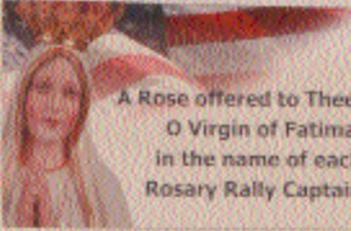
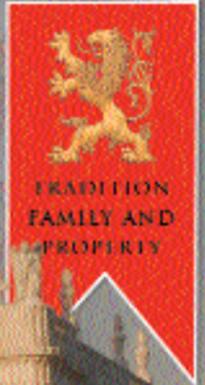


January/February 2009

CRUSADE[®]

MAGAZINE

Roses to Fatima Honor Rosary Rallies Across America

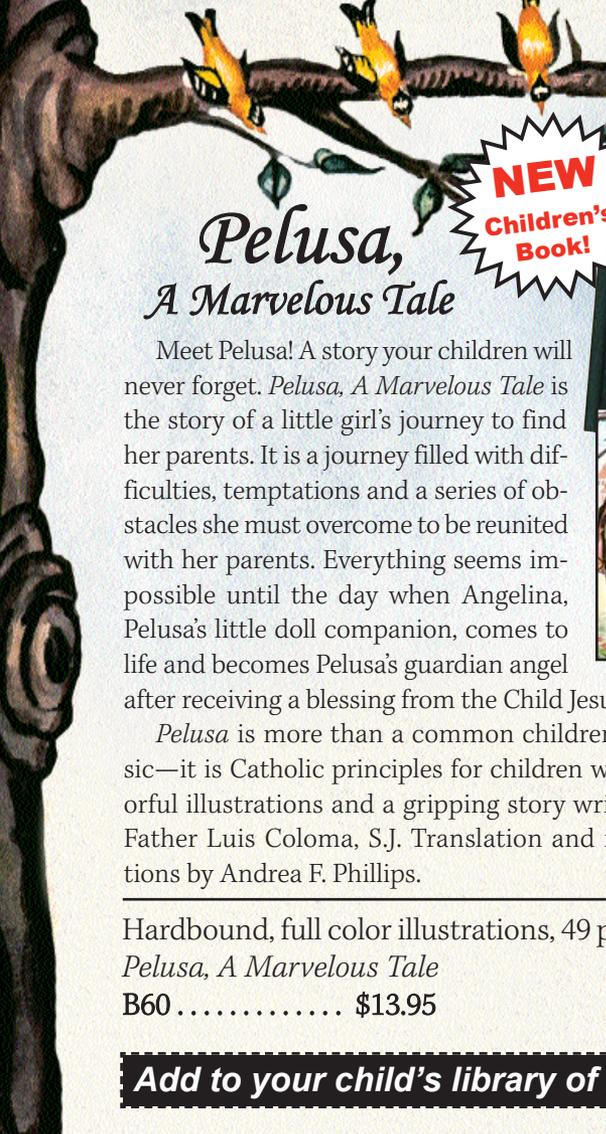


A Rose offered to Thee,
O Virgin of Fatima,
in the name of each
Rosary Rally Captain

3,445

*Public square Rosary Rallies in America
October 11, 2008*





Pelusa, A Marvelous Tale

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Children's
Book!**

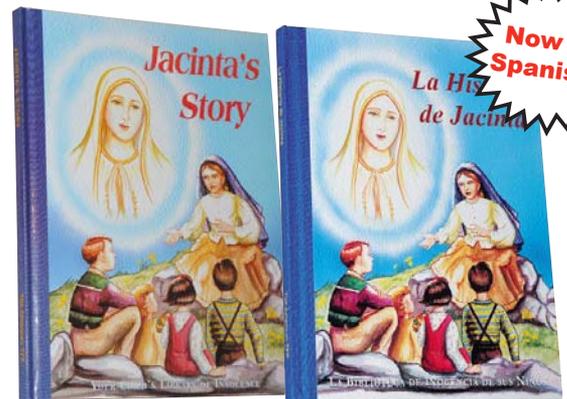
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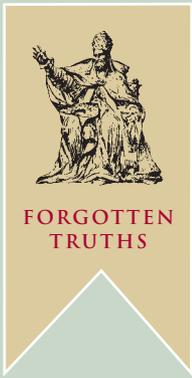
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Compassion Must Be Guided by Reason, Not Sentiment*

Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches that the sentiment of compassion only becomes a virtue when it is guided by reason because "it is essential to human virtue that the movements of the soul should be regulated by reason." Without this regulation, compassion is only a passion. Like all passions, compassion is a powerful, irrational inclination, and therefore a potentially dangerous one since it can favor not only good but also evil. To feel pity at the sight of someone's sufferings is normal. However, to act without prudent analysis may lead to unintended harm.

Consider, for example, the case of a man who buys whiskey for his alcoholic friend because the man cannot bear to see his alcoholic friend suffer when going without a drink. Likewise, consider a father who plies his gambling-addicted son with cash because the father is distressed at the thought of his son suffering for not being able to gamble. The father's action does not show true love for his son, for instead of freeing

his son from gambling's stranglehold, the father supports the vice with easy access to money.

Helping Vice Is Not Compassion

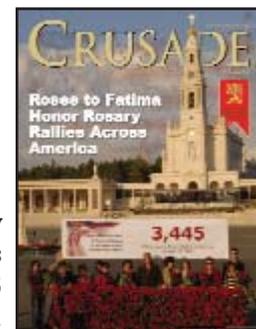
While everything must be done to help sinners, this cannot include helping them sin or remain in vice. Given human frailty, a sinner deserves pity and compassion. However, vice and sin must be excluded from this compassion because sin can never be the proper object of compassion.

When a misguided pity leads to supplying the sinner with the means to remain attached to his vice, this assistance, be it material or moral, actually helps keep the sinner chained to his evil ways. Such action helps the vice, not the person. Despite good intentions, the action is harmful, for true compassion leads a sinner away from vice and back to virtue. ■

* TFP Committee on American Issues, *Defending a Higher Law* (The American TFP, Spring Grove, Pa., 2004), 119-120.

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In front of the Basilica of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal, volunteers hold the roses presented for 3,445 Rosary Rally Captains.

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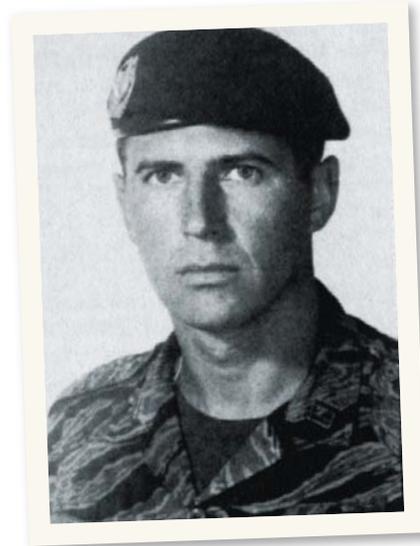
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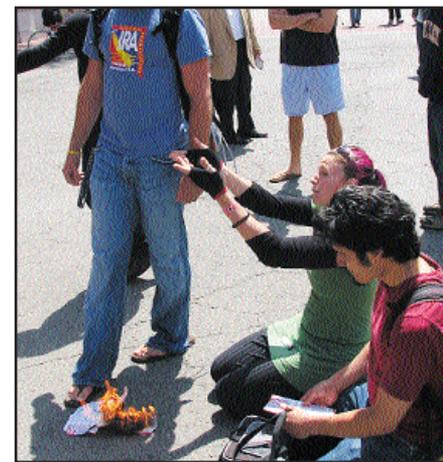
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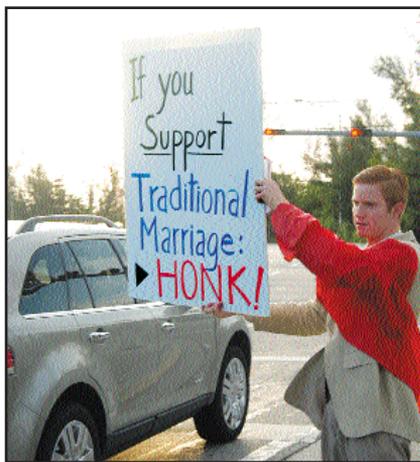
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The American TFP

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.



IN BRIEF



Youth Defending Marriage

The largest community college in California, American River College, called for a ban on homosexual “marriage” by a student board vote of 8 to 3 with three abstentions. The resolution is believed to be the first of its kind at a Californian college and came only weeks after TFP Student Action members spent hours on the campus distributing fliers defending traditional marriage. Several of the college’s 37,000 students helped TFP members to distribute fliers across campus. When accused on television of being motivated by politics and not educational concerns, a board member replied that it had everything to do with education since all schools would have to change their teachings on marriage, family and its purpose in society.

Few Support Abortions

An online petition drive campaigning for global “safe abortions” by the international abortion provider Marie Stopes International is now a major embarrassment to the pro-abortion community. After fourteen months, only 650 people signed their signature drive that called for global access to “legal, voluntary, safe and affordable” abortion. Marie Stopes International, with annual earnings of nearly \$100 million, boastfully launched the “safe abortion” appeal at the International Global Safe Abortion Conference in October 2007. Twenty percent of the signatures were from the employees of several pro-abortion groups sponsoring the conference.



Explosive Speech

Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento, California, shocked his unsuspecting audience at the Berkeley-based National Association of Catholic Diocesan Lesbian and Gay Ministries (NACDLGM) 2008 conference. His keynote speech gently, but firmly, condemned homosexual behavior as sinful. He urged all Catholics to preserve marriage as the union of one man and one woman, and stressed the importance that Catholics must not conform to the age of distorted love. The NACDLGM board, which encourages Catholic homosexuals to be sexually active, apologized for what they saw as a disaster. The bishop, though urged by the chairman to leave, stayed to listen to conference attendees who wanted to respond to his speech. Some responded by leaving, many were given the microphone to express their anger, but most sat in stunned silence. How-

ever, two others thanked the bishop for clearly presenting Catholic teaching, and applause for the bishop erupted in the seated audience.



Doctors Want Ethical Research

A Jackson & Coker industry report shows that the majority of doctors favor adult stem-cell research. Of the 550 doctors and medical professionals who were surveyed, Fifty-five percent have concerns about embryonic stem-cell research on the premise that “it’s creating life to destroy life.” Fifty-two percent also stated that science should either concentrate entirely on adult stem cells or use them in response to the concerns. Many doctors pointed out that adult stem-cell research has resulted in over seventy cures and treatments while embryonic stem-cell research has brought no successes.

Child Indoctrination

In the same week that pro-homosexual advocates aired TV ads labeling concerns that state recognition of homosexual “marriage” would change education as “lies,” a first-grade class took a school-sponsored trip to a homosexual “wedding.” The eighteen children, aged between 5 and 6, traveled away from their studies to the San Francisco City Hall for the “wedding” of their lesbian teacher to another woman. Their school-sponsored attendance of the wedding was accompanied by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom who declared, “The door’s wide open now. It’s gonna [sic] happen, whether you like it or not,” while referring to the homosexual “marriage” and the estimated 18,000 homosexual “marriages” that have occurred after the erroneous Californian court decision.



Students Enjoyed Christmas Holidays in Nashville, Tenn.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) lost a lawsuit against a Nashville school board. The ACLU wanted to end religious Christmas and Thanksgiving observances as well as prayer group meetings on campuses and the National Day of Prayer observances. Thanks to the Alliance Defense Fund and four parents who stood up to the ACLU, the court ruled that Christians cannot suffer discrimination for their beliefs and that personal prayer, mentions of God and Christmas references are constitutionally appropriate in school. ■



A Great Success:

'God Will Not Refuse Our Petitions . . .'

BY JOHN HORVAT II

At intersections, town halls, city parks and other public places, Catholics came in the tens of thousands to pray Public Square Rosaries on October 11, 2008 at more than 3,400 locations across the nation. Participants from all walks of life and ages made this special effort to be public witnesses to the Fatima message. Their basic message was, "We're praying that God save America."

The Rosary Rallies were the crowning achievement of six months of intensive planning. When October 11 arrived, the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) and its America Needs Fatima (ANF) campaign could announce proudly that—thanks be to God—well over 3,000 Rosary Rallies were held across the United States. At the same time across the ocean in Portugal, volunteers placed 3,400 roses, each representing a Rally Captain, at

the sanctuary of Our Lady at Fatima.

Rallies with a Purpose

The Rosary Rallies had a simple purpose: to ask God, through Our Lady's Rosary, to save America from its current moral,

The Rosary Rallies had a simple purpose: to ask God, through Our Lady's Rosary, to save America from its current moral, spiritual, financial and political crisis.

spiritual, financial and political crisis. It is very evident that human solutions will not suffice. Divine assistance is necessary. Thus, the idea of public prayer seems to have captured the imagination of many American Catholics as a solution to the problems the nation faces.

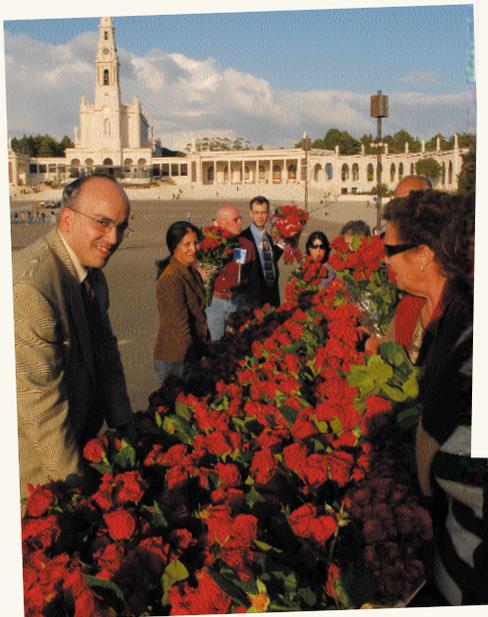
"America is in such a desperate situation, I just know God heard our prayers. The Virgin Mary offered our Rosaries to God on Saturday," said one Rally Captain from Pennsylvania, "God will not refuse our petitions in our time of suffering and uncertainty."

A Massive Response

In John Haffert's book, *Meet the Witnesses*, he estimated that 70,000 to 100,000 people went to Fatima on October 13, 1917 to see the Miracle of the Sun. On October 11, 2008, an estimated 120,000 Catholics went out to the Public Square Rosary Rallies in America.

With 3,400 Rosary Captains organizing these events, the mere scope of these Rosary Rallies was incredible. With the help of the campaign's central office near Topeka, Kan., Rally Captains received all that was necessary to organize their own events. Posters and programs were placed on the Internet for downloads. News of the rallies spread quickly and to such an extent that there were rallies in every major city and all fifty states.

Rally locations were published on America Needs Fatima's Web site so participants could find the one nearest to them. An impressive network was formed in which local organizers would meet nearby Catholics where they thought none existed. *Some rallies were only blocks apart.* Participants from last year's



TFP/ANF volunteers, with the help of passing pilgrims, presented 3,400 fresh red roses at the site of Our Lady's apparitions in Fatima, Portugal. Each rose represented a Rosary Rally Captain.

rallies became Rally Captains this year, which often increased the number of rallies in a single city. There were, for example, six rallies in the city of Hazleton, Pa. In York, Pa., there were two rallies, one with more than 50 participants. In Topeka, Kan., there were four rallies within blocks of each other. It is estimated that there were 70 rallies just in the Miami metropolitan area alone.

In this respect, one Rally Captain in Miami wrote, "On Saturday, October 11, 2008, 30 people prayed the Rosary publicly at Bird Road. Our rally was one of five on Bird Road, one of 50 in Dade County, and one of 3,400 prayed at the same time all across America at noon. We prayed to God and to Our Holy Mother for their intercession to put an end to the bad things that are happening in our nation and in the world, politically, economically, the lack of morality, ethics and principles, plus abortions and outright blasphemy."

Before a Higher Supreme Court

American TFP members gathered in front of the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., for a Rosary Rally. The event was graced with a statue of Our Lady of Fatima with an escort of TFP members in ceremonial garb. The program included the Rosary, hymns, bagpipe music and other prayers.

On October 11, 2008, an estimated 120,000 Catholics went out to the Public Square Rosary Rallies in America.

America Needs Fatima Director Robert Ritchie reminded the participants that the prayers of 3,400 rallies were being presented before a higher court—God's throne. Mr. Ritchie especially mentioned the need for reparation for the YouTube videos showing Host desecrations that has been the target of a special TFP campaign.

Noteworthy Rallies

While the rally reports are just starting to come in, some already stand out. One of the largest rallies was in Austin, Texas, where according to News 8 Austin, "more than 1,000 Christians participated in a prayer rally at the Capitol Saturday." There was also a large group at the Capitol Building in Harrisburg, Pa. Another group stationed itself in the middle of Jackson Square in New Orleans, La.

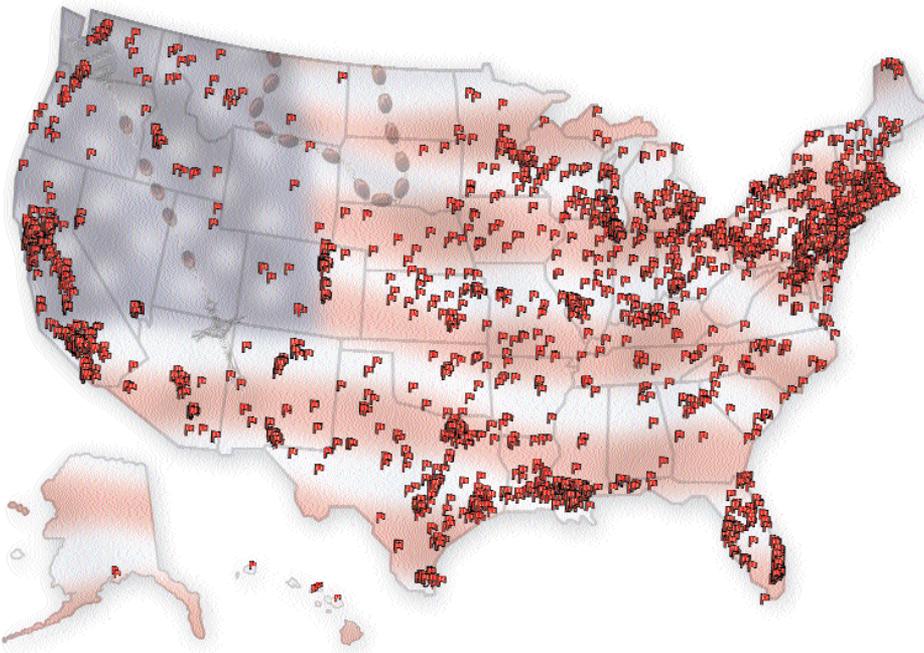
Over 100 people gathered in Cincinnati's Fountain Square where a local

priest led the Rosary while another gave a short homily. The well-organized event also featured a sound system on Fountain Square to play various renderings of *Ave Maria* and a 60-slide PowerPoint presentation that looped through the entire vigil and displayed on a 20-foot-high screen on top of the building behind the podium and speakers. The event was blessed with wonderful weather as the Rally Captain noted, "Our Lady must truly know the weatherman."

"We thought our family was going to be the only people there," said one young participant at the rally in Marysville, Calif. However, in the middle of the first Rosary, another family came who had come last year. Then others arrived, including one mother with her two-month-old baby. Two of the young boys played music like "God Bless America" on their trumpets to add to the rally's enthusiasm. One man watched from a distance. He said he was a World War II veteran and that he was not a praying man, but in the crisis the nation is facing today is the worse crisis it has ever faced and that the only answer is prayer. He said that he was glad that there are Americans all over the country taking to the streets and praying in town squares.

At this same rally, pedestrians came and started praying while others came up and kissed Our Lady's picture on the banner. During the whole rally, there were honks, waves, and thumbs-up in approval. Many cars slowed down to read our banner, and other cars came back around to re-read it. As the rally ended, a lady and her friends spontaneously began singing traditional Mexican songs of praise to Our Lady.

One of the Rosary Rallies in St. Louis, Mo., had some 50 participants led by the parish pastor. Children as young as one joined seniors assembled at the corner where they began to pray the Rosary. The choir director led the singing of songs to Our Lady and the event ended with a blessing from the pastor. There were numerous honks, thumbs-up and shouts of encouragement. The Rosary Rally exhilarated all of the attendees and the shared conversations on the sidewalk lasted long after the Rosary Rally was over. The pastor expressed disappointment that this



A map showing the extent of the Public Square Rosary Crusade held in all 50 states on October 11, 2008.

was “only” done annually, and already planned a second rally for November 1.

There were nearly 15 people at the Public Square Rosary Rally in Stockholm, Sweden. The event started at a church in the center of Stockholm where participants lit a candle and prayed before starting on a pilgrimage while walking through the city’s center. The group walked through the central square of Stockholm’s King’s Garden, passed in front of the Royal Palace, through the quays and finally ended at the cathedral where they celebrated Saint Bridget’s feast day. “This Pilgrims’ Way seems nothing to some,” reported the Rally Captain, “but for those who know Sweden, it is unbelievable. I want to thank you in the name of Sweden!” The group reported that they have been trying for twenty years to do such a Rosary and took courage from the over 3,000 rallies in America.

Facing Obstacles

As reports started flooding in from across the country, it was evident that Rally Captains and participants felt a great joy in praying the Rosary and honoring Our Lady in public. The intensity of their commitment and their willingness to overcome obstacles is extremely edifying.

Like last year, participants in the rallies faced all sorts of obstacles ranging from discouragement from friends to inclement weather.



The rally at Columbus Park in Hazleton, Pa. was one of six Public Square Rosary Rallies held in the area.

In South Beach, Fla., for example, over 100 people participated in the Rosary Rally. This beachfront community is known for its large hotels with tourists from all over the world. The Rally Captain reported a large number of these tourists got a different sight on Saturday morning as many stopped to take pictures of the event. She noted that she had been discouraged from organizing the Rosary Rally from those who said she would never get a permit for such a “liberal” area. She got the permit and, full of energy and devotion to Our Lady, held the rally.

In New Mexico, a Rally Captain reported on her successful rally: “The wind was terrible and tore my banner to pieces, sparing Our Lady’s face, for which I was glad.” Twenty-five people were at the Rosary Rally during which the Captain made some very good friends in Christ. She effusively thanked America Needs Fatima for coordinating the event.

One participant from Albuquerque, N.M., found Satan hard at work in preventing her at every turn from coming to the rallies, including a problem reading the Web site with the rally locations. Thankfully she found a very public and original rally on the catwalk over I-40 at Coors. “My best friend and I went and what a blessing! It was windy and spitting drops of rain ‘holy water’ as one lovely lady called it, but just as we finished praying the sun came out. I have no doubt that Our Lady was with us. It was wonderful to have the cars and trucks honking as they went by. I just know that 2008

will be more successful than 2007, and that 2009 even more.”

At the Roseville, Calif., Rosary Rally, twelve brave souls ventured out in the high winds to pray the Rosary and bear witness to the Fatima message. The high winds made it impossible to attach the banner to any tree or post but they were able to wrap the banner around a large public utility maintenance box that faced the busy intersection. “The winds were high but the prayer warriors were spirited and the incense rose to heaven to honor Our Lord through His Blessed Mother.”

The Public Square Rosary Rally in Butte, Mont., faced an even greater obstacle: it snowed. A severe snowstorm and strong winds, the Rally Captain noted, helped supply the penance part of the Fatima message. Twenty people braved the elements. Last year, some 65 had attended the Rosary Rally in beautiful weather.

One Rosary Rally participant in Hialeah, Fla., did not know that the Rosary Rally location had changed and thus could not make it to the place of the rally in time. As it started to get late, she pulled up at a shopping center, and said to herself, “It’s already 12:20 p.m. and I am not going to miss this.” She then parked her car, unrolled the banner, and started praying the Rosary. “I prayed the Rosary, said the litanies and consecration by myself and as I did this a refreshing breeze cooled the area on this typically hot day. As I prayed, I also felt confident, secured a happy strength, knowing that thousands of Rosaries were being prayed at the same time all over the United States.”

At Oxnard, Calif., the weather was uncooperative for the rally. The wind was blowing harder and harder while the thirteen brave souls were praying the Rosary. Several noticed that a vase of roses was



Carried by TFP members in their ceremonial habit and greeted with “Hail Holy Queen Enthroned Above,” a pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima arrives at the Washington, D.C. rally on October 11, 2008.

knocked down and then propped up by an unseen hand. Despite everything, the Captain hopes the weather will be better next year.

Being Public

Another aspect of the rallies is the participants' great joy in going public with the Rosary. They derived a special pleasure in standing up for Our Lady and made special efforts to be visible.

From Mondovi, Wis., came the news of a noontime rally of 25 people on the sidewalk of a busy highway. Motorists passed by and read the banner. The Rally Captain quoted *The Secret of the Rosary* by Saint Louis de Montfort: "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." He reported general excitement in the group and interest in starting other rallies next year in other places since he believed "there is hunger for more of this in the small towns of our area."

On short notice, one Rally Captain in Woodstock, Ga., arranged the whole event with the help of his parish pastor in just four days. About eighty people started in the center of a local park saying the Consecration prayers before moving to the sidewalk where they could be more visible to the traffic. Many drivers offered their support or questioned what they were praying for. The event was so blessed that the parish priest asked if another Public Square Rosary Rally could be held in early November.

In Tucson, Ariz., the Rosary Rally was held with the local pro-life group in front of an abortion clinic. Many passersby showed support while a few loud people voiced their disapproval. It was a windy



The Public Square Rosary Rally participants in West Covina, Calif. derived a special joy in standing up for Our Lady and praying the Rosary in public.

day and participants had to hold on tightly to the banner.

In Omaha, Neb., a small group of Catholics felt honored to process down the street. "We must have seen hundreds of cars go by. I loved to see drivers look at us as they passed. Most responses were positive, and we were already conveniently praying for the people who responded negatively."

More People and More Often

Many Rally Captains reported more participants than last year. Others want to have the rallies more often. Most are looking forward to next year.

The Rally Captain in Pecos, Texas, reported that the Rosary Rally had four times more people than the 2007 Rosary Rally. Sixty participants were at the event in front of a nearby county courthouse with a good exposure to traffic.

In Monticello, N.Y., about 140 people took part in a nearly four-block-long Marian procession led by the local Knights of Columbus Council Color Guard to the steps of the county courthouse where the Rosary was recited in English and in Spanish. The procession was followed by a Holy Hour back at the parish church. Inspired by his parish priest, the Rally

Captain reported that all are "so looking forward to next year!"

At the county courthouse in Hays, Kan., twenty-two people gathered to pray the Rosary for America. It began at noon as the church bells were ringing a block away. The banner was tied and taped to the wooden fence in front of the courthouse. People waved as they drove by and read the banner. After the prayer rally, some people asked if this was going to be done more often and that they would attend if more were planned.

"Last year our corner had only four people praying the Rosary, this year there were close to twenty-five!" wrote one veteran Rosary Captain. "Our poor country is in deep trouble and our only hope is going to come from heaven."

From Mission, Texas, the Rosary Captain reported that his rally had gone well and that the Blessed Mother had touched their hearts because "all felt that this should be done every month instead of yearly to steer this great nation in the right direction."

"We had a very successful Public Square Rosary Crusade with great attendance compared to last year and by next year I expect to triple the number of attendees," wrote yet another Rosary Captain. Another Rosary Captain reported forty participants in Kalispell, Mont., up from twelve last year.

Other Repercussions

The reports only give a small sampling of the many graces at the rallies and the intense commitment of those involved to organize this great public effort to call

"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." —Saint Louis de Montfort

upon God's blessing for the nation.

One person happened to find the Rosary Rally by chance. He put up this account on his blog: "I looked out the window and saw a group of people setting up statues of Our Lady. I wandered over to the little square . . . and saw that I was just in time to join in America Needs Fatima's Rosary Rally. . . . Curiously enough, this past week a friend was reminding me that it is times like this in which we must turn to Our Lady with our fears and concerns; she also remarked that we ought to make a conscious effort to consecrate our nation to Our Lady."

The Rally Captain from Saint John's, Mich., reported 207 people present at his rally. He said he wished he could have done more to get even more to attend.

On short notice, one Rally Captain in Chambersburg, Pa., did not even have time to receive an organizer's kit. However, 15 people came to his rally and he is ready to do another one in December.

Press Repercussions

Although the major media remained silent on the Rosary Rallies, local media, church bulletins, blogs and newsletters carried extensive and favorable coverage of the events. A sampling of the stories



Catholics of all ages attended the Public Square Rosary Rally in Chester, Va.

gives an idea of the coverage.

The Corsicana Daily of Corsicana, Texas, for example, reported that 70 members of Corsicana's Catholic community joined together for its first Rosary Rally in Community Park. "Deacon Lewis and I were pleased with the turnout at the first rally," said Angie Sanchez, team captain for the Rosary Rally. "Attendees expressed enthusiasm, whereby a larger rally is planned for next year."

The Republican Herald of Shenandoah, Pa., reported that a group of over forty people took a prayerful request to the public square in the downtown area to ask God to "return to America." The report gave a full and accurate report on the Fatima apparitions, including the

miracle of the sun, and noted the great interest of passersby and car traffic.

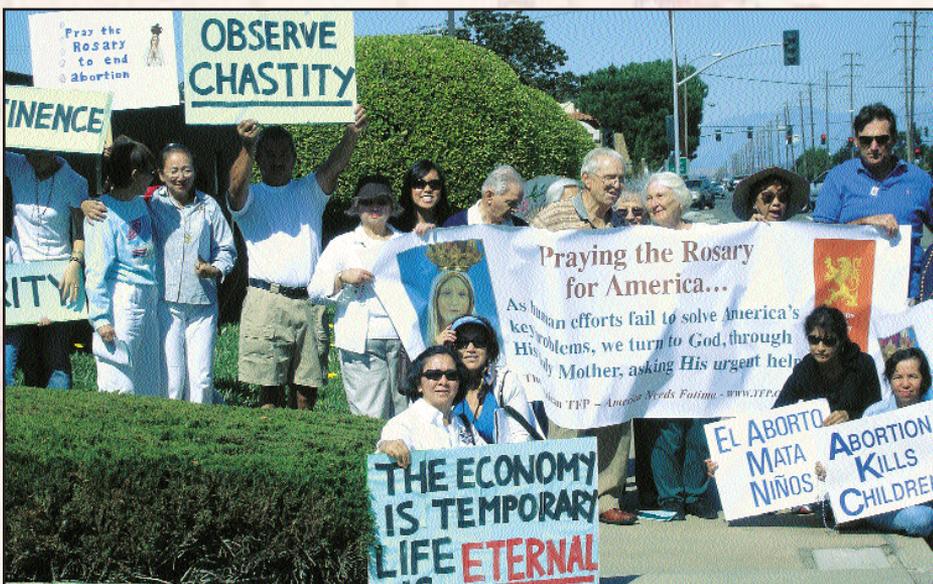
Connecticut's *Milford Mirror* reported that about 150 people gathered for a "Public Square Rosary Crusade" to pray to God to save America. Attendees came from many area churches. There were retired people, families, teens and children. "America is mired in problems—problems in leadership, public scandal and sin, bad economy, terrorism," states literature that teenagers distributed in the church parking lot. "Men cannot resolve them. God can. But He has been cast out. It's time to beg God to 'Return to America.'"

Confiding in Providence

The main theme of the Rosary Rallies was "pray for America," which fit into the headlines of bad news in the economy and elsewhere.

Man's efforts are insignificant by themselves. However, with the aid of Providence, a simple witness became a massive and beautiful event reinforcing the belief that God can intervene and hear the prayers of the faithful. These prayers and future public prayers may not have immediate consequences, but they might weigh heavily for the future of the nation.

These 3,400 rallies were seen by hundreds of thousands of people, which is good and even necessary to help spread the Fatima message and save souls. Above all, they were a fervent plea made up of hundreds of thousands of Rosaries offered by Our Blessed Mother to beg God to return to America. ■



Orange, Calif. Rosary Rally participants display signs that clearly show the intentions of their prayers.



Denham Springs, LA



San Juan, PR



Washington, D.C.



Tamarac, FL



Hazleton, PA



Cambria Heights, NY

"God will not refuse our petition in our time of suffering and uncertainty."



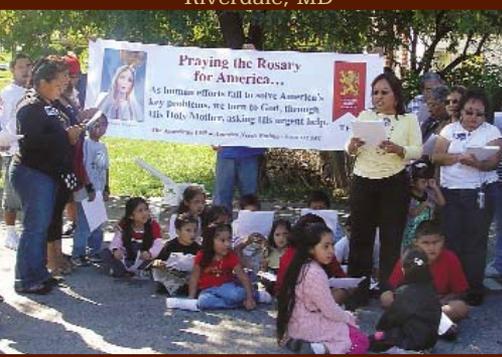
Tyler, TX



Las Vegas, NV



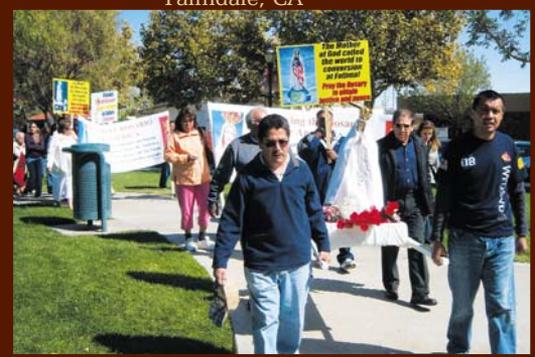
Adelanto, CA



Riverdale, MD



Jersey City, NJ



Palmdale, CA

“Public prayer is far more powerful than private prayer to appease the anger of God and call down His mercy”



Cherryhill, NJ



Baton Rouge, LA



Beaverton, OR



Garland, TX



Tacoma, WA



Savannah, GA



Phoenix, AZ



Sun City Center, FL



Chicago, IL



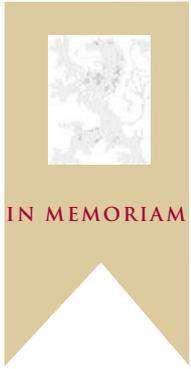
Wareham, MA

Saint Martinville, LA



Greeley, CO

“Our poor country is in deep trouble and our only hope is going to come from heaven.”



Tribute to an American Knight

BY NORMAN J. FULKERSON

Colonel John Ripley, war hero, practicing Catholic and cherished friend of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP), died at his home in Annapolis, Md., on November 1, 2008.

Col. John Ripley was born June 29, 1939 in Radford, Va. He descended from a line of soldiers going back to the Revolutionary War. After graduating from high school, he chose to continue that military tradition by joining the Marines at the age of 17. He described his father as being “keen on the idea” while his mother wept. Shortly after joining the Marine Corps, he applied for an appointment to the United States Naval Academy. He was ultimately accepted to this prestigious institution and graduated in 1962.

Quad Body

In 1966, he was sent to Vietnam as the commanding officer of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, and received what he referred to as a baptism of fire. It was an incredibly hostile environment, he said, in which the daily exposure to intense conflict took the lives of many of

Col. Ripley, in the fashion of a true knight, called for the protection of “femininity, motherhood, and what we have come to appreciate in Western culture as the graceful conduct of women.”

his fellow Marines. He himself was wounded in action but would return in 1967 to finish his tour of duty.

Upon completion of his first tour, Col. Ripley attended Amphibious Warfare School and then went on to train with the British Royal Marines where he completed the organization’s demanding commando course. He would later complete the equally grueling programs of the Army Rangers, Marine Reconnaissance and Army Airborne. In doing so, he earned for himself the designation of Quad Body, which is a unique distinction among American fighting men who have completed the world’s toughest military training programs.

“In our training,” he would say about the Ranger program, “we were kept in a constantly deprived state, sleep deprivation all the time, and even food [deprivation]. They did that purposely, and it had a very good effect, because you learned you could operate under these conditions when your body was weak and your mind was addled.”¹

One of the last tributes he received was his induction into the Army Ranger Hall of Fame. He is the only Marine to have received such an honor.

Dong Ha Bridge

In 1971, he would return to Vietnam, and the Ranger training he received would serve him well in accomplishing a task that ultimately would be a defining point in his life. It occurred in March 1972 during what has come to be known as the Easter Offensive.

As the North Vietnamese were pounding the South Vietnamese into submission with seemingly unlimited artillery, it became clear that the village of Dong Ha was their strategic target. The bridge leading into the city provided the only way for the heavy T-54 North Vietnamese tanks to cross the Cam Lo-Cua Viet River in order to further exploit the south.

As a column of 200 North Vietnamese tanks and 30,000 enemy soldiers came rumbling down Highway One toward this tiny community, Captain Ripley was given the sobering order to “hold and die.” Facing such superior numbers, there was only one way out for him and his 600 South Vietnamese Marines. Lt. Col. Gerry Turley gave Captain Ripley the order to destroy the bridge but Lt. Col. Gerry Turley feared he was sending Ripley to a certain death.² Captain Ripley



The Body Bearers of the U.S. Marine Corps take Col. John W. Ripley’s mortal remains into the Naval Academy Chapel as part of the honor guard from the Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., salute in the background.

Col. John Ripley was a true warrior, a modern-day knight and a chivalrous gentleman who never allowed a cynical world to cloud his boyhood dreams or tarnish his innocent desires.

took a more philosophical approach.

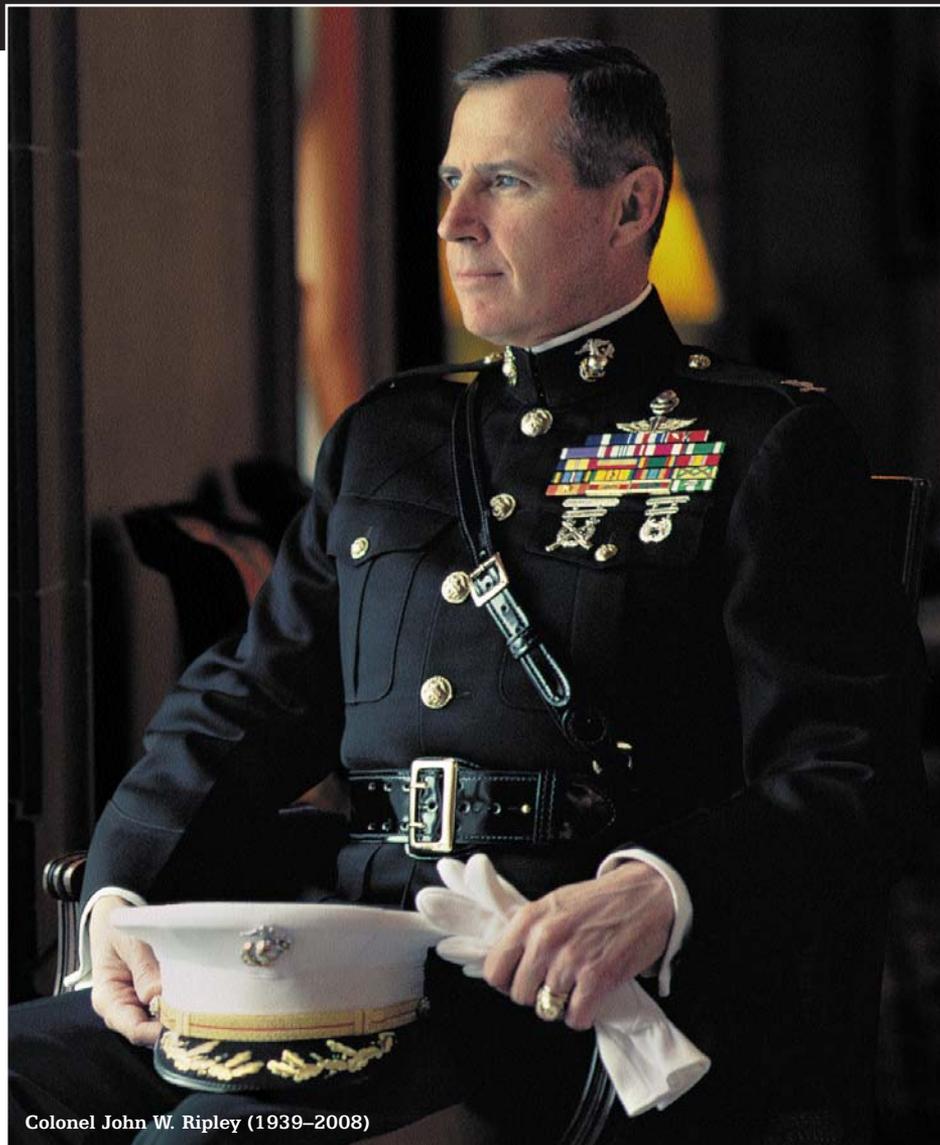
“The idea that I would be able to even finish the job before the enemy got me was ludicrous,” Ripley said. “When you know you’re not going to make it, a wonderful thing happens: You stop being cluttered by the feeling that you’re going to [survive].”³

Blowing the bridge would not be easy. Captain Ripley had to place more than 500 pounds of explosives underneath the bridge. Despite having nothing to eat and very little to drink in days, he made dozens of trips between the riverbank and the bridge with 40-pound satchels of dynamite in hand each time. He then swung arm over arm clutching the bridge’s I-beams like a trapeze artist. Enemy fire from the opposite bank ricocheted around him as he strategically placed each satchel under the bridge.

When it came time for setting the explosives, he realized he did not have the crimpers to connect the percussion caps to the primer cord. Not allowing this to deter him, he simply crimped the detonators with his teeth as he suppressed the horrifying thought that the wrong move would blow his head off.

It would take over three and a half grueling hours to accomplish this task, and with each trip out into the bridge he felt his strength fading and feared he might pass out. “The only way I was going to be able to do this,” he said to an audience of TFP members, “was simply to ask God to come along with me.”

Marines are able to make it through physically demanding exercises, he said, with the use of cadences. He decided to



Colonel John W. Ripley (1939–2008)

© Anthony Edgeworth (The Maimes, Edgeworth Editions, 2007)

use his own improvised Catholic version and sounded off: “Jesus, Mary, get me there!” They did in fact help him get there since he was ultimately successful in blowing the bridge and thwarting the plans of the Communist North Vietnamese.

Modern-Day Knight

As impressive as this story is, Col. John Ripley was not well known outside of the Marine Corps for over a decade, until the release of John Miller’s book *The Bridge at Dong Ha*. The Naval Academy would eventually honor him with a diorama in Memorial Hall depicting his exploits at Dong Ha and his tale is now “required reading for every Naval Academy plebe.”⁴

Col. Ripley would go on to receive the Navy Cross for his heroism along with numerous other awards. At the time of his death he was considered one of the most highly decorated Marines. Obituaries of

the fallen hero used such words as “legendary.” What really defined him, however, was something much larger than the numerous medals that adorned his chest. It was the chivalric spirit burning in his heart. Col. Ripley was in many ways the embodiment of a modern-day knight.

While speaking to a TFP audience about Vietnam, he was brought to tears when recalling that among the civilians he saved in the village of Dong Ha was a school full of innocent children. This tender solicitude for the weak and defenseless was an essential characteristic of the medieval knight, but one that is often overlooked when exhibited by an American soldier. Col. Ripley, who had seen the worst side of human nature and the most violent aspect of war, never lost a tender side capable of caring for the “little ones.”

The ferocity with which he defended the villagers of Dong Ha was also un-

leashed in defense of womanhood in America. On June 26, 1992, shortly before his retirement from the military, Col. Ripley waged what could be considered an assault against the politically correct idea of sending American women into combat.

He began his testimony before a presidential commission with a sagacious affirmation that the issue should not be “argued from the standpoint of gender differences.” Many had argued, and still argue this contentious question because of equality. Col. Ripley, in the fashion of a true knight, called for the protection of “femininity, motherhood, and what we have come to appreciate in Western culture as the graceful conduct of women.”

In the following year, Col. Ripley took an even more courageous stance when he testified before the House Armed Services Committee against homosexuals in military during the hearings that preceded the implementation of President Clinton’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy.

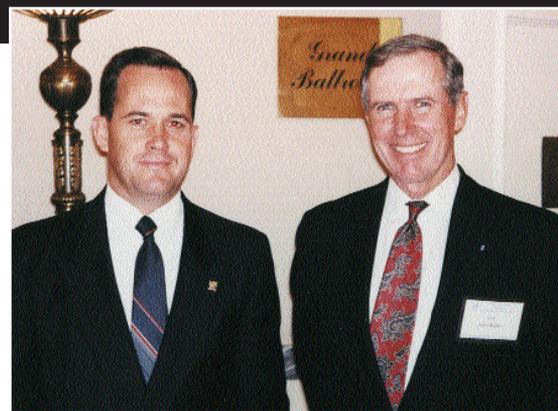
This could have been the thing that led retired General Thomas L. Wilkerson to give probably the best-worded eulogy

of this true American hero. “I admired John,” he said, “not only because of his obvious war heroism, but because of how he conducted himself after the war. John was the standard to which we all aspire.”⁵

Angels and Toy Soldiers

In reflecting on such a great man, I could not help recall something I noticed during a visit to Col. Ripley’s office many years ago. It was a seemingly insignificant decoration that seemed to define the man. Sitting next to his desk was a decorative drum that looked like it might be a reproduction of the Revolutionary War era. I regret not asking him about it when he was alive. Not because of the historical significance of the instrument, but because of what he had on top. It was a little battalion of tiny lead soldiers in magnificent uniforms, neatly arranged in battle array, marching across the skin of the drum.

It is not uncommon for little boys to play with toy soldiers. Perhaps it is their way of projecting themselves onto an imaginary battlefield where they can fight for noble ideals. It struck me as a significant, though not surprising, choice

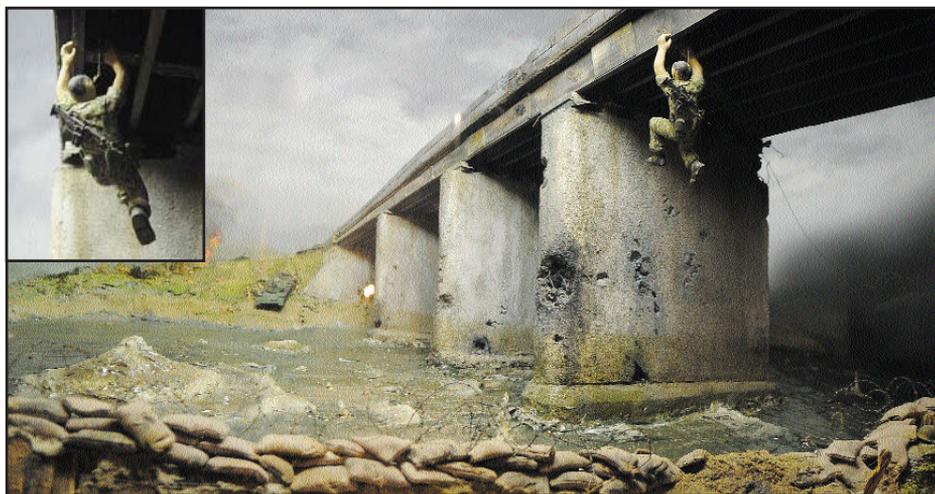


Col. Ripley with *Crusade* staff writer Norman J. Fulkerson in 1993.

of decoration for the office of a seasoned warrior like Col. Ripley. He was, after all, a man who appeared to retain much of his childhood innocence.

The toy soldier collection in turn reminded me of a story I heard him tell of Sister Patience who taught him catechism as a boy. She used to tell the students to leave part of their seat for their guardian angel to sit down. With an innocent chuckle, that was so much a characteristic of Col. Ripley, he described the amusing scene of a classroom full of children sitting on half a seat. Unlike the majority of men of today, however, there was not an ounce of cynicism in this description. He believed in the presence of angels as much as he did in Our Lord and His Mother, who helped him in that desperate situation so long ago.

Col. John Ripley was a true warrior, a modern-day knight and a chivalrous gentleman who never allowed a cynical world to cloud his boyhood dreams or tarnish his innocent desires. He will be sorely missed. ■



“Ripley at the Bridge,” a diorama at the U.S. Naval Academy immortalizing Col. Ripley’s feat at Dong Ha. Under fire from enemy tanks and soldiers, Col. Ripley placed over 500 pounds of explosives under Dong Ha Bridge by swinging arm over arm and chanting “Jesus, Mary, get me there!”

Notes:

1. Art Powell, “Marine Inducted Into Ranger Hall of Fame,” *Leatherneck*, Sept. 2008, <http://www.mcamarines.org/Leatherneck/sep08-marine-inducted-ranger-hall-of-fame.asp>.
2. Richard Botkin, “The Easter Offensive and the bridge at Dong Ha,” Aug. 12, 2003, http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=34046.
3. “John Ripley, Vietnam War hero, dies at age 69,” <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gtVtXOzyrVkGYATFuCPzLvNSjXjwD9476EL00>.
4. Nick Madigan, “John W. Ripley—Marine colonel, member of Ranger Hall of Fame, was known for the destruction of a bridge during the Vietnam War,” Nov. 3, 2008, <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/obituaries/balmd.ob.ripley03nov03,0,1985920.story>.
5. *Id.*



America Needs Fatima®

January/February 2009

PROGRESS REPORT

Saint Michael Medals Are Very Popular

BY JOHN RITCHIE



America Needs Fatima sent 75,000 free medals of Saint Michael the Archangel to its members, and generous ANF members sponsored an additional 20,000 free medals to U.S. troops, to which ANF members added prayer cards with personal notes of encouragement.

Ten thousand medals went to Iraq. In return, we received this message from a Catholic chaplain stationed there:

On behalf of the Catholic community of our base here in Iraq, I would like to thank you for the above subject. Saint Michael is the patron saint of the American armed forces service members. I appreciate your thoughts and prayers. These medals are now on a table in the foyer of our main chapel for all, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, to avail of. Eventually, it will be in all the military chapels in Iraq. God bless you!

While giving thousands of medals to soldiers at Fort Benning, Georgia, we were moved by their reverent expressions of gratitude. One soldier said to his buddies, "Get over here, guys. This is the Saint Michael medal that goes with the Saint Michael prayer I was teaching you." ■

Saint Michael medals are available free to our troops by calling (888) 317-5571.

One soldier said to his buddies, "Get over here, guys. This is the Saint Michael medal that goes with the Saint Michael prayer I was teaching you."



TFP/ANF volunteers distributed thousands of Saint Michael Medals to soldiers at Fort Benning, Georgia. As the patron saint of soldiers, we ask Saint Michael to watch over our troops.



Where There's a *Will*, There's a Way!

Some very generous ANF members have paved the way into the Fatima message's future by including America Needs Fatima in their wills. We are forever grateful to these special devotees of Our Lady.

If you are thinking about helping America Needs Fatima flourish far into the future, you may ask your attorney to include the language in either **Option 1** or **Option 2** in your will:

Option 1:

"I give and bequeath the sum of \$ _____ dollars to be used for the general purposes of America Needs Fatima, a special campaign of The Foundation for a Christian Civilization, Inc., of 1358 Jefferson Rd., Spring Grove, PA 17362, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charity."

Option 2:

"I give, devise and bequeath to America Needs Fatima, a special campaign of The Foundation for a Christian Civilization, Inc., of 1358 Jefferson Rd., Spring Grove, PA 17362, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charity, for its general purposes all (or _____ percent) of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, whether real or personal."

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

- I have already placed the America Needs Fatima campaign in my will and have included the language in **Option 1/Option 2** in my will.
- I would like to speak with you about placing America Needs Fatima in my will.

Kindly call me at: (_____) _____ - _____

Time of day: _____ a.m./p.m.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail: _____



America Needs Fatima's New Calendar for 2009

BY MICHAEL GORRE

America Needs Fatima's 2009 calendars were mailed to 115,000 members last September. Featuring an architectural theme, pictures of the awe-inspiring International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima are superimposed on religious and temporal architectural backgrounds.

Prefaced by an article about Our Lady as the Universal Mediatrix, America Needs Fatima hopes to bring Our Lady's miraculous gaze upon many thousands of families through this new calendar.

This beautiful 2009 calendar features phrases praising Our Lady, the days of fasting and abstinence during Lent, the holy days of obligation and the saints' feast days. ■

Order yours today by calling (888) 317-5571.

Y13.....\$5.95

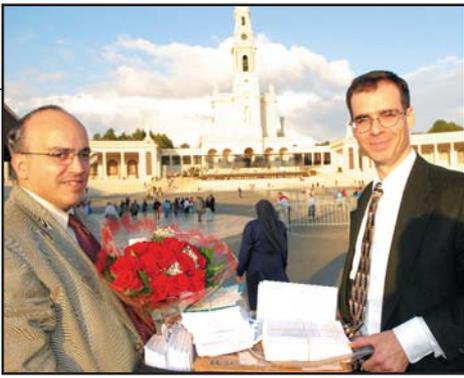


Volunteers Get a New Van

BY GARY ISBELL

Whether holding a Public Square Rosary Rally, campaigning in defense of traditional marriage at college campuses or protesting a blasphemous film, TFP and ANF volunteers need reliable transportation to get to the action. That is why we thank ANF members for their generosity in donating toward the purchase of a 15-passenger van.

Time and again, ANF members have shown how they care for the important work of spreading Our Lady's Fatima message and defending the Catholic values that are attacked so much today. This van serves as a tool to help Our Lady's volunteers continue this vital work for God and our nation. ■



ANF volunteers Antonio Fragelli and Kevin Ritchie brought ANF members' intentions to Fatima.

Thousands of Intentions Delivered to Fatima

BY ANTONIO FRAGELLI

Year after year, America Needs Fatima's Fatima Custodians travel from home to home, delivering the Fatima message to thousands of souls across America.

As part of the Fatima Home Visit Program, there is a presentation about the Fatima message and the story of Fatima. Followed by the presentation, all participants pray a Rosary together as a group. At the end of the program, everyone is offered the opportunity of writing a list of intentions that will later be delivered to Fatima, Portugal at the site of the apparitions which took place over ninety years ago.

This year was no different and I was honored to deliver these intentions with fellow volunteer, Kevin Ritchie. On October 13th we delivered the thousands of intention cards.

We ardently prayed and asked the Mother of God to present her Divine Son with all the requests and intentions deposited at her feet from her American children who look to her as their hope and salvation. ■

'Our Lady Wants Everyone to Wear the Scapular'

BY MICHAEL GORRE



Eighty thousand ANF members received the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel with their September/October issue of *Crusade*. "You have no idea what a beautiful gift you sent me," wrote one member, "the Scapular and its explanation have enlightened my life!"

"It was an honor for America Needs Fatima to spread Our Lady's Scapular, which is one of the most cherished of Marian sacramentals," said ANF Director Robert Ritchie. In fact, when asked in 1950 why Our Lady appeared with the Scapular in her last apparition, Sister Lucy said, "That's because Our Lady wants everyone to wear the Scapular." ■

CORNER GUSTODIAN'S Our Lady Answers a Novena

BY CHARLES SULZEN

It seemed like a normal West Virginia weekend as fellow Fatima Custodian Danniell Pribble and I approached a home for our next Fatima visit. After ringing the doorbell, a woman with a surprised expression cautiously opened the door. I only heightened her puzzlement when we introduced ourselves as American Needs Fatima volunteers with one of Our Lady's visiting statues. She said she knew nothing about America Needs Fatima and most certainly did not request a visit.

Perplexed, Mr. Pribble went to double check our schedule and maps, and found that the schedule did indeed have the woman's exact address and name. He then called the schedulers at our Kansas office who plan our visits. Meanwhile, the woman told me why she was so surprised by our visit. She was undergoing several family problems and was not an-

swering any letters or phone calls. "How did we ever get your address?" I asked, to which she had no reply.

Just then, Mr. Pribble returned to tell us that nobody in Kansas could find out who put the address on the schedule. According to the computers, nobody requested a visit for this address. In fact, the woman's name and address could not be found on our database. I was just about to apologize for the bizarre occurrence when she started to cry.

The woman explained that this very day was the last day of a novena she was praying. She had been praying for a sign from Our Lady to help her make an important decision. Then, calling her two young daughters, she welcomed Our Lady and us into her home to view the presentation on the Fatima apparitions and to pray the Rosary.



ANF Custodian Charles Sulzen prepares to take Our Lady to another home.

Driving away from the visit, I pondered, "In Our Lady's eyes, there is no such thing as mere coincidence." In her maternal love for this woman, Our Blessed Mother answered her novena, and Mr. Pribble and I were so honored to escort Our Lady to deliver it herself! ■

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



Our Readers Write...



✉ We welcomed the opportunity to pray, especially for the fate of our country in these difficult moments. Our group has grown somewhat from last year's and I hope to continue gaining more followers for Our Blessed Mother.

L.F., Safety Harbor, Fla.

✉ It was such a good feeling to be of service and work to bring people together to pray to Our Lady. People went home happy and wanting to do it again. It is good to work for Our Lord and Our Blessed Mother Mary. It is like a dream come true.

L.A., Anaheim, Calif.

✉ I have been following your Saint Joseph Caravan for Traditional Marriage over the Internet. God bless! I especially admire your resolve in going to Berkeley where they certainly do encourage "free speech" as long as it's speech they agree with! I know that you are being protected

by Our Lord, so I feel confident you will be safe and touch many people with your message.

D.N., Pasadena, Calif.

✉ When you expect about twelve, and thirty-eight people show up, it's so exciting! I didn't know quite a few of them. I feel totally blessed that I could do something so lovely for our Blessed Mother.

R.R., Shreveport, La.

✉ Thank you, Robert, for sending me the *Sermons of Hope* by Saint Alphonsus Liguori and the First Saturday devotional card. It came at a very dark time in my life, in the midst of great personal suffering.

M.S., Riverside, Calif.

✉ It is uplifting to consider this campaign for traditional marriage. Every issue touching a Sacrament moves God,

engages eternity and therefore becomes substance for history. You have been writing one of the most heroic pages of American history. May Our Lady be your safety.

N.F., E-mail

✉ Thank you for your work, done in such a Catholic tradition of gentlemanly professionalism! I will certainly pray Rosaries for your continued success at this critical time for our nation. May "One Nation, Under God," again take over our land! You'll show us the way!

T.J., Middleton, Wis.

✉ Please accept our deepest gratitude for your allowing a visit of the Pilgrim Virgin to our home. It was a very special occasion. We had a house full of people, and the entire stairwell in the living room was covered with children. Everyone agreed it was a grace-filled event. The men bringing the statue are very edifying. It is so consoling to see young men devoting their energies to a cause as noble as it is urgent.

J.S., E-mail

2008 TFP National Conference

BY GREGORY ESCARO

Nearly 200 supporters, friends and members of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) gathered from October 24 to 26, 2008 in Spring Grove, Pa., to commemorate the centennial of Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira's birth, the founder of the TFP, and to discuss the theme, "Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira: His Thought and Its Projection into the Future."

The American TFP was especially honored to welcome Prince Bertrand of Orleans-Braganza, who delivered the Sunday luncheon address stressing the theme of Catholic activism. TFP Director of Catholic Outreach Michael Drake reminded participants at another luncheon address that they need to celebrate the milestone of the nearly 3,400 Rosary Ral-

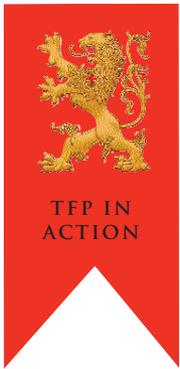
lies. Assistant Web Editor Michael Whitcraft developed a talk on the chastisement foreseen by Our Lady at Fatima for mankind's unrepentance. American TFP Vice President John Horvat delivered a talk on the future of Professor Corrêa de Oliveira's thought. Mr. Norman Fulkerson presented yet another aspect of the thought of Professor Corrêa de Oliveira, "The Sublime: Beauty Proportional to God." Senior TFP Researcher Mr. Luiz Solimeo gave an excellent presentation on the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. TFP Washington Bureau Director Mr. Mario Navarro da Costa gave a lively explanation of Professor Corrêa de Oliveira's mission. To end, TFP Director Mr. Luiz Antonio Fragelli gave the closing remarks, where he summed up the weekend event and inspired participants



Prince Bertrand of Orleans-Braganza delivers his luncheon address at the 2008 TFP National Conference.

to put the meetings they had heard to good use.

Since sanctity and love of God are essential to Catholic activism, the conference ended with a Latin Mass sung by the TFP members wearing the TFP ceremonial habit. Father Gregory Karpyn celebrated the Mass and delivered the sermon. The recessional procession ended with the now traditional majestic rendition of the Papal Hymn. ■



Stories of Courage in the Face of Hatred

BY KENNETH MURPHY

Many homosexuals and their misguided advocates exalt love, tolerance and diversity but they certainly do not practice what they preach. For example, in Argentina on October 2008, 70 young people bravely defended their Catholic cathedral while a pro-homosexual, feminist march of 15,000 came toward them. In the hour and forty minutes that followed, the youth said countless Hail Marys while the “tolerant” marchers threw bottles, cans and rocks. Several feminists screamed or spat into the defendants’ faces. One such marcher, wearing the words “I am a lesbian and a teacher” on her T-shirt, joined a “loving” chant accusing Catholics of being “violent sons of a b—s” followed by “killers, killers, killers!”

Meanwhile, in the United States, TFP members were attacked ten times in Arizona and California during the thirty-day tour called the Saint Joseph Caravan to promote traditional marriage. Its project organizer, John Ritchie, explained how on several occasions, volunteers “were hit by blows, a hot Starbucks coffee, spit, and

glass bottles.” He added that many pro-homosexual activists cursed insistently and threateningly. One homosexual activist even extolled his sense of “diversity” by screaming, “If I had a gun, I would not hesitate to shoot you all down!”

“Freedom of speech has long been a medium for Christian outreach but might disappear if it fails to be protected,” said Thomas Schneider. He was one of the TFP members to be assaulted on the thirty-day tour. He was holding a “Honk for Traditional Marriage” sign when two men sprayed pesticide at him from their car window, shouting, “Drink this!” as

One homosexual activist even extolled his sense of “diversity” by screaming, “If I had a gun, I would not hesitate to shoot you all down!”

they drove by. While most of the volunteers jumped clear of the car successfully, Mr. Schneider only had time to protect his face with his sign. He suffered burns on his hands where he received the highest concentration of the pesticide. Nearby, a cameraman, while taking photos of the assailants, was also hit with the pesticide.

American River College, Sacramento, Calif., became an occasion of sin for Catholics when homosexuals began posting homosexual pornography throughout the campus. The elected student government, in a routine vote on all state propositions, voted to endorse a marriage protection amendment because of the implications homosexual “marriage” recognition would have on education. Despite the board’s favorable 8 to 3 vote, people in the audience began cursing at the board, forcing a ten-minute recess so security could escort the board out. A homosexual campus group then began a campaign to recall the student board and accused them of being “fundamentalist hate mongers.”

In Mt. San Antonio College, TFP student action members were welcomed by staff to bring fliers addressing homosexual “marriage.” Most of the students favored the TFP, but after an hour, a large group of pro-homosexual advocates formed a ring around the members. Campus police called for extra help and one told TFP member, “We’re not afraid that you are going to be starting anything. We’re here to defend you from anything those people try to start.” The counterdemonstrators burnt a TFP flier and shouted for the TFP to leave the free-speech zone. TFP members were treated similarly at Berkeley University, where more fliers



As homosexual “marriage” proponents encircled and shouted for TFP volunteers to leave the “free-speech zone” at Mt. San Antonio College, the pro-traditional marriage defenders prayed a Rosary.

were burnt and a box of over 1200 fliers was stolen and later found burning by firemen and police in a trash can.

In other parts of California, marriage-protection haters gained access to a churchyard in San Bernardino, Calif., and stole 300 "Protect Marriage" signs. At another Catholic church, José Nuñez volunteered to hand out similar signs in San Modesto. A man approached him and asked, "What do you have against gays?" Before Mr. Nuñez could answer, the man punched Mr. Nuñez' left eye and ran off with seventy signs. With his eye dripping with blood, Mr. Nuñez walked into a building on the church grounds where a fellow parishioner called 911. Mr. Nuñez suffered a bloody eye, serious facial wounds, a scratched knee, and was rushed by ambulance to a local hospital where he received sixteen stitches. After the attack, Bishop Cordileone wrote, "Those of us who favor preserving marriage as the union of a man and a woman in California are wondering what ever happened to our democracy."

The Victims Respond

Backfiring on the assaulting "tolerance preachers," the victims of pro-homosexual advocates are responding with more enthusiasm to defending Catholic teachings. Twenty-one-year-old Pablo, one of the 70 men defending the Argentinean Catholic cathedral, says that now the Argentinean Catholic youth are more committed to "living life as it truly is: a battle, a war." He says, "it is time to wake up, we must be aware that if we don't do it, nobody will. Nobody will bear witness to hope if we Catholics do not do it. The world is waiting, the world expects that we go out to it and conquer it."

John Ritchie, the project organizer for Saint Joseph Caravan, says the volunteers were attacked every three days but he

"The other side wants to intimidate us, but we can't stop standing up for traditional marriage. I may be bloody and bruised, but I'm not giving up. Protecting traditional marriage is just too important for our kids."



Shouting "Drink this!" two men enraged by a TFP pro-traditional marriage campaign near Arizona State University sprayed pesticide on TFP volunteers.

sees in the faces of the young men that "with every assault, their resolve to defend traditional marriage is only strengthened. With every insult, their desire to promote God's marriage grows ever stronger."

Thomas Schneider, who has since recovered from having pesticide thrown at him, says he "was brutally attacked but it strengthened my resolve to continue. From now on, no form of harassment will be able to prevent me from peacefully voicing my faith in public." Mr. Schneider is continuing to volunteer for more pro-marriage activities. His friend the cameraman is taking legal action against the assailants because "if anyone has the mission to stand up for the rights of Catholics to voice their concerns, I do."

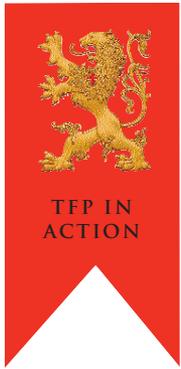
The student board members at American River College did not back down, and braved the abuse of media and students. The recall vote held against them failed by 300 votes despite the wishful thinking of a homosexual news site that announced their removal before the vote was fully counted.

At San Antonio College, Berkeley and other universities where TFP Student

Action members brought the homosexual issue, members like Elias Bartel said, "Conservative students gathered to our side. At San Antonio College, amid the risk of violence, we said a Rosary aloud and people joined us. At Berkeley we sang *We Want God* by Saint Louis de Montfort. Wherever we went we knew we were being hated simply because of the good we were doing and that encouraged us all."

Mr. Nuñez, with sixteen stitches under his eye, medical bills and behind in his work, confidently said, "The other side wants to intimidate us, but we can't stop standing up for traditional marriage. I may be bloody and bruised, but I'm not giving up. Protecting traditional marriage is just too important for our kids."

When asked why Catholics are showing such perseverance and joy at defending the truth, America Needs Fatima Director Robert Ritchie answered, "Catholics know that Our Lady of Fatima promised victory when she said, 'Finally my Immaculate Heart will triumph.' The teachings of the Church are going to win and we know it. On the opposite side, the homosexual movement is in trouble. They know that they are losing the battle. That's why several of them are trying to force their position on others, undemocratically pushing pro-homosexual legislation and turning to violence. It is a sign that they are running out of options and God is going to win." ■



Protecting God's Marriage in Florida

Young TFP Volunteers Log Thousands of Miles in Defense of Traditional Marriage

BY JOHN RITCHIE

Traveling without a fixed place to sleep or three square meals a day might seem like a burden to some. However, for the young TFP volunteers touring Florida for traditional marriage, it was a real joy. To spend time, talent and energy in such a noble endeavor prompted them to crisscross the Sunshine State, hold pro-traditional marriage demonstrations on college campuses and downtown centers, distribute leaflets and bumper stickers, convincing hearts and minds to stand up and defend the sanctity of marriage the way God made it.

Symphony of Support

TFP Student Action members received overwhelming sup-

port during their ten-day tour. At Miami's busiest intersections, they stood with large signs reading, "God's Marriage = 1 Man + 1 Woman" and "Honk for Traditional Marriage!" Wow, did people honk! Such was the symphony of honks that often erupted for traditional marriage throughout Florida that there were moments when TFP volunteers could not hear themselves talk.



"I work at the bank and my co-workers told me I should come to see you, so I came." Visibly pleased with the TFP campaign for traditional marriage, the woman continued, "This financial crisis we are in is because of the jus-

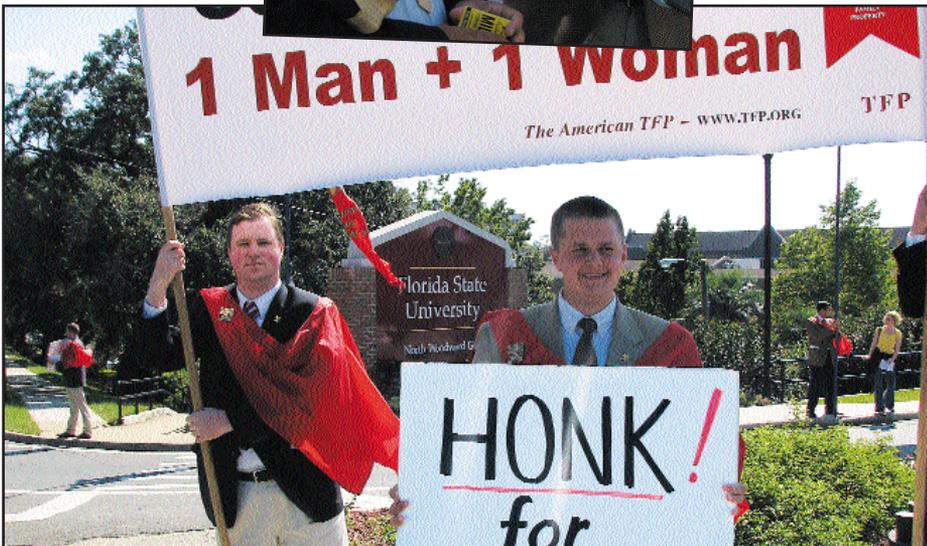
tice of God. Three states have allowed homosexual 'marriage' and if we don't respect God's law, we can expect more chastisements. I'm going to get my church involved in this issue. The Church is sleeping," she said.

"You Are Brave"

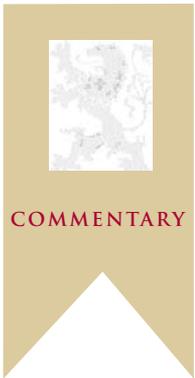
In Orlando, another person paused to watch the campaign. "Wow! You are really brave," he said. "Why do you say that?" asked a TFP volunteer. "Because this is the same street where the homosexuals had their 'gay pride parade,' thanks to the mayor and Disney." In fact, city lampposts were still festooned with rainbow flags, the symbol of the homosexual movement. Now, a favorite line used by pro-homosexual advocates is, "Separation of Church and State! Stop imposing your views on everyone else!"

Seeing those rainbow flags hanging on State property gave TFP members an easy and palpable way to rebut that argument: "If you think the State should remain neutral or silent in matters of public morality, why are all these pro-homosexual flags up on these lampposts? I'm sure city workers spent long hours putting them up at the expense of honest American tax dollars. Besides, the State is in the business of looking out for the common good, and traditional marriage is the institution that allows society to flourish and prosper. Therefore, the State should protect marriage and reject homosexual counterfeits."

TFP volunteers dedicated their tour to Saint Joseph whose powerful protection followed them every step of their journey. May Saint Joseph and the Blessed Mother grant America the moral fortitude to reject unnatural vice and defend the unchanging truths of God's law! ■



Top: TFP member James Bascom discusses traditional marriage with a Miami, Fla. pedestrian. **Above:** TFP volunteers hold signs and distribute fliers at one of Florida State University's gates in Tallahassee, Fla.



Flight of a Lifetime

BY NORMAN J. FULKERSON

Little did I know when I boarded Flight 3332 out of Kansas City, Mo., what a memorable trip it would be. As I seated myself for the three-hour flight, a screaming, hysterical little boy wearing glasses sat opposite me and used adult reasoning to explain to his mother the fear he had of air travel. A bearded twenty-year-old suffering from a hangover listened exasperatedly as the boy responded to the safety announcements.

"I am not supposed to be on board this plane," he said. "It is not good for me to be scared. I don't care about exit doors, flotation devices and oxygen masks. I want to get off this airplane!"

Unreasonable Question

Since we were making a stopover in Washington, D.C., it did not seem out of the ordinary that Congressmen Dennis Moore (D.-Kan.) and Bob Etheridge (D.-N.C.) would be on board.

Having had the chance to debate with numerous individuals on important moral issues, it has always been my desire to discuss those same issues with the lawmakers they put into office. Hence, I was overjoyed when Congressman Etheridge squeezed his six-foot frame into the seat next to me.

The ingredients were all in place for the flight of a lifetime; a screaming kid tormenting a young man vainly nursing a hangover and an outspoken defender of life sitting next to a liberal congressman. The congressman had no place to go since it was a full flight and I could not help but relish this captive audience.

Congressman Etheridge took a brief nap, but when he awoke I started a conversation, which

lasted the remainder of the flight, with a simple question, "What is your position on abortion?"

"I have never had one," he responded. It was somehow clear he was not saying, "I never had a position on abortion," but rather, "I never had an abortion." This became obvious when, visibly upset by my importunity, he shot a question back, "Have you [ever had an abortion]? What bothers me about such a question," he continued, "is that it is always men who ask it and men oppose [abortion]."

Such an inappropriate remark coming from a man who should have more substantial arguments was surprising. It was a response one would not expect from an elected official who is supposed to be knowledgeable on such issues in order to vote wisely.

"I have met many more women than men who oppose abortion," I responded, "and a lot of women who have actually had abortions only to regret it later and work to abolish such a practice."

Inconsistency

The next stage of our discussion began with Congressman Etheridge lamenting that pro-lifers often oppose legislation that would help children born into disagreeable situations.

It was clear to me that he was pointing out the apparent inconsistency on the part of conservatives who defend life but are portrayed as being callous toward children born into poverty. This is not an uncommon argument and it has always seemed to be one meant more to confuse rather than refute the opponent.

I simply reminded the congressman that pro-lif-

"I have met many more women than men who oppose abortion," I responded, "and a lot of women who have actually had abortions only to regret it later and work to abolish such a practice."

“How is it that we can have abortion on demand,” I asked, “yet prosecute a man and send him to prison for double homicide when he kills a pregnant woman?”



ers did not only engage in efforts to stop killing unborn babies, but they also assist desperate mothers. This translates into everything from free health care to diapers.

Since we were speaking about contradictions I could not resist reminding him of the huge inconsistency among liberals who promote abortion that kills the unborn, yet cynically push legislation meant to help children in need.

“What good is such legislation for a baby who dies by abortion?” I asked.

Since he seemed to be speechless I could not resist adding what I consider the biggest legal contradiction in the abortion debate.

“How is it that we can have abortion on demand,” I asked, “yet prosecute a man and send him to prison for double homicide when he kills a pregnant woman. Is it a blob of flesh or is it a human being?”

At that point anger got the best of him. He pointed out that it is not every day that a person gets three hours of private time with him since he normally doesn't take such long flights.

“But I refuse to be lobbied for the duration of this flight,” he concluded.

“That's an unfair accusation,” I responded, “I am just an American passenger on a plane discussing important issues with an elected official.”

Stroll Down Memory Lane

Seeing that I was not likely to get a substantial response to a serious issue, I turned to a point of common ground—our Southern heritage. He grew up on a farm in North Carolina while I grew up on a farm in Kentucky. Both of us had experienced similar things such as the hard work in a tobacco field, which provoked a nostalgia we found irresistible.

Recalling my life on the farm and wondering about his life in North Carolina, I told the congressman how I would like to have known him when he was a young man. It was my last chance

to remind him of a time when he would have defended the innocent.

“You should run for office,” the congressman said.

Such a suggestion, coming from an elected official, albeit on the opposite side of the political spectrum, seemed odd, even if flattering. I interpreted it as the extended hand of an ideological adversary who mistook my Southern affability for weakness. Before the flight was over I decided to put one last shot of pepper in the pot.

“Why would you want me to enter politics?” I asked him with a smile. “If I did I would obviously fight you tooth and nail, but always as a Southern gentleman.”

Our stroll down memory lane was ending as was our flight. The little boy across the aisle turned in our direction, providing me a glimpse of his face. His eyeglasses gave him an intelligent look, which confirmed my first impression that he was a reasonable boy.

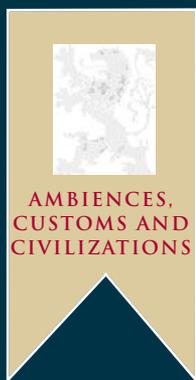
He is embarking on a life of decisions and his rational way of being is a very useful thing to lead him down the right path. When all is said and done, I had a lot of sympathy for the little boy. He, like me, disliked air travel because of a healthy fear and argued his point rationally. It goes without saying that such a logical boy would oppose abortion.

The congressman, on the other hand, in an attempt to defend the erroneous practice, became angry and resorted to emotional and illogical arguments. He has lamentably traveled far away from his childhood dreams when he most certainly would have responded logically to the world around him. Reflecting on the little boy and the congressman I could not help but think about what Paul Bourget once wrote, “One must live as one thinks, under pain of sooner or later ending up thinking as one has lived.”

I knew as we were landing in Washington, D.C., that I would never, in the course of a three-hour flight, change the way Congressman Etheridge thinks, but it was certainly a flight of a lifetime. ■

The Grandeur of the **SEA**

BY PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA



So varied, yet so harmonious. Whenever we find ourselves on the seashore, our soul delights at the boundless waters stretching out beyond the horizon to encircle the world—the immense sea that moves over almost three-quarters of the earth’s surface. We are standing before a delightful grandeur.

What makes the sea so grand is its unity. The world’s oceans form a single global sea, with its waters mingling, yet keeping remarkable diversity in spite of this unity.

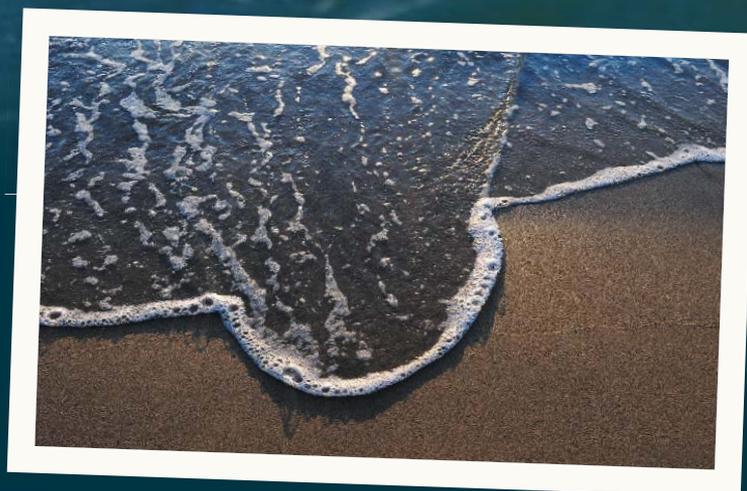
One moment, the sea is calm and serene, satisfying our desire for peace, tranquility and repose. The next moment it moves with grace and feeling, the small waves frolicking on its surface bringing a smile to our soul as we reflect with gratitude on the joys of life. At other times, the sea displays awesome power, breakers rising to majestic heights to hurl themselves with incredible force against the shore.

At times the sea comes ashore swiftly, almost out of breath. At others, it heads to shore lazily, its waves lapping listlessly on the beach. And then there are

times when it is transformed into the poet’s “ocean painting,” virtually devoid of motion while gazing landward with indolence. Sometimes, the sea is transparent—we can see right through its glass-like waters. At other times, its dark depths are opaque and impenetrable, evoking a sense of mystery.

One moment, its murmur is like a soothing caress calling us to pleasant thoughts; we hear from afar the voice of an old friend. Suddenly, the sea demands our attention with a commanding regal cry, imposing its will on all other elements.

We would not be enthralled by all these aspects of the sea if they did not unite into a coherent whole; so varied, yet so harmonious. ■



*Whenever we find ourselves on the seashore,
our soul delights at the boundless waters stretching out
beyond the horizon to encircle the world.*