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May/June 2016

MAGAZINE



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**FORGOTTEN
TRUTHS**

Saint Thomas Aquinas on Mohammed, the "Prophet" of Islam

Mohammed seduced the people by promises of carnal pleasure to which the concupiscence of the flesh urges us. His teaching also contained precepts that were in conformity with his promises, and he gave free rein to carnal pleasure. In all this, as is not unexpected; he was obeyed by carnal men. As for proofs of the truth of his doctrine, he brought forward only such as could be grasped by the natural ability of anyone with a very modest wisdom. Indeed, the truths that he taught he mingled with many fables and with doctrines of the greatest falsity.

He did not bring forth any signs produced in a supernatural way, which alone fittingly gives witness to divine inspiration; for a visible action that can be only divine reveals an invisibly inspired teacher of truth. On the contrary, Mohammed said that he was sent in the power of his arms - which are signs not lacking even to robbers and tyrants.



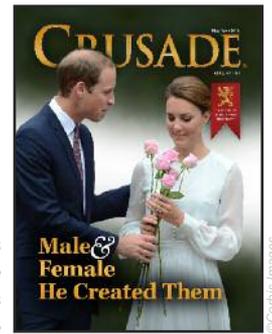
What is more, no wise men, men trained in things divine and human, believed in him from the beginning. Those who believed in him were brutal men and desert wanderers, utterly ignorant of all divine teaching, through whose numbers Mohammed forced others to become his followers by the violence of his arms. Nor do divine pronouncements on the part of preceding prophets offer him any witness. On the contrary, he perverts almost all the testimony of the Old and the New Testaments by making them into a fabrication of his own, as can be seen by anyone who examines his law. It was, therefore, a shrewd decision on his part to forbid his followers to read the Old and New Testaments, lest these books convict him of falsity. It is thus clear that those who place faith in his words believe foolishly. ■

From the *Summa Contra Gentiles*, Book 1, Chapter 16, Art. 4, Footnote 1.

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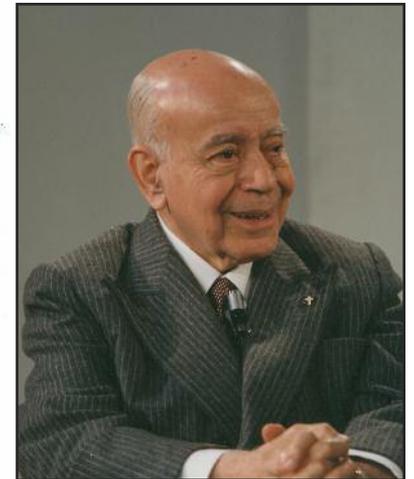
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CRUSADE

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THE AMERICAN TFP

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

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



IN BRIEF

The Last Cristero Soldier Dies

The last known surviving soldier of the Cristero War, Juan Daniel Macías Villegas, passed away in February 2016 in his home town of San Julián, Mexico. According to Catholic News Agency, the funeral for the 103-year-old veteran took place in San José church, with his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren in attendance. The attendees walked in procession two miles to the cemetery, led by the “Cristero National Guard,” a Catholic organization that seeks to preserve the memory of those who died during the religious persecution in Mexico in the early 20th century.



Alejandro Moreno Merino

Juan Macías was among those who fought this persecution. Born on July 21, 1912, he was baptized by a priest named Father Narciso Elizondo, the same one who years later blessed him when he took up arms. At 13 years old, he started to fight for the Cristeros under the famed General Victoriano Ramírez. After the war, Macías lived in San Julián until the day he died. This was the first town to take up arms on January 1, 1927 against the Catholic persecution.

Eighty-one Percent of Abortion Clinics Closed Since 1991; Fifty-three Shut Down in 2015

A report from the pro-life group Operation Rescue, published by LifeSiteNews.com, revealed that since 1991, the total number of abortion clinics in America continues to decline. Last year alone, fifty-three abortion clinics shut down or stopped offering abortion services. Operation Rescue president Troy Newman said, “There is a direct correlation between the number of abortions and the number of abortion clinics. When abortion clinics close, abortion numbers decrease and lives are saved.”



American Bishop Exhorts Catholics to Dress Appropriately in Church

Writing in his diocesan paper, Bishop Thomas Tobin of Providence, RI, complained of “a habitual lack of reverence.” He wrote that he had seen and received complaints about “the sloppy and even offensive way people dress while attending Mass.” He continued, “These displays reveal a gross misunderstanding of the sacred space we’ve entered in the church and the truly sacred drama taking place in our midst.” Bishop Tobin said every member of the worship community should dress appropriately for Mass, especially those who perform public liturgical ministries.

Survey Results: Americans Least Concerned About “Climate Change”

A Pew Research Center global survey of forty countries, revealing how concerned people are about “climate change,” showed that the United States scored 8.78 on a scale of three to twelve, with a score of twelve indicating the most concerned. The United States was tied with the United Kingdom. Only Poland, Israel and Australia scored lower just by a hair. Topping the list of concerned countries was Brazil, with 11.42 on the scale, followed by Latin American countries where a median of 74 percent think it is a very serious problem. The countries of sub-Saharan Africa followed with a median of 61 percent, Asia, 45 percent and the Middle East, 38 percent.

Taiwan Elects First Catholic Vice-President

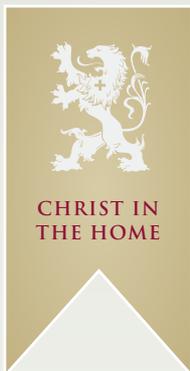
Taiwan voted to elect its first Catholic vice-president, Chen Chien-jen. The island-nation is largely Buddhist and Taoist. Only 4.5 percent of its population of 23.4 million is Christian. There are 270,000 Catholics in Taiwan. But local Catholics say that Chen’s election could help the profile of the Church. Known as a fervent Catholic, Chen is a Knight of the Order of the Holy Sepulcher and was honored into the Order of St. Gregory the Great in 2013 for his contributions to the Church. Upon his election, he said, “I want to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth, and light myself like a small candle to illuminate Taiwan.”



PARENTS MUST ANSWER TO *God for Their Children*



BY SAINT ALPHONSUS DE LIGUORI



Saint Louis Martin,
father of Saint
Thérèse of the Child
Jesus, brought up his
daughters in the holy
fear of God.



It is certain that a child's future good or bad conduct depends on his being brought up well or poorly. Nature itself teaches every parent to attend to the education of his offspring. God gives children to parents, not that they may assist the family, but that they may be brought up in the fear of God, and be directed in the way of eternal salvation. "We have," says Saint John Chrysostom, "a great deposit in children; let us attend to them with great care." Children have not been given to parents as a present, which they may dispose of as they please, but as a trust, for which, if lost through their negligence, they must render an account to God.

One of the great Church Fathers says that on the Day of Judgment, parents will have to render an account for all the sins of their children. So, he who teaches his son to live well shall die a happy and tranquil death. "He that teaches his son. . . when he died, he was not sorrowful, neither was he confounded before his enemies." (Eccl. 30:3, 5). And he will save his soul by means of his children, that is, by the virtuous education which he has given them. "She shall be saved through childbearing." (I Tim. 2:15).

But, on the other hand, a very uneasy and unhappy death will be the lot of those who have labored only to increase their possessions, or to multiply the honors of their family, or who have sought only to lead a life of ease and pleasure, but have not watched over the morals of their children. Saint Paul says that such parents are worse than infidels. "But if any man have not care of his own, and especially of those of his house, he has denied

the Faith, and is worse than an infidel." (I Tim. 5:8).

If all fathers fulfilled their duty of watching over the education of their children, we should have but few crimes. By the bad education which parents give to their offspring, they cause their children, says Saint John Chrysostom, to rush into many grievous vices; and thus they deliver them up to the hands of the executioner. So it was, in one town, a parent, who was the cause of all the irregularities of his children, was justly punished for his crimes with greater severity than the children themselves.

Great indeed is the misfortune of the child that has vicious parents, who are incapable of bringing up their children in the fear of God, and who, when they see their children engage in dangerous friendships and in quarrels, instead of correcting and chastising them, they take compassion on them, and say, "What can I do? They are young; hopefully they will grow out of it."

What wicked words, what a cruel education! Do you hope that when your children grow up, they will become saints? Listen to what Solomon says, "A young man, according to his way, even when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6). A young man who has contracted a habit of sin, will not abandon it even in his old age. His bones, says holy Job, will be "filled with the vices of his youth, and they will sleep with him in the dust." (Job 20:11). When a young person has lived in evil habits, his bones will be filled with the vices of his youth, so that he will carry them to the grave, and the impurities, blasphemies and hatred to which he was accustomed in his youth, will accompany him to the grave, and will sleep with him after his bones are reduced to dust and ashes.

It is very easy, when they are small, to train children to habits of virtue, but, when they have come to manhood, it is equally difficult to correct them, if they have learned habits of vice. ■

Taken from the sermon *Advice to Parents* by Saint Alphonsus de Liguori.

The Other Gun Culture That No One Dares Mention

BY JOHN HORVAT II

The gun debate has ignited once again as it does with each new killing spree. Every time, we hear the same message. The public is invited to clamor for measures to control guns to stop the violence. We are told to pressure our politicians to have the courage to face the powerful gun lobby. We are urged to reject our violent “gun culture.”

To be honest, there really isn't much I can do personally to reject this culture. My exposure is actually minimal—and I suspect it is the same with tens of millions of other Americans, gun owners and non-owners alike. Most are like me who very rarely handle a weapon. People I know who do handle arms often are usually quite discreet about it. They seem to understand the seriousness of carrying any gun—and are familiar with those very rare occasions when a gun might be needed for self-defense. To these owners, guns represent restraint. I have no problem with this gun culture since its adherents act responsibly, rationally and calmly.

It is telling that, despite the extreme ease with which a person can become a member of a major gun rights organization (just pay dues), no mass killers appear to have been members. In a similar



way, no mass killers have been found to be fervent Christians, family men or owners of significant property.

There is a second gun culture that no one dares mention. And this gun culture, I vehemently oppose. Unlike the first culture, I am and can be constantly exposed to it. It is in my face and found all over the media. The use of weapons in this culture is irresponsible, deadly and, incredibly, supported by liberals. And yet, no one protests.

This second culture is defined by the plots and themes constantly found in Hollywood films and video games. It seems that every action film is full of guns, misuse of weapons and gratuitous violence. In fact, I am exposed to more guns in one of these films than a full year of exposure in the first culture.

You see this culture in the chase scenes where characters shoot at each other without any regard for what is around them. These are trigger-happy cowboys (and cowgirls) ever ready to shoot anything that moves. The weapons they sport are semi-automatic pistols, automatic weapons and yet more sophisticated arms that deaden the public sensibility to violence. No one complains about

The use of weapons in this culture is irresponsible, deadly and, incredibly, supported by liberals. And yet, no one protests.



Violent video games and movies can make murder seem easy and gratifying.

these characters that cling to their guns and wreak havoc on society. Daily we are flooded with images of these irresponsible characters that pull out a firearm at a moment's notice. We are witnesses to dramatic deaths that bear little resemblance to real death. Film stars engage in the frenetic intemperance of a surreal world that acts upon impulse and brutal actions. They make killing look so easy and gratifying.

I don't understand why people have no problem with this unreal world that glamorizes the gun and glories in scenes of massive violence. I am especially appalled by bloody video games that make today's mass murder sprees look like cakewalks. There seems to be no problem with these bloody acts that would be illegal and criminal in the real world.

Such scenes from action films and video games represent not a single episode of a mass murder. Rather, it is as if the same mass murder is committed millions of times inside theaters, homes and mobile devices. Inside the minds of countless youth, they send a message that guns are the means to impose one's will upon another. Guns represent power. To lonely young men from fatherless families frustrated by their failure to be part of society, the gun is the ultimate platform and avenger.

The same liberals who decry the first culture have little problem accepting the second. Ironically, liberal actors and actresses who support gun control will play ruthless characters that gun down their opponents. The same liberals that call for drastic gun control measures fill the theaters showing these action thrillers. They will idolize the film stars who wield their weapons so irresponsibly.

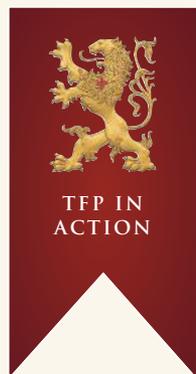
Is it any wonder that we have those who act out their fantasies based on the unreal world on the screen? Isn't it time we, liberals and conservatives alike, publicly denounce this other gun culture that sends such a deadly message?

I am not saying that Hollywood and video games are the only causes of the mass murder phenomenon. However, I believe this second gun culture plays a major role. That which no one dares mention, should be mentioned. ■



Why do liberals fail to speak out against entertainment that extols gun violence?

As seen on theblaze.com



American TFP Opposes Participation of Homosexual Activists and Atheists in 2016 CPAC

For many years, the American TFP has been a proud sponsor of the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC). The annual gathering of the nation's conservative movement draws like-minded activists from the social, fiscal and defense "legs" of what President Ronald Reagan famously called the "three-legged stool" of the conservative movement.

As long as these three legs are true to their ideals, the conservative movement will remain united, stable and strong. This metaphor, however, was recently toppled by the conference organizers themselves when they allowed two groups of unlike-minded activists to participate in this year's conference. The Log Cabin Republicans, an LGBT activist group that promotes homosexuality and same-sex "marriage," was welcomed as a sponsor. Also, an atheist group was allowed as an exhibitor at the event. Clearly promoting agendas opposed to the social leg of the "three-legged" stool, these groups should not have been allowed to participate in the event.

The American TFP's protest statement was circulated at the conference. The statement clearly pointed out that the



TFP members insisting that conservatives uphold traditional values resonated with CPAC 2016 attendees.

leadership of the American Conservative Union effectively discarded its conservative identity, violated the principle of non-contradiction and unabashedly displayed its inconsistency.

If there is continued presence of the Log Cabin Republicans and similar organizations in future CPAC conferences, the American TFP will choose to be consistent with true conservatism and not become a sponsor in future conferences. ■





COMMENTARY

The Angel of Portugal: *100 Years Later*

BY BLAISE GRAF

The year 2016 marks the centennial of the Appearances of the Angel of Portugal to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta. On three occasions in 1916, the three children were visited by this celestial messenger and profoundly transformed as a result.

The world was in chaos like never before. World War I was tearing Europe apart. The Mexican Revolution brought a string of horrors in its wake. Eugenicians such as Margaret Sanger were aggressively pushing birth control and forced sterilization.

With no human solution in sight, Pope Benedict XV appealed to heaven. He entreated all Catholics to invoke Our Lady under the title of Queen of Peace, adding this invocation to the Litany of Loreto.

His prayer did not go unheard. The Queen of Peace set in motion events that would change the world. In a tiny village in rural Portugal, she would send the Angel of Peace to three unknown children to prepare them for their providential mission.

Formed by Prayer

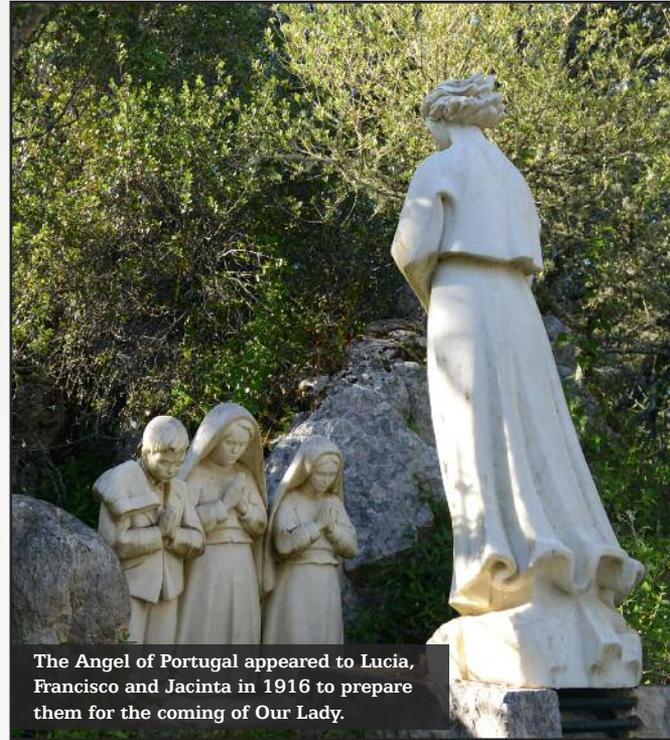
Lucia dos Santos, then nine years old, and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto, eight and six, respectively, had taken their sheep to a field near a rocky outcrop called Loca do Cabeço, not far from their village of Aljustrel. Lucia later wrote an account of that marvelous April morning:

“We had been playing for a while when a strong wind shook the trees. Since it was a calm day, this made us raise our eyes to see what was happening. Then we began to see, well above the trees that covered the stretch of land to the east, a light whiter than snow in the shape of a transparent young man who was more brilliant than a crystal struck by the rays of the sun.

“As he approached, we began to see his features. He was a young man of great beauty about fourteen or fifteen years old. We were surprised and ecstatic. We did not utter a word.

“Once he drew near us, he said: ‘Fear not. I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me.’

“Kneeling down, he bowed forward until his forehead touched the ground. We imitated him, led by a supernatural inspiration, and repeated the words we heard him say: **My God, I believe, I**



The Angel of Portugal appeared to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta in 1916 to prepare them for the coming of Our Lady.

adore, I hope, and I love Thee. I beg Thee forgiveness for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love Thee.’

“After he had repeated this twice, he rose and said: ‘Pray thus. The Hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplications.’ Then he disappeared.”

The three children were totally consumed with God’s presence by their contact with the angel. For a long time, none of them uttered a single word, as the marvelous circumstances demanded silence and profound reverence.

This first prayer of the Angel of Peace would forever be engrained in their hearts. For hours a day, Lucia and her cousins could be found prostrate and repeating this same prayer over and over again. Though they never uttered a word to anyone about the angel, their very souls were now marked with the spirit of serious prayer.

Purified by Suffering

The second apparition occurred in the summer of 1916 over the well at the house of Lucia’s parents, where the three children were playing. This is Lucia’s account of the angel’s words:

“‘What are you doing? Pray! Pray a great deal!

The Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary have merciful designs concerning you. Offer prayers and sacrifices constantly to the Most High!

“How must we sacrifice?” I asked.

“Offer God a sacrifice of anything you can as an act of reparation for the sins with which He is offended and as a supplication for the conversion of sinners. Draw peace upon your country by doing this. I am its guardian angel—the Angel of Portugal. Above all, accept and endure with submission whatever suffering the Lord sends you. Then he disappeared.”

Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta would now accept with resignation the mission God had in store for them. They would soon learn that it was to be a mission of suffering. The years that followed would be filled with intense physical sufferings. They would also have to endure suspicion, insults and calumnies from strangers, family and friends.

By accepting all of these hardships and offering them for the conversion of sinners, the children showed strength beyond their years. Through their sufferings, the three young shepherds became the most pure instruments of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Transformed by Divine Union

The third apparition occurred in the autumn of 1916, once again by the rocks of Lapa do Cabeço. Here is what Lucia says about their last encounter with the angel:

“As soon as we arrived there, we began to say the angel’s prayer on our knees, with our faces to the ground. ‘My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love Thee...’ I do not know how many times we had said this prayer when we saw an unknown light shining over our heads. We rose to see what was happening, and we saw the angel bearing a chalice in his left hand. Drops of blood fell into the chalice from a Host suspended over it. Leaving the chalice and the Host suspended in the air, the angel prostrated himself beside us and said the following prayer three times:

“Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, I adore Thee profoundly and offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the insults, sacrileges, and indifference with which He is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg Thee for the conversion of poor sinners.”

“After this, rising up, he again took the chalice and the Host in his hand; he gave the Host to me and the contents of the chalice to Jacinta and Francisco to drink, saying: ‘Take and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, who is horribly insulted by

ungrateful men. Make reparation for their crimes and console your God.’

“He again prostrated himself on the ground and repeated with us the same prayer three more times. ‘Most Holy Trinity. . .’ Then he disappeared.

“Compelled by the supernatural force that enveloped us, we imitated the angel in everything, that is, prostrating ourselves as he did and repeating the prayers he said. The strength of God’s presence was so intense that it absorbed and annihilated us almost completely. . . The peace and happiness we felt were great, but intimate, as our souls were entirely concentrated on God.”

The three shepherds were totally transformed by this last apparition of the angel. God took up His throne in their souls when they received Holy Communion from the Angel of Peace. This was the final preparation, to make way for the coming of the Mother of God the following year.

Queen of Angels

When Our Lady of Fatima appeared in 1917, the whole world soon knew of the apparitions. It was only years later that Lucia would relate the apparitions of the Angel of Portugal in 1916.

It is no coincidence that this Angel calls himself the Angel of Peace. But the peace the Angel refers to is not simply the absence of war, but as Saint Thomas defines it, “the tranquility of order.” Neglect for God and His laws on a massive scale had left much of the world open to the influence of demons. The Angel of Peace visiting the three children was an act done not because of any virtue on their part,

“The strength of God’s presence was so intense that it absorbed and annihilated us almost completely. . .” —Lucia dos Santos

though they retained much of their innocence. No, the visit of the Angel came as an act of God’s goodness. Divine Providence sent an angel to the three shepherds to restore order in His creation.

In the year 2016, the action of the angels is more crucial than ever. Like Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, we must be open to their influence. We must be formed by prayer. We must bear the cross and be willing to suffer. We must allow God’s power to transform us.

In this way, we best prepare for the centennial of Our Lady’s coming to Fatima. Let us confidently invoke the Queen of Angels to hasten the events that will lead to the triumph of her Immaculate Heart. ■

Male & Female He Created Them

—Genesis 5:2

How the radical agenda seeking to deny the differences between men and women is unnatural and gravely sinful.

BY REX TEODOSIO



“It’s a boy!” Few things give parents more joy than learning the sex of their newborn child.

“What will we call him?” asks the mother, as the nurse puts the boy in her arms.

“How about Adam?” asks the father.

So starts the life of a child, with absolutely nothing more than what God has freely gifted him and the name his parents have given him. He is born to the light of the world without a bank account, a diploma, or accomplishments. He also has no failures, no political party, no philosophy, or a single agenda.

Even before Adam knows what an agenda is, movements pushing agendas are trying to change his world. The most notorious are actively promoting the feminist agenda, the homosexual agenda and the transgender agenda.

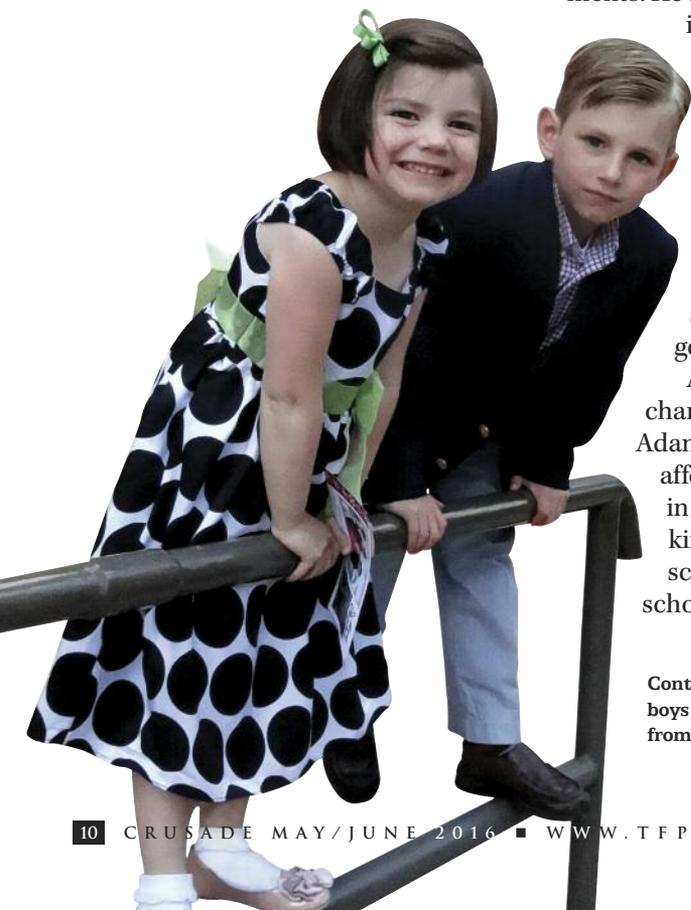
All these agendas have radical changes in mind that will affect Adam’s world. These changes will affect how babies will be treated in day care centers, toddlers in kindergarten, children in grade school, adolescents in high school, young adults in college

Contrary to progressivist fantasies, boys and girls are biologically different from the moment of conception.

and adults in the workplace. Already legislators and judges across the country are contemplating changing the birth certificate form to allow the listing of “gender-neutral” parents. Adam’s parents will no longer fill their names under “father” and “mother” on the form. They will merely be “parent 1” and “parent 2.” Day care centers are increasingly becoming “gender neutral” and Adam may be forced to suppress his natural rambunctiousness. He will be forced by some day care centers to act more subdued like girls and the girls will be encouraged to be more aggressive like boys. In school he will have to share locker rooms and bathrooms with transgender girls who “think” they are boys. If Adam joins the military, he will be forced to watch as female soldiers, some only 18-year-old girls, are shot at, captured or killed. In all areas of society and even in the Church, these agendas are making headway. In all areas of society and even in the Church, these agendas are making headway.

What is the Driving Force of These Agendas?

All agendas are driven by a set of values defined by some philosophical system. The common denominator between these three agendas is equality, or egalitarianism. What started as a struggle for sexual equality under the feminist movement became “marriage” equality under the homosexual movement, and has now moved on to “gender” equality



under the transgender movement.

However, to impose absolute “equality,” the activists of these agendas must first remove all inequalities. This is a difficult challenge since inequality is a natural result of the differences between people and things. The differences between a grain of sand, a princess-cut diamond and the sun establishes unequal but natural characteristics. Nature dictates that a grain of sand should be inert while the sun should blaze with incalculable brightness. In the same line of reasoning, nature dictates that Adam should behave like a boy, while a girl should act like a girl.

As long as these differences exist, there will always be inequality. From this viewpoint, it becomes clear why these movements are working hard to equalize, diminish and neutralize the differences between male and female. What is now being promoted as “gender neutrality” is really an attempt to abolish the natural differences in sex.

Social Reprogramming is Child Abuse

Our hypothetical Adam is born with neither agendas nor philosophies. In his mind, he is a boy and nothing more than a boy. Nature drives everything in Adam’s personality to be a boy. At his young age, so absent of guile, he simply wants to be what he naturally is.

Whether he likes it or not, these movements will try to restructure how Adam feels and thinks. They will try to socially reprogram him so he is no longer a boy, but simply a “genderless” child. He will no longer grow up a male, but only a “genderless” adult.

But, can the natural differences between male and female be abolished? Can mankind really overrule God’s original intent? Can absolute equality between sexes ever be achieved through legal restructuring and social reprogramming?

Source Materials

In face of this assault on the innocence of children, it is necessary to set the record straight by emphasizing the differences that make us male or female. Modern science gives us a mountain of proofs. Due to space, we will limit our

There is no male race or female race, only the human race. There is no male soul or female soul, only a human soul. Being male or female doesn't come from the soul but from the body.

examples within the genetic and hormonal viewpoint, since these areas are of primary importance in determining the moods, preferences, behaviors, and above all, the personalities of the two sexes.

The studies we will cite are from Dr. Louann Brizendine’s books, *The Female Brain*, and *The Male Brain*, both still considered reference materials for scientists in the field, and Dr. Leonard Sax’s book, *Why Gender Matters: What Parents and Teachers Need to Know about the Emerging Science of Sex Differences*.

How Different are Males and Females?

Already in the maternity ward, Adam and the other baby boys show different behavior patterns from baby girls. While baby girls are drawn to look at the nurses’ faces, Adam will spend seventy percent more time looking at moving objects, flashing lights, and the movement of people.

Studies show that girls are naturally predisposed to give more importance to facial cues than boys because of the accelerated development in the part of their brains that controls communication and visual skills.

Dr. Brizendine cites an interesting test. Scientists placed a “dangerous” object in the middle of the room and gave children instructions to stay away from it. A parent would stand

at one end of the room and was instructed to signal dissatisfaction, but only by facial expression, if their child goes anywhere close to the object.

For the girls, it was sufficient to see bulging eyes, raised eyebrows or pursed lips to discourage them from going near the object. The boys simply disregarded the facial cues. They walked right to and even touched the dangerous object, no matter the intensity of the disapproval of the facial cues.

Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder

Another part of the brain that is wired differently is sensitivity to colors. Women are actually more sensitive to colors. Adam will have a one in ten chance of being colorblind and a higher chance of suffering from color confusion, compared to three percent of girls.

Israel Abramov is a psychologist and behavioral neuroscientist at CUNY’s Brooklyn College, and has spent fifty years studying human vision. Abramov gave a group of people a battery of visual tests. He discovered that, of the one million identifiable colors to the human eye, women see gradations in color more precisely than men. What men call blue, women will call teal, sky or turquoise. What men refer to as green, women will insist that it’s more like honeydew, lime, spring, clover, fern, moss, flora, or sea foam.

Scientists have found women to be more sensitive to colors, while men are more sensitive to movement.



However, men appear more sensitive to movement. If there were hundreds of bars on a computer screen flashing at the same rate, men can more easily find the lone bar that is flashing faster.

Sense of Hearing

Adam's sense of hearing and how he processes what he hears are also different from the girls.

Dr. Leonard Sax says that girls have better hearing than boys. This partially explains why, in a heated argument, a woman will suddenly say; "Stop shouting at me." To which a puzzled man will always respond; "I'm not shouting."

This is due to a few key differences in the neurophysiology and brain structure of males and females. The areas of the brain that control social and verbal skills are actually larger in women than in men. This faculty also develops faster in girls than in boys. This part of the female brain is actually hardwired differently from the male brain.

In one study, Dr. Brizendine asked a group of boys to ask a "personal" question to a group of girls, something they have always wondered about the other sex. After deliberation, the boys wanted to know why girls go to the bathroom together. Without hesitation, the girls answered, "because it's the only place

where we can go talk."

The biological explanation for this is that when a girl talks, estrogen stimulates the production of oxytocin and dopamine which in turn activates the pleasure centers of her brain. The level of oxytocin and dopamine are, in fact, so high, it can match the rush that lottery or jackpot winners experience.

Men are not stimulated as much by conversation. Quite to the contrary, Dr. Brizendine says that men have a capacity of ignoring background noise. This could mean loud machinery, the chatter of conversation, etc. This explains why our Adam will tend to ignore the cry of other babies in the room while baby girls will feel distressed.

The Risk Factor

Where men feel particularly stimulated is in taking risks. This behavior is called "risk shift" by psychologists.

In a test involving college students, participants were asked to throw rings onto a pole standing in one end of the room. They were told to stand behind one of the lines on the floor marked at 1 foot, 3, 5, 10, 15 and 20 feet. They could be as close or as far away from the pole as they want. When alone in the room, most male students stood 3 to 10 feet away. The female students stood 1 to 3



Men by their very nature are more likely than women to be risk takers.

feet away. However, when other fellow students were in the room, the behavior of the male students became more risky. They now stood noticeably farther, as much as 15 feet away. The female students did not change their distance.

This is not simply a human psychological phenomena influenced by nurture. This can be observed in other primates such as monkeys, baboons and chimpanzees.

Two scientists observed how a species of Japanese macaques had a disproportion between its male and female population. In fact, there were five female macaques for every male. The norm for most primates is 1 to 1. After collecting twenty-one years of data, scientists found support for the risk shift hypothesis. "Males are mainly lost to the population because of their risk-taking behaviors," cites Dr. Sax. Male monkeys do wild and crazy things, just like teenage boys. They play a type of game around the highway where they scamper across the road when a vehicle approaches only to miscalculate their speed and be crushed by oncoming trucks. Female monkeys simply avoid the highway altogether.

Where Do These Differences Come From?

There are many other differences listed

Studies of the male and female brain show that the differences between the sexes go far beyond external appearances.

The differences in genes between a male and a female are derived from the Y chromosome. This accounts for only one percent of variation, but what a difference this percentage makes.



© Sebastian Kozlowski | Dreamstime.com

by Dr. Brizendine, Dr. Sax and many scientists who wrote books on human behaviors, hormones (endocrinology), neuroscience, neurophysiology and other fields.

Dr. Brizendine observes that the differences begin early when the fetus receives its sex chromosome.

Human cells have forty-six chromosomes. Only one gene accounts for the sex chromosome. In other words, ninety-nine percent of the genes between male and female are identical. We are, after all, part of the same human race. There is no male race or female race. For that matter, Saint Thomas Aquinas affirms that there is no male soul or female soul, only the human soul.

The difference in the genes is due to the Y chromosome. A mere one percent of our genes dictates how our hair grows, how our muscles develop, our bone density, the differences in organs, skin, hormones, voice, fingernails, hearing, eyesight, sensitivity to pain, speed of reflexes, response to stress, language comprehension, cycles, relationships skills, visual skills and even the concentration of neuron connections in our brains.

Then, perhaps the biggest and most obvious of the differences is in our roles in procreation. Only males are capable of being a father. Only females are capable of being a mother. This is so obvious that to cite science to prove this, instead of appealing to common sense, seems offensive to any rational creature.

One percent! But, what a difference that one percent makes.

Babies, for example, will go through a radical hormonal production phase roughly nine months or so after their birth. In fact there will be so much hormone production that, according to Dr. Brizendine, Adam will have the equivalent amount of testosterone as an adult all packed in his baby body. Girls will similarly have an adult's level of estrogen in their baby bodies. During this time, the whole neurological system will be steeped in high dosages of testosterone or estrogen. Steeping the brain and organs in this high hormonal concentration will

My Lord, What Have We Done?

BY ANTONIO FRAGELLI

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

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

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

But the world has drastically changed and there are those who proclaim that there are not two genders, but six or even seven. One recent category



includes those who do not “know” what gender is theirs. Another recent report proposes that one ought to treat children neither as male nor female in case they should want to “change” their gender later in life.

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

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



The Word Incarnate was a Man par excellence, and one of His great statements against the so-called inclusive or egalitarian mentality of our days was when He chose twelve men for His apostles. In not choosing a single woman, He made clear that in His creation there are roles for men and roles for women.

predispose the child's development for the next ten or so years as he or she approaches puberty.

Surprisingly, whereas our Adam will only be exposed to nine months of this high level of testosterone, girls will be exposed to estrogen for a full two years.

The Inherent Difference Between the Male and Female Brain

Dr. Sax cites a very surprising study that should prove beyond a doubt how different males are from females. In 2004, a completely hermaphrodite bird was studied in UCLA. The bird was born half male and half female. The left side of the bird had female body parts and coloration, while the right side had the male body parts and coloration. When they dissected the brain of this bird, they thought they would find the brain tissues of both right and left exactly the same. Brain tissue, they reasoned, is affected by the nutrients in the blood and both sides of the brain were nourished by the same blood. When they dissected it, they found that the male half of the brain was intrinsically different from the female half. Surprised by this finding, they wanted to see if this is true for human brains. Is the brain tissue of the male human different from that of the female?

After their research, neuroscientists from three universities published their finding that the male brain is "intrinsically different." It was rich in proteins

that are coded directly by the Y chromosome. (*Why Gender Matters*, pp. 13-14)

The Perfect Male and Female

Perhaps, more than scientific proofs, nothing will bring out the stark differences between male and female more clearly than by holding up the perfect standards of male and female: Adam and Eve, Jesus and Mary.

God made Adam to be different from Eve. To one he tasked the dominance of the whole Earth, contemplation, to tend and guard and keep paradise (Gen 2:15). To the other he tasked to be a companion and a help to Adam, to have social skills, to be sensitive to beautiful things, to be nurturing and to be the mother of all the living.

Jesus and Mary were also different in their state of spiritual perfection.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, God made man, is perfection Himself in His divinity but also perfect in His humanity. The medieval man saw in Our Lord Jesus Christ all the perfect models of masculinity, whether he be king or peasant, farmer, theologian, carpenter, knight, priest, fisherman, physician, or judge.

Our Lady, the very image of Eve perfected by grace, presents a different model of perfection that is distinctly feminine. In her, the medieval woman saw the perfect models of femininity whether she be nurse, religious, teacher, seamstress, shepherdess, housemaker, princess, governess, washerwoman, mediatrix, advocate,

Jesus and Mary were also different in their state of spiritual perfection.

queen or handmaid, but above all, the mother and the virgin.

Each is distinctly different from the other. It is after these models that all men and women throughout history should be measured until the end of time.

Our hypothetical Adam should be encouraged to follow these perfect role models instead of being forced to suppress his maleness through social reprogramming.

The feminist, homosexual and transgender agendas are trying to implant equality in society by destroying the natural differences created by inequality. God made man in His image and likeness. These egalitarian agendas want to transform mankind into a "genderless" society and in the process must deform what God has made. It is one of the greatest forms of revolt against God.

What should be patently clear is that science proves that neither human law, executive mandate, Supreme Court ruling nor even a constitutional amendment can abolish the inequalities in creation.

To men without faith, no amount of proof is sufficient. To men of faith, only one proof suffices.

"Male and female, God made [us]." (Gen. 5:2). ■



AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA[®]

MAY/JUNE 2016

PROGRESS REPORT

Rosary Rallies for Traditional Marriage: “Go to Joseph!”

BY BEN BROUSSARD

In the Old Testament, a famine struck Egypt and the people complained to Pharaoh. His sole reply was, “Go to Joseph!”

Holy Mother Church, seeing her children starving for spiritual nourishment, says the same to us: “Go to Joseph!” Saint Joseph provided for the needs of the Holy Family. As patron of the Universal Church, he can provide for all our necessities.

On Saturday, March 19, 2016, the glorious Feast of Saint Joseph, American Needs Fatima again sponsored Rosary Rallies for Traditional Marriage. For the third year in a row, Catholics gathered in public squares, at busy intersections, and near government buildings across the country. They prayed the rosary for the restoration of a true marriage culture in America.

Church teaching is clear that marriage is between one man and one woman for life. This has always been true and will always be true, despite manmade laws or Supreme Court decisions.

Daily the onslaught of unnatural vice and immorality continues unabated. Thankfully, Americans in greater numbers are taking a public stand against the forced acceptance of the homosexual agenda. The 2016 Rosary Rallies for Traditional Marriage numbered more than 4,200 nationwide.

What reactions are sparked by these



peaceful and prayerful rallies? Across the country, the overwhelming response has been positive. Along with the traditional marriage banners sent by America Needs Fatima, homemade signs displaying “Honk for Traditional Marriage” and “Purity Is the Answer” met with enthusiastic support. Every so often someone may pass by shouting insults. But God is most certainly pleased with the sacrifice of those who endure such treatment while defending His laws.

The battle for the heart and soul of America is coming to a head. Thankfully, we can have utmost confidence in the powerful protection of the great Saint Joseph.

Saint Thomas Aquinas taught, “Some saints are privileged to extend to us their

Dedicated volunteers across the country stood outside praying the rosary despite cold and rainy conditions.



patronage with particular efficacy in certain needs, but not in others. But our holy patron Saint Joseph has the power to assist us in all cases, in every necessity, in every undertaking.”

The homosexual movement now wants to corrupt the most innocent Americans—our children. Let us continually do as the Church commands: “Go to Joseph!”

Placing the future of the family in his paternal care, he will surely safeguard the sacrament of marriage for future generations. Confident in Saint Joseph’s intercession, let us continue the fight for the future of the family and our country. ■

More than 4,200 Rosary Rallies for Traditional Marriage took place on March 19, 2016. Catholics young and old were eager to do their part, taking a public stand to defend true marriage.



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

FUTURE OF AMERICA

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

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- Acts of reparation and protests nationwide to stop blasphemous attacks against the Sacred Persons of Jesus and Mary
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- Thousands of Public Square Rosary Rallies annually

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CUSTODIAN'S

CORNER

"Our Lady Protected Me"

BY ELIAS RUBIO

Just starting the Fatima visits, I find it very impressive to see how many Catholics put their faith into action. One example of this came in February when we visited the home of Kathleen in eastern Maryland.

After a few neighbors had gathered, the visit started as normal. When we began speaking about the America Needs Fatima protests against blasphemy, Kathleen interjected and told her story about taking a stand.

In 1999, the blasphemous film "Dogma" began showing nationwide. Kathleen tried to organize a protest in front of a theater, but no one would protest with her. She decided to do the protest anyway all by herself. After arriving with her homemade sign, she began praying the rosary out loud. The management of the theater threat-



Mr. Elias Rubio, left, recently joined the ranks of the Fatima Custodians.

ened to have her arrested, but she stood firm and kept praying. She soon heard honks from cars going by and saw lots of thumbs up.

Kathleen has protested many times since then, sometimes alone but often with others. In talking about taking a stand, she said, "I know Our Lady protected me. That first homemade sign I used while protesting "Dogma" stayed in my car for years and I had it with me wherever I went. Every time I looked at it, I was reminded of Our Lady's maternal aid."

Hearing Kathleen speak, it became clear that Our Lady was always there, along with her legions of angels backing her up. As the enemies of the Church become more and more emboldened, may Our Lady raise up many more souls like Kathleen to take a strong stand in public against the onslaught of blasphemy. ■

Public Reparation for Public Sin!

A public event in Topeka, Kansas, sponsored by Visit Topeka, Inc., drew the ire of America Needs Fatima members and supporters for its bold promotion of indecency and immorality.

Dubbed *Kansas Burlesque Festival*, the morally offensive annual event featured lewd and depraved acts that organizers themselves warned on their

website to be "too mature/intense" for viewers.

The event was so offensive, it undermined families, the Sacrament of marriage and children's innocence. America Needs Fatima issued a stern warning to the public not to attend the event and instead, to gather for a legal and prayerful Rosary Rally near the venue to offer reparation for the shocking and impure display.

Email protests were also sent to the mayor of Topeka, and to the president of Visit Topeka, Inc., the taxpayer-supported organization hosting the event. The fact that the city subsidized the hosting organization with taxpayer dollars made it more reprehensible and a serious assault on the family values of the Midwestern city's morally-conscious population.

While praying at the Rosary Rally organized by America Needs Fatima, attendees had in mind the prophetic words of Our Lady of Fatima when she said to Jacinta, "more souls go to hell because of sins of the flesh than for any other reason." ■





Increasing Satanic Assaults Draw Public Indignation

A disturbing trend has been noted recently, as satanic groups are pressuring government officials to begin public meetings with a satanic “invocation” or “prayer.” A Phoenix City Council meeting was a target, as well as four other public meetings in the Arizona cities of Scottsdale, Tucson, Sahuarita and Chandler. Similar actions were also attempted in the Florida cities of Coral Springs, Deerfield Beach and Apopka.

The Satanists are deceitfully using the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Greece v. Galloway*, in which public prayer is allowed as long as “due respect for those who adhere to other beliefs” is maintained, to justify their demand. However, in Phoenix, members of the City Council changed their rules to prevent the Satanists from doing their devious act. Following Phoenix’s lead, other cities dispensed with the opening prayers and opted instead for a moment of silence. But concerned citizens believe that this whole exercise may not only be about asking for equal time for their own “prayers,” but is also a brazen attempt by Satanists to ultimately remove all religion from public life.

As part of TFP/America Needs Fatima’s fight against all satanic advances in America, an email campaign was launched to raise awareness and to support the Phoenix City Council in its efforts to keep Satan out of council meetings.

Many satanic attacks have caught the attention of and drew strong protests from TFP/America Needs Fatima. In 2014, Satanists attempted to hold a “Black Mass” at Harvard University. Prayers and demonstrations around the country and a solemn procession with the Blessed Sacrament through the streets near Harvard, followed by Eucharistic adoration at St. Paul’s Church in Harvard Square, forced the organizers to cancel the sacrilegious act.

Another attempt at “mainstreaming” Satanism occurred at the unveiling of a nine-foot statue of Baphomet, a devil with the head of a goat with a smiling boy and girl at its feet,



As Satanists become more emboldened to perform public blasphemies, Catholics should also be emboldened to do public reparation.

which was to take place in a public venue in Detroit, Michigan. After being deluged with thousands of protest emails, the organizers were forced to hold their satanic ritual away from public view.

A satanic “Black Mass” held in the Civic Center of Oklahoma City was another event that drew hundreds of protesters from all over the country who showed up outside the public building offering prayers of reparation.

The opening of the Greater Church of Lucifer in the city of Spring, Texas, also drew prayerful protests from concerned families from the small Texas town. TFP/America Needs Fatima joined in their efforts to protest the “church” from opening its doors.

And on Christmas Eve last year, the City of Oklahoma granted a notorious Satanist a permit to publicly desecrate an image of the Mother of God by pouring fake blood over her. The sacrilegious act was done right in front of St. Joseph’s Old Cathedral. Vehement protests and petitions organized by TFP/America Needs Fatima were ignored by Oklahoma City officials.

All public satanic attacks not only amount to religious persecution, but also aim to desensitize Americans to evil in all its forms. Our best defense is to uphold morality and remain vigilant. TFP/America Needs Fatima remains committed to leading the fight. ■

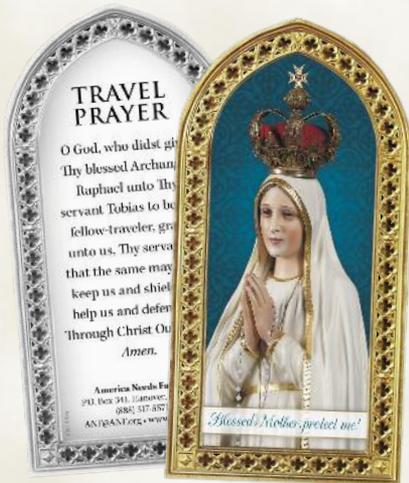


Our Readers Write...

Our Lady of Fatima Car Shrine

I was so happy with the travel prayer and Fatima car shrine you sent me! I live alone and I do drive, so I sure can use this in my car. I also would like a few extras for my son who drives an hour and forty-five minutes one way to work every day. Thank you again, it was a blessing for me to receive this.

G.G., Alamosa, Colo.



Thank you for the lovely car shrine. I never drove, but I will always carry it with me. If I have to take a taxi or bus, or have someone offer me a lift in a car, it will always be with me. Also, thank you for the beautiful Fatima calendar and the *Crusade Magazine*. I look forward to reading it, and your letters inspire me. God bless you. May Our Blessed Mother protect and keep you safe always.

J.B., Bayonne, N.J.

"A few days after receiving the travel prayer shrine and card (and praying it), our son was saved from what could have been a fatal accident, hardly a scratch or

even a bruise. Our Blessed Mother has been so good to us."

S. L., St. Louis, Mo.

Child of Mary

I am happy to know that my small donations are going to promote the promises of Mary's Immaculate Heart—the conversion of souls and her triumph for America.

May the hearts of Jesus and Mary continue to bless your important ministry!

E.D., Framingham, Mass.

Rosary Rally

I want to thank you for the privilege of serving as a Rosary Rally Captain this year. I already received many blessings, graces, and answered prayers. Praise God! Thank you Mama Mary for all your intercessions. I met many wonderful people, and also witnessed conversions during the Rally event. Yes, God is good. Planning to do this again next year! Blessings to everyone.

G.M., San Dismas, Calif.

I sincerely hope that the Rosary Rallies which took place on October 10th of this year were a huge success. I hope the movement stirred the awareness that we need a "righteous change" in God's name, and a call to "Order." The upheaval, unrest, and divide has to be quelled, but with God in mind. Our Catholics and true Catholicism have to be "saved." We stand to lose so much; our Church, our values, our schools, our teachings, our families, our children, our lives, our Faith.

We have to stand together.

I do hope my monthly *Child of Mary* pledge will multiply and make significant miracles and strides for the betterment of



the Catholic Church, our faithful, and in defense of our God and His Holy Family.

Blessings to you all, and thank you for your beautiful 2016 calendar.

God bless and godspeed!

M.L., Bronx, N.Y.

America Needs Fatima

Thank you so much for your beautiful ministry! I love this awesome picture of the Sacred Heart. I treasure every gift you send that helps to deepen my faith and love for Jesus and Our Lady!

G. D., Cherry Hill, N.J.

I will work faithfully for Our Mother. God bless you for all the good work [you do] and for the privilege of being a part of it. My life has meaning now. Thank you.

C.L., Zephyrhills, Fla.

Thank God for your organization. Who else promotes the rosary, the messages of Fatima, rosary rallies, and the men who take the Fatima statues to so many homes? I also like the *Crusade Magazine*. So much information! We certainly hear nothing about Fatima in our parish.

W.F., Highland, Ill.

Thank you for all you do to keep Our Mother real and alive in America, a country so blessed, yet so ungrateful.

A.G., Centreville, Va.

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



COMMENTARY

Hail, Mother of Hope

BY PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA

Optimism, pessimism, realism: what position should we take in the face of current events? Before answering this question we need to give words their true meaning.

Strictly speaking, a realist is one who sees facts as they are.

Therefore, an optimist would be one who, with a defective vision, imagines events with brighter appearance than they actually display; and a pessimist one who, on account of a symmetrical and opposite defect, were to see them with darker colors than they actually have. Thus, a doctor with an objective and true notion of his patient's condition would be realistic; one who mistakenly diagnosed the illness as less serious than it actually was would be optimistic; and one who figured the illness was worse than it actually was, a pessimist.

Once these various meanings are defined it becomes easier and more accurate to say whether one should be optimistic, pessimistic,

or realistic. Obviously, in any case one should be realistic. For if realism is the exact vision of things, and on the contrary, optimism and pessimism are errors, one should prefer to stick with truth rather than error. So when we hear talk of "healthy optimism" in chronic and necessary opposition to "unhealthy pessimism" we often feel like smiling: If optimism is a bright but distorted vision of the truth, how can it be healthy? How can there be health in distortion?

But, someone could say, sound optimism consists in having a wholesome view of things in light colors when they are actually light. We agree. But in that case one should not always speak of "unhealthy pessimism." There should also be room for a "healthy pessimism" that would consist in seeing things dark when they actually are. Yet, for people who constantly talk about "healthy optimism," pessimism is necessarily "unhealthy." One is "healthy" whenever one is optimistic and "unhealthy" whenever one is pessimistic. The possibility of "healthy pessimism" is precisely what a lot of people want to deny at all cost.

* * *

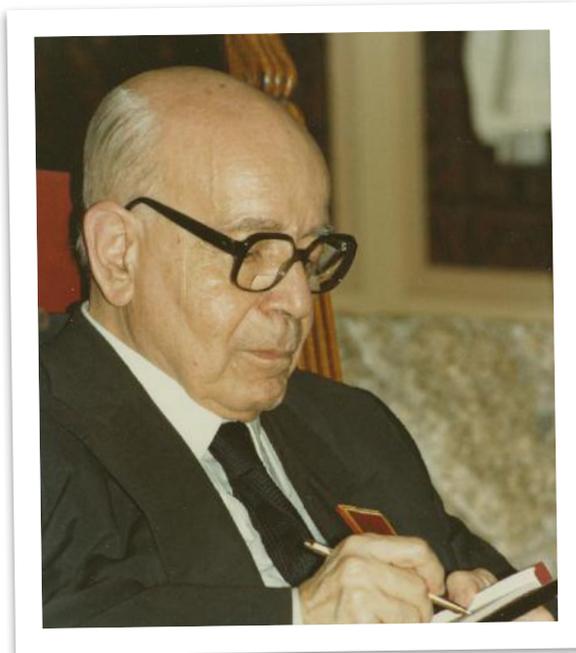
In short, one must be always and unflinchingly realistic. When reality is good, one must draw from it optimistic omens in the good sense of the word. And—also in the good sense of the word—when reality is bad one should draw pessimistic forecasts from it. "Healthy optimism" and "healthy pessimism" are legitimate and reasonable expressions only if they always and inexorably identify with "absolute realism."

That said, the question of whether we should be optimistic or realistic about the present time translates into this: whether our time justifies good prognostics, or bad.

This is, therefore, what we will deal with.

* * *

Something which is in bad shape warrants bad prognoses. And something which is doing well



Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira, a man of Catholic faith and action, showed countless souls the way to live out an authentic Marian devotion.

justifies good prognoses. For an effect cannot have qualities that somehow are not contained in its cause. Consequently, we must ask whether things today are going well or badly.

Now, it is good for a man to provide for the goods necessary or appropriate for the sustenance of life. Thus, to the degree that a thief cares about his future and wants to provide for his own subsistence, he is right. His sin begins only the moment he decides to employ illegal means in order to meet that concern, entirely just of itself. Therefore, not everything in a thief's intentions is bad. In this sense, strictly speaking, the very act of Judas, when stealing alms the Apostles had reserved for the poor and when ultimately selling the Man-God, had something legitimate inasmuch as it derived from an appetite for goods necessary to sustain his life. Yet that did not save Judas from the sentence "melius erat illi si natus non fuisset" [it would have been better for him not to have been born] (Matt. 26:24), nor did it spare thieves from being punished as criminals everywhere, nor yet the people of Israel from suffering the most resounding punishment in all human history at the Siege of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

* * *

This is not the place to take stock of what to us appears to be good or bad and then figure out whether it is good or evil that prevails. That would be a Herculean task which could hardly fit in a book, let alone in a magazine article.

But that does not mean our question will remain unanswered. If we want to know what prevails today, if it is the love of Our Lord Jesus Christ or the spirit of the world, it suffices to read Saint Paul.

According to the Apostle, the works of the flesh are: "fornication, uncleanness, immodesty, luxury, idolatry, witchcrafts, enmities, contentions, emulations, wraths, quarrels, dissensions, sects, envies, murders, drunkenness, reveling, and such like" (Gal. 5:19-21). On the contrary, the fruit of the Spirit is "charity, joy, peace, patience, benignity, goodness, longanimity (calm amidst suffering), mildness, faith, modesty, continence, chastity" (Gal. 5:22-23). No need to ask if what prevails in our century is the works of the flesh or the fruit of the Spirit.

Let us take the same truth from another angle. Would we dare say that today's civilization is still predominantly Christian? In that case we should recognize that the corruption of customs, greed, rivalries, fights, the universal

disorder that prevails in it are typical and specific fruits of the Church's influence. Who does not see that we would blaspheme were we to say so? Thus, we must recognize the truth: our civilization is not informed by the spirit of Jesus Christ. It produces fruits typical of civilizations dominated by darkness.

* * *

What can we expect from this? Where are we going to end up within a few more decades of wars, strife, struggles between nations and classes? Where will we be fifty years from now if the corruption of morals keeps developing with the increasing speed it has been showing for example, in matters of dance, immodest fashions and the homosexual and transgender movements?

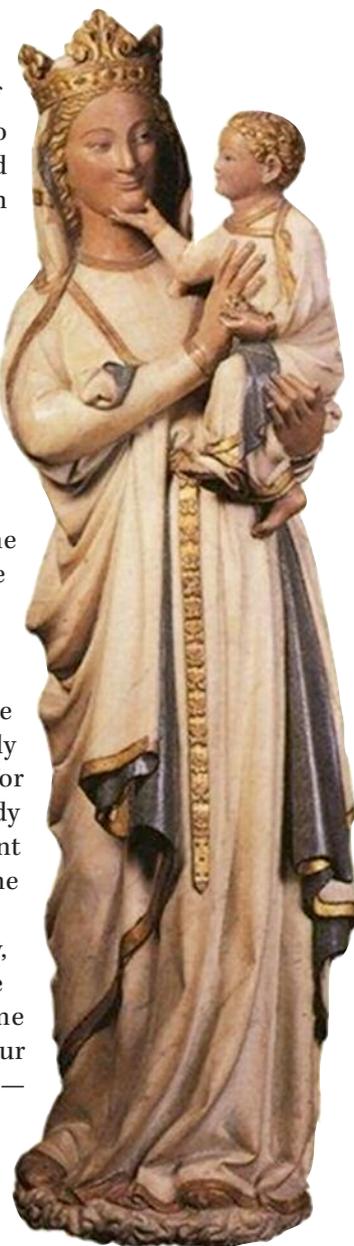
If one wants to reason with all honesty, one must acknowledge that very little separates us from total catastrophe, and that if we continue along this line, within not too long we will suffer an eclipse of culture and civilization similar to the fall of the Western Roman Empire.

And what will the future of the Church be in that world? Will She be condemned to live a few more centuries in the catacombs? Will the number of faithful be reduced to an insignificant little group?

* * *

God alone knows the future. No one could reasonably be surprised if the whole structure of modern civilization thunderously and tragically crumbled in a great bloodbath. But there is a reason—and it is not the only one—to hope that Providence will not allow Holy Church to return to the catacombs for long. It is that an omen of victory already exists amid the desolation of the present time: the visible action, so to speak, of the Blessed Virgin on earth.

From Lourdes and Fatima to this day, the more the universal crisis grows, the more Our Lady's interventions become numerous and tangible. Devotion to Our Lady is fought—it is horrible to say it—not only outside the Church but even in supposedly Catholic circles. But to no avail. One can see that here and there the Blessed Mother continues to attract thousands of souls to Her and to





Millions of pilgrims come every year to Our Lady's shrine at Fatima to seek hope for today's crises.

develop a regeneration plan that obviously leads to a grand and spectacular outcome.

All circumstances seem appropriate for an immense triumph of the Virgin. The crisis is tragic. It approaches an apex. To tell the truth, human means of salvation are nil. For our sins we deserve no signal grace but only punishment and more punishment. All the characteristics of a humanly lost situation—not only typical but archetypal—seem to build up at present.

Who could save us? Only someone who had for us the boundless complacency of an exceedingly good, generous and compassionate Mother. But at the same time that Mother would have to be more powerful than all the forces of the world, the devil and the flesh. She would have to be omnipotent with God Himself, very rightfully irritated by our sins. Saving us from this situation would be the most brilliant manifestation of that Mother's power.

Now then, we do have that Mother. She is our Mother and the Mother of God. How could one not realize that so many disasters and countless sins call out as it were, for the intervention of the Blessed Virgin Mary? And how not to see that She will heed that cry?

When will that be? During the great drama that draws near? After it? We do not know. But one thing appears absolutely likely: that as the outcome

of this crisis, Mary most holy is preparing for Holy Church, not centuries of agony and pain, but an era of universal triumph.

* * *

And so, in this month dedicated to Mary, with our eyes fixed on Her and in all serenity we can answer the question of whether we should be optimistic or pessimistic: a healthy pessimism should persuade us that we deserve everything and perhaps will suffer an awful lot; but a healthy and supernatural optimism should persuade us that the triumph of the Church is being prepared in today's pains through a complete crushing of the mentality of our times. Both that pessimism and optimism are healthy realism because they take into account a great reality without which any vision of human problems is flawed: the Providence of Mary.

And, lastly, Mary must be terrible to the devil and his crew, as an army ranged in battle, principally in these latter times, because the devil, knowing that he has but little time, and now less than ever, to destroy souls, will every day redouble his efforts and his combats. He will presently raise up new persecutions, and will put terrible snares before the faithful servants and true children of Mary, whom it gives him more trouble to surmount than it does to conquer others. ■

She is our Mother and the Mother of God. How could one not realize that so many disasters and countless sins call out as it were, for the intervention of the Blessed Virgin Mary?



ADORE HIM “In Spirit and in Truth”

BY VINCENT GORRE



RELIGION

“The object of Eucharistic adoration is the divine Person of Our Lord Jesus Christ present in the Most Blessed Sacrament,” says Saint Peter Julian Eymard, founder of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers. For many, this core belief of faith is the very source of inspiration to visit any Catholic church where the Blessed Sacrament resides. To have that intimate spiritual conversation with Our

Lord and Savior is “the true Eucharistic meditation, i.e., adoration.” He continued, “The Father seeketh such to adore Him . . . in spirit and in truth.” (John 4: 23)

But what if the tabernacle, which houses the Holy Eucharist, is nowhere to be found or is relegated to an obscure corner of a church’s sanctuary? What possible consequence would this dislocation have, if any?

After Vatican II, most American churches began relocating the tabernacle from the traditional central position in the

church to someplace else, making it not immediately visible to the faithful. Although the document concerning tabernacle placement did not explicitly mandate moving the tabernacle, several passages in *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (The Dogmatic Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy issued on December 4, 1963) allowed for the relocation of the tabernacle under certain circumstances upon the discretion of the local bishop. Furthermore, the council called for “noble simplicity” in the overall design of churches, which many believe led to a general decline of Catholic art and architecture in the aftermath of the Council.

However, not only did we see a general decline in art and architecture, there is also clear evidence of a precipitous decline in the spiritual life of American Catholics as well, especially with regard to their understanding, or lack thereof, of the Real Presence of Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. The relocation of the tabernacle is arguably one contributing factor.

At least two surveys—by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life and American Catholics in Transition, D’Antonio, et al,—reveal that members of the Pre-Vatican II generation are more likely than respondents of other generations to believe that Christ is really present in the Eucharist (70 percent compared to 57 percent of the millennial generation; 55 percent of the Post-Vatican II generation; and 53 percent of the Vatican II generation Catholics). These results are sobering, as transubstantiation and the Real Presence are two major tenets of the Catholic faith.

So what was in the minds of those who decided to move the tabernacle away from the center of the church? For one, in their eagerness to embrace the ecumenical spirit of Vatican II, they emphasized austerity and simplicity in church design in order to focus more on the altar and the congregation, which many observed as essentially Protestant. Taking away the centrality of the Holy Eucharist in churches, in effect, reduced the importance of the precious body, blood, soul and divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the lives of the faithful.

More than five decades after Vatican II, many are now clamoring to bring back the tabernacles. They are led by bishops and priests who have observed first-hand the deleterious effect of the absence of the tabernacles as the focal point in their churches. Among them is Bishop Robert Morlino of Madison, WI, who instructed his priests to move every tabernacle in the diocese back to the center of the church by 2018. Priests and parishioners reacted favorably to the bishop’s directive as evidenced by the many messages of appreciation on social media. Others, like Bishop Thomas Paprocki of Springfield, IL, issued a Pastoral Letter, *Ars celebrandi et adorandi* in which he directed the return of the tabernacles to the center of all churches in his diocese. Similarly, Bishop Daniel Jenky of Peoria, IL, and Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Centre, NY, did the same. And so the trend continues.

As Saint Peter Julian Eymard reminds us, “To abide in His love is to make His Eucharistic love the center of our life, the only source of our consolation; it is to cast ourselves into the Heart of Jesus in our affections, in our sorrows . . . He invites us to do so: ‘Come to Me, all you that labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you.’” (Matt 11:28). ■



The EMPTY CHAIR

BY ANTONIO FRAGELLI

There was a time when people read books. In fact people still do, but the trend among the young and future generation is changing drastically.

Is it a good change?—perhaps it would be prudent to *think* and see.

Imagine a leather-bound book on a shelf or night stand. During a calm moment, a reader sits down in an empty chair, and, if the book is interesting, can spend hours immersed in its pages.

As the human eye reads, the mind builds up pictures and travels to a different world as if in a film. If the book is more informational, the mind begins to build a new bank of knowledge about the subject treated.

The calm and organic reading process is agreeable and according to the nature of the mind. Brick by brick, whether constructing a story or an edifice, the mind captures the new information or scenario and delights in it.

From time to time, the reader must stop and allow the mind to think on what has just been read or adds a further consideration or development of a point. This is because the mind is much more than a book; it is a living book capable of imagination and development. The book serves as a trigger for new thoughts.

This calm and meditative process is constructive and imparts deeper knowledge on a given subject, or the memory of a story which will later be shared. A teacher, for example will impart knowledge thus gained to the class room. A grandfather surrounded by his grand-

children will retell and enhance the story he read, thus captivating their young minds. A priest may use his reading material in a sermon to help illustrate a point of Holy Scriptures. All this is calm and constructive.

Suddenly, there comes bursting in, the iPhone and its cousin the Android and an infinite number of apps and social media.

Browsing from page to page, tweeting or texting quick messages or searching for the latest gossip on Facebook, the mind jumps from branch to branch like an undisciplined monkey.

A large amount of little pieces of information distract the mind with short-lived impressions, sensations and emotions.

This trend of distraction has overtaken the world. Everything is rushed and frenzied. There is what might be called a “frenetic intemperance” surrounding the new announcement, for example, of the latest iPhone. For some the smart-phone is a tool that can be turned off. But for many, it has become a destructive way of life which reduces conversation, human initiative, and even thought processes.

It is sad to see children as young as five or six glued to a smartphone. Such an addiction can poison the child’s mental and spiritual growth.

All this buzz and commotion seeks to stifle its ancient predecessor: the book. The empty chair in the library is producing increasingly more empty minds and the world is not a better place for it. ■



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