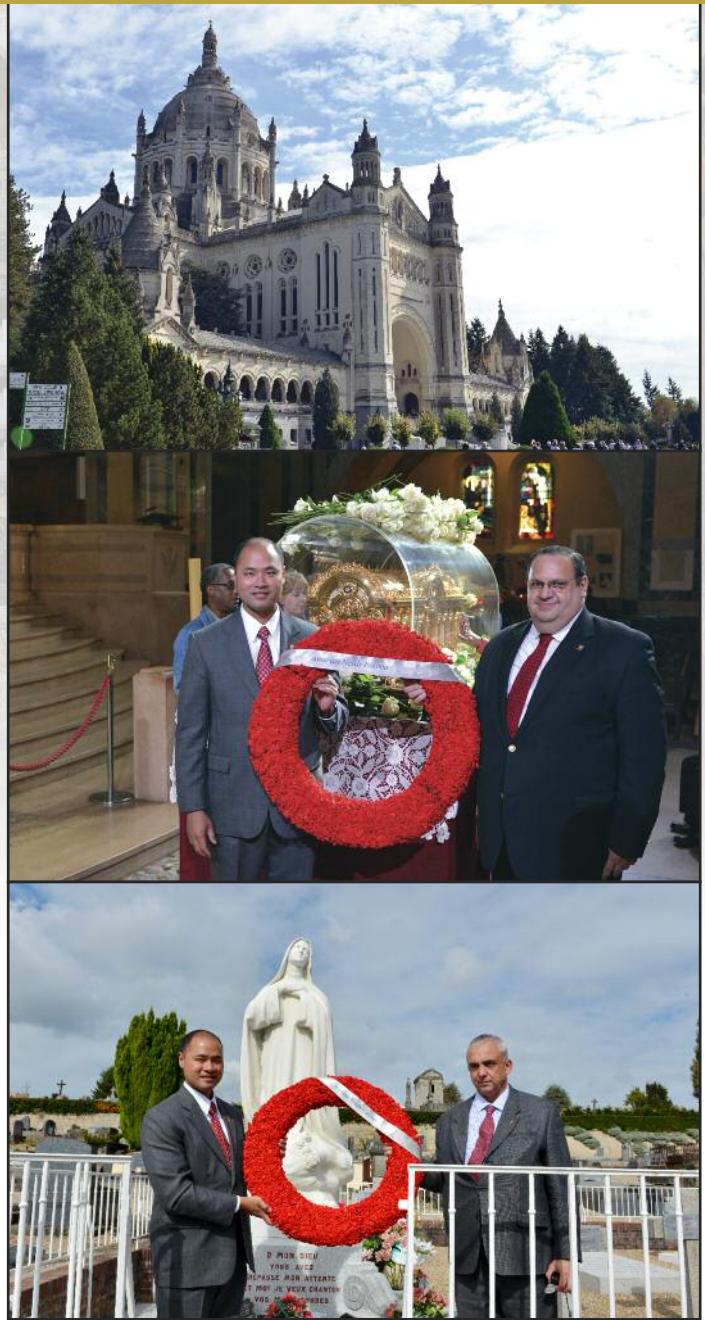
**Call Louisa today at (888) 317-5571
to find out more!**

A Shower of 19,379 Rosettes for The Little Flower

BY MICHAEL GORRE

Saint Therese of Lisieux famously said, "I will let fall from heaven a shower of roses." Ever since her entrance into heaven at age twenty-four, the saint we call "The Little Flower" pours out spiritual and temporal favors accompanied by her signature calling card, roses. In return, devotees present their own roses to honor her heroic sanctity and powerful intercession. Along with the numerous devotees presenting roses in Lisieux, France, I had the honor of presenting America Needs Fatima's wreath on her feast day, October 1st, 2014. Three feet in diameter, the wreath was created from the silk rosettes sent by 19,379 ANF members.

Along with ANF members Fernando Nunes and Marcelo Dufaur, I first brought the wreath to the Carmelite Convent of Lisieux, where we prayed for the intentions of every ANF member who sent their rosette. From the Carmel, we brought the wreath to the Basilica of Saint Therese where we venerated the saint's relics and continued our prayers. Then we took the wreath to the cemetery of Lisieux, overlooking the basilica, to place the wreath at the spot where Saint Therese was first laid to rest. There, the 19,379 rosettes continue to bear witness to the great love ANF members have for "The Little Flower" whose sanctity continues to touch souls across oceans. ■



Top: The Basilica of Saint Therese in Lisieux, France.
Center: Praying for the intentions of ANF members before the relics of The Little Flower.
Right: Laying the wreath of 19,379 rosettes on the place of Saint Therese's burial.



TFP IN
ACTION

October Traditional Marriage Caravan

From October 21-27, 2014, members of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) Student Action campaigned in defense of traditional marriage in southern Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. Many, pleasantly surprised to see young people defending marriage, were enthusiastic about the campaign.

As could be expected, however, the reception was not always good. On a campaign at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, an advocate of same-sex "marriage" attacked the TFP cameraman. He destroyed the shotgun microphone and then made a hurried exit. All the while, campus security watched on the sidelines.

The days were spent at busy street intersections with our ever-present "Honk for Traditional Marriage" signs, our flags, bagpipes and banners. It seemed that almost everybody was in favor of traditional marriage. In Virginia, the honks were almost deafening at certain intervals and the insults were few and far between. Many people called us brave because of what we were doing, while others said that more people should be standing up for this issue.



Scenes from the October 2014 Saint Joseph Caravan. Countless numbers of Americans showed support for the TFP volunteers as they travelled defending God's marriage.

After the campaign, TFP Student Action volunteers spent the night at campsites. The weather was warm and "roughing it" outside was very enjoyable. The mornings were crisp and chilly, making the coffee and hot breakfasts from the makeshift kitchen that much more gratifying.

The week-long campaign proved that the marriage issue is far from over. Many oppose same-sex "marriage," and it will take more than a court ruling to change the hearts and minds of Americans who understand the importance of God's marriage between one man and one woman. ■

TFP members wrapped up the caravan with a final campaign at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Their experience in defense of marriage clearly revealed the issue is far from settled.

Continued from back cover.

Today, our narcissistic culture no longer distinguishes between virtue and vice, but glamorizes a man or a woman even after they serially fail their spouses, live by the bottle and die by the syringe.

When his wife fell ill and he was forced to intern her in a nursing home, the Major walked every day from his house to the home, and helped Esther with her meals. On leaving, he carried a small bundle under his arm: her clothes, which he washed and ironed nightly, and brought back to her the next day. He did this for three years until her death in 2005.

He was also loyal to his friends. Yearly without fail he travelled to the reunion of his surviving fellow warriors. In a special place, they kept a bottle of 1896 vintage Cognac, signifying the year James Doolittle was born. They had agreed that the last two survivors would open the Cognac. Tom hoped to be one of the two.

As it was, the bottle was opened at the 2013 Veterans' Conference, nine months after Tom Griffin's passing, by three of the four last survivors present. All attendees raised their glasses along with the three Veteran Raiders in a solemn toast to one of history's most daring acts. Our own Norman Fulker-son, author of *An American Knight* and chronicler of many an American military feat, was present.

Such were the heroes of America; such were the men Americans admired; such was the "stage" on which true achievement paraded, before the new media-backed Hollywood model took over.

In pre-Hollywood America, for a man or a woman to be hailed and presented as a model, he or she had to have given consistent proof of virtue such as loyalty to God and country, true love, fidelity, selfless dedication, fortitude, courage and, in all that, humility.

Today, our narcissistic culture no longer distinguishes between virtue and vice, but glamorizes a man or a woman even after they serially fail their spouses, live by the bottle and die by the syringe. Thankfully, even such a cul-

ture knows not to call such men and women "heroes," and settles for "stars."

So long as stars keep up the humorous charade and the laughing mask, no one notices that the eyes behind the



The sterling silver goblets crafted in honor of the Doolittle Raiders. The survivors meet yearly to toast their fallen comrades, the other goblets remaining upturned in honor of the brave warriors who have passed.

hollow orifices are often drowning in the unhappiness of empty, Godless lives. "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in You," wrote the great Saint Augustine of Hippo. He himself was a disillusioned "star" of a former pagan world, turned shining light of the Church.

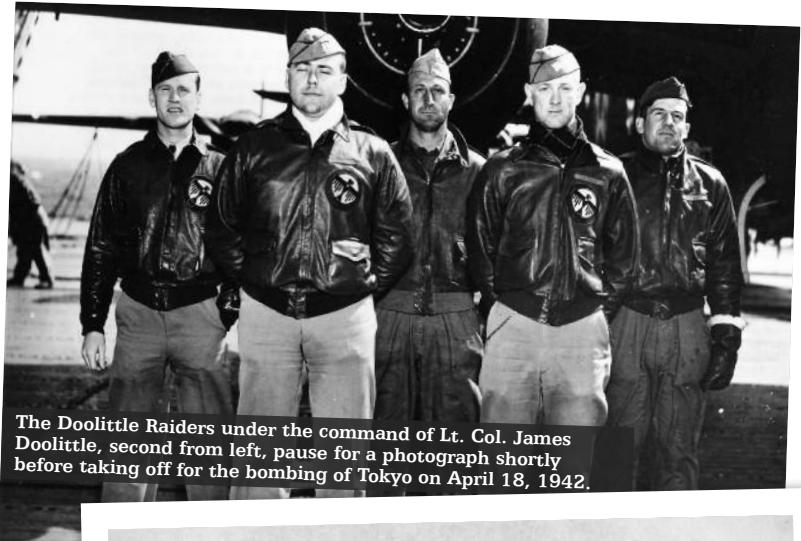
Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Hero of all heroes, was never recorded to have laughed. He didn't need to. The internal happiness of the hypostatic union of His humanity united to the divinity must have been resplendent, life giving and life lifting. One look from those eyes was enough to make a man leave everything to follow Him.

It was His mark on our country that produced discipline, selflessness, courage, loyalty, fidelity and dedicated tenderness such as Tom Griffin's. These are the knights America again must put up as models, the men that inspire today's generation of heroes, the men who made and continue to make America truly great. ■

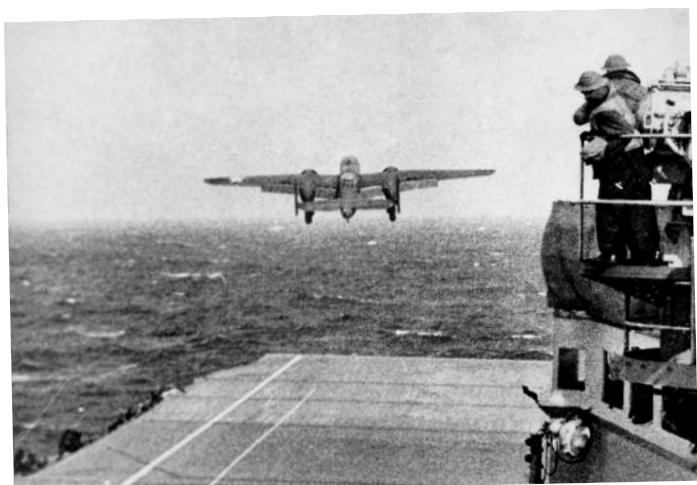
HEROES OR STARS?

BY M. TAYLOR

*On February 26,
2013, Tom Griffin,
one of the last five
surviving Doolittle
Raiders, rendered his
warrior soul to God.*



The Doolittle Raiders under the command of Lt. Col. James Doolittle, second from left, pause for a photograph shortly before taking off for the bombing of Tokyo on April 18, 1942.



Tom was one of eighty Air Force men, who, under the command of Lt. Col. James Doolittle, on April 18, 1942, four months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, boarded sixteen B-25B Mitchell bombers. With only enough fuel for one way, they bombed Tokyo and delivered the message that shook Japan, raising the morale of a stunned America: We will fight and we will win.

Griffin was navigator for bomber #9, which, after hitting its targets, ran out of fuel over China. The crew bailed out, all landing safely with only the pilot injured. With the help of local Chinese, they evaded capture by the Japanese patrolling the coast, and were finally picked up by an American plane.

As to the rest of the mission, eleven crews were forced to bail out, two men dying as a result, and four planes crash landed. Eight flyers were captured by the Japanese, three executed and five sentenced to life in prison. One of the planes landed in Russia and the crew was held captive. One Raider died of starvation, and the others suffered unremitting mistreatment for forty months until released at the end of the war.

After a short leave, Griffin was re-assigned to the European/Mediterranean theater of operations to a B-26B Marauder, nicknamed the "Widow Maker." He took part in an invasion of North Africa, survived a nosedive into the sea, and on his 47th mission over Italy, parachuting out of a burning plane, was captured and held by the Germans until the end of the war.

Finally back home, Major Tom Griffin married Esther Jones, whom he had met while on leave in 1942. Settling in Cincinnati, he opened an accounting business, and the couple raised two sons.

Though our knowledge of Tom Griffin's private life is restricted, the little we do know is consistent with the valor of his youth. Men can be heroes under heroic circumstances only to "bail out" in the routine. This soldier, who stood loyally by his country, also stood loyally by his wife of sixty years and by his family. Selfless in battle, he was selfless in daily life. Dedicated in dire missions, he was dedicated in the daily grind.

Continued on page 23.