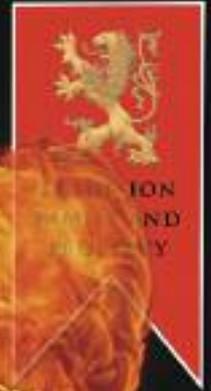


November/December 2007

# CRUSADE<sup>®</sup>

MAGAZINE



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*Beyond Pro-life:*

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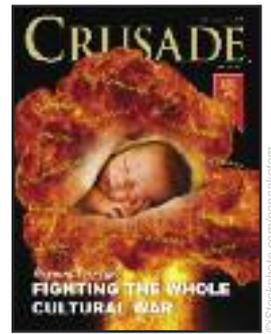


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A newborn child  
enveloped by the  
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A collage of religious posters and images. The main poster at the top says 'Pray with us for America' and 'In 1917, Our Lady appeared at Fatima, Portugal to ask mankind to stop offending God, otherwise He would punish the world. Ninety years later, the offenses multiply: abortion, pornography, sins against nature...'. Below it are smaller images of the Virgin Mary and text like 'Pray for the urgent conversion of America' and 'The Mother of God called the world to conversion at Fatima 90 years ago'. There is also a logo for 'TFP' (The Foundation for a Christian Civilization).

**Page 11** Two thousand Public Square Rosary Rallies—members, volunteers and Rosary Rally Captains make it possible.

*Crusade Magazine* is a publication of The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP). Direct all requests and inquiries to: *Crusade Magazine*, P.O. Box 341, Hanover, PA 17331 or e-mail to: [crusade@TFP.org](mailto:crusade@TFP.org). Web: [www.TFP.org](http://www.TFP.org). Tel.: 1-888-317-5571, Fax: (570) 450-6352. © 2007 by The Foundation for a Christian Civilization, Inc. This publication includes images from iStockphoto™ which are protected by copyright laws of the U.S. and elsewhere.

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## CRUSADE

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## The American TFP

The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) was founded in 1973 to confront the profound crisis shaking the modern world. 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

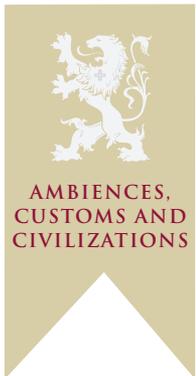
twofold function: individual and social. The TFP's words and efforts have always been faithfully at the service of Christian civilization. The first TFP was founded in Brazil by the famous intellectual and Catholic leader Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira in 1960. His work inspired the formation of other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



Vicente Borrás Abella, *In the Choir*, painted in 1890, Prado National Museum (Madrid, Spain).

# *Preparing for* **CHRISTMAS**

BY BENOIT BEMELMANS



Vicente Borrás Abella (1867–1945) is one of those Spanish painters who attained their full artistic maturity in the first half of the twentieth century. His family is from Valencia, a seaside city where the golden sunlight on the Mediterranean inspired so many artists.

The painting at the top of the page, full of colors and action, shows a choir rehearsing shortly before Christmas. It is painted with strong and vigorous strokes, but that moment is caught as sharply as a picture taken with a camera.

Choir members in red cassocks and white mantles rehearse songs for the upcoming feast of Our

Lord's Nativity. They are accompanied by several musical instruments. On the imposing and elaborate stand, large musical scores with metal buckles are open.

The rest of the church is in penumbra. A large crucifix hovers over the scene. Traditional songs rise up suavely in the expectation of Christmas night.

The choir leader is the soul of all these efforts. Does he perhaps realize that in less than a century later the militant secularism of a neo-pagan world will have almost succeeded in chasing away that special and blessed atmosphere enveloping that most joyful night? ■



COMMENTARY

# Lessons from the Holy Grotto

BY PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA

In the moral order, the world is composed largely of sinners who live not to serve God, but to please themselves. In their self-serving selfishness, such men strive to gratify their disordered love of worldly riches, delights and honors, as Saint John describes them.

By worldly riches, Saint John means the avarice of those who, in a rabid frenzy, seek what they regard as great fortune. These grasping Midases are so attached to the possession of money that often they do not take advantage of what they have while living in an obscure, banal and miserable state. By worldly delights, Saint John means the sensual pleasures, which are ultimately everything agreeable and pleasing that a life of luxury may provide. By worldly honors, Saint John means the exaggerated consideration of others, striving to be the object of great homage and adulation to secure prestige.

When man does not seek God, he elects one of these three pleasures as his ultimate end. In man there exists an ontological unity that translates into a unity of objective. Thus, human egoism tends necessarily toward one of these three pleasures. For a time, some determined souls may strive for all three, but having sampled each, they ultimately make one their life's goal.

As Saint Ignatius teaches, God wished to educate man through His Divine Son's birth. The circumstances of His birth show that worldly riches, delights and honors are nothing compared with God's supernatural treasures, joys and grandeur.

## Vanity of Worldly Riches

God, Who is infinitely rich, came to earth in poverty. In the stable in Bethlehem, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Omnipotent Lord of all, eloquently instructs us regarding

the vanity of worldly riches. He chose a manger, the poorest place imaginable for His birthplace. Wrapped in swaddling clothes by His Mother, the Holy Infant was sheltered in a stable made for livestock.

Through His birth in such impoverished circumstances, the Word of God made evident the indifference with which we should regard this world's riches. Used rightly, money may contribute to passing and imperfect happiness, but all too frequently it is the cause of suffering, anguish and tragedy.

The Holy Family sought, first and foremost, to obey the Divine Will in all

*Our Lord could have ordered the angels to embellish the Holy Grotto with the most delicate silks, the most aromatic perfumes and the most celestial symphonies.*

things, thus receiving a hundredfold here on earth, as promised in the Gospel (Matt. 19:29). In man, a virtuous life generates supernatural happiness and often natural happiness as well—happiness so incommensurably more valuable than worldly riches that it inspired Saint Francis to confide the following to Brother Masseo:

My dear companion, let us beg Saints Peter and Paul to teach us to possess the immeasurable treasure of holy



Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira

poverty; for it is a treasure so divine that we are not worthy of possessing it, considering that it is a celestial virtue, by means of which earthly and transitory possessions are trampled underfoot and by means of which every obstacle retreats before the soul, so that the soul may be freely united with the eternal God. This is the virtue that permits souls on

earth to converse with angels in Heaven. This is the virtue that accompanied Christ on the Cross, with which Christ was buried, the virtue with which He resurrected and ascended into Heaven. It fascinates souls in this life and gives them wings to carry them to Heaven in the next, for it bears the marks of humility and charity.<sup>1</sup>

## Disdain of Worldly Delights

Our Lord could have ordered the angels to embellish the Holy Grotto with the most delicate silks, the most aromatic perfumes and the most celestial symphonies. He could have enjoyed every legitimate material delight from the first moment of His human life.

Instead, He chose the very opposite. His delicate body lay not on soft silk, but on coarse straw. His crib was a feeding manger that, however diligently scoured by Our Lady, did not exude the sweet smells of exquisite perfumes. Born at midnight in the depth of the winter, the Holy Infant trembled in the cold night air, warmed only by the breath of the animals. His lullaby was the lowing of cows.

Thus, Our Lord Jesus Christ showed us how foolish it is to make this world's delights the end of our lives. To the contrary, Christ taught us to disdain them for



*The perfect model of all created grandeur, which is but a mere reflection of His Infinite Majesty, the God-Man attracts every form of sanctity, while repelling sin, error and chaos.*

God's glory and the good of souls, in the measure that they distract and even deviate us from our ultimate end—the eternal delight of unending life with Him.

#### **Emptiness of Worldly Honors**

Our Lord wished to deprive Himself of everything that might serve as a symbol of worldly prestige. While Jesus was born a prince of the royal house of David, that house had lost its power and prestige in the eyes of the world. Indeed, Christ the King was born an outcast, for none would shelter Our Lady who bore Him within Her womb; Saint Joseph had knocked on door after door, only to be sent away. The Child Jesus thus demonstrated the vanity of those who seek only to be seen in the eyes of the world.

#### **True Grandeur**

Let us now take a moment to contemplate the grandeur and majesty of the Child Jesus and His Most Holy Mother. Imagine the Holy Grotto of Bethlehem, lofty and spacious as a cathedral. Its rustic stones transcend their lack of architectural definition, bringing to mind the vaults of a magnificent basilica. Infant Jesus' cradle lies beneath the point where several of the arches, crafted by nature,

come together.

In heralding her Divine Son's birth, the Archangel Gabriel said to the Blessed Virgin Mary, "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the most High; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of David his father; and he shall reign in the house of Jacob for ever" (Luke 1:32–33).

Within that grotto lay an Infant, fragile yet omnipotent, the King of Heaven and Earth, the God-Man. From the first moment of His conception within the maternal cloister, He possessed grandeur and power infinitely superior to that of any man who has ever lived—of all men from the beginning to the end of time. He is incomparably more powerful than Alexander the Great, Charlemagne or Napoleon, or any and all of the mightiest armies known to man; immeasurably wiser than King Solomon, Saint Thomas the Angelic Doctor, and the hosts of human genius; within that grotto lay a Child whose every expression reflected divine majesty, ineffable holiness, utter wisdom and limitless power.

Enchanted, let us consider the perfections mysteriously expressed in the fair countenance of the Child Jesus. One moment, He reveals His Divine majesty. In another, a resplendent light shines forth from His eyes—the windows of His soul.

He inspires sinners to convert, to repent and confess their sins, while He attracts them through the intimacy of His love.

The German mystic Anne Catherine Emmerich describes a vision she had of the Nativity:

I saw Our Lord as a very little child, resplendent, whose brilliance surpassed that of every light in the grotto, lying upon the floor, before the knees of Mary. It seemed to me that He was very small and grew larger before my eyes. Then I saw Angels in human form all about, prostrate in adoration before the Child.<sup>2</sup>

It is said that as a child, Saint Thérèse had such a stately bearing that her father called her "my little queen." During the process of her canonization, the Carmel gardener testified that he came unobserved upon one of the nuns working and recognized her as Sister Thérèse. Asked how he was able to identify her without seeing her face, he replied that it was by her majesty, for none of the other sisters was as majestic as she.

What then could we say of Our Lady, Queen of Heaven and Earth? Let us contemplate the Most Holy Virgin, the masterpiece of Creation, most majestic and pure, praying to her Divine Infant, as an angelic chorus intones anthems of adoration. Touched by the Holy Family, the ambience of that humble stable transcends the grandeur of the most refined court.

Approaching a scene so sacred, we revere the Christ Child, and in Him adore all that is beautiful, noble and holy. We prostrate ourselves before the Divine Incarnation. The perfect model of all created grandeur, which is but a mere reflection of His Infinite Majesty, the God-Man attracts every form of sanctity, while repelling sin, error and chaos. He does not reject, but rather embraces the humble and contrite sinner. ■

#### **Notes:**

1. Dom Roger Hudleston, *The Little Flowers of Saint Francis* (Paterson, NJ: St. Anthony Guild Press, 1958).

2. Anne Catherine Emmerich, *The Life of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ* (Fresno, CA: Apostolate of Christian Action, n.d.).



*Beyond Pro-life:*

# Fighting the Whole Cultural War

BY JOHN HORVAT II

In the Cultural War, the fight over abortion is one of the many fronts where the battle rages most fiercely. It is no surprise that there are many reasons the enthusiastic supporters of this noble cause defend those who are the most helpless.

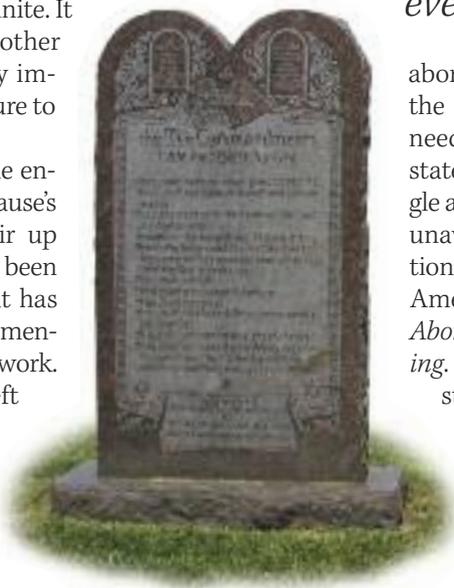
A reason worth mentioning is its amazing capacity to unite. It really could not be any other way: abortion's brutality imposes upon our very nature to be against it.

Another reason for the enthusiasm is the pro-life cause's amazing capacity to stir up passion. Rarely has there been an issue in America that has given rise to such a monumental grassroots action network. The angry, unfocused left simply cannot compete with it. They do not have the prayerful dedication and quiet heroism of pro-lifers who take this daily fight to the sidewalks and make of it a true crusade.

## A Capacity to Win

Finally, the pro-life cause has an amazing capacity to win. For those who want to see, pro-life advocates have pummeled pro-

*By resolving the abortion issue, we may win a major battle but not the Cultural War. We must resist the idea that, without abortion, we can retreat to a kind of Mayberry where we can "baby boom" once again and everything will go back to normal.*



abortion radicals over the years. One only needs to consider the states reduced to a single abortion clinic or the unavailability of abortion in ninety percent of American counties. *Abortion clinics are closing.* Their total number stands at their lowest level since 1987.<sup>1</sup> Doctors and nurses to staff them are becoming increas-

ingly hard to find and keep.

Meanwhile, youth swell the ranks of the pro-life movement. The support of bishops and the religious is now widespread. Opinion on abortion is shifting toward life. In addition, state legislatures have enacted hundreds of abortion restrictions. Some states are now pushing through legislation that will lead to a head-on collision with *Roe v. Wade*.

The pro-abortion movement is losing ground everywhere for those who wish to see. Only the major media's cold cynicism can look at the more than 150,000 people at the annual March for Life and some dozens of counter-protesters and conclude



*Above:* A Ten Commandments monument in Hanover, Pa. The unifying principle of the good in the Cultural War should be defending God's moral law. *Right:* The March for Life at Washington, D.C. draws tens of thousands of pro-lifers annually. Pro-life advocates have pummeled pro-abortion radicals with a vast and dedicated grassroots action network that has gradually reduced and restricted abortion in America.



Saint Thomas More was martyred because he held that God's law and the Church take precedence over King Henry VIII's mandates. Before his beheading he said, "I die the King's good servant and God's first." *Thomas More*, painted in 1527 by Hans Holbein the Younger.

that "[a]bortion activists on both sides of the issue [were] out in full force."<sup>2</sup>

### A Single Reservation

Thus, while there are many reasons for enthusiasm for the pro-life cause, there is room for a single reservation. The abortion issue has an amazing capacity to unite and stir up great passion. However, it also has the amazing tendency to reduce the whole Cultural War to only abortion, and this is not the whole war. By resolving the abortion issue, we may win a major battle but not the Cultural War. We must resist the idea that, without abortion, we can retreat to a kind of Mayberry where we can "baby boom" once again and everything will go back to normal. Unless we broaden the fight to include the entire cultural spectrum, we will not prevail.

For proof that the battle extends beyond the abortion issue, we need look no further than the very people the pro-life cause manages to unite: libertarians, feminists, rockers, punks, atheists, agnostics, Greens and even pagans for life. Remove the uniting principle of life and we are left with groups that oppose the Christian civilization we desire so ardently. Winning the pro-life battle only throws us into another cultural battle

with our temporary strategic allies.

Finally, the grave moral crises that cause abortion must be addressed. Abortion takes place because of promiscuity, immorality, a contraceptive mentality and the breakdown of the family. Just closing down all the clinics will not provide a definitive solution to these causes of abortion.

### Going Beyond Pro-Life

All these issues force us to go beyond pro-life, and the first way to do this is to go beyond the notion of life as our unifying principle. Indeed, in the natural order, man's inviolable right to life is the first right and therefore the basis for all others. However, this does not mean that, in order to maintain life, we can pass over the values that give meaning to life. Many things are worth more than life itself—principle often eclipses life. Honor and country are more than life, and that is why we have national heroes. This is the case of personal self-defense that takes an aggressor's life or the mother who gives her life for her child when complications develop during pregnancy. As Catholics, we know that, in the supernatural order, the Faith is more important and that is why we have martyrs.

*"When the Revolution proclaims absolute liberty as a metaphysical principle, it does so only to justify the free course of the worst passions and the most pernicious errors."*

—Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira

Adopting life as a unifying principle risks putting ourselves with those who put life above principle, honor and Faith. It can also put us under the unacceptable biological understanding of life according to pacifists, ecologists and animal-rights activists.



Saint Gianna Beretta Molla placed the life of her unborn child before her own life, an example of a truly Catholic mother. She said, "This time it will be a difficult delivery, and they may have to save one or the other—I want them to save my baby."

### A Unifying Principle

We must find another banner that can unify us in the pro-life struggle and still encompass the whole Cultural War. By defining our enemies' unifying principle, we can define our own.

We portray pro-abortion radicals as pro-death activists promoting the death culture. We label their clinics as death camps and their sidewalk activists as "deathscorts." All descriptions are true. However, the other side chooses as their unifying principle not death but rather what they call themselves—pro-choice.

And this "choice" means freedom from rules, morals or restraints. An unlimited choice is what unifies the Cultural War radicals. Thus, they display a consistent unity favoring not only abortion but also any other practices—free love, homosexuality, bisexuality, transgenderism—that favor raging sensuality.

In his book, *Revolution and Counter-Revolution*, Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira says, "When the Revolution proclaims absolute liberty as a metaphysical principle, it does so only to justify the free course of the worst passions and the most pernicious errors."<sup>3</sup> In short, the unifying principle of this "freedom" is a revolt against moral law.

Thus, our unifying principle should declare explicitly and proudly that in opposing abortion we are defending true freedom that is guided by the moral law based on divine and natural law. Hence our unifying principle is the defense of moral law.

### Pro-Life Means Pro-Moral Law

Fortunately, this is what the pro-life movement has done implicitly. Abortion has polarized the nation because it has become a moral issue that gnaws at the heart of mainstream America. To continue to be effective, we should explicitly call abortion what it is—the breaking of God’s moral law by the taking of innocent human life.

In his 2004 book, *Bearing Right: How Conservatives Won the Abortion War*, William Saletan sustains the pro-life cause advances because it turns the debate into a moral battle. He writes, “Many people think that the political struggle over abortion has been resolved and that feminists have won. They are mistaken. The people who hold the balance of power in the abortion debate are those who favor tradition, family and property.”<sup>4</sup>

By turning the issue into a moral battle, we force the other side to abandon their principles. Mr. Saletan shows how the pro-abortionists of the sixties abandoned their feminist and sexual liberation roots. Abortion was supposed to have been a liberating experience to defy the “male chauvinistic world.” Today’s aging feminists no longer parade as enthusiastic supporters of abortion but as embarrassed apologists who must repackage abortion “rights” to an unreceptive public. When pro-abortion advocates try to moderate their extremist message, it only takes them farther away from what unites them.

In this sense, the pro-life movement’s greatest victory is that it has made abortion a great moral battle. Thus, the pro-abortion movement has so compromised its position that Mr. Saletan claims it

“must ask itself what it has won and what it is fighting for.” In this battle, he who loses is the one who gives up all his principles first. It is a tug-of-war which, like all tug-of-wars, is never won by the one who pulls to the middle but the one who pulls the middle to himself.

### Unmasking “Pro-Choice”

A second way to carry on this struggle beyond pro-life is to extend it to defend moral law as a whole. The pro-life movement is a natural bridge to all other issues involving the moral law. This consists of unmasking the central thesis of “pro-choice” advocates who declare freedom is whatever a person wants to do. They claim every man is the law to himself and thus “freedom” exonerates man from any obedience to God’s commands and His law. Their “pro-choice” mentality has nothing to do with freedom but rather substitutes moral law for limitless license.



**Pope Leo XIII (1878–1903) denounced the false notion of freedom espoused by liberals.**

*Pope Leo XIII says that freedom is the faculty of choosing means fitted for the end proposed by reason. “When [man] acts according to reason, he acts of himself and according to his free will; and this is [freedom].”*

The pro-life position affirms true freedom as so clearly explained in Pope Leo XIII’s encyclical *Libertas* in 1888. Pope Leo XIII denounced those with this “false and absurd notion” of freedom. Rather, he says that freedom is the faculty of choosing means fitted for the end proposed by reason. “When [man] acts according to reason, he acts of himself and according to his free will; and this is [freedom].”<sup>5</sup>

There are, for example, many ways for a man to travel to a given city. His reason may propose many routes and he exercises his freedom by choosing one of them. However, he might also follow his whims and go in the opposite direction and lose his way.

When man chooses error, it is a defect,

not a quality of freedom. Choosing what is perceived as a false good is a defect of the mind and a proof of its imperfection. Choice in this case is a positive formulation of a negative prerogative—a revolt against God’s law.

### Necessity of Law

Because of this, Pope Leo XIII says human freedom necessarily needs light and strength to direct man’s actions to good and to restrain him from evil. Indeed, without guidance, “the freedom of our will would be our ruin.”<sup>6</sup> For this reason, there must be law, “a fixed rule of teaching on what is to be done and what is to be left undone.”<sup>7</sup> Law is the guide of man’s actions based on the “moral necessity of our voluntary acts being in accordance with reason.”<sup>8</sup> Therefore, true freedom in society does not consist in everyone doing what he pleases. This only would end up in turmoil and confusion. Rather, by following the injunctions pre-

scribed by civil law, true freedom helps all to conform more easily to the prescriptions of eternal law. The pontiff concludes, “Nothing more foolish can be uttered or conceived than the notion that, because man is free by nature, he is therefore exempt from law.”<sup>9</sup>

Thus there must be moral law, and since this law is valid for all times and all places—indeed, natural law is written on every man’s soul—it necessarily follows that our pro-life struggle embraces not only abortion but the whole moral law, so well defined by the Church’s traditional teachings.

Thus we can go beyond pro-life by opposing not just abortion but all those issues that involve moral law. This includes social issues like contraception, euthanasia, embryonic stem-cell research, cloning, homosexual “marriage,” free love, divorce

*Going beyond pro-life means killing abortion at its source by engaging in the Cultural War where it permeates all aspects of our lives, be it arts, advertising, music, fashions, entertainment or education.*

and pornography. It includes political issues like communism and socialism. It includes religious issues like blasphemy. *By attacking these issues, we destroy the cultural underpinnings of abortion.*

In taking this position, we form a proper counterpart to those on the other end of the spectrum who unify their position not around death as such, but the elimination of this moral law and the installation of a regime where every man is his own law, a state of affairs, which Pope Leo XIII proves, necessarily ends in tyranny and the Church's suppression.

### Practical Applications

A third way to go beyond pro-life is perhaps the most difficult since it involves defending this moral law in our daily lives. All too often these issues remain just that, things that happen to other people. However, as these issues become more widespread, they soon take on a human face and we are forced to take a position. Thus going beyond pro-life means killing abortion at its source by engaging in the Cultural War where it permeates all aspects of our lives, be it arts, advertising, music, fashions, entertainment or education.

Let us face the fact that if we are really going to be effective against abortion, we must roll back the advances of the sexual revolution of the sixties that paved the way for abortion. We must reject the hypersexualized MTV culture that loses no opportunity to fuel a culture without morals, restraint or meaning.

Going beyond pro-life means making those links no one wants to make, those seemingly innocuous connections that end up destroying our society. It means taking very seriously those blasphemous films that are "fiction" yet attack God Himself. It means rejecting those "innocent" fashions or the "harmless" music that fuels the promiscuity that leads to abortion and so many other woes.

It involves taking a position on those

"normal" things everyone is doing, watching and wearing. The battlefield is not in some faraway theater but the cinema down the road or the media connections that find their way inside our very homes.

It also means encouraging all conservative and healthy reactions that pose obstacles to this process. It means patiently broadening the perspectives of others to see the full extent of this fight.

In other words, it means engaging in a cultural counter-revolution.

### Getting Together

That is why it is essential that people get together to make this resistance easier. We need to form militant Catholics who study the principles of our Catholic Faith and apply them.

We need to find strategic points where we believe the enemy is vulnerable and network with others to be more effective. We need to find people who never dared think about activism and get them involved, as was done against *The Da Vinci Code* in 2,092 theater protests nationwide.

We invite all to defy our neo-pagan culture and to embark on what one of the medieval orders of chivalry called the "most beautiful adventure in the world."

Against seemingly overwhelming odds, we must do all this trusting in Providence, knowing that those who defend God's law can expect His aid. We do this with our eyes upon the Blessed Mother who at Fatima promised us the final victory. ■

### Notes:

1. "Planned Parenthood closes clinic after clinic," December 13, 2006, <http://www.all.org/article.php?id=10890>.
2. "Activists Mark Anniversary of 'Roe vs. Wade' Ruling," January 24, 2007, <http://www.news10.com/Global/story.asp?S=5971009>.
3. Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira, "The Essence of the Revolution." Chap. VII in *Revolution and Counter-Revolution*, [http://www.tfp.org/what\\_we\\_think/rcr\\_book\\_online/rcr\\_part1\\_chap7.html](http://www.tfp.org/what_we_think/rcr_book_online/rcr_part1_chap7.html).
4. William Saletan, *Bearing Right: How Conservatives Won the Abortion War* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2004).
5. Pope Leo XIII, *Libertas*, Encyclical of Pope Leo XIII on the Nature of Human Liberty, ¶ 6, [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/leo\\_xiii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_l-xiii\\_enc\\_20061888\\_libertas\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/leo_xiii/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_20061888_libertas_en.html).
6. Pope Leo XIII, *Libertas*, Encyclical of Pope Leo XIII on the Nature of Human Liberty, ¶ 7, [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/leo\\_xiii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_l-xiii\\_enc\\_20061888\\_libertas\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/leo_xiii/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_20061888_libertas_en.html).
7. *Ibid.*
8. *Ibid.*
9. *Ibid.*



The protest against the blasphemous *Da Vinci Code* movie in front of Sony headquarters in New York City. Going beyond pro-life means defending the moral law in our daily lives and making those links no one wants to make, such as taking films that mock God seriously and rejecting fashions that lead to promiscuity.



# America Needs Fatima®

November/December 2007

PROGRESS REPORT

## Preparing for 2,000 Rosary Rallies

BY GARY ISBELL

*This edition closed on October 2, the Public Square Rosaries Rallies on October 13, so we report on the extensive preparation work.*

God willing, and if all goes according to plan, there will be 2,000 Public Square Rosary Rallies on October 13, 2007, exactly ninety years to the day when the miracle of the sun in Fatima, Portugal occurred.

In a sense, the task of organizing 2,000 Rosary Rallies is a "miracle" of its own. Think about it: At the same time, at noon on October 13, thousands of Catholics will pray public rosaries all across America. This does not just happen. It involves the prayers, hard work and dedicated participation of Catholics in all fifty states.

To the best of our knowledge, nothing this size has ever been carried out before.

John Horvat, head of the TFP web office, said, "The Public Square Rosary Rally web page is getting thousands of visitors. The most popular page is the map that shows where the rallies will be in each state." The TFP web site has free rally resources available online for all those involved in organizing rallies. A how-to manual has all the easy steps to follow. Downloadable banners and posters make it easy to make any rally visible. The idea of the web resource center for the cam-



Staff members and volunteers at America Needs Fatima's office in Rossville, Kan., help make the Public Square Rosary Rallies possible by supporting the Captains and participants with whatever they need. *Below: America Needs Fatima printed and shipped over one thousand 12-foot banners like this to Rosary Rally Captains across the country.*

campaign is to make it possible for anyone anywhere to get involved.

A veritable spiritual army was mobilized, consisting of America Needs Fatima staff members, Fatima Custodians, volunteers, Rally Captains and participants. And perhaps the hardest working



Our Lady of Fatima  
90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Pray with us for America

In 1917, Our Lady appeared at Fatima, Portugal to ask mankind to stop offending God, otherwise He would punish the world. Ninety years later, the offenses multiply: abortion, pornography, sins against nature...

The American TFP - America Needs Fatima - [www.TFP.org](http://www.TFP.org)



TFP

army of all is the staff and volunteers at the national Public Square Rosary Rally office in Rossville, Kan. They enthusiastically dealt with many of the practical problems involved in such a mammoth task. Francis Slobodnik, head of the campaign central office in Kansas, said, "If we had more volunteers, we could have put on 5,000 rallies." Many have the idea that the Rosary Captain's role is a daunting task. While it definitely involves some responsibility, the National Campaign office has made the process much easier.

Over the months leading to the October 13 rallies, the staff and volunteers at the office have made or received over 35,000 phone calls. The calls come from people wanting to join the Public Square Rosary Rally as Rosary Rally Captains or participants, or from others who just want to know what is going on. The regular office staff was boosted by the help from some thirty volunteers who flew to Kansas from California, Florida, Louisiana, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia, and as far away as Ireland. The youngest of the volunteers, Gemma Burnham, from Hazleton, Pa., signed up one "Rally Captain"—an inmate—who was putting on a rally in prison for Our Lady on October 13, which unfortunately could not be in a public square. Another volunteer, Timm Reese, from San Bernardino, Calif., after a few hours on the phone, said, "This is actually fun, and the enthusiasm of the rally participants very inspiring and rewarding."

In a similar way, 2,000 Rosary Captains across America put in long hours to prepare their local rallies. Invitations were printed and passed out. Phone calls were made. Visits to local Catholic groups and parish offices took up time and effort. While many greeted their work with enthusiasm, Captains also faced apathy and indifference, and used improvisation and courage to get people to commit to joining them on October 13. Several Captains are holding not just one but several public rosaries in their communities.

"Because of the great dedication of so

many people, we have surpassed the original goal of 1,000 rallies," said Campaign Director Robert E. Ritchie. "We just need a few more Rosary Captains and we'll reach the 2,000 mark."

May Our Lady of Fatima bless this ef-

fort to wield the great spiritual weapon of the Holy Rosary and to make reparation for all the offenses hurled against the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. ■



A Campus Rosary Crusade at Penn State University at State College, Pa.

## Catholic Students Move Forward

BY JOHN RITCHIE

With renewed enthusiasm, Campus Rosary Crusade volunteers are resolved to continue promoting the recitation of the Holy Rosary this school year. Student rosary leaders are promoting weekly or monthly public rosaries at colleges and universities. Locations include Ave Maria University, California State University, Dominican House of Studies, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Frederick Community College, Institute of World Politics, Lake Superior State University, Louisiana State University, Nassau Community College, George Washington University, Syracuse University, Texas A & M, University of Louisiana, University of Pittsburgh and University of San Diego.

"Believe me, it takes gumption to stand on the quad of a secular university, where God is basically ignored or even rejected, and pray the rosary," said

Matthew Taylor, a Campus Rosary Crusade coordinator from Pennsylvania. "But that's why this spiritual crusade is so important. Higher education is full of pitfalls. It needs prayer and conversion."

Last semester, over twenty Campus Rosary Crusade events were held.

Many brave students have reported that they will move forward and continue spreading devotion to the Holy Rosary on campus, which is a powerful tool to combat the Cultural Revolution and moral relativism infecting academia. More students are expected to join the campaign this school year and TFP Student Action is planning a new activity: presentations about the Fatima message on several campuses. ■

**To join the Campus Rosary Crusade, contact [studentaction@TFP.org](mailto:studentaction@TFP.org).**



## Our Clergy Writes...



### Cardinals and Bishops Write to Encourage the Public Square Rosary Rallies



I am delighted to learn that the May, June, and July Rosary Rallies, coordinated by the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property and aimed at bringing as many people as possible back to the Church, have been so successful. Please extend my gratitude and prayerful best wishes to the volunteers and participants in these Rosary Rallies for, in seeking to bring home to the Church fallen-away Catholics, they are truly doing the Lord's work.

*Cardinal Edward Egan  
Archbishop of New York City, N.Y.*



I extend the assurance of my prayers and my solidarity to all those participating in Rosary Rallies across the nation on October 13 of this year, sponsored by the American Society for Defense of Tradition, Family and Property.

Please convey to the participants my encouragement as they undertake this public witness to their faith in Jesus Christ and their love and devotion to his Holy Mother. It is my prayer that this witness be a means of inculcating a true spirit of repentance and conversion in the hearts of all who participate.

*Cardinal Justin Rigali  
Archbishop of Philadelphia, Pa.*



May the blessing of our Blessed Mother be with you all in a very special way this October 13 as you hold Public Rosary Rallies on the ninetieth anniversary of the Fatima miracle of the sun. These rallies to be held across the nation for our citizens will be a powerful example to Catholics and non-Catholics alike. May the inspiration of your commitment to Fatima lead many to our Lord. I commend you for your strong support of Fatima.

*Most Reverend Elden Francis Curtiss  
Archbishop of Omaha, Neb.*



In these days of rampant secularization and materialism, it is so very important that we pray for

America and encourage others to do the same. I commend all of those who are participating in this movement for taking a bold and necessary step in behalf of evangelization. May God, through the intercession of Our Lady, bring much fruit from this major effort.

*Most Reverend Dale J. Melczek  
Bishop of Gary, Ind.*



You, your society and all the dedicated rosary volunteers are to be commended for all you do to share the public witness of our Catholic faith. May God continue to bless you, your ministry and your efforts.

*Most Reverend Robert W. Muench  
Bishop of Baton Rouge, La.*



I write to support your wonderful efforts in preparation for the celebration of the ninetieth anniversary of the Fatima miracle of the sun.

Significant in this preparation is the distribution of more than 100,000 Fatima Anniversary Rosaries. This is a marvelous achievement and I understand that you are continuing in this great work.

I salute you and the volunteers in this testimony of faith. Our diocesan pilgrimage honoring this Anniversary of Fatima will be held in October at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. I assure you of a special prayer for your Campaign. I ask to be remembered in yours.

*Most Reverend Michael A. Saltarelli  
Bishop of Wilmington, Del.*

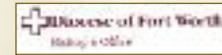


I extend to TFP's rosary volunteers my gratitude and admiration for the work that they are doing on behalf of the Church inviting fallen-away Catholics to return to the practice of their faith.

I know that the Rosary Rallies are very pleasing to God and Our Blessed Mother, and will be effective in encouraging many people to realize the need

for faith, hope and love in their lives.

*Most Reverend Francis A. Quinn  
Bishop Emeritus of Sacramento, Calif.*



For centuries, from the time of Saint Do-

minic and even before, the rosary has shown itself over the years to be a valuable means of contemplation of the life, public ministry, death and Resurrection of Our Lord. Certainly many prayers have been answered, and countless blessings and much strength has been given to those who ask the Mother of Our Lord for her prayers and intercession.

God bless you always and thanks.

*Most Reverend Kevin W. Vann, JCD, DD  
Bishop of Fort Worth, Tex.*



Please tell the rosary volunteers that they are doing

a very good job showing their faith to the many people who will see them standing in public places.

It is a wonderful thing to know that so many students are also willing to volunteer to hand out rosaries to people wanting to know about the Catholic Church.

Please let them know that they have my support and I will remember them in my prayers as they continue to do the Lord's work.

*Most Reverend Gustavo Garcia-Siller,  
M.Sp.S., Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, Ill.*



Please know of my prayers as you plan a series of Rosary Rallies to commemorate the ninetieth anniversary of the Fatima miracle of the sun.

Ninety years ago, the message of Fatima was one of hope at the beginning of a century that seemed to have lost hope. The serial holocausts of the twentieth century were symptomatic of this loss of hope among people who had closed themselves to transcendence: that a loving God created them more than just to die.

At Fatima, Mary points to the source of all hope, the hope that does not disappoint: namely, her Son, Jesus Christ. Our world is seemingly paralyzed by fear of weapons of mass destruction—from the poison gas of WWI trenches, to the satu-

ration bombing and atomic weapons of WWII, and potential biological weapons in the hands of terrorists. To this world, Mary offers a weapon of mass conversion: the Holy Rosary.

Today, ninetieth years after Fatima, Mary's appeal for prayer is more urgent than ever. May God bless this effort to witness to this powerful prayer this October 13 and may these prayers deliver us from all anxiety and bring us peace.

*Most Reverend Thomas Wenski  
Bishop of Orlando, Fla.*



I wish also to thank and personally commend all the dedicated and hardworking rosary volunteers who devote time and energy in their public witness to the faith. It was most interesting to learn of the previous rallies

that were held in May, June and July on the college campuses and the students' enthusiasm. It is heartwarming and encouraging to know that so many are seeking to strengthen their faith through the rosary.

Please know my thoughts and prayers will be with all those participating in the public rallies on October 13. Thank you for the gift of the special rosary commemorating the ninetieth anniversary of the Fatima miracle of the sun! Your efforts on behalf of the Public Rosary Rallies are greatly appreciated. May God continue to bless you and all those involved with this very special ministry to spread the public recitation of the rosary.

*Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski  
Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore, Md.  
Eastern Vicariate*



I write to acknowledge receipt of your recent letter of August 3, 2007, in which you inform me of the wonderful witness that so many Rosary Rally Captains are giving through their leading the public recitation of the rosary for our country.

I would ask you to extend to them my sincerest appreciation for their remarkable expression of faith in the power of Our Lady's intercession. I shall keep them and their efforts in my prayers. I also extend to them my blessing!

*Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishops of Worcester, Mass.*

*As this issue closes, we continue to receive many letters from our bishops. We are profoundly grateful for their encouragement.*

## Public Square Rosary Rally Captains Write...



✉ Every so often I receive confirmation from Our Lady by getting ideas and from reading books. From a book I read, our first bishop of the United States, Bishop John Carroll, has this to say about public demonstration of religion: "For when it pleased God to institute a religion here on earth he surely did not intend that it should remain hidden in darkness and sequestered from the eyes of mankind. . . . For this purpose were ordained the public ceremonies of religion; . . . If then we purpose merely to confine ourselves to a pretended religion of the heart, without drawing any outward appearances of it, we betray a disposition so severely condemned by Jesus Christ in these remarkable words (Luke 9:26). . . . But if on the other hand, this outward worship begins to be neglected, all languishes with it."

Keep up your good work of coordinating such a tremendous project. God is pleased with your heroic efforts.

*Sister S.K., Williamsport, Pa.*

✉ I have been a pro-life and chastity activist for several years and have noticed that when we hold our large signs at busy freeway intersections, we get a lot of traffic at the light reading our signs. I men-

tion this to you as a possible suggestion to other Rosary Captains as a way to reach large amounts of people in praying the rosary with the TFP Fatima banner. I am also willing to help initiate other Rosary Rallies before and after October 13, and pray that others will be passionate about praying public rosaries in this way too.

In his book, *The Secret of the Rosary*, Saint Louis de Montfort lists many benefits of praying the rosary with others. He mentions, "Public prayer is far more powerful than private prayer to appease the anger of God and call down His Mercy, and Holy Mother Church, guided by the Holy Ghost, has always advocated public prayer in times of public tragedy and suffering"

The saint adds, "Somebody who says his rosary alone only gains the merit of one rosary, but if he says it together with thirty other people he gains the merit of thirty rosaries. This is the law of public prayer. How profitable, how advantageous it is!"

*R.W., Yuba City, Calif.*

✉ So far my efforts have been easy. The materials and guides you have prepared have made the rally effortless. With everything I have accomplished to date, I have felt Our Lady's guiding hand. The

businesses I have requested help from were waiting for me as if someone told them I was coming.

I am now contacting newspapers, churches, and am inviting the bishop to attend. There is a professional photographer to take pictures. A professional musician with sound system, and volunteers for every task needed to make this a go. Now I need the people to respond to Mary's call. Thanks for your organization and help.

*B.K., Via e-mail*

✉ I am your Rosary Captain for West Hempstead, N.Y., and we just had a Public Square Rosary on August 19 at Hall's Pond Park. We had a statue of Our Lady of Fatima along with your banner and other banners we had made for Our Lady of Fatima. We had a turnout of about thirty people who were excited and happy to be there. We performed a procession, sang hymns to Our Lady, and said the rosary and the litany.

Everyone loved it and is asking for more. They look forward to the Rally on October 13. We honored Our Lady, asked for the conversion of sinners, and asked

*Continued on page 17...*



# Taking More Than Just Petitions to Fatima

BY DANIEL PRIBBLE

Throughout the year, Custodians for the pilgrim statues of Our Lady of Fatima make home visits where they ask those who attend the presentations to write down their prayer petitions to be taken to Fatima. These petitions are then personally taken there.

With this in mind, on July 17, 2007, my fellow Fatima Custodian Michael Chad Shibler and I embarked on a trip laden with petitions gathered from the America Needs Fatima home visits. As prom-

ised, we also brought the twenty-foot Prayer Banner, which was made up of thousands of small pieces of blue cloth where ANF members wrote their names and intentions, to Fatima.

However, the trip was more than just a mere delivery. It was a true pilgrimage with stops and difficulties along the way. One cannot just visit Fatima and leave—one must make one's way there.

Our arrival was at Lisbon, Portugal, where we visited the Monastery of the

Jeronimos and the Tower of Belem. The tower overlooks the bay at the edge of Lisbon, and it was impressive to think that it was the last sight of civilization for Portuguese explorers embarking for distant lands.

On our way to Fatima, we traveled the back roads and stopped at the medieval walled city of Obidos where we were fortunate enough to ar-

rive during a beautiful medieval festival. The beautiful clothes, medieval plays and food made us feel like medieval pilgrims in this small city that has changed so little since then.

Continuing our journey north, we stopped at Alcobaca, the first Cistercian monastery outside of France. Legend has it that the monastery was made for 1000 monks, but never held more than 999. One room was always reserved for Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally we arrived at Fatima, one of the most visited Catholic shrines in the world. It is a blessed shrine, and we could not stop thinking of how the Mother of God transmitted her message and solution for our times just feet from where we were standing and praying. Carrying our petitions and the Prayer Banner, the guards allowed us to leave them as close

as possible to the place where Our Lady appeared.

Fatima was not the only place where we had the opportunity to pray. Our pilgrimage later took us to other Marian shrines. We visited Covadonga, a small cave where the great Spanish general, Don Pelayo, with the help of Our Lady, led a small band of Catholics to victory over the invading Moors (*Editor's note: Please see the July/August issue of Crusade*).

From Covadonga, we took a bit of the pilgrim's path to the famous shrine of Santiago de Compostela. As Saint James would have it, we arrived there on July 24, the day before his feast day, one of the most important Catholic feasts in Spain. The city was filled with people and clergy. The festivities, which included Solemn Vespers and a fireworks display, provided a fitting end to a long pilgrimage where we prayed for the intentions of so many America Needs Fatima friends and supporters. ■

**Below:** Daniel Pribble and ANF Director Robert Ritchie stand beside the twenty-foot Prayer Banner that was taken to Fatima on behalf of ANF members.

**Right:** Thousands of prayer petitions collected at ANF home visitation programs were delivered as close as possible to the actual spot where Our Lady of Fatima appeared.



## Roses to Fatima for Rally Captains

BY ROBERT RITCHIE

On October 13, 2007, up to two thousand roses will be placed at Our Lady of Fatima's shrine in Portugal in the name of each Rosary Rally Captain. The roses represent the Public Square Rosary Rally Captains' time and effort in leading a rosary in public at noon on October 13, 2007, the ninetieth anniversary of the Fatima miracle of the sun. Two thousand roses—what a beautiful bouquet for Our Lady from her dedicated American Rosary Rally Captains! ■

# It Is Definitely Blasphemy, and Certainly Not Art

BY MICHAEL WHITCRAFT

Blasphemy is often excused by calling it “art.” However, this sophism cannot be used to justify a low-budget comedy called *The Ten* that debuted on August 3, 2007. There is simply no way this film can be considered as art or anything other than a perverse attack against God’s law.

The film is made up of ten short skits that portray the breaking of one of the Ten Commandments, which is particularly distasteful for the majority of Americans who consider the Decalogue sacred.

Predictably, the film is grossly immoral. In the film’s worst skit, a 36-year-old “virgin” goes to Mexico and has an affair with “Our Lord” who is present for the Second Coming. Another scene reportedly has prisoners telling a story of “brutal sexual abuse.” Needless to say, the movie is rife with this type of puerile and disgusting blasphemy.

“What I find surprising about reports I have read on the film,” said TFP Webmaster John Horvat, “is its utter lack of intellectual content. It is literally made up of filthy jokes a naughty elementary school student might have penned.”

*Is making filthy jokes at Our Lord Jesus Christ’s expense supposed to be funny?* To mock the Ten Commandments of God’s law is bad enough, but portraying the sacred person of Our Lord Jesus Christ deflowering a woman is even worse.

This offense must be answered. *Our Lord’s honor demands it.* That is why the American TFP’s web site asked all its readers to send an instant e-protest to theaters featuring the film on opening day. America Needs Fatima also mailed 85,000 of its members protest postcards to send to THINKFilm, the movie’s distributor, and to Cinemark USA and to Landmark Theatres. ■

## 2008 Fatima Calendar Sent to 142,000 Homes

BY KEITH DOUET

America Needs Fatima finds ways every year to bring Our Lady into homes across America, and one of the most popular ways to bring Our Lady into homes has been our Fatima calendar, which presents beautiful Marian pictures for every month of the year and provides the Church’s feast days.

This year, the 2008 calendar has already been shipped to more than 142,000 members across America. Order a copy today for your family and friends! They make wonderful Christmas gifts. (See inside front cover for more details.)

**Call (888) 317-5571 to order your calendar!**

## The Rosary—Linking this Life and the Next

BY REX TEODOSIO

Recently, I took the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to a house in Indianapolis, Ind., whose owner had lost his wife three weeks prior. The day after her death, he received America Needs Fatima’s Ninetieth Anniversary Rosary in the mail. He was deeply moved and took it as a message from his wife who was a rosary devotee. So when, a few days later, an invitation for a Fatima presentation arrived, again he saw his wife’s touch. He scheduled the visit and also invited his late wife’s friends.

At the Fatima presentation, because several attendees were non-Catholics, I tailored my talk accordingly, explaining

Our Lady, her message and the rosary in detail. When time came for the recitation of the rosary, not wishing to pressure the non-Catholics to join in, I called for a five-minute break. When we reconvened, I was surprised to see everyone back in their seats. As I offered free rosaries, I was again surprised as all but one requested a rosary. We prayed the rosary slowly to accommodate those who were saying the “Hail Mary” for the first time in their lives.

Finally, in gratitude to the host, I presented him with a poster of Our Lady of



The author with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

Fatima. As I unrolled the beautiful picture before him, he burst into tears, as Mary’s gaze reminded him of

his wife. He explained that in his wife’s last years of life, she insisted that he pray the rosary with her every day, to which he almost always acquiesced.

That day, as he watched the participants pray the rosary in his living room, he was convinced that, from eternity, his wife continues to ask him to do the same. ■



*Continued from page 14...*

for her Immaculate Heart to triumph. Most people felt a great joy and peace. It was wonderful.

*R.H., West Hempstead, N.Y.*

✉ We have organized [a Public Rosary] in a park on September 8, our Blessed Mother's birthday. We have sent out the invitations. I am also leaving the invitations in churches and distributing them to friends and members of Legion of Mary groups who are going door to door to invite people. I am also going to organize smaller groups and say the rosary so that we can be a part of our Blessed Mother's triumph. Please pray for our success. Please also pray for my family, we are going through a very difficult period.

I have faith that our Blessed Mother will hear my prayers. God Bless you all. Our Blessed Mother is my life and my beacon.

*J.A., Ashburn, Va.*

✉ We said the Joyful and Glorious Mysteries for the safety of our troops with side intentions to bring two born-again preachers back to the true Church and for the faith and strength of our Catholic troops who are targeted by evangelical preachers. We had several people reading our sign as they drove and walked by. It was a peaceful event even if it was hot. At the end of our rosary I said we would offer up not only our prayers but also our suffering as well to protect our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

*E.A., Lancaster, Pa.*

✉ Thank you for your encouragement. I submitted my application to City Hall today. After I waited in the woman's empty office I went looking for her through out the building. Sure enough, I found her.

I am determined to see this thing through. Once I get the permit, I will begin advertising. I am probably the worst person in the world to be doing this. I just moved to town and don't know anyone. I have never organized anything like this in my entire life and never thought I would. But this country is on the wrong track and when I saw on the ANF web site that there was no rally in Rochester, I made up my mind and signed up. This country needs prayer.

*J.C., Via e-mail*



America Needs Fatima holds Family Days for members and friends. *From left to right:* a Brazilian style barbecue by Roger Vargas and Frederico Hosanan; Robert Ritchie's talk in Hazleton, Pa.; children watch a puppet show; and Mr. Douglas Hiegert narrates in period costume.

## America Needs Fatima Family Days

BY ANTHONY MILLER

On June 10, 2007, in Hazleton, Pa., and on September 15, 2007, in Topeka, Kan., America Needs Fatima members joined like-minded Catholics for talks, plays, a hayride, a barbecue and a roasted pig. But as always, it is not so much the activities or even the food that keeps hundreds of people coming back to these annual events. What keeps ANF members coming back is

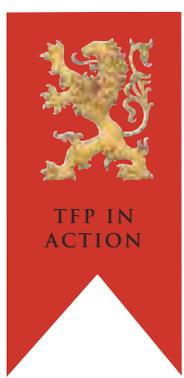
the idea of meeting people who think alike, who hope and pray that one day America will be a God-fearing country; an America that rejects the perverse ways of our century and becomes a keystone for the Reign of Mary foreseen by Our Lady of Fatima when she promised the triumph of her Immaculate Heart. ■

## On Pilgrimage from the New World to the Old

BY BENJAMIN HIEGERT

In the final week of July, the miraculous statue of Our Lady of Fatima, which shed tears in New Orleans in 1972, once again visited the American TFP and America Needs Fatima's national headquarters in Spring Grove, Pa.

The visit was short since the statue was to preside over the Seventh International Student Summer Conference in Gaming, Austria. The Austrian and French TFPs hosted this event, and 130 people attended this year's conference. Attendees from each country spent one night in a vigil with the miraculous statue. At the Conference's closing banquet, she was processed solemnly, to the sound of Marian hymns sung in each country's language, to the car that took her to the airport. She was flying to Lithuania, a country that suffered so much from the errors of Russia, for her three-week pilgrimage. ■



## The First Summer Camp in Ireland

BY RORY O'HANLON

The Irish Society for Christian Civilization's first summer camp included visits to abbeys and castles, informative talks, games and daily devotions such as the rosary.

The Irish Society for a Christian Civilization had its first summer camp for boys on July 13–19, 2007 at the beautiful Cistercian abbey of Mount St. Joseph in County Tipperary. The summer camp was inspired by similar camps held by the Brazilian, English and American TFPs.

The camp's busy schedule included daily Mass and Benediction, recitation of the rosary, lectures, outings and games.

### Interesting Lectures

The boys showed a lively interest in the lectures, which ranged from "The Ninetieth Anniversary of the Apparitions at Fatima" to "Father Edgeworth: Irish Noble

and Sainly Priest—Opponent of the French Revolution" to "The True Physiognomy of the Saints."

### Outings and Historic Visits

The group visited Roscrea Castle; Cahir Castle; the Rock of Cashel; Mount St. Joseph's Abbey, where the camp's participants learned about monastic life; and Holy Cross Abbey, where everyone venerated and were blessed with a relic of the True Cross that is kept there.

### Forming Catholic Men

The entire camp strove to instill the qualities of pageantry, chivalry and idealism in the boys; teach them the importance

of the decisions they make and the actions they take in life; and show that they can influence others and the course of history for good or bad, depending on whether they remain faithful to the Church. The lectures and outings brought this idea to life, with historic examples of men who left their historic mark.

On the last evening, there was a large banquet attended by course participants and family members, who were delighted with the fruits of the summer camp. After the meal, the official program ended with a rosary procession through the grounds of Mount St. Joseph and a Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. ■

## Lending a Hand Across the Atlantic

BY RICHARD LYON

For two weeks in June 2007, a group of dedicated young men braved the streets of London, England for several hours a day to offer spiritual truths and relief to passersby encumbered by predominantly materialistic concerns. The group, which included an American contingent from St. Louis de Montfort Academy and the Sedes Sapientiae Institute, braved London traffic as they distributed Britain Needs Fatima's leaflets promoting the message of Our Lady of Fatima at King's Cross, Oxford Circus, Sloane Square and Westminster Cathedral.

These young men were impressed by

the cordiality of most Londoners and they were dismayed by their irreligious attitude. Many said, "I am not religious" or "God is not part of my life." These young men were also surprised at the number of Muslims in London, and frequently a Muslim in Western dress, intrigued by the name "Fatima," stopped and chatted.

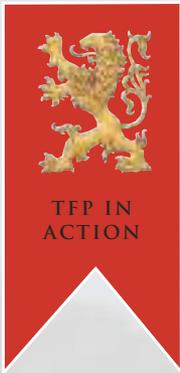
The group also took time off to see the Tower of London, Chelsea, and Hampton Court. In the evenings at their somewhat cramped accommodations outside London (some slept in a tent erected in the backyard), there were animated conver-



On a busy London sidewalk, Thomas Schneider distributes fliers offering a DVD (left) on the message of Our Lady of Fatima.

sations recounting the day's episodes—the arguments, ridicule or occasional compliment—with the same camaraderie that soldiers recall the day's exploits after a battle.

Having distributed more than 26,000 leaflets over the two weeks' period, these young men are confident that Our Blessed Mother will certainly bless their efforts. ■



# At a Summer University Course: *Learning to Brave the Storms of History*

BY JOHN HORVAT II



Nestled in the foothills of the Austrian Alps stands the historic fourteenth-century Carthusian Charterhouse in Gaming, Austria. Since medieval times, the Charterhouse has weathered the storms of history, so it was a fitting site for the Seventh International Student Summer Conference hosted by the Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) organizations in Austria and France from July 29 to August 3, 2007.

## Program of Talks and Studies

The Conference's program consisted of well-prepared talks, simultaneously translated into seven languages, based on the historic perspective of the book *Revolution and Counter-Revolution* by Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira.

Speakers from several TFPs and other esteemed guests delivered timely talks around the central theme of the Church's militancy in temporal society in the face of its enemies. They focused on Islam, Protestantism, the French Revolution and the Communist Revolution.

However, the conference was not limited to just history. The Cultural War was also analyzed and participants were invited to apply the lessons of history today.

Professor Roberto de Mattei, president of the Rome-based Centro Culturale Lepanto, qualified this application as a veritable modern crusade, and called Professor Corrêa de Oliveira the crusader of the twentieth century.

José Antonio Ureta's talk, "The Moral Profile of a Counter-Revolutionary," stressed a Catholic spirituality based on Abbot Jean-Baptiste Chautard's *The Soul of the Apostolate* as the secret to truly effective action. Another talk stressed the Blessed Mother's importance in this great struggle for Christian civilization.

As an example of counter-revolutionary action, American TFP members gave a special presentation on its Public Square Rosary Campaign, which aims to organize 2,000 public rosary rallies nationwide on October 13, 2007, the ninetieth anniversary of Fatima's miracle of the sun.

Throughout the course, study workshops were scheduled where participants re-

viewed the talks, asked questions, discussed matters in depth, mixed and formed friendships. Americans, Austrians, Brazilians, English, Germans, Italians, Polish and so many others met in Catholic fellowship around a single ideal—the restoration of Christian civilization.

## Catholic Atmosphere

The Conference represents an excellent initiative on the part of the European TFP organizations. Superb organization and coordination ensured that all could concentrate on the matters at hand, and the decoration and attention to detail created a truly Catholic atmosphere.

Amid the joy of being together at such a site, the final banquet held at the ornate

Prelate's Hall reminded attendants of the Conference's purpose. The attendants were invited to develop a counter-revolutionary camaraderie to combat the tragic background of the crisis inside the Church and society, and were reminded that with the Cultural War raging there is no one who is not involved. As

Duke Paul of Oldenburg, Germany, noted so well in the closing remarks, participants were asked not only to marvel at these ruins, but also to make of their restoration the future. ■

**Right top:** Bishop Juan Rodolfo Laise, bishop emeritus of San Luis, Argentina, enrolls a conference participant in the brown scapular. **Right:** Professor Roberto de Mattei gave a talk that applied history's lessons to today's modern crusade. **Below:** Aspects of the six-day conference. **From left to right:** A procession with the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue, a group photo, morning singing of the Creed, a talk and one of the lively meals.

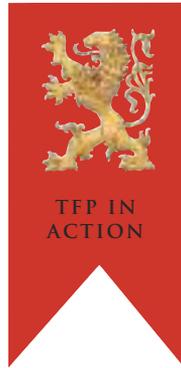


# TFP Call to Chivalry Camp:

*Where Boys Become Catholic Gentlemen*

BY NOAH SOLOMON

In his book *The Broad-Stone of Honour*, Kenelm Henry Digby offers the following definition of chivalry: "Chivalry is only a name for that general spirit or state of mind which disposes men to heroic actions, and keeps them conversant with all that is beautiful and sublime in the intellectual and moral world." But chivalry is also a code to live by, and by



presenting traditional masculine Catholic virtues as living principles, the Call to Chivalry Camp, held at the St. Louis de Montfort Academy from August 9 to August 19, 2007, molded a group of boys into crusader knights.

The theme of this year's Call to Chivalry Camp was "Don Pelayo and the Reconquest of Spain." Stories of battles and saints were presented as role models defending the Faith heroically. The program created an environment where boys learned how to be Catholic gentlemen. As one participant noted, "There is no doubt what kind of environment this is . . . It's Catholic."

There was a healthy mixture of sport and leisure. Participants went to Round-top Mountain for low- and high-ropes courses consisting of challenging tasks that helped groups to focus on communication, trust and cooperation. There was a rock-climbing wall, wire-rope bridges, and

other obstacles navigable only with the help of licensed instructors and other team members who controlled the safety ropes. Such activities were a tremendous confidence booster.

Fencing instructor Mr. Roark Mitzell taught classes in medieval swordsmanship and armor. Paintball games fostered competition and teamwork. All of these activities prepared the

participants to take their faith into the world and confidently battle the forces of evil in their daily lives.

The feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary fell during camp. Since this is a very special day, the day was marked not only with a Mass, but also with a great culinary feast. A traditional Spanish dish called paella, normally served on Sundays and great feast days, was cooked over an outdoor fire and served with much fanfare. This first-class feast of the liturgical year became a social reality and a great conviviality ensued.

Traditions forgotten by the post-modern world were all harnessed to create an experience where boys were free to express their faith without pressures emanating from the prevailing neo-pagan culture that surrounds us daily. Absent was the mundane; ever present was the divine. Catholic order was established



From top to bottom: TFP members in ceremonial habit escort the statue of Our Lady of Fatima; crossing a wire-bridge course; the rosary procession; the paella dinner celebrating the Spanish Catholic heroes of history.

and each boy quickly was able to find himself within this context. ■

## Watch Out for Communist China

BY MATTHEW TAYLOR

Americans have good reason to distrust China. The recent reports of tainted Chinese produce and toxic toys exported into America remind us of a larger problem: China is still under communist rule and its people suffer brutal oppression, continued forced abortions, religious persecution and human-rights violations.

TFP Student Action members alerted Penn State university students about the China scandals by distributing leaflets titled "Warning: Made in China" all over campus.

Students received the information eagerly and questioned whether unrestricted trade with China will come back to haunt America. "Aren't we feeding a communist giant?" was a sentiment shared by many students concerned with America's relations with China.

To help China see the light, and at the cusp of the ninetieth anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima, TFP Student Action volunteers have incorporated more prayer into their campus activities. Through Our Lady's intercession, we pray that Amer-



St. Louis de Montfort Academy senior Thomas Appleby helps conduct surveys about the China issue with students at Penn State University in State College, Pa.

ica protests the errors of Communism in China and that China repent and atone for the many years of brutality meted out there. ■

# The Intervention of Our Lady in History

BY JEREMIAS WELLS

Just as in our daily lives we should always be cognizant of the presence of God, so in our analysis of historical events we should always keep in mind the power and intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary over the sweep of history. In this series of studies titled *Revolution and Counter-Revolution in History*, we have recounted the decline in Western Civilization from the point where all human relations, institutions and even governments were permeated by the doctrines of the Church to our present situation that suffers under the influence of immorality, gross errors and atheism. Before we switch from the Western Hemisphere back to the European theater of operations, we should take the opportunity to illustrate Our Lady's influence on historical events that is often sadly neglected.

## Postscript to Cortes

Cortes had performed a prodigious military feat in subduing millions of Indians with only a few hundred soldiers and bringing Western Civilization to the American shores, but that alone would not have converted the Indians. After the intrepid commander had demolished the blood-soaked temples, he led an expedition to Honduras. Upon his return to Mexico City, he found political difficulties that required him to sail to Spain in 1528 and seek an audience with King Charles of Spain.

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Numerous missionaries arrived in Mexico to open churches, schools and hospitals, but few Indians converted as paganism had struck deep roots in their soul. Moreover, the harsh treatment handed out by the earlier Spanish officials had turned them into a hostile, suspicious group. In order to heal the wounds of oppression, King Charles sent Bishop Zumarraga, a Franciscan prior, to protect the Indians from the insensitive officials who were subsequently recalled. But the damage was done and Zumarraga realized that a general uprising was imminent that would wipe out the Spanish presence in Central America. To avert the violent uprising, the kindly bishop prayed earnestly to Our Lady and asked her to send some Castilian roses as a sign that his prayers had been heard.

In one of the most momentous events in all history, the Mother of God came down from Heaven and appeared to a humble Aztec peasant, Juan Diego, on a barren hill a few miles outside Mexico City. She identified herself by a word in Nahuatl, the Aztec language, as "She who crushes the serpent," indicating that as the Immaculate Conception she will triumph over both the devil (Gen. 3:15) and one of the most terrible of all the Indian gods. Further corroboration is assured when one considers that the first apparition occurred on December 9, then the

feast day of the Immaculate Conception.

She asked Juan Diego to go to Bishop Zumarraga and request that a church be built at the location of the first three visitations. Although he responded courteously, he showed some skepticism. His failure at the bishop's palace and the imminent death of his beloved uncle threw Juan Diego into a state of confusion. When Our Lady appeared on December 12 to the Aztec peasant, this time at the bottom of the hill, she gave him the same message that she has been giving to her grieving children since that day: that she



The miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, an estimated nine million Central American Indians converted.



**The Battle of Lepanto (1571).** As the galleys of the Christian fleet sailed to meet the followers of Mohammed, Mass and the Holy Rosary were said daily on each ship. After the momentous victory, Pope Saint Pius V (inset) added the invocation "Help of Christians" to the Litany of Loreto, and the Church instituted October 7 as feast of the Holy Rosary.

their ophthalmoscopes revealed the reflection of two other figures that were present in the bishop's residence at the time of the miracle.

The ongoing combat between Our Lady and those who possess an unquenchable hatred for her and her influence reached a climax in 1921. A powerful time bomb placed by revolutionaries exploded just beneath the Sacred Image on the main altar of the Basilica of Guadalupe that ripped out huge chunks of marble and masonry. The heavy bronze altar cross was severely bent, yet the image of Our Blessed Mother was completely untouched. Moreover, the protective thin glass plate was not even scratched.

We are certainly implying a connection between Our Lady's mediation in the conversion of the Aztecs from depraved human sacrificers and the necessity of her help in destroying today's human sacrifice in abortion and immoral perversions and excesses. We can also make another connection between Our Lady of Guadalupe and her intercession at the Battle of Lepanto.

### **Our Lady at Lepanto**

When Saint Pius V ascended to Saint Peter's throne, Christendom faced perils perhaps unequaled in its history of continual conflict, not the least of which came from the agitated and violent followers of Mohammed. All the information and intelligence that Pope Pius V had been gathering indicated that the Ottoman juggernaut was about to roll across the Mediterranean and adjacent lands, spearheaded by the Turkish fleet, with Italy and Rome as one of its targets.

nine million after a few years.

Our Lady offered so many miraculous proofs of her loving guidance through the trials of this life that we only have space to recount a few. The cloak was woven from the hard fibers of the maguey cactus plant that normally has a life span of about twenty years before it decays. Over the years the fabric and image have been exposed to an exceptionally damp climate, incense and smoke from burning wax candles. Yet the fragile material and the delicate but rich coloration have withstood all the corrosive effects and millions of hands that have touched it. Also the lifelike expression of loving tenderness has remained undiminished.

Over the last few decades numerous scientists have examined the cloak or *tilma* and they have found that the image was produced by *no known earthly substance*, no paint, no printing materials, nothing. Its cause and existence is purely supernatural. One scientist using a powerful magnifying glass noticed that the face and shoulders of Juan Diego appeared in the pupil of the right eye. Further examination by two eye doctors with

is the Mother of Mercy, of Life and of Hope to all who follow the teachings of her Son and have confidence in her powerful intercession.

To give credence to this loving power, the Blessed Virgin performed one of the most illustrious miracles in her wondrous repertoire that resonates across the world to this day. Following Our Lady's instruction, Juan Diego climbed the hill known as Tepeyac to the location of the original apparitions where he found a field of brilliant, fragrant flowers including Castilian roses growing in frozen, rocky soil. He carefully gathered a bundle of the flowers in his cloak, which he used as an apron by holding the bottom to his chest, and went off to the bishop.

After he had been brought into the presence of the bishop, Juan Diego showed him the magnificent flowers. The prelate immediately fell to his knees and looked upon him with astounding amazement, for he saw imprinted on Juan Diego's cloak an image of Our Lady as she had appeared that day. Bishop Zumarraga built a chapel to house the image with an adjoining room for Juan Diego at the miraculous site that, significantly, had been previously occupied by a pagan temple destroyed by Cortes. The miraculous circumstances and the inexplicable, powerful attraction of Our Lady's image drew thousands of Aztecs to the shrine. Already converted in their hearts when they left, the pilgrims sought out missionaries for baptism, which brought about an avalanche of conversions across Central America, estimated to be about

*Pope Pius V, a Dominican prelate before his elevation, did what Catholics have always done in times of acute danger: fly into the arms of the most powerful Mother of God. As a follower of Saint Dominic, he knew the most effective means of imploring her help was through the recitation of the Holy Rosary.*

No nation could stand up to the marauding infidels and the candidates for an alliance were few. Northern Europe had risen up in armed rebellion against the Church with France deeply involved in the conflict. The Ottoman Empire felt that neutrality was the best policy after the Turks occupied a large chunk of its land in the Danube River Valley.

Only Spain and Venice had the resources to resist, and they hated each other along with deep mistrust. Yet Saint Pius—calling down divine grace as only a man of prayer could—forged an alliance with them as the core of an organized fleet of over 200 galleys. With his considerable tact and diplomatic skills, he not only kept them unified, but he convinced them to attack the enveloping menace. The details of the battle have been told previously (*Crusade*, July/Aug., 2005, chapter XV). Here we are only concerned with the influence of the supernatural element in the historical process.

The Archbishop of Mexico had an exact copy of the Holy Image of Guadalupe sent to King Philip II, who in turn gave it to Andrea Doria, one of the three principal admirals of the fleet, who placed it in his cabin. When the Armada went from file to line abreast and attacked on the morning of October 7, the blue standard of Our Lady of Guadalupe was also flying from the masthead of Don Juan's flagship. But Our Lady's presence that day was more acutely felt through the Holy Rosary.

### **Our Lady of the Rosary**

Pope Pius V, a Dominican prelate before his elevation, did what Catholics have always done in times of acute danger: fly into the arms of the most powerful Mother of God. As a follower of Saint Dominic, he knew the most effective means of imploring her help was through the recitation of the Holy Rosary. He ordered all monasteries and convents in Rome to increase their prayers for the impending battle and organized rosary processions in which he, as sick as he was, participated.

As the Christian fleet sailed toward the great clash of cultures, Mass was celebrated and the rosary recited daily on each vessel. This heartfelt request for divine assistance resulted in a crushing defeat of the Ottomans at Lepanto that ended their dominance in the Mediterranean.

To celebrate Our Lady's intercession, the Church has designated October 7 as the Feast of the Holy Rosary and Saint Pius V added Help of Christians (*Auxilium Christianorum*) to the Litany of Our Lady (Loreto). Similar acknowledge-

*Our Lady will intervene  
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down the wrath of God on  
those who refuse to pray,  
make sacrifices and stop  
offending Him.*

ment to the Blessed Virgin's intercession through the rosary were made when John Sobieski forced the Turks to lift the Siege of Vienna in 1683 and after the victory of Prince Eugene of Savoy at Temesvar in his successful campaign to remove the Ottomans from Europe in the next century.

While the din of battle gradually diminished at the bloody waters off Lepanto, Saint Pius V was going over accounts in the papal apartments with Bartolo Busotti, his treasurer. Suddenly, he arose with his face radiant with joy and announced, "Let us go and thank God, for this moment our fleet has defeated the Turks." Human agency brought news to Rome two weeks later.

Some may object to the historical paradigm, not that it is inappropriate, but that it happened a long time ago. Yet, the



**As Our Lady predicted in Fatima, Portugal, she will intervene again in history as she did in Mexico and at Lepanto.**

Blessed Virgin made another historical visit to earth just ninety years ago, bringing roughly the same message to a larger distressed population. As Our Lady of the Rosary, she appeared six times at Fatima in Portugal to three related children, two of whom have been recently beatified. Our publications have probably given more space to this story than any other. Here we would like to stress the historical applications.

In essence, she warned that God was terribly offended by the sins of mankind and unless that sinfulness subsided the world as a consequence would face horrible chastisements. Immediately following, we had a bloody conclusion to World War I, then six years of the most depraved slaughter of World War II and continual wars, atrocities and mutilations ever since instigated by two of the enemies of Western Civilization: Communism (as Our Lady predicted) and Islam. Sinfulness has not abated, but only increased, especially in the areas of family life, immoral fashions and lewd entertainment.

*Our Lady will intervene once again in history, either to help her suffering children who have recourse to her or to bring down the wrath of God on those who refuse to pray, make sacrifices and stop offending Him. During the third apparition she announced the ultimate result, "Finally my Immaculate Heart will triumph!"* ■

# A Christmas Message

Christmas is a time when God, in the form of a small Child, brings us special graces. It is unfortunate that these graces are felt increasingly less owing to our sinful world. Furthermore, to many Catholics today, the world's paganization is overwhelming, draining and hopeless.

But we forget that it is precisely when situations are overwhelming, draining and hopeless that God likes to show His power. We tend to forget that all things are possible for that little Child.

We invite our dear readers to join us in prayer this Christmas and pray for courage—courage to continue fighting against the odds, courage to persevere and be faithful to God's Law no matter what cost and burden, and courage to never give up hoping that in the end the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary will triumph. We must not give up hope if we wish to defeat the enemy. That is how God, and we with Him, will win.

*The Editor*

