

November/December 2017

CRUSADE

MAGAZINE



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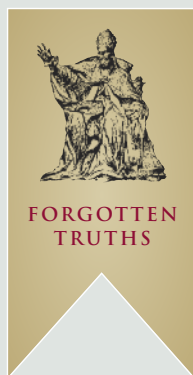
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Compassion Part II — Endorsement of Sin is Not Charity

TAKEN FROM *DEFENDING A HIGHER LAW*



The Divine example is that of the Good Shepherd who goes after the stray sheep to bring it back to the fold. Another moving example is Saint Monica, mother of Saint Augustine. She never endorsed her son's impure lifestyle and heretical beliefs, but she also never stopped praying and working towards his conversion. "A mother's tears" eventually did convert him and he became one of the greatest Catholic luminaries of all time.

True compassion is an effect of charity.¹ However, the object of this virtue is God, whose love extends to creatures.² Hence the virtue of compassion seeks to bring God to the one who suffers and make

him participate in God's infinite love. Saint Augustine expresses this very beautifully:

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Now, you love yourself suitably when you love God better than yourself. What, then, you aim at in yourself you must aim at in your neighbor, namely, that he may love God with a perfect affection.³

Thus, while commiserating with another's sufferings, love of neighbor must always be for the love of God.

From a Catholic and rational standpoint, compassion is only true when it aims at the real good of one's neighbor. This good consists, above all, in his eternal salvation but also encompasses alleviating his temporal sufferings. To assist him to remain in vice and sin out of a misguided pity for his temporal sufferings is to ignore his spiritual welfare and salvation. There can be no greater cruelty. ■



Notes:

1. Saint Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, q. 30, a. 3, ad 3.
2. Ibid. II-II, q. 25, a. 3.
3. Saint Augustine, *Of the Morals of the Catholic Church*, no. 49, www.newadvent.org/fathers/1401.htm.

CONTENTS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

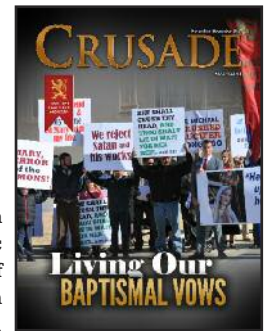
IN BRIEF	4
CHRIST IN THE HOME	
The Up-to-Date Woman	5
RETURN TO ORDER	
The Clash of the Hurricane Movements	6
COVER STORY	
Living Our Baptismal Vows	7
TFP IN ACTION	
Pro-Life Campaign Waged by TFP Student Action Volunteers	11
COMMENTARY	
The Pro-life Movement: In Imitation of the Sacred Heart	13
INTERVIEW	
Interview with Dr. Christine Bacon: Save Marriage at All Costs	14
ANF PROGRESS REPORT	
♦ Fatima Centennial Rosary Campaign	17
♦ Nearly 900,000 2018 Fatima Calendars Distributed Nationwide	17
♦ Third Protest Against P*** Christ Blasphemy in Houston, Texas	18
♦ Transgender Tyranny Opposed in Texas	18
♦ "It's Time for Me to Come Back."	19
♦ God's Timing Is Everything	20
♦ Our Readers Write	20
COMMENTARY	
How Our Lady Transformed Francisco and Jacinta into Great Saints	21
FAMILY SERIES	
♦ The Little Juggler of Our Lady	22
♦ The Magic Word	23
BACK COVER	
The Real Man	24

M-150

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Cover:

America Needs Fatima
protests a public
desecration of a statue of
Mary by Satanists in
Oklahoma, December 2015.



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13

Father Frank Pavone, the Sacred
Heart and the Pro-life movement



14

Why marriage is worth saving



11

Defending the unborn on the streets of major cities

CRUSADE

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THE AMERICAN TFP

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

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



IN BRIEF

Memberships Surge in Socialist Organization; “Clueless” Millennials Join in Droves

The Democratic Socialists of America proudly announced that it now has 25,000 dues-paying members, making it the largest socialist organization in the country since World War II. The surge in membership was attributed to supporters of Sen. Bernie Sanders joining the organization. A Harvard University study found that 51% of Americans ages 18 through 29 no longer say they support capitalism. But according to Jay Richards, executive editor of *The Stream*, most millennials are “clueless” about socialism and communism. He attributes biased media, which glorifies communism, and fuzzy thinking, which results in a lack of knowledge about socialism, as possible culprits.



Obama-era Rulings Negated by Trump Administration

President Donald Trump abruptly announced that “transgender” people can no longer serve in the U.S. military in any capacity. The policy shift came after all of the armed services’ commanders-in-chief requested a 6-month delay before implementing former president Obama’s policy that would have allowed “transgender” people to enlist in the military. Meanwhile, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that President Trump is about to issue an executive order that would eliminate the Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate that all employers pay for abortifacients, sterilization and contraception insurance. The order would rescind the HHS mandate that is considered to be the most offensive part of Obamacare.

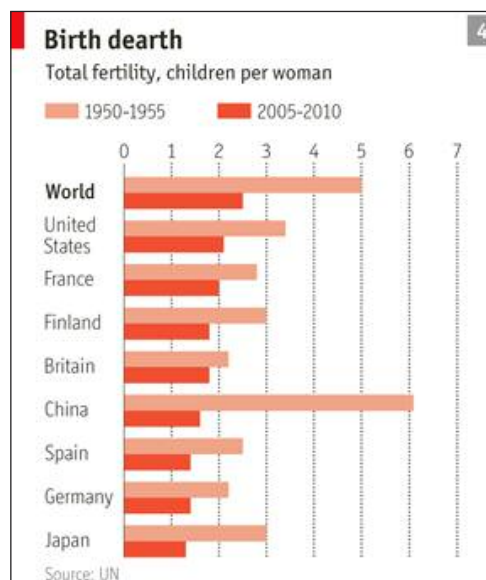
Americans Spend over \$69 Billion Annually on Pets

According to the American Pet Products Association (APPA), Americans’ obsession over their pets has been skyrocketing with estimates of spending up to \$69 billion this year alone. \$28.3 billion goes to the pet food industry, which offers “clean eating” options that include costly premium food products. Meanwhile, a 2013 research paper reported that: “pets outnumber children four to one in the United States. The trend of pet ownership has been increasing: between 2002 and 2012, the U.S. pet population grew faster than the human population (United States Department of Agriculture, 2013).” If children can be substituted by pets,

it may be that the increased demand for pets is at least partly attributable to the legalization of abortion in the United States.

Europe Is in a Crisis of “Childlessness”

Although the industrialized world as a whole has been facing a demographic challenge for quite some time, termed a “birth dearth,” Europe’s childlessness has been rising to extreme proportions. A report on CNS News revealed that European governments have been enticing women with incentives such as money, cars, refrigerators and other prizes just to



have children, but with no success. Some pointed out that the examples of most of the European leaders who are childless themselves is a stark illustration of “Europe’s democratic suicide.” Leaders of Europe’s largest economies (Germany, Great Britain, France and Italy) as well as several smaller nations have no children of their own.

Czech Republic Tells its Citizens

“You can Now Shoot Terrorists on Sight”

A new law took effect in the Czech Republic that gives its citizens the right to carry guns and shoot terrorists on sight. 139 out of 168 deputies in their legislature voted in favor of the amendment. The new law means that approximately 360,000 licensed gun owners in the Czech Republic are allowed to carry their weapons in public and use them in case of a public order emergency, such as terrorism. Interior Minister Milan Chovanec said, “we do not want to disarm our own people at a time when the security situation is deteriorating.” The Czech Republic has not seen any attacks in years and is ranked the sixth safest country in the world.



The Up-to-Date Woman

BY FATHER RAOUL PLUS, S. J.



CHRIST IN
THE HOME

One of our modern novels could present the following situation: The heroine, let's call her "Gina," is an up-to-date woman. Very rich and provided with a husband who thoroughly spoils her, she has dogs, cats, a parrot, and a monkey, but no children. This spoiled existence depresses her and she doesn't even know why.

Among her friends are mothers with children who courageously use their modest resources to rear a family. Often when an illness breaks out among the children, a friend of the family will take two or three of the others for the time. To cure Gina of her depressed spirits, her friend Jamie persuades her to take care of a young boy whose brothers and sisters have the chickenpox.

Gina is bewildered; she knows perfectly well how to care for a monkey or a parrot, but she finds herself embarrassed before this little boy who has already judged her severely from the height of his four years. "How much is lacking in her training! She knows how to smoke," he says to himself sadly, "but she can't button my shirt." He did not complain nor did he reproach her; but on seeing her so clumsy, he thought she had much to learn to become a woman like his mamma.

Happily there are other kinds of women. A mother of a family and a brilliant author was asked to write for a series entitled *The Up-to-Date Woman*. She writes, "How shall I ever write this little book? There are no up-to-date mothers. There are only Mammias." And with charming dash coupled with irresistible conviction she gave young wives this advice:

"Little Lady... Do not listen to those frustrated women or those soured unmarried girls, or those Jezebels who have nothing of the matron about them but their age and have no real experience; do not let them draw you out of the right way. Be convinced, that the joy which babies bring is inex-

pressible and makes up for all the torment and fatigue of bearing them. Be certain that the sight of that plump, smooth little body; of those dimpled hands and feet, both like pink silk yet provided with sharp nails; of that darling little mouth with its toothless smile, so simple and so trustful that the bright look, so marvelously pure, the soft cheeks, the silky hair, the utter quiet abandonment of this little being who issued forth from us floods our soul with an intense and intimate ecstasy such as I have never known before."



If only the up-to-date woman would be a mother for the future. After the dark hours of the war, new life must be born. There will be lives only if there are mothers, mothers who respond to their essential and divine vocation. Even if there were not this motive of special need, eternal reasons still have force—the law of fecundity and the law of chastity. Although it is permissible for married persons to abstain from the conjugal act or to perform it only when there is the least possibility of conception

provided their reasons are not selfish; if they do perform the marital act they may do nothing to prevent the generation of a life which is in the plan of God. That is clear.

Give me, O my God, the grace through respect for You and for Your work, always to have a devotion to and a respect for life; grant that I may never sully my own existence by any criminal attempt upon new life. Grant me also the grace to be in Your Hands a not too unworthy instrument of Your creative power. Let me be "up-to-date" whenever it is a question of enrolling a new name in the Book of Life. ■

Taken from *Christ in the Home*, by Father Raoul Plus, S. J. (a translation from the French) 1951, p. 116.

We have reached a point in our nation's history where the debate is becoming ever more violent and uncivil. This can be seen in the statue wars now raging after the rally in Charlottesville. The event served as an example of the growing frustration with the political process that many claim is irretrievably broken.

Indeed, it is hard to get things done. Worse, things are done outside the normal

Like hurricanes, these people vary in their degree of intensity, thus differing as to the extent of the devastation they cause.

Harming Society by Their Actions

However, most hurricane men have been revolutionaries of the left that end up harming society much like hurricanes do in the places where they land.

The names of these harmful figures are legion—Robespierre, Lenin, Hitler,

presents the better narrative or wields the heavier fist.

The Clash of Hurricane Men Leading to Strife

And that is what has happened in the statue wars. The media have framed the controversy to the left's advantage. The hurricane men of the left have undermined the rule of law. Cowardly politicians call for society to give in to the leftist narrative. The powerful captains of industry cower in fear of displeasing politically-correct diktats of the hurricane men.

Rather than craft a counter-narrative to win the war for public opinion, many statue defenders find it much simpler to rely upon their own hurricane men, which serves only to create a more intense hurricane. This is not the classic clash of right versus left, but rather a recipe for anarchy. No one respects the rules or principles anymore. This is the stuff of civil strife that threatens the nation.

* * *

What is missing today are those who defy the culture and make the effort to frame the debate in defense of order and history. What is needed are not hurricane men, but calm representative figures spread throughout society, who by their example and integrity can lead a nation through the storm and accomplish great things.

In times of crisis, hurricane men appear. However, the same crisis can also call forth principled and courageous figures who will oppose the hurricane men. The time has come for many who now watch to step up to the plate.

As in times of natural disaster, all Americans urgently need to call upon God's help to save the nation from devastation. ■

Taken from *The Imaginative Conservative*, 08/24/17.



THE CLASH OF THE Hurricane Movements

BY JOHN HORVAT II

processes and even the rule of law. Hence, statues are defaced by vandals or removed at night without regard for the views of the public. Protests have turned violent. Fanning the fires, the media frame the issues so as to favor a liberal narrative and agenda. People become frustrated and want quick solutions.

And that is the problem. These are times of frenetic intemperance, many people no longer want to make the immense effort to change things. Whether it be politics or consumer goods, people want everything now, quickly and without complications.

The Hurricane Men Appear

These circumstances prepare for the coming of the "hurricane men."

Throughout history, there have always been hurricane men. The expression is used here figuratively to mean any man, woman, group or movement that in a time of crisis appears like a hurricane. These figures or movements go outside the political process and break the rules to push their agenda.

Not all such figures have been bad people. Some merely disrupt and don't overthrow their societies. At times, societies benefit from abrupt changes but not without damaging society in some way.

Mao, Che, Castro and countless others. The sixties introduced a generation of hurricane people with the sexual revolution. Today's mass society tends to create hurricane movements (like Antifa and Black Lives Matter) that produce much the same effect.

Steamrolling over Laws and Sentiments

What characterizes a hurricane man is his willingness to go outside customs and laws. With no principles to bog him down, he proposes quick solutions and pithy slogans to overcome the frustrations of a society in crisis.

In the statue war, two hurricane movements clash. The first movement is the gaggle of Antifa-type leftists, who violently attack the second movement made up of the extremists of the so-called alt-right. When these leftists steamroll over laws and public sentiments, the other side is tempted to slug right back.

Times become dangerous when this happens. The debate ceases to be civil or even rational.

All sides are committed to anarchy. The victory belongs to the side that



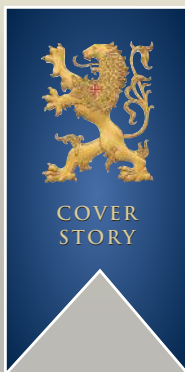
Statue of American hero, Paul Revere, Boston, Massachusetts.



Living Our BAPTISMAL VOWS

Rejecting Satan and His Works

BY JOHN HORVAT II



A satanic offensive is taking place in America. It can be seen not only in large cities and liberal strongholds, but in small communities like Belle Plaine, Minnesota.

This city served as the stage for a highly symbolic sequence of events. In April, officials there approved plans for a satanic monument to be erected in a free speech area of the town's Veterans Memorial Park. The effort was a project of the Satanic Temple, based in Salem, Massachusetts, and a local religious freedom group. The sponsors designed, fundraised and built a symbol-laden monument which was to have been the first satanic monument on public property in United States history.

The move was met with significant opposition by townspeople and concerned citizens all across the nation. Over 25,000 people signed one petition asking for its rejection. A recent protest attracted nearly 300 people to the site. The vigorous opposition led the City Council to vote on July 17 to abolish the park's free speech zone. The Satanists' move was defeated.

Not a Case of Religious Liberty

What carried the day was protesting.

Most of these fights across America are being presented as simple cases of religious freedom. In Belle Plaine, the Satanists claimed that since the park had a much-beloved monument of a soldier praying over a grave with a cross, the alien satanic monument should enjoy an equal right to be present in the free speech zone.

However, the real issue in this controversy goes far beyond religious freedom or freedom of expression. It is best not to waste time arguing about these freedom issues since it allows the enemy to choose the battlefield. Religious freedom is only being used as a pretext for Satanists to obtain their goal. And their real goal is much more sinister than the equal placement of a monument.

Looking for Acceptance of the Unacceptable

The real issue is acceptance of the devil.

The real issue is all about the mainstreaming of Satanism in America. Much as the same-sex "marriage" debate was about acceptance of the homosexual lifestyle, so also satanic groups seek social acceptance.

Indeed, this is what the Satanists themselves declare. For them, it has nothing to do with religious practices. Many of them even allege they have none. They simply want to mainstream Satanism so that it will be viewed as normal.

Indeed, the devil is the last great victim of discrimination in America. He represents all that is evil, hideous and macabre. As long as the devil is rejected in the minds of people anywhere, there remains some objective distinction between good and evil.



Rosaries raised high in America Needs Fatima protest against Black Mass held in Oklahoma City, 2016.



There is no question of how to deal with the devil in Milton's *Paradise Lost*. Engraving by Gustave Doré, 1885.

From time immemorial, Satan has been abhorred. There has always been a barrier of horror that separates him from mankind. Satanic groups now want to tear down this last barrier of moral health to overwhelm the crumbling ramparts of the moral order.

The Satanic Offensive

This explains the new Satanic offensive. The target is the

moral order, especially as upheld by Christian civilization. The fight is not new in itself since Satanic symbols and lyrics have long pervaded modern culture. What is new is its more open expression.

Open adherents of Satan are now demanding space in the public square. Satanic groups have increasingly been holding high-profile staged events, even in Bible-belt areas, that aim to create a sense of normality around the abnormal Satan.

It is truly an offensive. It involves not just one Satanist group but a whole spectrum of groups in which each has its role in the overall battle to secure social acceptance.

There are the "dark" Satanists who indeed worship Satan in macabre ceremonies that frighten the public. These radicals make Luciferians, and more moderate Satanists, seem more reasonable and acceptable to the mainstream. Finally, there are even "enlightened" Satanists that claim they do not worship Satan at all, but merely use his image and symbols to represent tenets of reason and science.

Different Tactics

These groups employ different tactics. Thus, some groups, for example, have concentrated on merely using the legal system to advance their goals.

This is the case of the Satanic Temple. It has focused on making inroads by taking advantage of religious freedom provisions to score symbolic victories. They arranged, for example, to set up After School Satan Clubs in elementary schools across the nation to counteract the influence of after school Christian clubs. They have also tried to set up hideous satanic statues next to Ten Commandments monuments on public land.

In Belle Plaine, the Temple first obtained the removal of the cross monument and then accepted its return together with its Satanic monument.

Other Satanists are much more aggressive in their behaviors and make no attempt to hide their contempt for the Church. They organize, for example, caricatures of the Catholic Mass, called Black Masses, which are openly blasphemous and sacrilegious, even to the point of attempting (unsuccessfully) to desecrate a consecrated host.



Catholics oppose the Greater Church of Lucifer in Spring, Texas, 2016.

Increased Incidents of Satanism over the Last Three Years

- The Satanic Temple attempted to hold a Black Mass at Harvard University, a time-honored institution meant for America's best and brightest, in 2014.

- In 2015, Fox TV aired a new series on prime-time television called *Lucifer*. The program, recently approved for a third season, was designed to mainstream the devil, making him appear to be a likeable and misunderstood young man.



- That same year, Bert's Entertainment Complex in Detroit unveiled the Satanic Temple's 9-foot tall statue of the demon Baphomet with two children next to it. In addition, this statue was designed to allow children to climb up and sit on the demon's lap.

- On December 24, 2015, Christmas Eve, after conducting a Black Mass and mocking Our Lord Jesus Christ, Satanists in Oklahoma performed what they call the Consumption of Mary. This involved decapitating her holy image, pulling a pig's heart from inside the statue and eating it, then



One group in Oklahoma City held strange ceremonies on the street in front of a Catholic church, in which they defiled, with fake blood, a statue of the Virgin Mary on Christmas Eve. Another group set up a Satanic church in an upscale family shopping area in Spring, Texas.

The True Goal: Numb the Resistance

These Satanists care little if they win or lose the concrete fight over the monument, the statue, the Black Mass, or whatever. Using the false argument of religious freedom, they will seek to remove a cross or religious symbol in the public square. If they win, the hated cross will be gone. If they lose, they will strive to put up their monument with equal exposure.

But all this is insignificant to them. They are after much larger rewards. Their true strategic goal is the framed debate, with its substantial media exposure and its accompanying tragic numbing of the fibers of resistance in the souls of many.

Belle Plaine monuments and Oklahoma City Black Masses are not aimed at attracting a large number of followers—very few ever show up. Rather, they seek to put Satan in the news and make Satanists accepted at the table. They try to wear down the resistance of Christians who oppose their offensive actions. They gradually hope to win a reluctant acceptance on the part of the general public tired of fighting against them.

Protest: The Most Effective Action

Many Christians have tried to oppose the satanic offensive through legal proceedings. While such actions are welcome and are sometimes successful, they cannot be the only line of defense. Some judges may rule favorably, but there will always be a federal

judge somewhere to side with the Satanists.

The most effective means of action is public, legal, prayerful, and peaceful protest. Since the battlefield is the hearts of Americans, it is in the court of public opinion that the real fight takes place. Protest denies the Satanists the acceptance they crave. Protest nourishes and invigorates the fibers of resistance Satanists seek to numb. Regardless of the outcome, if the protests are fervent enough, the bad publicity generates results that frustrate the Satanists' goals and often ends in Christian victory.

This can be seen in three ways.

(1) Direct Victory

When a protest is fervent enough, it often stimulates authorities to find the means to take action.

This is what happened with the Satanic Temple's Black Mass scheduled at Harvard University for May 12, 2014. Thousands of students and Catholics processed through the streets of Cambridge to protest this blasphemous act from being staged on campus. Tens of thousands signed petitions. The event was canceled.



In rejecting "Satan and his works" these Catholics are honoring their baptismal vows, and in so doing, making reparation for the blasphemous Black Mass held in Oklahoma City, 2016.

smashing what remained of her sacred image. This was done in a public venue; people paid money to watch this on a stage.

- Oklahoma City granted Satanists a permit to hold a public sacrilege in front of Saint Joseph Old Cathedral on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2015. One Satanist poured stage blood over a statue of the Virgin Mary treated with "sulfur powder and ash."



- Beginning in Phoenix, Arizona, in 2015, Satanists in various cities across America tried to introduce an opening prayer (to Satan) at the City Council meetings.

- The Greater Church of Lucifer set up shop in a family-friendly shopping district in Old Town Spring, Texas in October of 2015.

- In 2016, the Satanic Temple

began infiltrating our schools to "teach" our children the "virtues" of Satanism. They have already started in a school in Portland, Oregon and they have spread to Tacoma, Washington.



- In December 2016, a massive satanic pentagram was placed in a Florida park, in Boca Raton's Sanborn Square, located next to a nativity scene. Preston Smith got a permit from the city for the display.

- Professed Satanists are running for public office (California).

- In the summer of 2017, the Satanic Temple opposed the display of a Christian symbol (cross) in the Veterans' Park in Belle Plain, Minnesota. They then proceeded to demand the right to display a satanic symbol there as well.



Above: Oklahoma City, 2014. This was to be the first of three annual protests held in reparation for the Black Masses held in this mid-western city. *Above right:* Harvard University, 2014. University representatives denied Satanists the use of University facilities to hold a Black Mass, after this ANF protest.



And this is what happened July 17, 2017, when city officials eliminated the free speech zone in the Veterans' Memorial Park.

(2) Reversing the Victim Game

When the protest is fervent enough, it has the effect of depriving the Satanists of the stage they demand to push their victim narrative. In fact, the victim game is reversed. People begin to see the townspeople, Catholics or other offended parties as the victims of authorities that deliver top-down decisions against the wishes of those they are supposed to represent.

Again regardless of the outcome, the Satanists come to be seen as the imposers and oppressors that they are. This is the bitter case of the Pensacola City Council, which allowed the Satanic Temple to deliver the opening invocation on July 14, 2016.

Sometimes this perception of new Christian victims is enough to win the case. At other times, the Satanists may win a victory, but it is a pyrrhic victory, that leaves a nasty aftertaste. Even a court victory can represent social defeat for them. It results in rejection by the general public, not the acceptance which is their true goal.

(3) Making the Satanists Retreat

Finally, when Satanists perceive an overwhelming rejection of their actions, they often retreat. Or, they are forced to beat a dead horse by carrying on a program with no future.

When the Greater Church of Lucifer set up shop in Spring, Texas, the protests against the intrusion turned local people and merchants against them. The social rejection eventually led to the Satanists' abandoning the location they had rented.

Similarly, the bad publicity drummed up when 103,000 people signed a petition against an After-School Satan Club in Port Defiance, Washington, was so intense that two weeks after its launch, not a single student signed up.

Protests Block the Satanists' Goal

Thus, protest is fundamental in the fight against the Satanist offensive. The main thing to never forget is that social acceptance is the Satanists' goal. Thus, protest is an excellent form of free speech that can be extremely effective in denying this acceptance. Legal, prayerful, and peaceful protests offend no one's rights. In their strengthening of the moral fibers and the natural horror for the devil in people's souls, protests help assure a social victory, regardless of the actions taken by authorities.

Protests Help Uphold the Moral Order

It is also important to remember two reasons why Christians must protest Satanism. First, by their actions and stated positions, Satanists reject a moral order based on an objective notion of right and wrong that is found in the Ten Commandments. They consistently support abortion, same-sex "marriage" and so many sins that destroy society and offend God.

Secondly, Christians are practicing self-defense since it is the Satanists who are attacking what remains of Christian civilization. By protesting, Christians counter-attack and send a message to those who contemplate such actions that they will be opposed.

Protesting helps maintain the natural barrier of horror that has always stood and must continue to stand between the devil and humanity.

Protests Mean Fidelity to Our Baptismal Vows

Perhaps the most important reason to protest is that it serves as a reaffirmation of one's baptismal vows. At Baptism, Christians are called to reject Satan and all his works. At Baptism, Christians affirm belief in God and promise to love and serve Him for their lifetimes. When tempted so brutally and directly by this satanist offensive to renege on baptismal vows, legal, peaceful, and prayerful protest is the natural expression of love and fidelity. ■



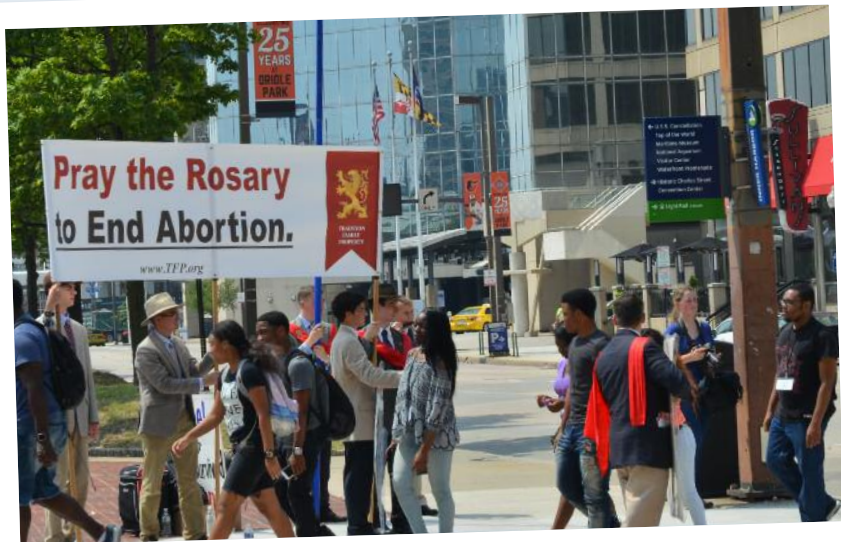
Pro-Life Campaign Waged by TFP Student Action Volunteers

BY VINCENT GORRE

For ten days in July, young volunteers of TFP Student Action spent their summer vacation traveling to six major cities in three states as well as Washington, D.C. They campaigned on busy street intersections against the perennial sin of abortion. Inspired and motivated most of all by their love of God, the young men of TFP Student Action epitomized French poet and writer Paul Cladel's famous quote: "Youth was not made for pleasure, but for heroism."

The scene on the street corners was colorful and lively: bagpipes blaring; crimson standards emblazoned with the golden TFP lion waving in the wind; large pro-life signs and banners proclaiming the evil of abortion; and young men dressed in suits and ties with red capes inviting passing motorists to honk their horns in support. Pedestrians and on-lookers on both sides of the

An unfamiliar sight on this busy city street, the pro-life campaign banner invites all to end the sin of abortion through the power of the Rosary.



TFP Student Action volunteer, Zechariah Long, takes time to explain the pro-life position to an interested passer-by.

issue could be seen engaging the young men in animated discussions.

The Pro-Life Caravan first stopped at the Hunt Valley Mall, just 19 miles outside of Baltimore, Maryland. Despite the rain, the enthusiastic young volunteers unfolded their banners and raised their standards to the full view of the busy mall shoppers and motorists. A police officer who answered a complaint from a passing motorist, approached and instead, complimented the young men by saying, "I agree with you. Keep it up!"

On the second day of the campaign, Washington, D.C. was the target. The busy intersection of K Street and 17th Street NW was the perfect spot to get reactions. One lady stopped her car, rolled down her window and said, "I agree with you. You speak the truth because I had an abortion and I've

had to live with it every single day. I know the truth and I know abortion is a horrible thing.” On the opposite side of the issue, a man pointed his hand as if holding a gun towards the volunteers. He was clearly “pro-choice.”

Harrisburg and Camp Hill, Pennsylvania were the stops on the third day. There was a steady flow of honking cars driven by obvious supporters of the campaign. One man, however, unequivocally loud in proclaiming where his loyalty lay, screamed: “Throw all babies in the trash—Hail Satan!” Another motorist pulled over, refusing to honk her horn. But a TFP Student Action volunteer pointed out a sign on her car that said “Dog adoption and education services,” and said, “If you like adoption for dogs, why not for babies?” Realizing the contradiction in her attitude, the driver decided to honk her horn.

The volunteers headed to Baltimore, Maryland on the fourth day. Downtown Pratt Street was busy with people that day resulting in the distribution of hundreds of the TFP flyer, “10 Reasons to Protect the Unborn.” One cyclist stopped for a brief conversation and commented, “My mother contemplated aborting me. I thank God she didn’t.” He added, “I have three beautiful children.” At some point during the campaign, a kind and generous pro-life couple cooled the young volunteers from the sweltering heat by offering snow cones. What a blessing!

Day five brought them to Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. The volunteers noticed that most of the motorists passing by were favorable. One man crossed the street to thank each one of the volunteers. After praying, the group shouted the TFP battle cry: “Tradition! Family! Property! — America!”

The sixth day of the campaign was spent at the popular tourist destination of Gettysburg. After setting up in the center of Lincoln Square, flyers were handed out to passers-by. Then a man in a car shouted, “Everybody hates you! Go home and do something useful!” A lady who stood at the corner



across the street, yelled, “Get a job!” Another lady with two children in her car shouted, “I hate you! I love abortion!” But in the afternoon, a lady gave the young volunteers a large batch of homemade chocolate chip cookies—enough to end the day on a sweeter note.

The last three days of the campaign were spent in the bustling city of Chicago and its suburbs. Tents were set up in a nearby camp site which served as home for the next three days. The first day in Chicago was spent at Madison and La Salle Streets. The young volunteers had to struggle against the wind to raise their standards and unfurl their banners and signs. There were plenty of engaging debates with pro-abortionists and a good amount of pro-life support as well. The next two days were spent at Water Tower Place on Michigan Ave. and the Art Institute of Chicago with some “colorful” reactions from the public.

To conclude the campaign, the young volunteers went to Saint James Chapel, a marvelous church resembling the famous Sainte-Chapelle in Paris. Before leaving the church, the group sang the *Salve Regina* in honor of the Blessed Mother Mary.

The experience gained by these young men throughout the ten-day campaign enabled them to sharpen their debating skills and stand up to defend the moral values we all hold so dear. Having attended a TFP Chivalry Camp, they already know that defending the rights of the unborn is just one important way to practice the virtue of chivalry—boldness and peaceful Christian daring in the public square. ■

The most effective way of educating the man on the street about the pro-life cause is through patient, concerned and rational discussion.



Top: Many a heated debate was sparked on the streets when the topics of abortion and the rights of the unborn were brought up. **Above:** Americans of every generation must defend human life on both ends of the spectrum—from the unborn to the elderly.





COMMENTARY

The Pro-life Movement: In Imitation of the Sacred Heart

BY FATHER FRANK PAVONE

Once heard a very young boy call out for his daddy in a beautiful, clear, and diminutive voice while he was playing. The father, moved by it, responded lovingly, “Yes, my heart?” And something about that interaction touched me. If that boy is his father’s heart, then he is the most important thing to him. The heart is the core or center of a person in a figurative way. And, in the most literal and physical sense, the heart is the engine or the motor of the body. It pumps our entire lives, never sleeping. It keeps us alive. If a father can love his son to the core of his being so that he calls him his heart, then we can understand more how Jesus must love us.

In the image of the Sacred Heart, Christ extends to us His flaming heart that has been lanced and pierced with thorns. It is a suffering heart. Christ loves us by saving our lives in exchange for His life. We, as the Body of Christ, are called to do the same.

One way this love is embodied is in pro-life work. It is, at its essence, a work of self-giving love for children in the womb who don’t even know we are loving them. And it is a lifesaving work that comes with a cost. The crown of thorns on the heart and the piercing with the lance symbolize the



Father Frank Pavone, a tireless defender of the unborn, shares these deep insights on the Sacred Heart and the pro-life movement.

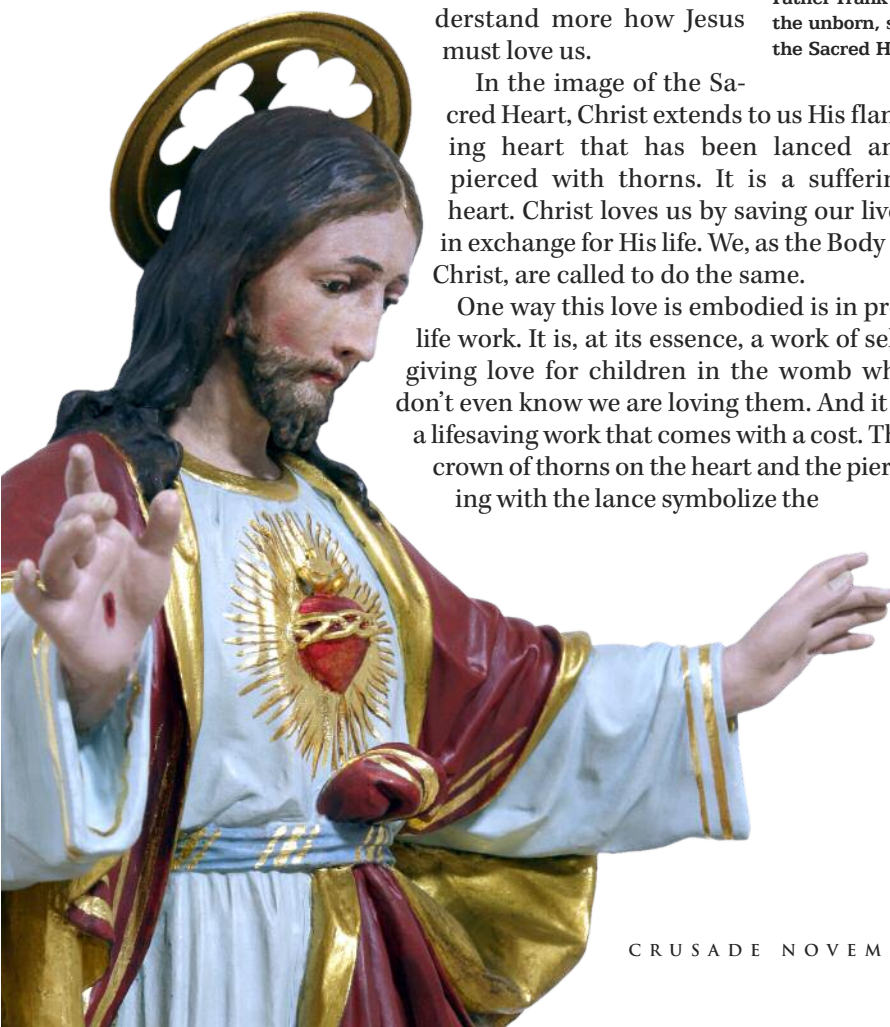
suffering that all those who defend the unborn will undergo; defend the unborn and you will be treated like them. Despite suffering, Christ’s heart keeps on beating inside His body. So must we persevere within the Body of Christ.

And we worship the Sacred Heart of Jesus. His heart is part of His body, and it is the body of God. The Feast of the Sacred Heart, and our devotion to that heart throughout the year, bring to the forefront the reality of the Incarnation. And so does pro-life work. Just as the heart is a physical organ, pro-life work is a physical concern,

not just a spiritual one. We must pray for the children in the womb, but we must also encounter them physically and defend them physically. We pray at the places where they are being killed, we counsel the moms in whose wombs they are nourished, we bury the bodies of those we could not save. We act, in the body, because we are moved by His love, which He shows us in His Body.

Moreover, the passion of love in the Sacred Heart is also the passion of love by which we defend the baby in the womb; His heart of mercy is the mercy we extend to all who have been involved in abortion. Pro-lifers are often stereotyped as being single-mindedly concerned with saving babies and nothing more. This claim couldn’t be further from the truth. Our ministry at Priests for Life ministers to everybody. Rachel’s Vineyard offers healing retreats for families broken by abortion. Silent No More gives them a voice and a vote. This is the work of mercy.

Jesus said He is meek and humble of heart, and this also brings us to the heart of the pro-life movement. The attitude of humility is the opposite of pro-choice, which asserts itself. Humility humbles itself



and accepts the choices of God. It accepts that God's will and plans are better than our own, even if they come unexpectedly. A story recently broke about an Olympic athlete who discovered she was pregnant weeks before the Olympics. Blindsided and panicked by the pregnancy, she hastily aborted so she could participate in the Olympics. But the decision was met with instant regret. She and the father realized that what they decided demonstrated a desire to control their circumstances. She wishes she had had a more open heart.

The Sacred Heart is a welcoming and open heart. It welcomes the unexpected. When we have Jesus' heart, we see Him in the stranger. We must not treat our children as strangers

The Sacred Heart is a welcoming and open heart. It welcomes the unexpected. When we have Jesus' heart, we see Him in the stranger. We must not treat our children as strangers in the womb, but we must welcome them as if we were welcoming Christ.

in the womb, but we must welcome them as if we were welcoming Christ. We make room for the woman in crisis as if we were welcoming Christ. We open our hearts to the broken-hearted who regret their abortions. And we even open our hearts to those who have yet to see the error of their ways. We see Christ in each of these and we choose love.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus, and our worship of that heart, represent the heart of the pro-life movement, and enable us to be transformed according to that heart. Every aspect of the pro-life movement is motivated by love, and that is why we can be confident of victory, for "Love is stronger than death, more powerful even than hell" (Song of Songs 8:6). Sacred Heart of Jesus, lead us to the victory of life and of love! ■

Father Frank Pavone is the national director for Priests for Life.

Interview with Dr. Christine Bacon: Save Marriage at All Costs



INTERVIEW

Mr. John Horvat II, author of *Return to Order* and Vice President of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP), sat down with Dr. Christine Bacon to discuss the subject of marriages and why they are worth saving. Dr. Bacon is the renowned radio host of "Breakfast with Bacon: the Relationship Doctor."

John Horvat: Just a word of explanation. I appeared on your show recently and read your book, *The Super Couple*. I was very impressed by your perspectives on marriage in our frenzied times. It coincides with a lot of the themes I develop that stress the need for stability in marriage. In my book, *Return to Order*, I talk about what I call frenetic intemperance in economy and culture, which is the desire to have everything instantly and effortlessly. I talk about how this impacts society and economy. How is this frenetic intemperance reflected in today's marriages?

Dr. Christine Bacon: This is such a great question to ponder. But the frenetic intemperance of marriage is that desire to have the "perfect" marriage on day one of a couple's life together without any need for work or without ever having to endure any trials. It is represented in the "if this spouse doesn't make you happy, then divorce him/her and move on to the next one who certainly will make you happy" mindset. We rush through relationships without ever taking the time to sit back (before, during and after [in some cases]) and consider what are my expectations of marriage. We take little to no time to consider what we are to sacrifice, and will our sacrifice produce fruit. Frenetic intemperance in marriage mirrors frenetic intemperance in our spending with an attitude that seems to say "buy now, pay later."

John Horvat: Why do you passionately believe that marriage should be saved even when it appears that all is lost?



Christine M. Bacon, Ph.D., is an expert in communications and personal relationships. Her passion is for the institution of marriage.

Dr. Bacon: I believe it should be saved because I know that it can be saved. All marriages! Even in cases of abuse, addiction or infidelity, I've seen people's hearts turn and their behaviors change. Most, though, believe in quitting on the relationship because they believe there is no hope of redemption. My faith teaches me that redemption is possible for every soul and thus for every marriage. The irony is that most hearts turn back toward one another precisely because one spouse did not lose hope and became a Stander—and stood for reconciliation until death do they part. The primary role of the spouse is to love the other yet we cease to love at numerous moments within our marriages and thus the loving feelings go away. When this happens, what we need to do, what I do in my daily profession, is to teach couples how to actively love another. I give them strategies for ways to be patient and kind to one another, to not be rude, and to not keep a record of every wrong their spouse committed against them. Appearances are deceiving.

John Horvat: Could you comment on the importance of having a whole society that believes in marriage and disapproves of divorce? How does this reinforce marriage?

Dr. Bacon: Absolutely! There is a theory taught in academia called the Theory of Social Proof. In simple terms, it means that if everyone else is doing it, it must be ok. Abortion rates went up (not down) when it became legal because it validated in many minds that "If the law says it's ok to do, then I guess I am ok to have one myself." When supposed "no-fault" divorce became legal in the 1970s, divorce also skyrocketed for the same reasons—"If everyone else is doing it, it must be ok."

We look to our leaders, our mentors, and those who have gone before us to show us the way and share with us their wisdom. If our mentors are divorcing they will not only NOT stop us from considering divorce ourselves (because their actions speak louder than their words) but sadly, many who have divorced will often tell us to do so in order to validate their having gotten divorced. More than two generations out from this no-fault divorce ruling there are fewer examples of those who fought to save their marriages and lived "happily ever after" than there are couples who have divorced and so our children have few to emulate.

Should society again validate the efficacy of standing for our marriages and teach our children that to do so is a much more preferable option to divorce for a plethora of reasons, the divorce rate would come to a screeching halt. If adults considering divorce would honestly consider the pain they endured as a child from their own parents' divorce they'd also likely slow the divorce train significantly. But often that does not happen. The pain one is currently enduring in his or her marriage is so extreme that the potential divorcee convinces themself

that their case is unique and that their own children will "get over it" just like they did—without realizing that they never really did get over it as seen through their own consideration of divorce.

To be more succinct, for I fear I have digressed, if when one considers divorce, one's parents, colleagues, and friends all delivered the same message that the marriage is worth fighting for and that happiness can absolutely return, then a struggling spouse would regain the needed hope and encouragement to continue fighting. When all the same individuals tell that person that divorce is a viable option and the stander's voice is drowned out by them it is nearly impossible to overcome.

John Horvat: Could you speak about the stability that marriage gives to society? The stability over generations?

Dr. Bacon: Marriage is foundational to any human society. The phrase "there is strength in numbers" can first refer to marriage and the family. Marriage gives the greatest opportunity to practice conflict management skills, interpersonal communication, love, respect, and compassion. Marriage provides a safe place to share, to bare one's greatest fears, failings, successes, and every other example in between. Marriage teaches selflessness. Marriage teaches us that we have a choice to focus on one's strengths over one's weaknesses because no one sees both more clearly and intimately than a spouse.

All the strengths that any society needs to survive and thrive are first practiced in the marriage. And as we've seen in today's society, not only are we now lacking in those practices and qualities in our marriages and families but we are lacking them in our governments

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The indissolubility of marriage is instinctive. Everyone knows, or at least senses, that marriage should be forever. But the struggle to make this happen is a much bigger story with the capacity of sanctifying the spouses if they take up the challenge and never give up. Padlocks used as symbols of undying love cover the sides of Pont de l'Archevêché (Archbishop's Bridge) in Paris.

and our media as well. The epic levels of mudslinging and disrespect we see between political parties and on reality TV shows first began in our marriages. We do not know how to be nice to one another anymore and we certainly don't know how to put the needs of others before our own anymore.

Should a married couple learn and put into practice these loving and respectful strategies, those same practices, attitudes and behaviors would naturally carry into our professional and public relationships as well. Should a society begin to practice these edifying behaviors and teach them to our children, they would necessarily be passed on to the next generation of children as well. Stable marriages (where one individual feels secure and confident that the other will still be there when they get home each night—despite whatever negative things may have taken place), bring to society the same security and where otherwise its citizens seek to find order, truth and something they can believe in. Where there is security there is stability. Where there is one the other naturally follows.

John Horvat: You are Catholic as I am. Could you speak about the role of the Catholic faith in marriage? Why is the Church and sacramental life so important to marriage?

Dr. Bacon: As a young spouse, I never fully understood the teaching that marriage is meant to make us holy, not happy. It sounded so...well...miserable. It sounded as if to choose holiness one was choosing suffering and dooming themselves to a marriage of toleration—similar to the marriages of our grandparents who stayed married until death but were unhappily so. Marriages of today are paradoxical to that. They seek only happiness and thus lack longevity and commitment. After nearly thirty-four years of marriage and having endured many trials, infidelity and even separation, I have come to see that the journey itself gives me the opportunity for both. If I choose happiness I will likely be neither happy nor holy. If I choose holiness I will likely attain both.

When I interviewed my Super Couples to discover the formula for their extreme happiness in marriage, I saw quickly the formula that uses the acronym S.A.C.R.E.D. (I can't help to think how detailed God is to have chosen that acronym to express

extreme happiness!) If we look only at the first letter of that acronym, we find the key to holiness: Selflessness. Super spouses strive daily to put the needs of their spouses before their own needs. And that is exactly what the Church teaches. It is exactly what Christ taught. It is exactly what Christ DID. He surrendered Himself for the needs (and souls) of each and every one of us. We are called to be Christlike in all our thoughts, words and actions. If all my thoughts, words and actions toward my spouse are selfless and focused on his good, how can I not be holy and how can we not both be happy?

For the Catholic marriage, the Sacraments magnify this calling to holiness and simultaneously give us the tools through which we can more easily become holy. If I receive the Eucharist as often as possible, my physical and spiritual body becomes more Christlike and thus I am more able to live my marriage in a more Christlike manner. I am strengthened. The Sacrament of Reconciliation at its very core teaches the need for humility, forgiveness, repentance and then grants grace to the seeker of those qualities. It reminds me always to humble myself before my spouse as neither I nor he is perfect and thus we will fail. It teaches me to forgive not seven times, but seventy times seven times my husband who since 1983

has never once remembered to put his shoes away in the front closet! (Notice a slight note of sarcasm there.) The Sacrament of Baptism reminds me that I am part of a bigger family and that things aren't always to be done in a way that is strictly Christine Bacon focused but family focused. And Confirmation teaches me to soldier on.

Our Catholic faith teaches most of all the essential need to pray with and for my spouse. It teaches that no marriage can survive without daily communication just as no relationships with our Lord and Creator can be sustained without daily prayer. And lastly, the reason why I am a stander, is that my Catholic faith teaches and expects the forgiveness for all sinners even when an injustice has been committed. Christ forgave us in spite of the fact that we were stealing, lying, drinking, and committing adultery. My Catholic faith teaches me that I am to do the same. My love for my spouse is not contingent upon his good behaviors but on my following the example of the merciful God. To be a holy spouse means to also be a merciful and loving spouse—just as Christ is to me, a member of His Church and His Body. Need I say more? ■



Our Lady, under the title “Undoer of Knots,” has often come to the aid of marriages in trouble. For more information about this devotion please log in to www.ANF.org/Our-Blessed-Mother/our-lady-undoer-of-knots



AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA[®]

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

PROGRESS REPORT

Fatima Centennial Rosary Campaign

One hundred years ago, the Mother of God appeared in Fatima, Portugal a total of six times. At every one of those apparitions she made the same simple request—"Pray the Rosary."

In an effort to equip as many Americans as possible with a rosary worthy of her request, America Needs Fatima has distributed a total of 1,523,460 Fatima Centennial Rosaries as of August of 2017. In anticipation of further orders of approximately 260,000, we could potentially distribute 1,785,866 Fatima Centennial Rosaries during the 100th Anniversary Year of the Fatima apparitions. This monumental effort was made possible through the generosity of many donors who support our work through their sacrificial gifts.

As we approach the year 2018, let us all redouble our efforts to fulfill Our Lady of Fatima's request to pray the rosary. As Pope Pius XI has said:

"The Rosary is a powerful weapon to put the demons to flight and to keep oneself from sin... If you desire peace in your hearts, in your homes, and in your country, assemble each evening to recite the Rosary. Let not even one day pass without saying it, no matter how burdened you may be with many cares and labors." ■



Nearly 900,000 2018 Fatima Calendars Distributed Nationwide

This year America Needs Fatima has distributed 860,883 Fatima calendars featuring a series of pictures from Fatima, Portugal. Our photographer Michael Gorre traveled to Fatima specifically for the purpose of capturing a unique selection of images hoping to give our members and friends, many of who may never be able to travel to Fatima, some idea of the beauty of this great shrine and its surroundings.



Thanks to the generosity of our many donors, America Needs Fatima is able to send this remarkable reminder of the Marian message of Fatima to households throughout America—absolutely FREE.

The America Needs Fatima calendar has been one of our most popular publications and the 2018 calendar will not disappoint. It is spiritual, inspiring and practical. Besides a beautiful selection of images from Fatima and Aljustrel, the calendar includes a different title of Our Lady for each day of the year. That's 365 titles of Mother Mary! Using traditional invocations from around the world, this one-of-a-kind calendar brings to life the universality of Marian devotion. ■

We hope you will enjoy the 2018 America Needs Fatima calendar and if you should need an extra one, please call us at (888) 317-5571.

If you would like to order a Fatima Centennial Rosary of your own, please call (888) 317-5571.



Third Protest Against P*** Christ Blasphemy in Houston, Texas

BY ZECHARIAH LONG

On August 12, 2017, America Needs Fatima organized yet another anti-blasphemy rally. The infamous P*** Christ blasphemy once again reared its ugly head. The blasphemy is a color photograph of a crucifix immersed in the artist's urine. It came to the Station Museum of Contemporary Art in June, 2017, and America Needs Fatima has been doing rallies of reparation since then and will continue until it leaves.

The rally on August 12th at 4:30 p.m. was attended by a large crowd of enthusiastic Catholic Texans. A group had arrived early and was forming around a large statue of Our Lady of Fatima, brought by a participant, while others were holding the America Needs Fatima banner and signs boldly proclaiming their rejection of the blasphemy. Before long everyone had spread out along the sidewalk in front of the museum, rosaries at the ready.

One gentleman in a wheelchair came to the protest, sparing himself no excuse to defend the honor of Our Lord. In spite of daunting physical challenges, this soldier of Christ was the first to arrive at the rally spot and the last to leave. This was a humbling lesson for all of us. Is not Our Lord worthy of overcoming every obstacle we may have?

It was beautiful to see the joy on people's faces as they slowly trickled in. When they saw the formidable presence of the first group their faces lit up. What brought so much joy and happiness



Practicing perseverance, these Catholics protest a blasphemous "art" exhibit, and will continue to do so until the filth is removed from their city.

was the realization that they were not alone. In the immense city of Houston, where sin is so rampant, they are not alone in the fight. They are not alone in saying "NO! We will not stand by idle as Our Lord is blasphemed and persecuted."

The full Rosary was prayed along with Catholic hymns and other prayers of reparation. Slogans were given between each decade. A few examples of the slogans are:

Leader: *Why are we here?*

Reply: *Like Mary at the foot of the cross, we are here to console Jesus.*

Another one really brought home the gravity of blasphemy:

Leader: *Blasphemy!*

Reply: *A sin that cries out to Heaven for vengeance! Reparation! Reparation! Reparation!*

Thus, with the echoes of these slogans still reverberating off the surrounding buildings, the participants wrapped up their protest after spending nearly two hours in the Texan sun giving great glory to God. ■



Transgender Tyranny Opposed in Texas

America Needs Fatima made its presence known in a prayer rally on the steps of the Texas Capitol, in Austin, Texas this August 15th when a Texas version of a North Carolina-style "bathroom bill" dealing with "transgender" people was put to a vote. Republicans have continued pushing to make Texas the first state to follow North Carolina and North Carolina and prevent "transgender" bathroom tyranny in schools and public spaces.

Trying to shed a little light on a dark dilemma, the main version of the Texas bill would have required transgender people to use public bathrooms that correspond with the sex on their birth certificate.

In the land of the Alamo, will this be Catholics' last stand in the face of the transgender insanity that has swept the nation?



Unfortunately, just like in North Carolina, some of the world's biggest companies came out against the Texas bill, including Apple and Amazon. Even big oil joined the fight by summer, with top Exxon Mobil and Shell executives saying the bill would harm Texas' reputation and "negatively impact economic growth."

Showing that it will take more than the nation's biggest companies to discourage efforts to restore sanity in our democratic system, America Needs Fatima stood with nearly 100 Texans on the courthouse steps to voice their support for the "bathroom bill."

Despite the heat, these Catholics stood—and knelt—in an effort to keep use of bathrooms in Texas safe and Texans' right to privacy respected. They prayed with conviction to God and the Virgin Mary in reparation for the sins of the nation, especially the sin of standing idly by while proponents of transgender tyranny run the country.

Supporters of the Texan "bathroom bill" say they're not giving up, but given the legislative roadblocks, the battle is now likely to shift outside the Capitol and into the 2018 elections. ■

On the Feast of the Assumption, concerned citizens of all ages sought to keep Texans' right to privacy and safety in public restrooms respected.



"It's Time for Me to Come Back."

BY ZECHARIAH LONG

Hurricane Harvey was truly devastating; weather officials used words like "catastrophic." Many people lost family members to flooding and houses were destroyed. However, it is during times of suffering that people turn back to God. With the aim of touching as many souls as possible, two full-time volunteers of TFP-Louisiana distributed hundreds of rosaries and Saint Michael medals at the George R. Brown Convention Center in downtown Houston where ten thousand refugees were being sheltered. The response from the refugees was that of an America that yearns to return to God.

On August 31st, people were gathering around the two volunteers to receive their free Rosaries. Wanting to make sure that everyone who received the rosary knew that it was not just a piece of jewelry, the two volunteers would instruct them on how to pray the rosary. Certain parts of the Hail Mary sometimes brought tears to the eyes of the refugees. One man, as he wiped a tear from his cheek, said: "I remember learning that from my mother. It's been too long since I have prayed that prayer. It's time for me to come back."

There was a large presence of policemen at the Convention Center to keep order. They loved the Saint Michael medal and were extremely thankful. One police officer said: "I already have one on me, but I will take one for my friend. He needs one."

Having exhausted the supply of rosaries and Saint Michael medals, the TFP-Louisiana members wearily made their way back to their car. The eventful day left them with much to reflect on. The warm reception from everyone shows us all that we need not be afraid of taking our Catholic Faith into the public square. When done with courtesy and dignity, people appreciate it and are attracted to the Faith. Thousands of refugees received the religious objects enthusiastically because they were suffering from Hurricane Harvey. They were humbled and wanted to turn back to God.

The man who humbly acknowledged, "It is time for me to come back," spoke for all of America that day. Indeed, the devastation of Hurricane Harvey revealed that it is time for America to come back to the Father's House. ■



In the wake of natural disasters like Hurricane Harvey, the Rosary offers refugees hope and the comfort that only the Mother of God can give.



CUSTODIAN'S

CORNER

God's Timing Is Everything

BY REX TEODOSIO

Scheduling a home visit with a pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima begins with postcards sent out by the America Needs Fatima scheduling office in Kansas. These cards are sent to the area the custodians will be touring. Then, our scheduling office usually follows up with phone calls. The scheduler works out the time and day that is convenient for any person who expresses an interest.

Several years ago, a lady named Elizabeth received a postcard from our scheduling office asking if she wanted a pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima to visit her home. She had a very negative reaction. In fact, it was so bad she actually thought to herself, "Why would anyone want to receive that (referring to the pilgrim statue) in their home?"

She admitted that her reaction was not the best. As she put it, she was not "in a good place" at that particular time of her life.

Elizabeth stuffed the postcard into a drawer, intending to dispose of it later on.

Years passed and the postcard was all but forgotten. One day she was rifling through her drawers looking for some

random object. Instead, she found the forgotten postcard.

She remembered how she had reacted years ago, suddenly feeling remorse at her reaction. When she realized that she had turned away the statue of Mary from coming to her home, she began to cry.

While in this state, her phone rang. By the designs of God, it happened to be a call from our scheduling office. The caller said; "Hello, Elizabeth, this is Catherine from America Needs Fatima. Would you like the pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima to come to your home?"

Already in an emotional state, the very words of the scheduler drove the point even deeper and she broke down sobbing. The unsuspecting scheduler thought it was an inconvenient time, so she asked, "I'm sorry. Is this not a good time?"

Elizabeth responded, between heavy sobs, "No, you could not have timed it any better."

Elizabeth scheduled a visit and she finally received Mary into her home. ■



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

**100th Anniversary Fatima Rosary**

"I'm writing this note on behalf of my son, Lt. Heider, a paralyzed Air Force veteran whom you sent this Fatima Centennial Rosary to. We both pray the Rosary, daily. So thank you for the new Rosary. It will be well used!"

M. H., Harwood Heights, Ill.

"I brought my Fatima Centennial Rosary into the nursing home that I administer the Holy Eucharist to on Sundays. There is one resident there, named Jessie. He was in a horrible accident, took both his legs and he sustained a head injury that has left him unable to speak. When he saw my rosary he started crying and kissing it. I told him he could keep it as his own, and he looked at me, clutched it to his heart and said the only two words I have ever heard him speak: "Thank you.""

R. S., Sun City, Az.

ANF Apostolate

"Thank you for the books, holy pictures, medals, rosaries, etc. that you have kindly sent me. Back in the Philippines, I am a member of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate. I am faithful in praying my rosary, my three Hail Mary's Pledge (for your intentions), and Sacred Heart novena. It helps me, an old woman, to go through life in peace. You and your holy warriors are included in my prayers—you are doing wonderful work for Mama Mary and Her Son Jesus' Catholic Church. Keep on fighting, fighting the evils of these times! To Jesus through Mary!"

S. J., Waipahu, Hawaii

Fatima Centennial Medal

"Thank you for sending the beautiful medal. We at Saint Theresa Parish in Trumbull are in the process of building Our Lady of Fatima Perpetual Adoration Chapel. Your Fatima Centennial Medal would be a perfect medal to give to our Eucharistic Guardians who will be taking Holy Hours here, in special commemoration of our chapel's opening very soon. Thank you so much for creating such a beautiful Our Lady of Fatima medal!"

B. B., Trumbull, Conn.



COMMENTARY

How Our Lady Transformed Francisco and Jacinta into Great Saints

BY SETH HAKES

On the morning of May 13th, 2017, perhaps the most amazing event that happened at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal was the canonization of Jacinta Marto and her brother, Francisco. They became the youngest children to be canonized (who are not martyrs) in nearly 2,000 years of Christianity. How did these two children achieve Christian perfection at such young ages? How did they acquire virtues in the heroic degree which took other saints a lifetime of asceticism to achieve? How did Our Lady transform these two children into great saints?

Transformation from Child to Saint

The saints agree that perfect obedience requires giving up one's own will. Saints Francisco and Jacinta adhered faithfully to Mary's will at the least prompting. Her apparitions gave their lives a higher purpose and transformed them in a matter of months. One sign of this transformation is a change of will. Our Lady told them to pray and they did. Our Lady asked them to offer sacrifices and they did. They did numerous penances such as wearing coarse ropes directly against their skin all the time. Even when the rope cut into their skin and the pain it caused prevented them from sleeping at night, they wouldn't relent from practicing such a severe penance. However, when Our Lady instructed them not to wear the ropes at night, they again obeyed.

Another remarkable transformation took place in the very hearts of Jacinta and Francisco. The children's only desire was to please Mary. They were willing to do anything for love of Jesus and Mary, offering penances of hunger, thirst, discomfort and the constant harassment of disbelievers.

One radical example of the very real persecution they endured occurred on August 13, 1917. On their way to their fourth appointment with Our Lady, the three children were abducted by the administrator of Ourém. During their imprisonment, the other prisoners wanted to distract Jacinta by singing and dancing with her. She quickly tired of this. In order to do something more pleasing to Mary, Jacinta hung her Brown Scapular on the wall, invited everyone in the prison cell to kneel before it, and they all prayed the Rosary.

Even when the administrator threatened to throw them in a cauldron of boiling oil if they didn't reveal the secret Our Lady entrusted to them, these children chose death rather than displeasing Our Lady. To live or to die no longer mattered to them. To please Jesus and Mary became their only concern.

Mary Changed Their Lives and Dreams

It is known that these children were not always little saints. They began as very typical children. One example of this is that, before the Angel of Peace appeared to them, they prayed an abbreviated version of the Rosary. Instead of saying each prayer, they would simply say the words "Our Father" and "Hail Mary." In this way, they were able to get back to their games all the sooner. Mary radically changed their lives. What they used to see as a chore was now a source of spiritual nourishment. They soon burned with the desire to pray the Rosary, not just every day, but many times throughout the day.

All children grow up full of hopes and expectations. Some will dream of becoming famous like a professional athlete or an actor. Others dream of becoming

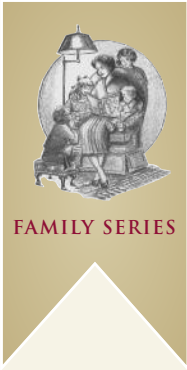
rich. Others dream of something more honorable like becoming a firefighter, a policeman, a professor or a war hero. Surely, Francisco and Jacinta had their childhood dreams as well.

But, when Our Lady appeared to them, any dream they may have had vanished. They no longer dreamed about the joys of the world. Their only joy was to obey Mary's will. They no longer hoped for a long, full and happy life. Their only hope was to go to Heaven. They no longer dreamed of fame or riches. Their only dream was to please God, console the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and convert and save sinners.

They Made Her Heart Theirs

How were such young children transformed into great saints? The answer seems to be an invitation and a challenge to everyone, especially children, for all times. They simply made Mary's will their will. They made her desires their desires. They made her hopes and dreams theirs. In short, they made her heart theirs. Perhaps, this is the best explanation of what devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is. ■





The Little Juggler of Our Lady

Barnaby was a juggler. That was his profession, you see, and he was quite good at it. His father before him had been a juggler, and so had his grandpa. His father had taught him how to juggle and how to dance, how to tumble and how to sing.

But when Barnaby was about ten years old, something very sad happened—his father died. Now, Barnaby must continue to do as his father had taught him, wherever he was welcome. So, he gathered up the little treasures his father had left him—his two sticks, a couple of hoops, some brightly colored balls, and some apples—and set off to find some work.

People stopped to watch his tricks

and many times they laughed and smiled. While spring flowered into summer, Barnaby tramped all over the countryside to earn his daily bread. The sky was his roof at night, and during the day people were kind to him. All went very well until winter crept in.

One day, Barnaby sat shivering at the foot of a big oak tree, trying to keep back his tears, as the cold seemed to freeze even his thoughts. Just then, he heard a muffled step and, looking up, saw a monk before him. “Where is your home, young boy?” he asked kindly. Barnaby shook his head miserably. “Would you like to come with me?” the monk asked him. “Come, you will be warm presently.” So it happened that Barnaby found a



new home where he was kept warm and well fed.

Christmas was fast approaching. The monks were preparing gifts to present to the Infant Jesus and His Mother. Brother John was composing a new chant, for which Brother Matthew was writing lyrics. Brother James was carving a gorgeous new manger, and Brother Juniper polished the altar candlesticks until they gleamed like the sun. Barnaby, watching the monks as they worked, grew increasingly sad. “Oh, how worthless I am!” he cried to himself, “What right have I to stay here in this abbey when I don’t know how to do anything useful?”

One day, Barnaby knelt in the chapel and stared up at the statue. “Oh, sweet Virgin,” he sighed, “how can I serve you?” Suddenly, the bells of the church began to peal and lovely waves of sound filled the air. Barnaby cried, “I know what I can do for you, Blessed Mother. Watch me!” He spread his thin rug on the floor before the statue. Then he laid out his two sticks, his hoops, his balls, and his apples. Giving a deep bow, he began to leap and tumble in the air. He juggled the balls and apples in a great rainbow of colors, behind his back and



under his feet. At last, half an hour and many tumbles later, the little juggler collapsed at the feet of the statue. "Oh, sweet Lady, I have given you my best performance. I shall come here every day and juggle for you and your Son!"

Barnaby spent many an hour tumbling and somersaulting for the Mother and Child. Of course, the brothers began to wonder what he was doing while they prayed. When Christmas was but two days away, Brother James decided to discover what it was that Barnaby did in the chapel by himself. He quietly followed the boy and peeked through a crack in the door. He was amazed by what he saw! There was Barnaby grinning from ear to ear, juggling merrily before the statue.

"Why, this is scandalous!" exclaimed the monk to himself. "While we are tending to our souls, this little fool is capering about like a little goat in our chapel! I must inform the Abbot!" And he did. The Abbot, however, was wise man and never made ill judgments of people without proof. "Now, now," he said to Brother James, "do not act hastily. Let me see the boy for myself. Next time he begins his juggling, call me without telling anyone else."

The next night was Christmas Eve. All the monks presented their gifts to the Blessed Mother and the Infant Jesus, and Barnaby thought he had never seen such a beautiful array! "Oh, sweet Mother, how I wish I had something as exquisite to offer you."

When the ceremony was over and the monks had returned to their cells, Barnaby stole softly back to the chapel. He thought himself alone, but there were two sets of eyes following his every move from behind the confessional in the dark side of the chapel. Barnaby laid out his rug and bowed low before the statue. The Abbot and Brother James stared as he tumbled merrily from step to step, standing first on his hands, then on one foot, then on the other. He danced and juggled as he had never before done in his life, for this night was the birthday of the Christ Child and he wanted to do his best for his Infant God.

Suddenly, the Abbot and the monk watched in awe as a dazzling Lady descended daintily from the niche where the statue stood. Her robes shimmered with precious stones, diamonds and sapphires. The air around her vibrated with the hum of angelic voices. She drew close to the prostrate little juggler and wiped his brow with a silken handkerchief, then bent down and kissed it gently. Before anyone could stir, she returned to the niche above the steps.

On Christmas day the Father Abbot called for the little juggler. Barnaby

went to him thinking, "Surely he has found me out and is going to send me away for tumbling in the chapel." But, to his great surprise, the Abbot hugged him and said: "Barnaby, my son, do you wish to stay here at the monastery with us?" "Oh, yes, Sir!" answered the boy all a glow. "Then we want you to stay also. But from now on, you must tumble for Our Blessed Lady and the Christ Child openly and no longer in secret. I believe They like your tumbling very well." ■



THE MAGIC WORD

BY JOAN CAMP

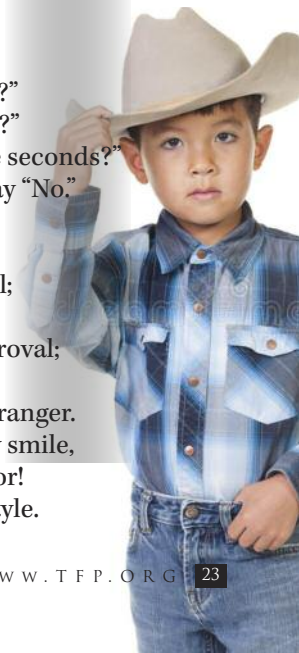
These six letters will certainly get my attention
Cause me to take notice, stop quickly and glance
At you, with a broad smile, I'll happily mention,
"Was that the magic word you uttered by chance?"

So pleased and proud when you remember to say
Those six letters that show respect and concern
For others, you're aware, and you want to portray
Good manners, what a wonderful thing you've learned!

"Please may I have just a few more minutes?"
Or, "Mom, did you hear me, please may I go?"
And "Boy! Was that good; please may I have seconds?"
Understanding that once in a while she'll say "No."

But no matter what, speak the magic word.
When used politely, the meaning's universal;
It's simply beautiful, not a bit absurd!
When spoken it inspires a great deal of approval;

From grownups, your teachers, or even a stranger.
You'll set an example, and they'll pleasantly smile,
Rewarding you for your remarkable behavior!
So remember, "P*L*E*A*S*E" is always in style.



THE REAL MAN

BY THOMAS RYDER



**If you can keep your head when all about you are
losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you, but
make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting, or
being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating..."**

—Borrowed from R. Kipling's poem "If—"

This poem's beginning delivers to the mind an important aspect of what a man should be: secure but not arrogant, determined but not proud, patient and not given to falsehoods.

But Real Manhood has become a concept of the past in our sad modern age and such is a real tragedy. With the loss of manhood, a crucial aspect of the Divinity is gone from our planet; lost, vanished, and relegated to the category of the unimportant and not politically correct.

But some still long for the Real Man... at least real women do. The nostalgia of the inherent values of a Real Man is still at times felt in the air by a few, and it is to these few this page is dedicated.

**If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
and treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
and stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:
If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you...**

The Real Man is one who possesses a great sense of stability within and thus is able to communicate it to others and create around him that same sense of the stable, calm, secure and good.

The Real Man knows how to remain above it all. He lives his life based on principles and thus does not change direction with each wind that blows. The Real Man knows that others will look to him for security and direction and he takes it as his mission to give it; he expects no earthly reward in return. It is his mission as a man.

The Real Man is kind and patient with the good but firm and implacable with evil. He is not a fool and believes no lies and yet, never lets hope die in his heart.

The Real Man is humble and thus acknowledges that he is nothing without the aid of a higher power. He bends his knees and prays. The Real Man is thus pious. His notion of piety is not sentimental, but militant. He was placed on the battlefield of life to aid the good against the evil forces and piety is where he obtains his internal strength.

The Real Man is therefore a friend of God and thus he is pure; his hero is none other than Jesus Christ, true Man and true God. The key to the Real Man's purity of body and soul is self-control. He knows his worst enemy is within and not without. He knows he cannot win the external battle unless he first wins the internal one and that any alternative is a piece of fiction.

The Real Man did exist and he can come to exist once again...

When mankind has finally fallen on its knees and beaten its chest with great compunction for its many sins, the Real Man will again make his appearance and fathers will again be able to say to their sons,

**"Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!" ■**