

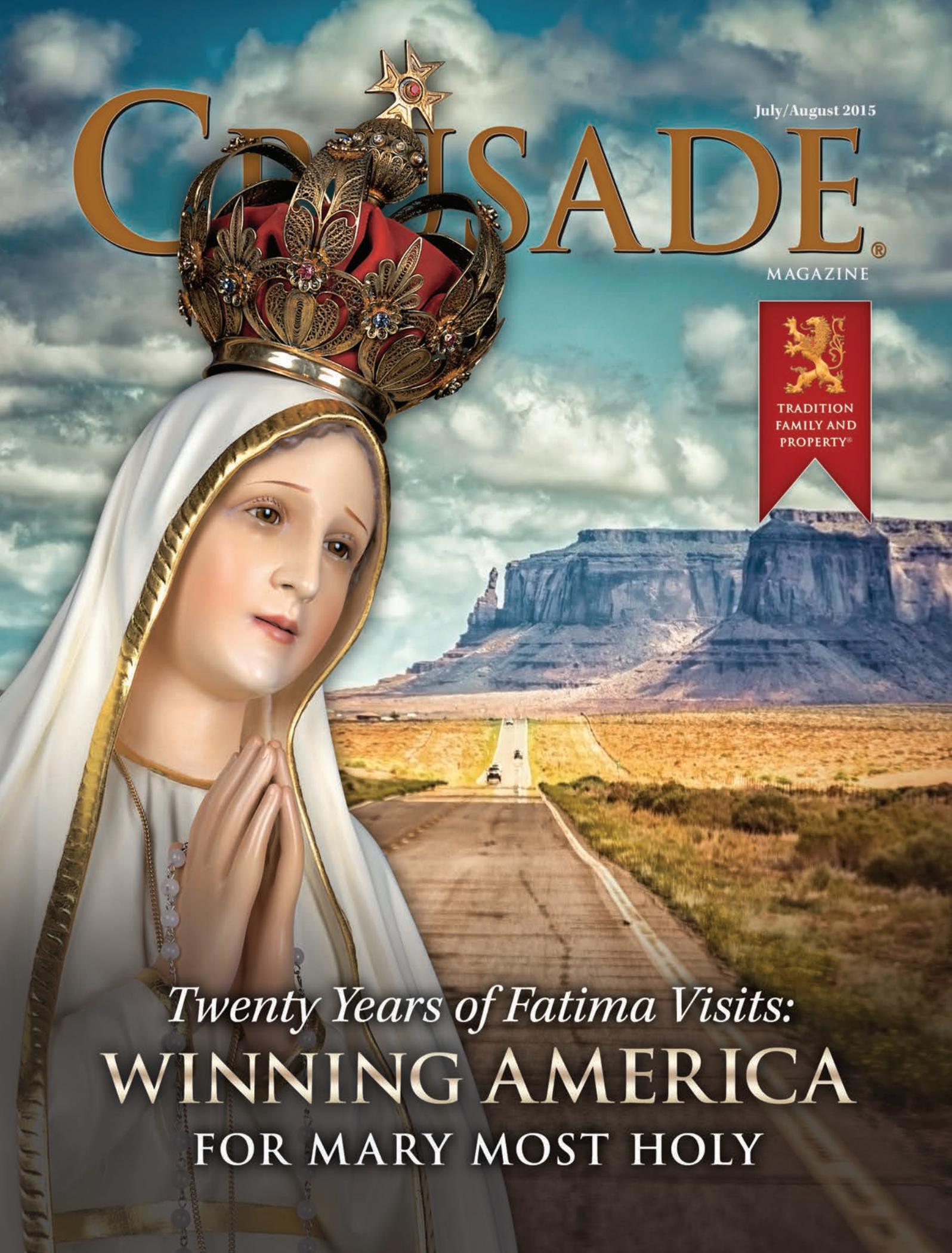
July/August 2015

# CROSSADE<sup>®</sup>

MAGAZINE



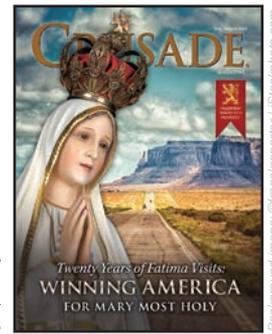
TRADITION  
FAMILY AND  
PROPERTY<sup>®</sup>



*Twenty Years of Fatima Visits:*  
**WINNING AMERICA**  
FOR MARY MOST HOLY

# CONTENTS

JULY/AUGUST 2015



**Cover:**  
Our Lady of Fatima  
Pilgrim Statue

<b>IN BRIEF</b>	4
<b>CHRIST IN THE HOME</b> The Art of Giving Children Faults	5
<b>RETURN TO ORDER</b> The Absence of the Sublime	6
<b>TFP IN ACTION</b> The Two Flags of the March for Marriage	8
<b>COMMENTARY</b> Uphold Church Teaching on Marriage: a Priest's Plea to Synod Fathers	10
<b>COVER STORY</b> Twenty Years of Fatima Visits: Winning America for Mary Most Holy	11
<b>ANF PROGRESS REPORT</b>	
◆ 2,125 Rosary Rallies in Defense of Traditional Marriage	15
◆ Tradition, Family and Property Regional Conference—Lafayette, Louisiana	17
◆ ANF Pilgrim to Fatima	18
◆ Our Readers Write	19
<b>COMMENTARY</b>	
◆ Does the Assistance of the Holy Spirit Always Prevent Crises in the Church?	20
◆ Toward Virtuous Leadership: Fixing the Military's Moral Compass	22
<b>BACK COVER</b> Heaven and Earth	24



**Page 22** Leadership and the  
cardinal virtues



**Page 8** Marching to defend  
God's marriage



**Page 18** A pilgrimage to Fatima



**Page 20** The Holy Spirit:  
Protector of the Church

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## CRUSADE

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## THE AMERICAN TFP

The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) is an organization of lay Catholic Americans concerned about the moral crisis shaking the remnants of Christian civilization. Its earliest origins date back to January 1971, when the first TFP members started to group around the publication *Crusade for a Christian Civilization*. It is a civic, cultural and nonpartisan organization which, inspired by the traditional teachings of the Supreme Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church, works in a legal and peaceful manner in the realm of ideas to

defend and promote the principles of private ownership, family and perennial Christian values with their twofold function: individual and social. The TFP's words and efforts have always been faithfully at the service of Christian civilization. The first TFP was founded in Brazil by the famous intellectual and Catholic leader Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira in 1960. His work inspired the formation of other autonomous TFP sister organizations across the globe, thus constituting the world's largest anticommunist and antisocialist network of Catholic inspiration.



# SAINT LOUIS DE MONTFORT ACADEMY: Now Celebrating Twenty Years!

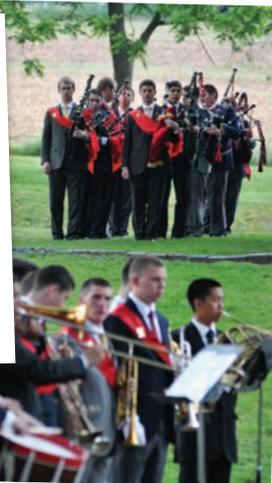


The Saint Louis de Montfort Academy was founded twenty years ago as a private boarding school for boys, encompassing the junior high and high-school grades, and staffed by American TFP members as a part of its ongoing apostolate with youth.

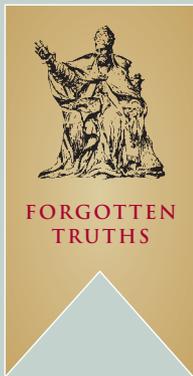
The Academy's solid Catholic formation instills in boys a profound love for Mary, Holy Mother Church and Christian civilization, engendering zeal to stand up and combat the errors of a decadent world. As a result, the daily program of Holy Mass, inspection, studies and recreation provides a formation uniting piety and orderliness with a note of Catholic militancy.



For boys interested in attending the Academy, it is necessary for them to first participate in a *Call to Chivalry* program.



For more information, please visit us at [www.MontfortAcademy.edu](http://www.MontfortAcademy.edu), send us an email at [info@MontfortAcademy.edu](mailto:info@MontfortAcademy.edu), or you can write to us at **Saint Louis de Montfort Academy, 868 Herndon Road, Herndon, PA 17830.**



## On the Abuse of Divine Mercy

FROM A SERMON BY SAINT ALPHONSUS LIGUORI

Saint Augustine says that the devil deludes Christians in two ways, "By despair and hope." After a person has committed sin, the enemy, by placing before his eyes the rigor of Divine Justice, tempts him to despair of the mercy of God. But, before he sins, the devil, by presenting to him the Divine Mercy, labors to make him fearless of the chastisement due to sin. Hence the Saint gives the following advice: "After sin, hope for mercy; before sin, fear justice." If, after sin, you despair of God's pardon, you offend Him by a "new" and more grievous sin. Have recourse to His Mercy, and He will pardon you. But, before sin, fear God's Justice, and trust not to His Mercy; for they who abuse the Mercy of God to offend Him do not deserve to be treated with mercy.

When you intend to commit sin, who, I ask, promises you mercy from God? Certainly God does not promise it. It is the devil that promises it, that you may lose God, and be damned. "Beware," says Saint John Chrysostom, "never to attend to that dog who promises the mercy from God." If,

beloved sinners, you have hitherto offended God, hope and tremble; if you desire to give up sin, and you detest it, hope; because God promises pardon to all who repent of the evil they have done. But if you intend to continue in your sinful course, tremble lest God should wait no longer for you, but cast you into Hell. Why does God wait for sinners? Is it that they may continue to insult Him? No, He waits for them that they may renounce sin, and that thus, He may have pity on them, and forgive them. "Therefore the Lord waiteth, that He may have mercy on you." (Isaiah 30:18) But when He sees that the time which He gave them to weep over their past iniquities is spent in multiplying their sins, He begins to inflict chastisement, and He cuts them off in the state of sin, that, by dying, they may cease to offend Him. Then He calls against them the very time He had given them for repentance. "He hath called against me the time." (Lamentations 1:15) "The very time," says Saint Gregory, "comes to judge." ■

*Why does God wait for sinners? Is it that they may continue to insult Him?*



IN BRIEF

### **461 Priests in England and Wales Sign “Support for Marriage” Letter**

Nearly 500 priests in Great Britain signed a letter published in *The Catholic Herald* strongly reaffirming traditional Catholic doctrine on marriage and Holy Communion. The letter read in part, “We wish, as Catholic priests, to re-state our unwavering fidelity to the traditional doctrine regarding marriage and the true meaning of human sexuality, founded on the Word of God and taught by the Church’s Magisterium for two millennia.” The letter was addressed to the Synod on the Family which will be convened in October to take up proposals to possibly change Church teachings on marriage, sexuality, repentance and grace. Meanwhile, over 1,000 priests in the United States made their own statement with a similar message to Synod members to uphold the Church’s “unchanging moral teaching.” The statement is posted on [credopriests.org](http://credopriests.org).

### **New Jersey Teacher Is Reinstated After Being Suspended for Promoting Catholic Doctrine**

Patricia Jannuzzi, a Catholic high school teacher at Immaculata High School in New Jersey, was reinstated after being suspended for postings on her Facebook page presenting authentic Catholic teaching on homosexuality and same-sex “marriage.” In a statement to Immaculata faculty and staff, Msgr. Seamus Brennan, pastor of the Church of the Immaculate, announced that Jannuzzi was to be reinstated because of her “otherwise good reputation as an educator for thirty years.” The school and Bishop Paul Bootkowski of the Diocese of Metuchen, who initially supported the teacher’s suspension, were flooded with calls for Mrs. Jannuzzi’s reinstatement. Several pro-traditional marriage groups, including LifeSiteNews.com and The Lepanto Institute organized online petitions and ran radio ads protesting the suspension and calling for Mrs. Jannuzzi’s reinstatement. America Needs Fatima also circulated an online letter of support for Mrs. Jannuzzi.



### **Europe’s Population of Children Continues to Shrink**

The *Wall Street Journal* reported recently that the European Union’s statistics agency released figures showing the declining population growth of children less than 15 years old. In 1994, they accounted for 18.6% of the population, but in 2014 the percentage dropped to 15.6%. It is even worse in

Germany, where children now account for just 13.1%, which is down from 16.4% in 1994. Some economists have concluded that the Eurozone may have no choice but to encourage higher levels of immigration in order to spur economic growth and avoid high debt levels.

### **Catholic College Gives Up \$1 Million Federal Grant**

To avoid the Obama administration’s mandates that would conflict with its Catholic identity and mission, Wyoming Catholic College (WCC), a new, growing Catholic college in Lander, Wyoming, decided to reject nearly \$1 million in federal aid. Kevin Roberts, WCC’s president, told the *New York Times*, “By abstaining from federal funding programs, we will safeguard our mission from unwarranted federal involvement—an involvement increasingly at odds with our Catholic beliefs.”

### **Remains of Medieval King Finally Buried Properly**

English King Richard III, who died on the battlefield 530 years ago, finally received the ceremony and honors befitting a monarch. In March 2015, his remains were interred with pomp and circumstance in Leicestershire, England, with thousands in attendance. His bones were discovered in a parking lot in 2012 and were scientifically analyzed and found to be authentic. Crowds lined the processional route to Leicester Cathedral where a tomb was readied for the warrior king.

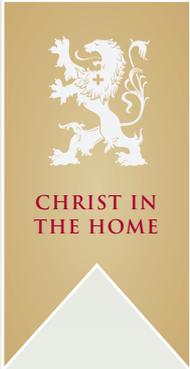


### **France Is Overwhelmed by Islamic Terrorist Threats**

Agence France Press (AFP) reports that France is seriously threatened with jihadist attacks on a daily basis. According to counter-terrorism authorities, the threat has reached a level “without precedent.” “Not one day goes by without an alert, the discovery of a network trying to send people to Syria or Iraq, or an intervention by the security services,” one official said. “They have lost all inhibitions about violence,” said another top counter-terrorism official.

# Giving Children Faults

BY FATHER RAOUL PLUS, S. J.



**T**here are two great means of developing faults in children: first by giving them a bad example; second, by spoiling them.

**1. Giving them a bad example:** All men are imitators. Children are more exposed than others to the appeal of imitation. They love to imitate adults, and by preference those within their immediate circle, particularly their parents who appear to them as exceptional beings in whom there is nothing reprehensible.

Is the mother vain? The daughter too will be vain; she will speak, act, dress, not for an ideal of beauty in keeping with her condition or her station, but for the favorable opinion of others. She will strive to surpass all her companions, her friends, by the cut of her clothes and the extremes of style. She will attach a considerable, yes even an exaggerated, importance to the tiniest details of her appearance. She will suffer a severe attack of jealousy when she believes someone outshines her.

Is the father proud? Does he try to exaggerate his good points and belittle those of others or refuse to recognize them? His son will be a snob, disdainful of others, self-sufficient, pretentious, arrogant, obstinate, and will manifest no understanding whatever as far as others are concerned.

Do the parents tend to gossip? Are they contentious? Sharp in their speech? Their children will be intemperate in speech, quarrelsome, envious.

Are the parents deceitful? The children are in danger of becoming liars. Are the parents generally indiscreet in conversation, passing judgments

thoughtlessly? The children, already too much inclined to judge everything from the height of their grandeur, will pass snap judgments, unjust and untimely criticisms.

Do the parents manifest their love of ease, of wealth, even a thirst to acquire riches by any means? The children are likely to be selfish, attached to their own comfort, even cheaters on occasion.

**2. Spoiling them:** Some parents are too harsh and do not encourage their children at all. Others, by far the greater number, are too indulgent, flatter their children, and satisfy all their whims.

Parents who spoil their children do not seek their good, or love them for their sakes. No, it is a form of self-love; the parents seek themselves in the child. Such parents cannot put firmness into the education they try to give; they cannot punish when necessary; prevent escapades; secure obedience; they cannot defend themselves against any caprices.

“But if I lack kindness,” you say, “my child will withdraw from me; in difficult times he will avoid speaking to me; I shall not have his confidence. If on the contrary I have multiplied my kindnesses to him, he will remain open; I shall keep a hold on him.”

There is no question here of failing in kindness; it is a question of forbidding oneself any weakness. Far from having to fear the loss of the child’s confidence, if one is judiciously firm, the parents shall win the child’s confidence because they are wisely strong. When the children understand that in the marks of affection their parents bestow on them they are not seeking something personal but only the good of their children, the children will be quick to realize that in the severity their parents inflict on them, there is likewise no trace of caprice, but only the desire for their good as before. It is precisely that realization which has educational force—this contact with strong and detached souls. ■



Parents set the tone for their children. . . for good or for ill.



# The Absence of the SUBLIME

BY JOHN HORVAT II

Secular society is the logical consequence of a predominantly materialistic society. By “secular society,” we do not wish to affirm that God is denied. Quite to the contrary, personal belief in God is allowed and even encouraged as long as it is confined to the personal, unofficial realm. A secular society in general is one which is officially purged of all references to a reality beyond that of our naturalistic and materialistic world. There is an indifference to or confusion about what constitutes the meaning of life.

Secularism, asserts Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira, is a curious form of atheism affirming that “it is impossible to be certain of the existence of God and, consequently, that man should act in the temporal realm as if God did not exist; in other words, he should act like a person who has dethroned God.”<sup>1</sup>

“Secularization is the liberation of man from religious and metaphysical tutelage, the turning of his attention away from other worlds and toward this one,” exults Harvey Cox, one of many modern “theologians” who celebrate this dethronement as a liberating experience.

## Weariness for Spiritual Things

This “liberating” secular society inevitably leaves a profound void inside the soul of modern man creating a frustration and desolation that many have termed a spiritual wasteland.

Such an attitude calls to mind the condition that Saint Thomas Aquinas calls “acedia,” which he defines as the weariness for holy and spiritual things and a subsequent sadness of living.<sup>3</sup> As a spiritual

being, the man afflicted with acedia denies his spiritual appetites. “He does not want to be what God wants him to be,” notes Josef Pieper, “and that means that he does not want to be what he really, and in the ultimate sense, is.”<sup>4</sup> This refusal cannot help but bring sadness and even despair.

The modern version of acedia includes both a weariness and a wariness for all things spiritual. There is the conscious turning away from holy and spiritual things as well as a cultural regime where sublime goals or religious ideals are looked upon with suspicion and simply not considered to be an important part of our lives. The intensive, feverish activity of modern life often is an attempt to hide acedia’s effects of listlessness, low spirits, and lack of joy.

## The Flight of Happiness

Indeed, a great sadness has descended upon the land.

“Amidst the satisfaction people feel with their material progress,” writes sociologist Robert E. Lane, “there is a spirit of unhappiness and depression haunting advanced market democracies throughout the world, a spirit that mocks the idea that markets maximize well-being and the eighteenth-century promise of a right to the pursuit of happiness under benign governments of people’s own choosing.”<sup>5</sup>

Despite huge opportunities for entertainment, pleasure, and excitement, happiness eludes us. This is all the more incomprehensible since the unhappiness persists even among those surrounded by riches, consumer goods, technological progress, or good health.

Moreover, Lane notes, “The richer the society and its individuals become, the less purchasable are the goals that bring them happiness.”<sup>6</sup> This unhappiness, in turn, breeds frustration and can be a major cause of the pervasive sadness and depression that afflict us.

There is a generalized dissatisfaction with life that is different from times past. Before the sixties, surveys found the exuberance and optimism of youths made them generally happier than old people. By the

*Left: “Palace of Communications” (post office), Madrid, Spain. Right: Cathedral of Los Angeles. The sublime or lack of it shows in everything men do. It is a degree of excellence that makes us sense something of the divine.*



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end of the century, such findings were reversed. Younger people are now generally unhappier than the older generations, a fact that can be verified by its impact “in terms of headaches, indigestion, sleeplessness, as well as general [dis]satisfaction with life and even likelihood of taking your own life.”<sup>7</sup>

It is evident that the happiness people seek goes beyond mere gratification, material goods, and consumption. Studies show that people express their desires in spiritual terms of peace of mind, equilibrium, or tranquility.<sup>8</sup> This suggests that our modern brand of acedia has much to do with the discontent that so mocks and haunts our modern civilization.

### Rejecting the Sublime

This aspect of our crisis has been ascribed to many causes. We would attribute it to the absence of the sublime.

The sublime consists of those things of transcendent excellence that cause men to be overawed by their magnificence. It invites men and nations to turn beyond self-interest and gratification and look towards higher principles, the common good, or ultimately towards God, thus giving meaning and purpose to their lives. Whether manifested in works of art, fabulous cultural achievements, great feats of men, or religious piety, the sublime has the capacity of inciting in us sentiments of loyalty, dedication, and devotion that can fill the emptiness of our modern wasteland.

Alas, our secular society strongly rejects the sublime option. It generally presents only the physical or economic good whereby individuals and nations lose the notion of the sublime. The sublime becomes an abstract or poetic matter while the concrete thing is portrayed as the only reality.

### Two Options Open

This great conflict between the poles of the practical and the sublime often sets in motion a great internal crisis in the souls of men—and analogously in civilizations. That is to say, we are frequently called to make a choice between self-interest and sublime principles, as might be seen in a person’s dilemma between simply enjoying life and pursuing a soldier’s selfless devotion to country or a priestly vocation.

Sometimes the same situation can lead to a solicitation from both poles, as in the case of a politician that feels both the noble desire to serve the common good and the temptation to enrich himself at the public’s expense. An image of this bipolar solicitation might be seen in the case of wine. There are those who are able to derive great spiritual satisfaction from wine, and yet others who can only become physically intoxicated from the same wine.

Tocqueville warns us of the danger of the ab-

## A Great Sadness Over the Nation

The number of professionals treating those afflicted with mental unhappiness and depression reflects a growing sadness over the nation.

“As Ronald Dworkin pointed out in a 2010 paper for the Hoover Institution, in the late ‘40s, the United States was home to 2,500 clinical psychologists, 30,000 social workers, and fewer than 500 marriage and family therapists. As of 2010, the country had 77,000 clinical psychologists, 192,000 clinical social workers, 400,000 nonclinical social workers, 50,000 marriage and family therapists, 105,000 mental-health counselors, 220,000 substance-abuse counselors, 17,000 nurse psychotherapists, and 30,000 life coaches” (Stephen Marche, *Is Facebook Making Us Lonely?* *The Atlantic*, May 2012).

A study by Prof. Myrna Weismann and associates finds that “about a quarter of the population experiences some of the clinical symptoms of depression during some portion of their lifetime; another study reports that almost half of the population (48 percent) has suffered from depression severe enough to inhibit functioning for two weeks or more, and nearly 20 percent qualify for a lifetime diagnosis of major depression or dysthymia” (Lane, *Loss of Happiness*, 22).

sence of the sublime when he comments on “a taste for physical gratification: this taste, if it become excessive, soon disposes men to believe that all is matter only; and materialism, in turn, hurries them back with mad impatience to these same delights.”<sup>9</sup>

### Reign of Normality

The post-World War II period of economic expansion introduced one such period of gratification. It was not only a period of unparalleled prosperity but also one of excessive materialism—which persists to our day.

Ours is officially a secular world simplified and purged of any transcendence beyond the ordinary experience of daily life. This world is dominated by money, science, and technology with its overwhelming emphasis on all that is pragmatic, organized, and “reasonable.”

This rejection of the sublime is especially notable in our present culture, which favors the superficial and pleasurable. Hollywood and the media invite us to celebrate that which is comic, sentimental, and sensual. Ours is a culture that glorifies comfort and health and exudes carefree optimism, giving us the mistaken impression that we have somehow obtained the aforementioned perfect material happiness in this vale of tears.

Thus, such a shallow regime of excessive materialism has long been considered “normal,” while the option of the sublime and spiritual has been consigned to the risky bygone adventures of saints, heroes, and poets that are to be avoided by all sensible people.

### Revenge of the Sublime

Many were surprised when the post-war normality of the fifties did not generate yet more normality.

They were shocked to see that it brought frustration and rebellion instead.

The explosion of the sixties was an expression of the absence of the sublime. “They [baby boomers] then discover[ed] that a life that is without a sense of purpose creates an acute experience of anxiety,” writes Irving Kristol, “which in turn transforms the universe into a hostile, repressive place.”<sup>10</sup>

And yet our pursuit of the sublime cannot be suppressed. Man cannot remain long without the goods of the spirit. Our natural tendency for the sublime must find some way to express itself even if in a distorted way.

Our materialist culture asphyxiated the spiritual desires of the younger generations. As the “normal” baby boomers grew up, they found increasingly “abnormal” outlets for their spiritual hunger in the drugs, religious sects, and bizarre lifestyles that so destroyed their lives.

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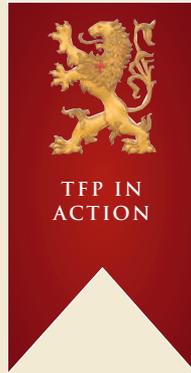
Ever since the sixties, we have been living amid the ruins of this normality that still maintains its materialist facade. Yet behind the facade, the frustration has only deepened. In our postmodernity, we see “normality” fragmented into a thousand subcultures, deviations, and alternative lifestyles. But we also see a hunger for marvelous, sublime, and heroic things by those who never knew the splendors of Christian civilization.

Thus, an uneasiness hangs over our normality. Disillusioned by materialism’s promises, discontented segments of society now appear, searching the mists of our past tradition and asking about the sublime that was so brutally rejected. ■

*The section above was an excerpt from the book Return to Order.*

**Notes:**

1. Corrêa de Oliveira, *Revolution and Counter-Revolution*, 47-48.
2. Harvey Cox, *The Secular City: Secularization and Urbanization in Theological Perspective* (New York: Macmillan, 1966), 15. Cox goes so far as to recommend a secular religion without the mention of God.
3. See Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, II-II, q. 35, a. 1.
4. Pieper, *Leisure*, 28.
5. Lane, *Loss of Happiness*, 3.
6. *Ibid.*, 63.
7. Putnam, *Bowling Alone*, 263.
8. “Self-satisfaction and equilibrium,” “being satisfied,” “feeling content with myself,” “feeling fulfilled and worthwhile” are some of the other expressions cited by Robert Lane in his overview of studies in the field. Lane, *Loss of Happiness*, 15.
9. Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, 2:175.
10. Kristol, *Two Cheers for Capitalism*, 179.



# The Two Flags of the March for Marriage

BY EVAN OLWELL

With the Supreme Court deliberating on the issue of same-sex “marriage” this past April, the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) joined the National Organization for Marriage’s March for Marriage 2015 on April 25th. Rallying around the American flag, a pro-family crowd of approximately 10,000 gathered on Capitol Hill in a peaceful display of support for true marriage.

Brian Brown, president of the National Organization for Marriage (NOM), opened the rally and was followed by several speakers from many of the nation’s pro-family organizations. The speakers included Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of the archdiocese of Louisville, Auxiliary Bishop John Joseph McIntyre of Philadelphia and Archbishop William E. Lori of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, who opened the rally with a prayer. Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, Papal Nuncio to the United States, was also in attendance at the rally.

Mainstream America was well represented. People from Alabama, Michigan, Louisiana, Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky, Connecticut, New York, Texas, New Jersey and Pennsylvania traveled to attend the march. Despite the hardships

of road travel, participants were energetic and enthusiastic. As with the March for Life, the throng was full of families who behaved with respect and dignity.

The large turn-out was evidence of what so many Americans of all ages and backgrounds believe: that the institution of marriage as the union of one man and one woman must be defended. A



On April 25th, thousands marched to defend true marriage, following the brilliant standards of the American TFP.



The National Organization for Marriage led the marchers up Capitol Hill.

banner carried in the march from the American TFP's America Needs Fatima campaign contained the names of 12,251 people who could not be present but asked that their names be displayed.

During the rally, TFP volunteers gathered signatures on a worldwide petition to Pope Francis for the future of the family. The petition has already exceeded 200,000 signatures and is continually growing.

The crowd of 10,000 marched up Capitol Hill to the beat of the TFP's Holy Choir of Angels marching band, which

added a patriotic air to the event. The atmosphere at the march was calm, prayerful and orderly. Nowhere could a pro-marriage participant be found giving voice to hatred.

Nevertheless, in front of the Supreme Court was a group of approximately twenty pro-homosexuals and cross-dressers.

This crowd clearly did not represent the majority of public opinion in America. The flag they held, a distorted version of the American flag, may have had fifty stars on it, but stars of pink and stripes of purple, green, orange and aquamarine do not represent the values that Americans esteem and hold dear as



Top: The banners of the American TFP displayed bold statements defending true marriage. Above: The Holy Choir of Angels Band helped set the tone for the entire march to the steps of the Supreme Court.

symbolized in the American flag.

Those who defend true marriage must uphold the virtues that make America great: the virtues of courage, sacrifice, purity, temperance, and honor that are expressed in the American flag.

Red, white and blue are the true colors of America; the rainbow flag must be rejected. ■



TFP members collected thousands of signatures in a petition to Pope Francis encouraging him to boldly defend the family.

Americans from across the country teamed to show their support for true marriage.



# UPHOLD CHURCH TEACHING ON MARRIAGE: *a Priest's Plea to Synod Fathers*

Nearly 500 priests in Great Britain signed a public letter urging the coming synod on the family to stand firm on the church's traditional teaching on marriage. In the United States, over 1,000 priests have so far signed a similar letter urging synod fathers "to make a clear and firm proclamation of the Church's unchanging moral teaching, so that confusion may be removed, and faith confirmed."

Father Alexander Lucie-Smith, who was one of the British priests who signed the letter, recently came out to explain his reasons. Writing in *The Catholic Herald*, he cited four out of many possible reasons why he signed.

## Morality Comes First

Proponents of the proposal to allow Catholics in irregular situations to receive Holy Communion often cite pastoral considerations as their motivation. For Father Lucie-Smith, they are missing an important, primary and vital point: "Pastoral theology is about the application of moral theology." He further wrote, "Talking about pastoral provisions without reference to morals is a bit like having a discussion in a room from which the oxygen has been pumped out."

## Rebuilding a Declining Institution

Like most of the signatories to the letter, Father Lucie-Smith is a parish priest. He is a witness to the wearing down of the foundation of marriage in his own parish



because of easy divorces. He also sees its decay in developing societies via polygamy and the like. He believes that changing the traditional teaching on marriage will surely undermine the task of rebuilding the sacred institution. "We need to build up the Christian model of marriage, against the models of polygamy and temporary marriage and concubinage. We have made a start, but there is a long way to go."

## The Danger of a "Marriage-less" Society

For his third reason, he sounded an alarm—"If we somehow or another allow or give permission for second unions, where the first union has been proved to be *consummatum ac ratum* (a consummated marriage), we effectively give permission for temporary marriage, and worse than that, we make every marriage, formerly absolute, contingent. This would be a catastrophe." As is already happening in civil marriages, ease of divorce effectively removes the concept of permanence and lifelong unions. "Is this the way we want to go?" asked Father Lucie-Smith.

## The Words of Truth Himself

Lastly, Father Lucie-Smith quoted the unquestionable and clear words of Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself:

"The Pharisees approached and asked, 'Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?' They tested him. He said to them in reply, 'What did Moses command you?' They replied, 'Moses permitted him to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her.' But Jesus told them, 'Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother (and be joined to his wife), and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate.' In the house the disciples again questioned him about this. He said to them, 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.'" (Mark 10:2-12) ■



The message to the Synod Fathers is clear: defend Christ's teaching on marriage.



# TWENTY YEARS OF FATIMA VISITS: Winning America for Mary Most Holy

BY BEN BROUSSARD



**2015** marks an important milestone for America Needs Fatima. For twenty years, Fatima Custodians have crisscrossed the nation. Men consecrated to the Mother of God have brought the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to tens of thousands of homes.

These Fatima Custodians now mark two decades of adventures while spreading the Fatima message. Giving up the comforts of modern life, these tireless warriors have made it their mission to gain the heart and soul of America for the Mother of God. We now look back on the wonders the Mother of God has done.

## Humble Beginnings

The Fatima home visits owe their existence to the example and encouragement of one man: Prof. Plinio Correa de Oliveira. His pen, word and example inspired the men of the American TFP with a deep love for the Blessed Mother, the Holy Eucharist and the Papacy. Dr. Plinio constantly spoke, wrote and lived by example the Fatima message. His passing shortly after the visits began came as an enormous loss. It also served as an inspiration to work ceaselessly to spread the Fatima message in America. The custodians continually find inspiration in his witness as a man of Catholic faith and action.

The early days were filled with unanswered questions. What would be the reaction of Americans to the Fatima message? How would the custodians be received? What challenges would they face while on the road?

The answers were not long in com-

ing. In the summer of 1995, starting slowly with a single team of volunteers, the Fatima Custodians expended all their efforts in proclaiming the Fatima message. The families visited in the northeast United States offered a warm reception. Young and old, recent immigrants or longstanding families, men and women from all walks of life welcomed Our Lady into their homes. Hundreds of promises to pray the daily rosary along with outpourings of support soon became common. More teams were formed to bring Our Lady to homes in the Midwest and the South.

With the growth of the visits, in 1996 a central office in Kansas began to coordinate all the preparations. A dedicated team of staff and volunteers started to mail postcards, make phone calls, organize prayer request to be sent to Fatima and log countless hours promoting the Home Visitation Program. Since the beginning, these schedulers have worked hard to encourage at least thirteen people at each visit, in honor of the



The Kansas office staff and volunteers have scheduled Fatima visits for nearly two decades.



Above: Welcoming Our Lady as Queen of the home. Center: Custodians have had the honor of bringing Our Lady to the sick and the dying. Top right: People of all ages take time to offer a special prayer at the feet of the Queen of Heaven.

day Our Lady appeared to the three shepherds. The work of the central office allowed each team to be more mobile. This left more time to focus on perfecting each presentation.

### Challenges and Rewards

With the growth of the visits, Fatima Custodians began to put in long hours behind the wheel. Getting lost, running low on fuel, vehicles breaking down and traffic delays became part of the day-to-day sacrifice of each custodian.

But even here, Our Lady has never failed to provide. Generous donations over the years have ensured efficient vehicles, or “chariots for the Queen.” The advent of the GPS and cell phones with traffic updates have aided greatly in reaching the visits on time. Since the visits began in 1995, it has not been uncommon for custodians to travel more than 100 miles a day to spread the Fatima message.

On numerous occasions, Fatima Custodians have traveled during severe weather. While Mr. Michael Chad Shilber gave a presentation in Michigan, a tornado passed near the house. Everyone quickly moved to the basement, with the storm raging above as all prayed the rosary. Upon leaving, the devastation the tornado left in its wake was apparent, but so was the fact that Our Lady kept everyone safe.

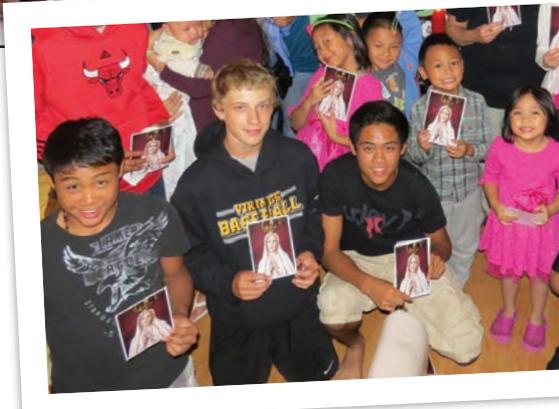
Facing a storm of a far different nature, in December 1999 a Fatima Custodian brought the statue of Our Lady to the home of Elian Gonzales near Miami,

Florida. On seeing the statue, the young boy remarked that she was the Lady who had saved him from the waters. A photo of Elian clutching a small statue of Our Lady circulated even after he was taken from his home by federal agents and forced to return to communist Cuba.

### Spreading a Message of Hope

The twenty-first century brought new challenges. A distinct change in the country took hold after the September 11 attacks in 2001. One consequence of the attacks on the World Trade Center was that they highlighted the relevance of the Fatima message. Our Lady’s pleas for repentance and conversion remain unanswered. The attacks served as a tragic wake-up call for many Americans to return to Our Lady and the Church. Before this, the custodians would usually have to spend considerable time convincing people of the coming chastisement. After 9/11, things started to change.

The week after the devastating event, Fatima Custodian José Ferraz visited a home in New Jersey. A gentleman there approached him to tell him a story. After attending a Fatima visit of his a few years before, this man made the decision to return to the sacraments and began praying the daily rosary. The day the planes hit he was inside the World Trade Center. He climbed down the stairwell, but when he reached the tenth floor, the fire doors blocked his way. Tempted to panic, he remembered the rosary in his pocket. Taking it out, the



The Fatima message finds a home among countless Americans, young and old alike.

man began praying out loud. Moments later, firemen broke down the doors and within minutes he was out on the street. He stood awestruck as the towers crumbled before his eyes, realizing Our Lady had saved his life through the rosary.

On several occasions, custodians have brought Our Lady to those on their deathbeds. One poignant moment came when Dr. Jose Maria Alcasid brought the statue to an elderly Samoan lady on the west coast of Oahu. Family members crowded round as they placed the hands of the dying woman on the statue. Later, several people remarked it was as if she were clinging to Our Lady. Mere hours afterward, the woman surrendered her soul to God.

### Our Lady Never Outdone in Generosity

The smile of the Queen of Heaven has shone clearly in the Christian charity extended to Fatima Custodians over the years.

Mr. Joseph Ferrara was traveling in California when his van broke down. Calling the visit he had scheduled for the evening, it happened his host was a me-

chanic. The gentleman generously lent a spare family car to him for the other visits he had that weekend, and by Monday his van was up and running.

Years of experience show how Our Lady sees to every need. Mr. Michael Chad Shibler arrived at a small pizzeria in Texas late on a Friday night after closing time. Talking with the owner and explaining his work of bringing the Fatima statue to homes, the man was touched. He spent the next several hours conversing about Our Lady and the Catholic Faith over hot pizza, satisfying both body and soul.

Finally, Our Lady's great care can be seen in how far the Fatima home visits have spread. In July 2010, Mr. Richard Lyon became the first custodian to bring the Pilgrim Virgin Statue to Alaska. Dozens of families in "The Last Frontier" warmly welcomed Our Lady into their homes. With this first visit to Alaska, Fatima Custodians had officially brought Our Lady to all fifty states, along with Puerto Rico, Guam, Saipan and the District of Columbia.

### By Their Fruits You Will Know Them

With twenty years of visits, the results speak for themselves.

Stories from the road abound. For a Fatima Custodian, there is no greater re-

ward than to witness people opening their hearts and minds to Our Lady's invitation to heed and follow her message. Our Lady touches each person in a unique way. This touch is silent, profound and transforming. What follows is a small glimpse into the incredible fruits of two decades of Fatima visits.

A Jewish lady had just moved and received a Fatima postcard in the name of the previous owner announcing that the statue would be visiting the area. She thought, "This must be a sign for me. I will call them." She called and made an appointment for a Fatima visit. She invited her friends, many of whom were also Jewish. On the day of the visit they were all very respectful, asking several questions about the message, and even trying their best to follow the rosary.

There was the case of two sisters, aged eighty-five and eighty-seven respectively, who received the statue in their home. Before beginning the rosary, one of them approached the custodian and said, "You know, today is the first time that my sister and I are saying a rosary. I have cancer, but I am not worthy of asking Our Lady to cure me. What I will ask is that she grant me the strength to continue and to do what she wishes of me."

The innocence of children called to admire the sublime love of Our Lady's Immaculate Heart never fails to inspire. At a home in Michigan, Mr. Michael Chad Shibler met Sydney Grace, a very young girl who is cross-eyed due to poor muscle tone in her eyes. "It is through Sydney's suffering that I understand how children's innocent sacrifice is pleasing to God," said her grandmother. "Every time Sydney sees the ANF calendar with Our Lady's picture she gives it a kiss." Just before leaving, the little girl lovingly venerated the pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

Families living the Fatima message are shining beacons of light in today's dark world. Mr. Matthew Shibler visited the Limón family in Austin, Texas. Their home was crowded with over sixty-five relatives. Weeks

later, Johnny Limón called to say they had started the Five First Saturdays' devotion at their home, inviting relatives to come and fulfill Our Lady's request as a family. Johnny remarked, "The devotion gives us a reason to get together and the Blessed Virgin plays a big part in keeping us in the Faith."

### Going After the Lost Sheep

Our Lord tells us in the Gospel, "There shall be joy before the angels of God upon one sinner who returns." (Luke 15:10)

As Mr. Byron Whitcraft left a home in Louisiana, the man of the house was at the door holding back his emotions. Looking straight into the custodian's eyes, he said,



Mr. Matthew Shibler, *right*, invites the hostess to crown Our Lady while the guests sing a hymn.

"Your visit tonight changed my life."

Letters giving testimony of the graces from the visits are now plentiful. A woman in Arkansas wrote, "Thank you for coming to our home with the Fatima statue. One of my neighbors I invited made the decision to come back to confession. He hadn't been in years and years."

In Maryland, Mr. Kenneth Murphy visited the Ejimkonye family. They sat with rapt attention as he explained the Miracle of the Sun. It was only afterward that he learned that they were Baptists. After asking questions and learning about devotion to Our Lady, the family prayed the rosary for the first time. Months later they called to say they continue the daily rosary and are receiving



*Top:* Mr. Kenneth Murphy emphasizes the importance of the daily rosary. *Left:* Mr. José Ferraz, *bottom right*, sits with a family for a photo with the Queen of Heaven.

catechetical instruction.

After visiting a home in San Francisco, Mr. Nicholas Mak received a letter from the hostess of the visit telling how she was extremely moved. She made the decision that day to return to the Church, and approached the sacrament of confession for the first time in fifty years. She concluded declaring her gratitude, "I feel so blessed she helped me find my way."

### Returning America to Order

Since the visits began, everywhere the Fatima Custodians went people talked about the problems in society: struggling families; high unemployment; crushing debts; disregard for God's laws; a brutal pace of life with rushed schedules and no time to stop and think.

The beginning of 2013 finally brought a solution. The first copies of *Return to Order* (see [www.ReturnToOrder.org](http://www.ReturnToOrder.org) for more information) went out with the Fatima teams. What would be the reaction? Would those at the visits accept the new book? Or would the message fall flat, the prospective readers indifferent and disinterested?

With answers to these questions uncertain, the custodians confidently placed this new campaign under Our Lady's protection. And the best of all mothers did not fail to shower her maternal blessings on the new undertaking.

In homes across the country, souls



All of the Fatima Custodians gather together one last time before getting back on the road.

hungry for a Catholic solution to today's crisis quickly grasped the book's importance. Thousands of copies were sold within a short time. Concepts covered within the pages of *Return to Order* had an immediate appeal in all parts of the country. Timeless ideas such as the rule of honor, embracing the cross and the quest for the sublime attracted great numbers of Americans.

And the results speak for themselves. As of this writing, thousands of copies of *Return to Order* have been sold by Fatima custodians. Generous hosts have purchased multiple copies to give to family and friends. Most importantly, the dream of how great America will be with a return to the principles of Christian civilization is now being spread in homes across the land.

### Toward the Reign of Mary

Saint Louis de Montfort prophesied about the coming Reign of Mary. His masterpiece, *True Devotion to Mary*, begins: "It is through the Most Holy Virgin

Mary that Jesus Christ has come to the world, and it is also through her that He must reign in the world." The Reign of Mary will be a great era marked by a worldwide rebirth of the Church and Christian civilization.

This is the future the Fatima Custodians are building with every home they visit. Each day brings them into contact with new souls who will serve as living stones for the foundation of this glorious period to come. The first twenty years have been full of blessings and adventures. Thanking Our Lady of Fatima in advance, we look forward to many more.

One home at a time, one day at a time, the Queen of All Hearts is slowly claiming this great country as her own. With immense hope that Mary the Queen of Heaven and Earth will be acknowledged as the Queen of America, let us confidently proclaim: "Come, O Lady, do not delay! Attend the promise thou made at Fatima: 'Finally, my Immaculate Heart will triumph!'" ■

 **3,000,000**  
miles traveled

 **5,244**  
cities visited

**Our Lady's Custodians have traveled over 3,000,000 miles to take the Fatima message across America—that would equal 12.5 trips to the moon!**



**If you would like Our Lady of Fatima to visit you,  
please call (888) 460-7371.**



# AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA<sup>®</sup>

JULY/AUGUST 2015 PROGRESS REPORT

## 2,125 Rosary Rallies in Defense of Traditional Marriage

BY FRANCIS SLOBODNIK

Our goal was 1,000 rallies. We knew that it would be a more difficult crusade than the October rallies due to the intense national debate about the nature of what constitutes true marriage. But thanks be to Our Lady, we far exceeded our goal. On Saturday, March 21, 2015, a grand total of 2,125 Public Square Rosary Rallies were held in defense of traditional marriage all across the country.

As Catholics we know without any doubt that marriage can only occur between one man and one woman, period. We know that despite what men or men's laws state to the contrary, marriage always has been and always will be between one man and one woman.

The response to our requests for rally captains to lead public square rosaries in defense of traditional marriage and in honor of Saint Joseph, chaste spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was overwhelming.

Rally captains were enlisted by mail, email, telephone message and phone. Two volunteers traveled to our volunteer office per week from January until the rallies took place. They called every day, Monday through Friday, recruiting rally captains. Volunteers told us that they couldn't believe how easy it was to recruit rally captains. A common statement made by those whom the volun-

teers called was, "I've been waiting for your call."

The responses from rally captains after the rallies have been incredibly positive. The media has fed American public opinion the lie that most people support same-sex "marriage." The experiences of the rally captains prove the exact opposite. In most cases they received only a few negative comments and gestures. The overwhelming majority of responses were honks, thumbs up, waves and smiles.

As one of our volunteers commented, "It is so easy to do so much for Our Lady." Imagine the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have received new strength and encouragement because of the rosary rallies that took place on March 21st in cities, towns and rural locations.

Here are just some of the responses we received:

"Just wanted to thank all of you who were able to come out and support Traditional Marriage in the Public Square with your prayers and sacrificial witness for one of the most important issues of this day. We had a little over 25 that attended our location. We were all pleased with the overwhelmingly positive response from those driving by. Thanks to each and every one of you for the sacrificial gift of your time and effort. When the younger generations ask, 'Where



Top: One of the thousands of banners displayed during the Rosary Rallies for Traditional Marriage. Above: Homemade signs brought lots of support from passing cars.

were you when they changed the definition of marriage?', you can say, 'I was on the front lines!' God bless you!"

"We held our rally in the same location as last year; on the knoll in front of the diner on the corner of Highway 30 and Kenneth Ave. The girls counted over 450 honks, and a majority of those who did not honk waved, or gave a



thumbs up.”

“Three hundred and four honks, multiple thumbs up, multiple waves and a multitude of smiles. Only seven negatives, two verbal and five by hand gesture. The anti-traditional marriage crowd was definitely put on the defensive on Saturday and so many were encouraged in their support of traditional marriage.”

“We had 10! A father and 5 of his kids, my son, and 2 of his boys and myself. I have to confess that I was, at first, disappointed that there weren’t more. . . (I put a notice in the church bulletin and really tried to get the word out!). . . but quality is more important than quantity sometimes! And God loves children’s prayers. Anyway, I’ll be eagerly waiting for October!”

“As in the past, we chose a location near the primary ‘shopping mecca’ area. This enabled us to reach a wide variety of people while being situated at just one strategic location. Passersby were, for the most part, extremely supportive, more so than in the past. There were very few negative responses. We had 60-70 people attend this year which is a substantial increase from previous years. We were particularly blessed to have a priest join us this year.



Whether many or few, Catholics turned out in all parts of the country to pray the rosary and take a stand for true marriage.

In addition, we also had several members of the Knights of Columbus who were able to participate as well, dressed in their full regalia. Finally, the proprietor of the local Catholic Shop was able to provide a nearly life-sized statue of Saint Joseph holding the baby Jesus. All of this added a ‘regal air’ to the Crusade this year.”

“We had a good turnout today and the weather was pretty nice. It was really interesting because we had people who were really nasty, but on the flip side of that, we actually had people who were really happy we were out there (they acted very excited) and yelled, ‘Keep up the good work!’ and many people honking half-way down the road. We noticed that when one person was making lewd gestures, it was always at that time when at least 5 or more cars would honk in favor of traditional marriage.”

“We had 45 people at our America Needs Fatima marriage rally this past Saturday that I promoted and helped run with coordinators, Lisa and Carol—including a family with 8 children and another family with 7. (Both Lisa

and I come from a family of 8). . . It’s all about the family.”

“This past Saturday, 3/21/15, the annual Saint Joseph’s Marriage Rally was held (in cities coast-to-coast, as sponsored by the organization America Needs Fatima), and thankfully, there were 2 people in the greater Columbus area that fully believe in the Sacrament of Marriage, and hence participated, yours truly, and a good friend.”

For many weeks we continued to receive countless reports of rallies, large and small, but each a success in the eyes of Our Lady. These rallies will help hasten the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for America.

We hope that if you are concerned about America and the direction in which it is heading, that you will enlist as a rally captain for the October 10th Public Square Rosary Rallies. The fate of America is truly in our hands. Our Lady will act when enough of us show her that we are willing to publicly and enthusiastically pray to her for America and to offer our penance of confronting public opinion by praying the most powerful Holy Rosary in the public squares of our country. ■



Participants in the Rosary Rallies for God’s Marriage learned that most Americans support taking a public stand and praying for our country.

**If you would like to become a rally captain, please call (866) 584-6012.**



# Tradition, Family and Property Regional Conference—Lafayette, Louisiana

BY ANTONIO FRAGELLI

- **“Return to Order: Understanding the Post-Modern World and Creating a Catholic Culture.”**
- **“The Importance of America’s Attraction for Heroism and the Sublime.”**
- **“Beyond the Bunker—Fighting Conservative Isolationism.”**

These were the three topics that gathered close to 100 people at the TFP Regional Conference in Lafayette, Louisiana this past March.

Similar conferences were held in Kansas City, Kansas, Hazleton, Pennsylvania, Los Angeles and Sacramento, California, and Honolulu, Hawaii.

Down for a visit from Pennsylvania, I was glad to be part of the TFP-Louisiana Regional Confer-

ence in the heart of “Acadiana.” The conference was an all-day event, with top-rate talks on pertinent topics.

The day began at 9:00 a.m. with arrivals, coffee and conversation before the first meeting. Two talks were followed by a coffee break in between. Lunch was served in the backyard, under a large white tent, under three majestic live oak trees, a characteristic sight in the South.

TFP-Louisiana president, Mr. Thomas Drake, introduced the guest speakers: Mr. John Horvat II, Mr. Norman Fulkerson and Mr. Michael Chad Shibley. Their talks were followed by uncommon interest and lots of questions on how to return to an ordered society, and a civilization that once existed inspired by Christ and His Church.

The difficulty was keeping breaks short and lunch under an hour. I find Louisianans less industrial/pragmatic and more social/congenial. Besides warmer weather and alligators, there is a human glow manifested in lively conversation and personal interaction. I enjoy visiting the Bayou State.

At the end of the day, Mr. Drake invited everyone back to the tent for a closing snack. But this was no ordinary chocolate-chip-cookies-and-soda snack. This snack featured several cheeses, artfully arranged with green and red grapes, with a variety of crackers and, above all, an excellent array of well-chosen wines, all served on china and in glass goblets.

Personally, I love chocolate chip cookies and the occasional soda. But cheese and wine served on linen under a beautiful tent generate a different atmosphere conducive to something loftier, something deeper that affects both mood and conversation.

At the Louisiana Regional Conference we listened to talks about returning to order, about the heroic and the sublime in Christian civilization, about strength in interaction rather than isolation. But I dare say that the most convincing aspect of the day was the way in which the organizers put into practice what was preached.

At the Louisiana Regional Conference I experienced the famed Southern charm, an excellence



*Top:* Mr. John Horvat signs books and answers questions during a conference break. *Right:* An enthusiastic crowd listened with keen attention to the timely presentations.



in hospitality that confirmed what was said. The slower pace, the human warmth, and the quality and presentation of the breaks was one concrete step toward returning to order, returning to Christian civilization.

Friends who attend such talks often ask, "...but how can we return to the type of 'order' you are talking about?"

The day in Lafayette provided a clue: invest in the quality and presentation of what is served. Actually, there is a movement all over America to return to such culinary quality and level of hospitality.

Life is about people. And people should be animated by a spirit within, sensitive to all aspects of Good, Truth and Beauty, both in the spiritual realm, and in the concrete world.

Without stressing the budget, and with a little effort, we can boost the quality of edibles and presentation. Then watch something amazing happen: people stay. And when they leave, they leave happy; they leave inspired. They say, "I've got to try this!"

And the torch of Christian civilization is passed on. ■



Excellent indoor presentations and an elegant outdoor ambience for meals made the Louisiana conference one to remember.

## ANF Pilgrim to Fatima

BY ANTONIO FRAGELLI

Selected to bring to Fatima the intentions and candles sent in by thousands of ANF members and friends, as promised in our May 2015 email campaign, I welcomed the mission.

Prior to boarding my plane in Philadelphia, I made a detour to purchase a large suitcase to fill with stacks of printed prayer intentions and ten 2' long

x 2" wide candles made from thousands of small candles sent in to ANF. The suitcase barely made it under the allowed weight for an extra piece of luggage.

Fatima, Portugal, is a quaint, small town, bathed in sunlight. Arriving has the feeling of coming home, not only because I've been to Fatima before, but because Fatima is marked by Mary's "presence," a presence that "takes you in."

Presently, there we stood, my loaded suitcase and I, in the main square leading to the chapel of the apparitions, once more contemplating the inspiring

sight that is the flow of pilgrims from all over the world. All come for a glimpse of the place where Our Lady appeared, hoping for a special grace at this privileged spot where a monumental message was delivered to the world—alas, a message, for the most part, unheeded.

There, only a few feet away from where Mary's feet touched the earth on May 13, 1917, I lit the ten large candles and prayed my rosary. In addition, I offered another thirteen candles for all the intentions submitted, as well as for a variety of prayer requests from family and friends.

Then, I personally took the bundles of intentions to several important locations in Fatima: to the spot where five of the apparitions took place in 1917; to Valinhos, the place where Our Lady appeared in August of that same year; and to the place where the Angel of Portugal first appeared to announce the coming of the Queen of Heaven in 1916.

At every place, I prayed for each and every intention contained in those 335 pages from concerned Americans who love Our Lady of Fatima and help to spread her message. ■



In the name of thousands of America Needs Fatima members, candles were lit at the Fatima Shrine and hundreds of personal intentions and petitions delivered and prayed for at the very spot where Our Lady Fatima appeared.



## Our Readers Write...

### **The Virgin Mary**

The timing of receiving this book is nothing short of miraculous! I have been praying to the Blessed Mother asking to know more about her and then your book arrived!! Thank you so much for listening to God's inspiration! [to have the book printed is what she means here] Praise be to God! Thank you Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Mother!

*E.U., Lancaster, NY*



Thank you so much for the wonderful gift book of *The Virgin Mary* that you sent me. I wish I had read it sooner; now I want my families to have their own copy. Thank you for making this book available.

God bless you.

*L.W., Wall Lake, IA*

I received the *Virgin Mary* book—I can't say enough about how much I enjoyed it. I could not put it down once I started reading it. It enhanced my long-time devotion to Mary and God's son, Jesus. And after many, many times I feel certain that she has interceded for me in a positive way on so many occasions. Thank you for sending this book! I would encourage every Christian to order it.

*U.K., Via Email*

Thank you Robert, I already have this book and I am reading it so slowly so as to savor the words. It is beautifully written and quite a perspective on our Blessed Mother. I look forward to reading it.

*E.I., Via Email*

I am enrolled with the Fatima group of the Catholic Action. In fact from time to time I receive a very interesting leaflet about Fatima issued by the Catholic Action Youth Section of Valletta and I support them yearly.

In such case I thank you for everything and may the Blessed Virgin of Fatima bless the world and all those who give her support.

*M.L., Via Email*

I'm happy to say that I have, and read *The Virgin Mary*. I will read it again, and have thought about acquiring a number of them so that I can pass them out to my co-partners, picketing at an abortion pill clinic in our town of Temecula, CA. We do this every Wednesday, praying Our Lady's rosary.

Likewise there is a fellow, non-Catholic, who pickets with us, who comes around once in awhile, who can't see why we believe in Our Blessed Mother. We explained to him as best we could, but I think this book would be the best thing to explain why one does, and should believe in her. I found it very thorough and to the point. Very well explained! I really think this would change his mind.

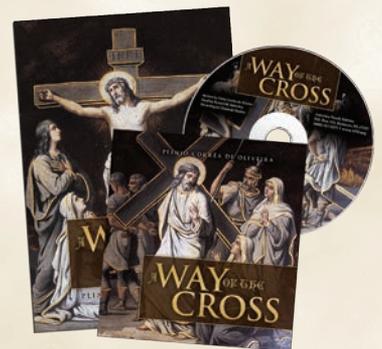
*T.M., Via Email*

### **The Way of the Cross CD**

What a beautiful gift for the last weeks of Lent! Thank you so much, I look forward to listening to the CD.

*D.K., Via Email*

Yes, I did receive the booklet and CD of the *Way of the Cross*—how wonderful is that!!! Thank you so much in sending me this very beautiful Holy Week prayer. I love Lent and wish I could spend the whole time in church with God. While I pray every morning from 7 to 8 it doesn't seem long enough; however, on Mondays I pray in adoration from 5 to 7 PM but just one night per week. It is a wonderful week of prayer in our Catholic faith. I hope others feel the same. The world situation seems to be awakening some of the



people, but I think we have a long way to go to ignite even half, but I am thankful for the small number.

I will keep you in my prayers during this week and in the weeks to come. Thank you for your kindness and let peace and hope dwell in your heart.

*J.R., Via Email*

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



COMMENTARY

# Does the Assistance of the Holy Spirit Always Prevent Crises in the Church?

BY LOUIS SÉRGIO SOLIMEO

**D**ue to a lack of proper understanding, many Catholics are confused and uncertain as to the unquestionable truth that the Holy Spirit assists the Church.

Afraid to run counter to this truth, they often attempt to deny the reality of facts or the obvious meaning of statements that apparently contradict this divine assistance.

Thus, Catholics are caught in a dead-end dilemma: deny the facts, or deny the assistance of the Holy Spirit to the Church.

This is a false dilemma, which springs from a simplistic conception of the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. One confuses the Holy Spirit's "assistance"—an effect of God's special providence for His Church—with direct government, which replaces men, or eliminates their free will.<sup>1</sup>

However, that is not the way it works. Although Jesus Christ promised the help of the Comforter, He wanted men to govern the Church; men who, though entitled to special help from the Holy Spirit, are not impeccable or exempt from temptations of the devil, the world, and the flesh.

Thus, although the Paraclete assists members of the hierarchy with special graces, that assistance does not cancel their free will or the tendency to evil inherited from Original Sin.

On the other hand, one must keep in mind that this special action of Divine Providence favors

good but also often allows evil to occur in the human element of the Church as a trial or as a punishment for our sins.<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, one cannot use the argument of the Holy Spirit's assistance to the Church to justify deviation, recklessness or scandal, as if the Divine will actively favored evil and not merely allowed it.

## God Allows Crises in the Church

Obviously, God does not want clear or sufficiently documented facts to be misrepresented by historians in an attempt to "save" the holiness of the Church.

Such an attitude would run counter to the truth and therefore the holiness of the Church, and Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) made use of the inspired words of the book of Job (13:7) to condemn such an attitude: "God has no need of our lies."

The Pontiff emphasized, "To stress the Church's divine origin, it is better for the Church historian not to seek to gloss over her trials which her children, and, at times, even her ministers have brought upon the Spouse of Christ through the centuries. Thus studied, the history of the Church constitutes a magnificent and conclusive demonstration of the truth and the divinity of Christianity."<sup>3</sup>

When opening the Vatican Secret Archives to historians, the same Pope insisted: "Say nothing false, hold back nothing true."<sup>4</sup>

No one with a sufficient knowledge of Church history can deny the crises through which She has passed and the weaknesses and scandalous attitudes of many popes.

Thus, in his Encyclical *Mystici Corporis Christi*, Pope Pius XII (1939-1958) explains that due to our inclination to evil, "at times there appears in the Church something that indicates the weakness of our human nature." "That regrettable inclination to evil," he says, is manifested "even at times in the most exalted members of His Mystical Body." However, he adds that God allows this to happen "for the purpose of testing the virtue of the Shepherds

The leaders of the Church have to cooperate with the assistance of the Holy Spirit.



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no less than that of the flock, and that the merit of their Christian faith may be increased.”<sup>5</sup>

This is the reason why Catholic historians such as Ludwig von Pastor, whose monumental *History of the Popes* was praised by Pope Leo XIII, did not hesitate to present excesses and scandals by popes in a clear and well-documented fashion.

### Was it the Will of the Holy Spirit for Alexander VI to be Elected?

No one can assume, for example, that the Holy Spirit, Who assists at Conclaves, wanted or favored the selection of Rodrigo Cardinal de Borgia, known to have fathered four children by his concubine Vannoza dei Cattanei and others by different women.<sup>6</sup> Obviously, his election as Pope Alexander VI was simply permitted for the punishment of a mankind inebriated with the neo-paganism of the Renaissance.

Nor can one attribute to the Divine will the elevation to the papacy of Benedict IX (1032-1044), about whom historian Fr. Joseph Brusher S.J. comments: “A young man probably about twenty years old, [he] was a cleric. That was about his only qualification for the papacy. Unqualified by his youth, his upbringing, and his depravity, Benedict IX became one of the few truly disreputable popes.”<sup>7</sup> The Catholic Encyclopedia is more direct: “He was a disgrace to the Chair of Peter.”<sup>8</sup>

### We Should Always Distinguish Between Divine Will and Divine Permission

Once the distinction between the manifestation of God’s will and His mere permission is clear, it becomes obvious that the assistance of the Holy Spirit to the Church does not prevent infidelities and crises.

On the other hand, as we saw above in texts by Popes Leo XIII and Pius XII, far from countering the holiness of the Church, such infidelities and crises emphatically demonstrate how only an institution of Divine origin could last forever despite human weakness and the tendency to evil inherited with Original Sin.

But even during the Church’s worst crises, thanks to the assistance of the Holy Spirit, She never failed to present the truth or to sanctify through the sacraments. This the Church has always done even though, at times, Catholics had to make a great effort to remain faithful, as for example, during the Arian crisis.

### Trust in Mary Most Holy, Who Crushed All Heresies

The present crisis—an extension of the one caused by the modernist heresy that Saint Pius X de-

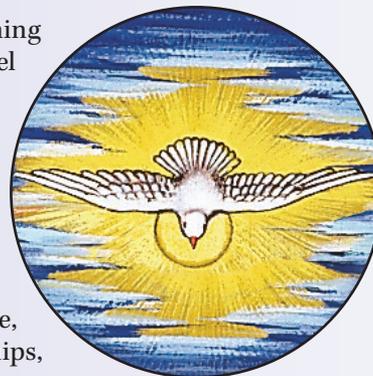
nounced—is now reaching such a climax that many feel discouraged.

At the highest levels of Church leadership, the possibility of giving Holy Communion to people objectively in the state of mortal sin is being discussed; and some even see, in homosexual relationships, “gifts” useful to Christianity.

A better understanding of the assistance of the Holy Spirit is required. This assistance is not only positive in the sense of boosting zeal for doctrine and the salvation of souls—which the Church always promotes in one way or another—but also in allowing evil to occur in order to test us, and to punish the sins of mankind.<sup>9</sup>

Just as the faithful, following the example of bishops like Saint Athanasius and Saint Hilary of Poitiers, resisted the tremendous crisis of Arianism, we too, certain of the help of Divine Providence, must resist “strong in faith” (1Peter 5:9).

More than ever, in this period of darkness and confusion, we must always resort to the intercession of Mary, who “alone has crushed all heresies.”<sup>10</sup> ■



#### Notes:

1. Cf. E. Magenot, “Assistance du Saint-Esprit,” *Dictionnaire de Théologie Catholique* (Letouzey et Ané, Paris, 1931), v. I, deuxième partie, cols. 2123-21-27.

2. Cf. R. Garrigou-Lagrange, “Providence, Théologie, L’Infaillibilité,” *Dictionnaire de Théologie Catholique*, v. XIII, première partie, col. 1015.

3. Pope Leo XIII, Encyclical *Depuis Le Jour*, *On the Education of the Clergy*, Sept. 8, 1899, nn. 25-26. Available at [http://w2.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_l-xiii\\_enc\\_08091899\\_depuis-le-jour.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_08091899_depuis-le-jour.html)

4. Brief *Saepe numero*, Aug. 28, 1883.

5. Pope Pius XII, Encyclical *Mystici Corporis Christi*, *On the Mystical Body of Christ*, June 29, 1943, n. 66. Available at [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/pius\\_xii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_p-xii\\_enc\\_29061943\\_mystici-corporis-christi\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/pius_xii/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xii_enc_29061943_mystici-corporis-christi_en.html)

6. Cf. Ludwig Pastor, *The History of the Popes*, (Herder, St. Louis, Mo., 1923) v. 5, pp. 363-364.

7. *Popes Through the Ages*, (D. Van Nostrand Co., Toronto-New York, 1959) p. 292.

8. H. Mann, sv. Pope Benedict IX, *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, (New York: Robert Appleton Co., 1907). Available at <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/02429a.htm>.

9. When one says that God permits evil, it must be clearly understood that this is never a positive permission, such as that of a father who allows his son to frequent a place of perdition. It is only a negative permission, that of not employing extraordinary means to prevent evil from occurring.

10. “Rejoice, O Virgin Mary, for alone thou hast put an end to all heresies” (Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary).



## ***Toward Virtuous Leadership:* Fixing the Military's Moral Compass**

BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID G. BOLGIANO, USAF (RETIRED)

Alexandre Havard writes in *Virtuous Leadership* on the importance and relevance of the cardinal virtues—prudence, fortitude (or courage), temperance (or self-control) and justice—to both leaders and organizations.<sup>1</sup> Any person or group that lacks in one or more of these core character traits is doomed to failure. Our military depends on good people to lead and man it. Historically, it has consistently embraced the cardinal virtues to better ensure a spirit of selfless sacrifice and service amongst its members.

These beliefs have formed the cornerstone of our military's ethos. They are now under subtle attack by those that decry such beliefs as antiquated or even unconstitutional. Such efforts must be soundly repulsed, as military leaders' moral compasses must be immune to quaint notions of

modernity that recognize no fundamental truths.

### **The Cardinal Virtues**

Prudence or competency as defined by Aristotle is *recta ratio agibilium*, meaning "right reason applied to practice." In the military, this is reflected in a commander who has mastered fundamental tasks so well that in the fog of war these are enabling rather than distracting. When a leader consistently makes wrong decisions—or makes rash decisions, right or wrong—then that individual is imprudent.

Justice is that trait which seeks to give everyone his or her rightful due. This requires much more than simply abiding by the rules set forth in the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) or General Orders. While maintaining discipline



A soldier of the 3rd Infantry Regiment guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, Va.

in the Armed Forces is very important to the orderly conduct of military operations, the virtue of justice is much greater than the sum of what is set forth in those rules and procedures. Good commanders utilize justice as a positive motivator on the path toward a humble and magnanimous career for themselves and their subordinates. Justice also requires acknowledgment of and obedience to the natural law or divinely inspired law.

Moral courage, or fortitude, is that rock-steady virtue that seeks to elevate others above self. For day-to-day life, it is the constant practice of seeking and speaking the truth in the face of adversity or peer pressure to do otherwise.

Self-control or temperance is that virtue which attempts to overcome the human condition that is best stated as “The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matt 26:42) When one practices self-control, he acquires magnanimity which is the loftiness of spirit that enables one to bear troubles calmly, to disdain meanness and pettiness, and to display a noble generosity. It is the essence of chivalry. A magnanimous person is the opposite of a pusillanimous or small-minded person. Every military leader should strive to foster an environment where magnanimity flourishes.

### Words of Caution

The dangers that will result from the military not acknowledging and living pursuant to the cardinal virtues should be obvious. But, when one considers how to boil a frog, the pitfalls may not be as obvious as they once were.<sup>2</sup> Just consider the myriad “hot button” issues, critical to the continued integrity and strength of our military, which have now been placed “off limits” by senior leaders who

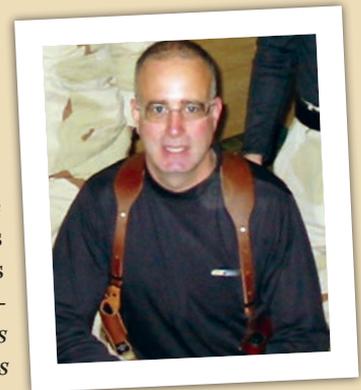
seem more concerned with keeping their stars than speaking or hearing the truth. For example, any rational discussion concerning these topics— (1) the possibility that core tenets of Sharia law are incompatible with a constitutional, Republican form of governance that respects religious freedoms; (2) the forced affirmation and acceptance of homosexual conduct within our forces; and (3) the inclusion of females into units routinely expected to be engaged in close quarters combat (CQB) missions—has been effectively quashed in today’s military.

Anyone that now questions the wisdom of such policies is, at best, quickly marginalized. Truth or at least

rational attempts to discern the truth have been labeled as “hate speech.” In some instances, as in the case of Army Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Dooley who was crushed by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for daring to raise the aforementioned Sharia issue, otherwise stellar careers are ruined for not toeing the party line. We would do well to heed the words of Isaiah: “Woe to you that call evil good, and good evil: that put darkness for light, and light for darkness: that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter.”<sup>3</sup> ■

### About the Author:

Lt. Col. David G. Bolgiano, USAF (Ret.) is a veteran and Bronze Star recipient who twice deployed to the Middle East as a legal advisor. He also served with the famed 82nd Airborne Division during Operations Desert Shield and Storm, and is the author of *Combat Self-Defense: Saving America’s Warriors from Risk-Averse Commanders and Their Lawyers*.



### Notes:

1. In October 2011, Havard spoke to the entire resident Army War College Class of 2012. His lecture was one of the highest-rated events of that year and can be accessed at the following website: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72VBdMoDfbY>

2. If one places a bullfrog into a pan of boiling water, the frog will jump out. If, however, one puts the frog into a pot of cool water, then gradually turns up the temperature, the frog will peacefully stay in the pot until cooked to death. It is the allegory that points out the dangers of incrementalism.

3. Isaiah 5:20.



# HEAVEN *and* EARTH

BY MICHAEL SANTANA

Our first illustration depicts stunning Notre Dame Basilica in Montreal, Canada. Photos do not do it justice. In an instant the building communicates a sublime scenario that fills our innermost thirst for beauty. The fabulous impression wrenches an exclamation from the most phlegmatic.

As you walk up the aisle, you slowly take in the astounding detail around the altar. One of the marks of a good work of art is that it keeps the eye entertained. "Entertained" is what your eye will be as you contemplate Notre Dame's main altar piece.

The intricate arches, the marvelous blue background, the fantastic combination of colors, the semi-circular wooden stalls, the winged angels, the finely sculpted statues, all contribute to the sense of awe.

After reverently genuflecting before the Blessed Sacrament, you slowly turn to take in the whole building, ultimately sitting or kneeling at a pew to continue the contemplation more comfortably.

The side columns of Notre Dame have the peculiarity of being attached, forming walls of varied color patterns. The ceiling is painted in a shade of blue that you did not know existed. As your eyes invariably return to the altar piece, they rest on the center scene of the crucifixion, slowly moving to the coronation of Our Blessed Mother to whom the basilica is dedicated.

\* \* \*

Our second illustration is in stark contrast to the first. Sadly, there isn't much to be said about the modern-day style of certain churches. This church's strange, plain format allows the eye to capture all aspects in seconds. The earthen-gray altar piece bears a massive image of Jesus that appears to "float" there.

Here there is no awe-inspiring detail to intrigue the mind, no artistic beauty to entertain the imagination, no sublimity of form and color inviting the soul to "soar" into the spiritual realm, but an earthy plainness. If you saw it once, you saw it all.

Many years ago I visited Notre Dame in Montreal with my parents and sisters. The youngest of us was four or five years old, and as we entered the church, she pulled on our mother's hand, her small voice magnified by the acoustics, "Mom, is this heaven?"

In a few moments the building had conveyed to the little one's innocence the reality above.

Would a child ask the same question on entering the church shown below?

Not every parish may have the means to build such a church as Notre Dame, but the true issue is not finances, but a spirit. Churches of old that were much simpler in form were still beautiful, inspiring and reverent. The very architecture said: silence, reverence, prayer, contemplation.

Our surroundings have an enormous capacity to influence our thoughts and internal disposition and thus help and prepare us for heaven. Such beauty plays the role of a Good Samaritan who furnishes our souls with nourishment to help us reach the final goal.

Today, the spirit of bareness, heaviness, lack of harmony, and even madness has disfigured many a church, doing little to attract, and transforming churches into noisy, ugly meeting halls. The spiritual poverty to which we have been subjected finds a good expression in Saint Augustine's lamentation, "Our hearts are restless till they find rest in Thee."

My little sister had it. On entering the first church we step into heaven; on entering the second we remain, at best, on earth. ■

