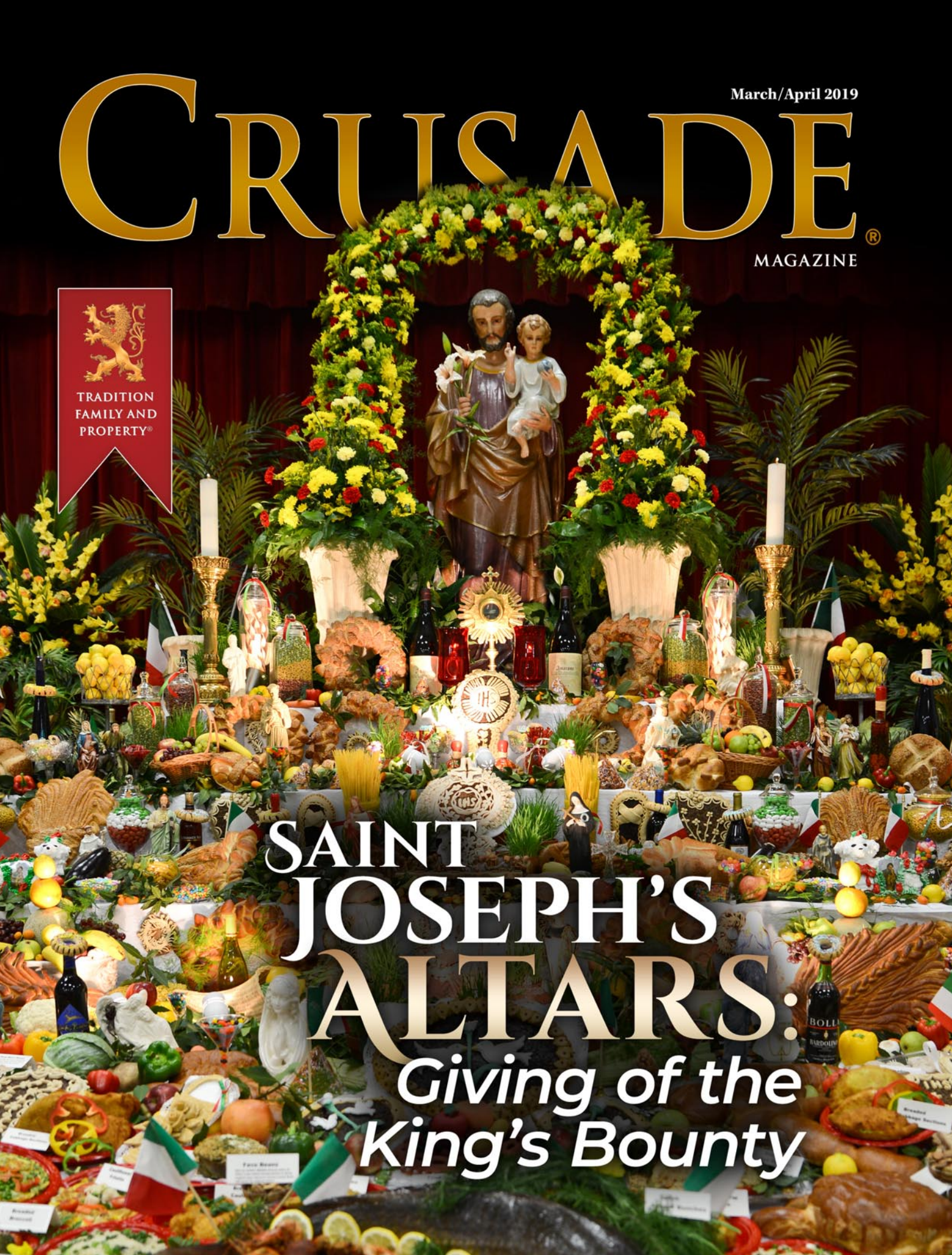


CRUSADE

March/April 2019
MAGAZINE

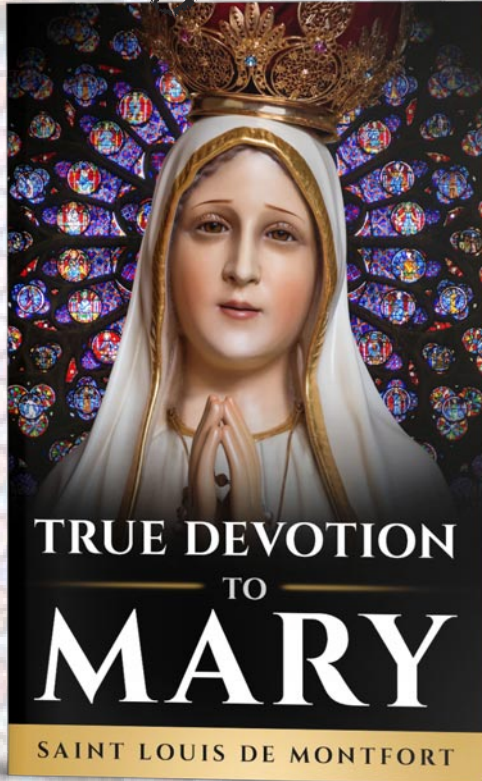


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**“We should never allow kindness
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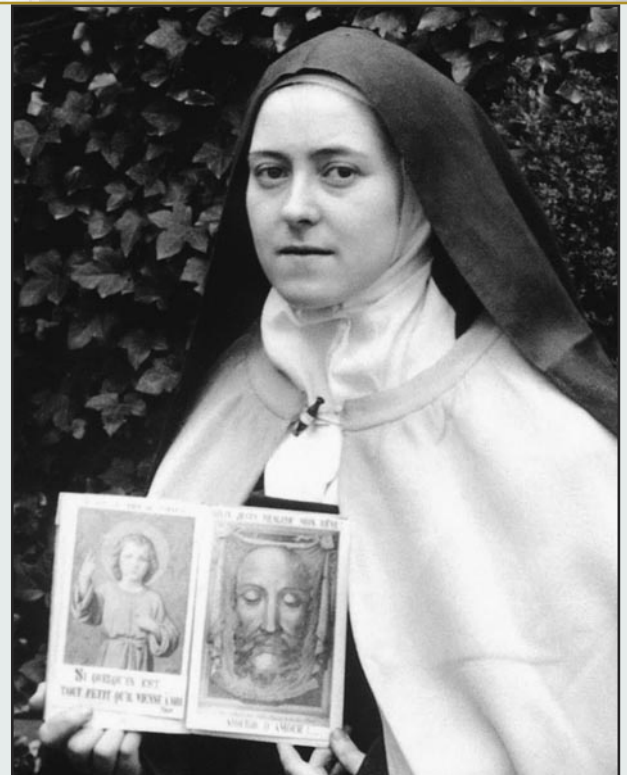


**FORGOTTEN
TRUTHS**

We should never allow kindness to degenerate into weakness. When we have scolded someone with just reason, we must leave the matter there, without allowing ourselves to be touched to the point of tormenting ourselves for having caused pain or at seeing one suffer and cry.

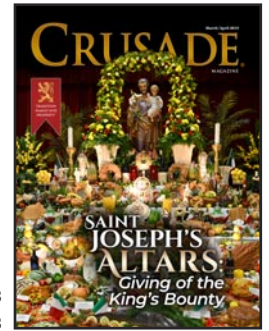
To run after the afflicted one to console her does more harm than good. Leaving her to herself forces her to have recourse to God in order to see her faults and humble herself. Otherwise, accustomed to receiving consolation after a merited reprimand, she will always act, in the same circumstances, like a spoiled child, stamping her feet and crying until her mother comes to dry her tears.

*Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, Her Last Conversations
(Washington, D.C.: Institute of Carmelite Studies, 1977)*



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Come closer to Our Lord by
meditating on His Cross



How a denial of Hell leads to a
denial of the existence of God



America Needs Fatima joined hundreds of thousands of pro-life
marchers at the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

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CRUSADE

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THE AMERICAN TFP

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

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



IN BRIEF

Scientists Confirm Biblical Account of Sodom and Gomorrah's Destruction

Preliminary findings of a study conducted by a team of archeologists and scientists at the Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project (TeHEP) have concluded that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by a meteor exploding at a low altitude with the force of a 10-megaton atomic bomb. The report states that such an explosion would have generated temperatures comparable to the sun's surface and obliterated most of the Middle Ghor region, killing between 40,000 and 60,000 inhabitants. The land was stripped of its topsoil and rendered infertile and uninhabitable for 600 to 700 years. The Bible states that Sodom and Gomorrah's destruction was attributed to the sexual perversion of its inhabitants, particularly the sin of homosexuality.

Mental Health Disorders Increasing in Every Country in the World

A report by twenty-eight global specialists in psychiatry, public health and neuroscience commissioned by the medical journal *The Lancet* warned that a growing global crisis is affecting millions of people worldwide. Mental health disorders such as depression, anxiety, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder have risen dramatically in the past twenty-five years. According to Vikram Patel, co-lead author of the report and a professor at Harvard Medical School, "The problem is extremely bleak." The report also estimated that it would potentially cost the global economy \$16 trillion by 2030 if the crisis is not addressed.

Study Proves that Religion Tends to Protect Mental Health

Researchers at Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health found that teenagers who are raised with religious or spiritual practices tend to have better mental health as they age. The study published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* also found that people who prayed or meditated on their own also benefited from a lower risk of substance abuse and depression. The study's author said, "Many children are raised religiously and our study shows that this can powerfully affect their health behaviors, mental health, overall happiness and well-being."



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STDs on the Rise in the United States

Despite millions of taxpayer dollars spent on sex education and sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevention, a newly released report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warned that the United States is "sliding backwards" as

STD rates continue to rise at an alarming rate. CDC researchers found that in a span of five years, gonorrhea infections increased by 67 percent, syphilis by 76 percent, and chlamydia by 21 percent. These three diseases alone accounted for more than 2.3 million new cases in 2017, surpassing 2016 as the year with the most cases on record and marking the fourth year in a row that STDs have increased steeply. Concerns are now mounting that some diseases such as gonorrhea are becoming resistant to all known antibiotics.

Brazil's New Top Diplomat Blasts Climate Change

Brazil's new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ernesto Frago Araújo, is ruffling leftists for his statements calling climate change an "ideology" created by "cultural Marxists" to suppress Western economic growth. "This dogma has served to justify an increase in the regulatory power of states over the economy and power of international institutions over national states and their populations, as well as to stifle economic growth in democratic capitalist countries and foster China's growth. Climate is basically a globalist tactic of instilling fear for more power," he wrote in a blog post. Ernesto Araújo's appointment under President Jair Bolsonaro underscores Brazil's recent shift to the right after a decade of socialist rule. Bolsonaro, a conservative known for his pro-life and pro-American positions, was elected president on October 28, 2018, defeating leftist candidate Fernando Haddad by a large margin.

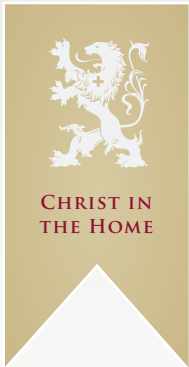


Victory for Traditional Marriage in Taiwan

A majority of Taiwanese voters voted against same-sex "marriage" in a national referendum held on November 24, 2018 that would have made Taiwan the first country in Asia to legalize homosexuality. The referendum was scheduled after Taiwan's Constitutional Court ruled in May of 2017 that it was unconstitutional to ban same-sex unions. The court gave the government two years to change the civil code to redefine marriage, but a strong reaction by the people persuaded the government into holding a referendum. Leading pro-LGBT forces, with the backing of the government and mainstream media, tried in vain to sway the vote in their favor. Despite their best efforts, the results proved that the will of the people remained firmly in favor of traditional marriage.

Friendly Argument

BY FATHER RAUL PLUS, S.J.



Just as bickering, sulking, and domineering opposition should be avoided by husbands and wives, so free and friendly discussions should be encouraged as an aid to bind their souls in a closer union.

Strife and rivalry motivated by self-love is one thing, but sane and cordial disagreement or exchange of ideas is quite another. It is from the clash of ideas that light shines forth. And also warmth. Writing to a young married couple, Bishop Dupanloup said to them: “You were both astonished the first time I recommended

argument to you—friendly argument—and still more astonished when I answered your statement, “we shall never argue,” with the comment “So much the worse for you!”

“The truth is that in a society so intimate, so constant as marriage, if you do not feel free to discuss and even to engage in friendly argument, it is evidence of constraint between you; there is something which is preventing the free expansion of your souls. These little disagreements founded primarily on the affectionate observation of your mutual failings will not alter the peace of your home in the least; on the contrary, I believe that they will establish in it a more profound peace and more intimate union, because they will assure both of you of your reciprocal confidence.”

Actually, as it is easy to see, the bishop was advising his spiritual children not so much to argue as to discuss. And if one insists on using the word “argument” it must



© Antonio Guillem | Dreamstime.com

be modified by the word “friendly.” Then let them go to it!

In an epoch long ago, Saint Louis, King of France, was conversing with his wife, Queen Marguerite. She was complaining that the king did not have enough pomp in court functions and that he himself did not dress with the magnificence befitting official ceremonies. He thought, on his side, that the queen was taking some advantage of her position and that she gave way to excess in the richness of her dress.

“Would it really please you if I dressed more magnificently?” asked the king. “Yes, I so wish you would.” “Very well then, I shall do so, because the law of marriage urges the husband to try to please his wife. But since this obligation is reciprocal, it is only right that you should conform to my desire.” “And what is that?” “That you get into the habit of dressing as simply as possible!”

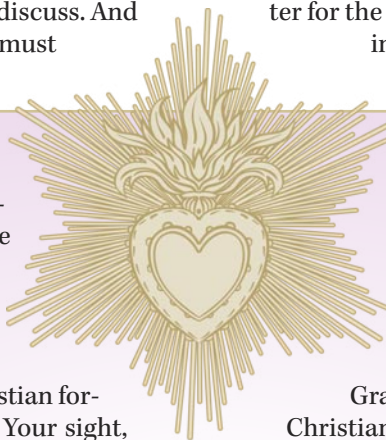
Well done! In friendly arguments such as this, charity as well as finesse and courtesy scores its point. Don’t think you must always be right. You ought to defend your point of view but you should not be hostile to the opposite viewpoint just because it’s the opposite viewpoint and before you ever begin to discuss. Two minds are better than one—unless of course they’re two negatives. If the other person is right or it is better for the sake of peace to pull down your flag, then give in graciously and without bitterness. ■

Prayer of a Married Couple

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, King and center of all hearts, dwell in our hearts and be our King; grant us by Your grace to love each other truly and chastely, even as You have loved Your spotless Bride, the Church, and have given Yourself up for her.

Bestow upon us that mutual love and Christian forbearance which are so highly acceptable in Your sight, and a mutual patience in bearing each other’s defects; for we are certain that no living creature is free from them. Do not permit even the slightest defect to mar that full and gentle harmony of spirit, the foundation of the mutual assistance in the many and varied hardships of life, that is the end for which woman was created and united inseparably to her husband.

O Lord God, grant that between us there may reign a



perpetual holy rivalry toward a life perfectly Christian, by virtue of which there may shine forth more and more clearly the divine image of Your mystic union with Your Holy Church, as You have deigned to imprint it upon us on the auspicious day of our being made one.

Grant, we beseech You, that our good example of Christian living may serve as a powerful inspiration to our children to conform their own lives to Your holy law; and finally, after this exile may we ascend into heaven, where by the help of Your grace, for which we earnestly pray, we may merit to be joined with our children forever and praise and bless You through everlasting ages. Amen. ■

Francis L. Filas, S.J., *The Family for Families*, (Milwaukee, Wis.: The Bruce Publishing Company, 1947).



Four Characteristics of the Liberal Mind That Are Destroying Society

BY JOHN HORVAT II

Conservatives often blame liberals for the breakdown in society today. After all, liberals challenged an order that existed and replaced it with a situation that is now unraveling.

This unraveling can be traced to the efforts of liberal activists to influence legislation and elections and to liberal control of the media that shape the debate.

The fragmented and polarized state of society is proof that something has gone terribly wrong.

Defining the Liberal Mindset

However, it is not only the activism that has caused the social decay of institutions, manners and communities. It is a mindset that determines the course of their action. Understanding the characteristics of the liberal mind helps people grasp the nature of the crisis.

This is not easy to do since liberal thought can be defined by its lack of definition and love of ambiguity. Such characteristics might also be shocking because they cross party lines and include people from all walks of life. The premises of this mindset come from the classical liberal philosophy that is widely accepted by everyone. Only when these premises are taken to their final consequences, do the harmful effects become evident. The damage is now everywhere.

A Gradualist Progression Away from the Truth

One characteristic of the liberal mind is its gradualist progression away from the objective truth. In its early stages, the liberal mind does not deny the existence of objective truth outright. Instead, liberals deplore its rigidity. Instead, they offer half-truths that mitigate the hard-

hearted attitudes of conservatives, smoothing the slide into error. The liberal mind likewise does not initially embrace error but is drawn toward and harbors sympathy for it.

Thus, the liberals might defend private property, but support excessive taxation on those who have large properties. They would oppose crime but propose leniency for felons because of imagined injustices they might have suffered.

The liberal mind is constantly looking for half-truths to appear more compassionate and kind.

Searching for Conclusions That Please

A second characteristic of the liberal mind is that it does not seek objective and external truths that explain reality. Liberals seek instead only those conclusions that please them. They search for perspectives that fit their temperaments, lifestyles and ways of being. These are the thoughts that guide their lives.

This liberal mind is perfectly expressed by the famous Supreme Court decision in *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey* which stated: "At the heart of liberty is



Anger and intolerance appear on many of the faces of those with a liberal mindset, despite their mantra about tolerance.

the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life."

A Distorted Vision of Freedom

The liberal mind gives rise to a mode of action which is easily defined. The foundation of liberal action is a distorted vision of freedom that consists of doing only what one wants to do.

Thus, liberal action tends to be relativistic and subjective, following the whims of the individual. It can be imaginative and fantasy-driven when a person takes the action to its final consequences.

Liberal action is also characterized by a spirit of doubt toward that which does not correspond to personal whims.

The foundation of liberal action is a distorted vision of freedom that consists of doing only what one wants to do.

Such doubt, however, is never directed toward that which does not please liberal whims.

A Dislike of Rules and Laws

The final characteristic of the liberal mind is a dislike of rules and laws. Law by definition is restrictive.

Law consists of those reasonable precepts coming from a competent authority to which all must conform for the sake of the common good. Rules and laws upset the liberal mind, which feels attacked by them.

Thus, liberals dislike anything that imposes restraint such as laws, manners or morals. In more advanced stages, even the restrictive nature of clothing or grammar can irritate the sensibilities of the liberal mindset.

This explains the liberal hostility to the Church and traditional notions of religion. God is the First Lawgiver and punishes those who sin against His Commandments. The liberal mind prefers a god for whom nothing is a sin. This god is one of the liberals own making. In their view, he radiates compassion, not justice.

A Common Trait

While these four psychological characteristics differ, they do have a common trait. They all are self-centered.

What governs liberal minds and actions are the dictates of each individual's ideas, tastes and desires. The individual is the center of everything.



Many of the tenets of the liberal agenda spring from the philosophies of the French Revolution; "liberty, equality, fraternity."

Each person determines right and wrong, truth and error.

The Descent to Anarchy

Up to this point, the liberal order has survived because it lived off of the firm foundations of a Christian moral order. The moral influence of the Church, natural law and other institutions served to temper the disordered ideas, tastes and desires of individuals. The adverse effects of the liberal mind were mitigated by its gradualism. As long as the most extreme liberal elements stayed in the zone of half-truths, society could absorb their destructive influence.

The problem today is that half-truths now dominate and error is pushing the envelope ever closer to chaos. The liberal mind naturally leads to anarchy when taken to its final consequences. It

admits no authority other than its own. It will accept no law nor respect any institution that encroaches upon the individual "right" to do whatever one wants.

Everyone wonders why the nation is polarized and fragmented. As social bonds decay, there is no unifying principle in society save that of self-centeredness. Everyone becomes increasingly isolated, lonely and frustrated.

In the words of philosopher Alasdair MacIntyre, the world becomes "nothing but a meeting place for individual wills, each with its own set of attitudes and preferences and who understand that world solely as an arena for the achievement of their own satisfaction, who interpret reality as a series of opportunities for their enjoyment." ■

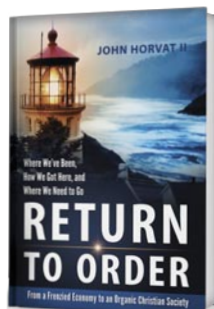
As seen on CNSNews

A BOOK THAT COULD HELP SAVE AMERICA

The economy is on a course of self-destruction as a result of ignoring our God-given moral compass, which ultimately keeps everything in balance, according to John Horvat II, author of *Return to Order: From a Frenzied Economy to an Organic Christian Society—Where We've Been, How We Got Here, and Where We Need to Go*. In his book, John Horvat draws from his rich Christian past as well as twenty years of study to explain the correlation between the economy, faith and moral values.

Without relying solely on statistics, formulas and

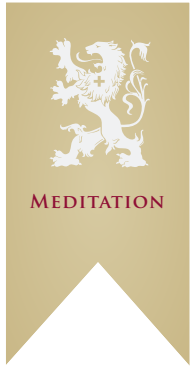
economic indicators, he shows how society's obsession for a secular, materialistic culture is causing social and psychological emptiness and economic ruin. *Return to Order* not only analyzes the problem, but also offers solutions that correspond to the longings many Americans now have for timeless traditions, family and authenticity. ■



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An Invitation TO LOVE the Holy Cross of Our Lord

BY PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA



*The greatest foundation
of Christian civilization
is a generous love for the
Holy Cross of Our Lord
Jesus Christ in each
and every person.*

While commemorating the forty days Our Lord fasted in the desert, we should remember a great and supreme truth that should illuminate all Lenten meditations.

The holy Gospels clearly show how much our merciful Savior pitied our spiritual and physical pains. Hence, He performed spectacular miracles to mitigate them. However, let us not imagine that these healings were the greatest gift He gave mankind.

This would not take into consideration the central aspect of

Our Lord's life: He was our Redeemer, Who willingly endured the cruelest sufferings to carry out His mission.

Even at the height of His Passion, Our Lord could have put an end to all His pains instantly by a mere act of His Divine will. From the first moment of His Passion to the last, He could have ordered His wounds to heal, His precious blood to stop pouring forth and the lacerations on His Divine body to disappear without a scar. He could have overcome the persecution that was dragging Him to death and gained a brilliant and jubilant victory.

However, He did not will this. He wanted to be led along the Via Dolorosa to the height of Golgotha. He willed to see His most holy Mother engulfed in the depths of sorrow and He wanted to cry out in piercing words that will echo until the consummation of the ages: "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" (Matt. 27:46).

We understand that by calling each of us to suffer a portion of His Passion, He clearly indicated the unrivaled role of the cross in the history of the world, His glorification and the whole of men's lives. Thus, we still must pronounce our own *consummatum est* at death, despite the pains and sorrows of life.

If we misunderstand the role of the cross, refuse to love it and fail to walk along our own Via Dolorosa, we will shirk Providence's designs for us. We will be unable, with our dying breaths, to repeat the sublime exclamation of Saint Paul: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. As for the rest, there is laid up for me a crown of justice, which the Lord the just judge will render to me in that day" (2 Tim. 4:7-8).

Any quality, however exalted, will be useless, unless it is founded on a love of Our Lord's cross, with which we obtain everything, though weighed down by the holy burden of purity and other virtues, unceasing attacks and mockeries of the Church's enemies and betrayals of false friends.

The greatest foundation of Christian civilization is a generous love for the Holy Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ in each and every person.

May Mary help us, and through her omnipotent intercession, we shall reconquer for her Divine Son, the reign of God that flickers so faintly in the hearts of men. ■

This article has been translated and adapted for publication without the author's revision. Ed. American TFP.



SAINT JOSEPH'S ALTARS:

Giving of the King's Bounty

BY BEN BROUSSARD

Every year New Orleans plays host to a long-standing Catholic tradition which has its origins in the Middle Ages. On Saint Joseph's Day, March 19th, Catholics all over the city are eager to show their devotion to the head of the Holy Family. The celebration serves as a striking contrast in a place known more for the Mardi Gras spirit.

This author had the privilege of visiting many Saint Joseph's Altars throughout New Orleans on Saint Joseph's Day in 2018. Even better, I saw firsthand the devotion people from all walks of life have for this great saint. Serious Catholics can be seen on Saint Joseph's Day traveling from one altar to the next to pray and give thanks. These altars are found in churches



COVER STORY

and private homes, Knights of Columbus halls and restaurants, grocery stores and Catholic schools. In a city known for hospitality, the Saint Joseph's Altar tradition fits right in as people from all walks of life are welcomed to partake in the celebration honoring the Patron of the Universal Church.

A Tradition from the Middle Ages

Saint Joseph's Altars began many centuries ago in Sicily. A prolonged drought led to loss of crops all over the island. Famine was imminent. The Sicilians were never tempted to despair. They collectively made a vow, promising Saint Joseph special honors should he deliver them from starvation.

The prayers of the Sicilians were quickly answered. Saint Joseph heard their pleas from heaven and sent rain in abundance. A bountiful harvest resulted, sparing the people from misery. In thanksgiving, the people of Sicily began constructing altars with Saint Joseph having the place of prominence. Breads, cakes, pasta, fish, and all manner of foods would be displayed on the altar. The poor were to eat and have their fill first, and any leftovers would be donated.

Over the centuries many unique traditions developed. The descendants of these Sicilians brought the Saint Joseph's Altar tradition to New Orleans in the nineteenth century. Since then it has been preserved not just in that city, but has spread across America.

A Feast Filled with Symbolism

Every altar has its unique character. There are certain traditions that those who host an altar always

Serious Catholics can be seen on Saint Joseph's Day traveling from one altar to the next to pray and give thanks.

adhere to, beginning with the very practical tradition that those hosting an altar begin fundraising from the beginning of the year. No one can go into debt to have a Saint Joseph's Altar in their home.

The altar is arranged on three levels, representing the Holy Trinity. In the center of the top level is Saint Joseph holding the Child Jesus. The altar is decorated with bread baked in various shapes. Hammers, ladders, and carpenter's squares symbolizing the tools Saint Joseph used while on earth are common sights. Bread in the shape of his staff and shoes can be seen. The eyes marvel at shapes such as fish, chalices, monstrances, and other Christian symbols all formed from the same dough. Bottles of wine, local seafood, vegetables and other foods are seen in all directions. An array of flowers, candles, pictures of other saints, and images of deceased loved ones also decorate the altar.

Finding Room for the Holy Family

The altars are displayed for some days prior to Saint Joseph's Day. After the solemn blessing, a ceremony takes place called the *tupa tupa* (literally, "knock knock"). A boy and a girl representing Saint Joseph and Mary with a younger boy representing the child Jesus walk first to one door and say the words "tupa tupa."

From inside someone answers: "Who's there?"

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we are seeking shelter."

"Go away, there's no room for you here."

At the second door, the same is repeated.

Finally, at the third door, the door where the altar is, a third "tupa tupa" is said.

"Who's there?" "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we are seeking shelter."

The reply comes back: "Come in! Come in! There is room for you here." The three children then take the places reserved for



One of the many Saint Joseph's altars that can be found in New Orleans. While this tradition originally started in Sicily during the Middle Ages, it has unexpectedly enjoyed a revival in the United States, especially in the State of Louisiana.

them beside the altar. The altar is then dismantled as the food is served. The abundance of food is served throughout the day. Any leftovers or donations collected go to the poor.

Saint Joseph: Nourishing Body and Soul

As Saint Joseph's Day always falls during Lent, a meatless spaghetti is traditionally served. Pasta covered with "red gravy" (as the sauce is known in Louisiana) is usually topped with mudrica, which are spiced breadcrumbs symbolizing sawdust from Saint Joseph's workshop.

According to tradition, during the Sicilian drought in the Middle Ages, the only crop that still grew was the fava bean. Each person who visits an altar is encouraged to take one. Saint Joseph ensures that whoever takes a fava bean, though down to his last penny, will never be completely destitute in the year that follows.

Guests also receive a piece of bread from the altar, but not to eat. The bread is kept until a storm arises. When the bad weather comes, one must toss the piece of bread outside and pray. Saint Joseph will give his protection during the storm. The visitors to an altar always receive a bag of Italian cookies to take home. At one New Orleans parish, the ladies team up and bake more than 30,000 cookies for Saint Joseph's Day. One of the organizers said, "You might not believe it, but we baked all of these cookies in a single day."

Promises Kept

The personal stories of the families that host altars today never fail to impress. We share a few of them with our readers here.

Mr. Trinity Martinez has been hosting the Saint Joseph's Altar in his home for the past few years. His Sicilian grandparents always hosted the altar in their home yearly, but many years ago he and his brothers and sisters let the family tradition fall by the wayside.

In 2008, Trinity's wife Marsha was diagnosed with breast cancer. Given a dire prognosis by the doctors, the couple had recourse to



Above: Every Saint Joseph's Altar is decorated with its own unique array of flowers, candles, statues, bread, seafood, and wine, signifying the great abundance and generosity for which Saint Joseph is so well known.
Left: Joseph Talamo has welcomed guests for thirty years to the Saint Joseph's Altar in his home.

prayer. Trinity promised Saint Joseph that should he bring Marsha through the ordeal, he would host an altar at his home every year. Since 2010, Marsha has been cancer free. The two of them quickly went about contacting everyone they grew up with to organize a Saint Joseph's Altar at their home. Every year since, the Martinez family has shown their gratitude to the earthly father of Christ by hosting an altar and throwing an abundant feast.

As I spoke with him, Mr. Martinez showed me an old mortar and pestle. This was the tool brought by his grandparents from Sicily for grinding the figs for the Italian cookies. This same tool passed down through the generations is what they still use for making the cookies today. Mr. Martinez was also quick to point out that the number on his house is 319, the same as the date of Saint Joseph's Feast Day.

A few miles away, Mrs. Jocelyn Clementine opens her abode each year when she hosts a Saint Joseph's Altar. "We've been having the altar every year for the past twenty-seven years," she tells me. "It was Saint



Marsha and Trinity Martinez, pose before their elaborate Saint Joseph's Altar in their living room.

Joseph who got us safely through Hurricane Katrina. Continuing to host the altar is the least I could do to show my gratitude.” Mrs. Clementine certainly does her best to get the word out, as a steady stream of visitors file through. Some stop to say a prayer, others pause in quiet admiration.

At Saint Joseph’s Church in Gretna, Louisiana, across the river from New Orleans, the parish hosts an altar honoring Saint Joseph that is incredible to behold. Hundreds of people spend months preparing a bounteous display that takes up the majority of one side of a large gym. Over the course of the day, countless people file through at all hours. Friends old and new converse, photographs of the marvelous altar are taken, and many prayers beseeching Saint Joseph’s blessings are poured out.

And then there is the food. The best cooks are recruited for the day-long feast. Some have to rush off to work. Others remain and help in any way they can. One of the many volunteers told me, “I’ve been doing this for years, and I look forward to it every year. This is a labor of love. Anything for Saint Joseph!”

The Glory of Home Life

During World War II, many families in New Orleans saw their sons go off to fight. Even though there were shortages and rationing, the Saint Joseph’s Altars

No two Saint Joseph’s altars are the same. Each altar expresses the individual devotion and taste of the church, school, or family that made it.

“It was Saint Joseph who got us safely through Hurricane Katrina. Hosting the altar is the least I could do to show my gratitude.”



Stained glass window depicting Saint Joseph and the Child Jesus. Saint Joseph is a powerful intercessor for needy souls.

were still erected each year. Families begged Saint Joseph to return their loved ones safely. After the war’s end, many more altars were erected in gratitude. Today’s altars in so many homes show that the Holy Family is still the ideal to aspire to, and Saint Joseph is the one to confide in for domestic peace. It is with good reason the Church calls him “the glory of home life.”

In the book *The Life and Glories of Saint Joseph*, Edward Healey Thompson comments on the Holy Family’s home at Nazareth: “What inconceivable perfection and holiness of life was there displayed! The angels looking on in adoring admiration might have reversed the words of our prayer, and have besought God that His will might be done in Heaven, as it was done on earth by Jesus, Mary and Joseph.”

Quotes from the saints who had devotion to Saint Joseph were easy to spot on many an altar. Of those which could be mentioned, Saint Teresa of Avila’s famous lines really stood out:

“Would that I could persuade all men to be devoted to this glorious Saint [Joseph], for I know by long experience what blessings he can obtain for us from God. I have never known anyone who was truly devoted to him and honored him by particular services who did not advance greatly in virtue: for he helps in a special way those souls who commend themselves to him. It is now very many years since I began asking him

for something on his feast, and I have always received it. If the petition was in any way amiss, he rectified it for my greater good . . . I ask for the love of God that he who does not believe me will make the trial for himself—then he will find out by experience the great good that results from commending oneself to this glorious Patriarch and in being devoted to him.”

Saint Thomas Aquinas also encouraged recourse to the Pillar of Families:

“Some Saints are privileged to extend to us their patronage with particular efficacy in certain needs, but not in others; but our holy patron St. Joseph has the power to assist us in all cases, in every necessity, in every undertaking.”

Saint Joseph: Giving Rest to Tired Souls

It is clear on visiting several altars that Saint Joseph is especially fatherly to world-weary souls. Kneeling down, burdened with illness, financial woes, family problems and all manner of worries, they rise comforted and consoled. Prayer cards of every description with prayers to Saint Joseph are at every altar. Many faithful pause to write their petitions.

One surprising sight at many an altar was a statue of Saint Joseph sleeping. In the Gospels, Saint Joseph had many things revealed to him in his dreams. Mr. Joseph Talamo told of his own devotion to a sleeping Saint Joseph: “Any time I have a problem that I can’t find a solution for, I write it down on paper and place the paper under the statue. I always pray: ‘Saint Joseph, sleep on it.’ And he resolves it every time.”

The Patron of a Happy Death

The largest church in New Orleans is Saint Joseph Church. Built by immigrants at the end of the nineteenth century, the massive edifice hosts a large annual Saint Joseph’s Day celebration. The Saint Joseph’s altar is prominent inside the church with its vast amount of food and decorations. Above is a life-size statue of the patron of the parish. On the wall higher still is a large fresco depicting Saint Joseph on his deathbed. He is surrounded by Our Lady and Our Lord, Who gives him His blessing. The sublime scene is a reminder to every visitor to have recourse to the head of the Holy Family for a happy end to this earthly sojourn. Prayer cards given out feature this short prayer invoking Saint Joseph for a good death:

O Blessed Joseph, who yielded up thy last breath in the arms of Jesus and Mary, obtain for me this grace, O holy Joseph, that I may breathe forth my soul in praise, saying in spirit, if I am unable to do so in words: “Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give Thee my heart and my soul.” Amen.

O blessed Joseph, who yielded up thy last breath in the arms of Jesus and Mary, obtain for me this grace, O holy Joseph, that I may breathe forth my soul in praise, saying in spirit, if I am unable to do so in words: “Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give Thee my heart and my soul.” Amen.



A fresco depicting Saint Joseph on his deathbed in Saint Joseph’s Church, New Orleans. Saint Joseph is the patron saint of a good death.

The Patron of the Universal Church

Pope Pius IX officially proclaimed Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church in 1870. As the Church in the United States today is being rocked by scandal, let us have recourse to Saint Joseph. He preserved the Holy Family from every danger, and will do the same for those who have recourse to him today.

Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira once wrote at length on this illustrious title:

“Imagine for a moment what it takes to be the patron saint of the Catholic Church! He must be someone so high, so exalted that he must be almost a reflection of the Church he guards! In order to be proportional to her, he must reflect of the Church he guards. We should consider that the spirit of Saint Joseph is identical to the spirit of the Catholic Church...The fact is that Saint Joseph, being the Spouse of Our Lady, was proportional to her. And to be the adoptive father of the Child Jesus, he must be proportional to the Child Jesus!

“We must imagine what people think of the Catholic Church, all of the grandeur of the Church, all of the simplicity of the Church, all of the dignity of the Church, all the affability of the



The famous altar at Saint Joseph's Church in Gretna, Louisiana, is prepared by hundreds of volunteers over the course of many months and takes up a whole side of the parish gym. Throughout the feast day of Saint Joseph, hundreds of visitors file by to admire the display and say a silent prayer.

Church, all of the wisdom of the Church, all of the immensity of the Church, all that can possibly be said of the Catholic Church and imagine it realized in one man! And then we would have the moral profile of Saint Joseph...

"Let us imagine, at least, the moral profile of this saint: the chastity of Saint Joseph, his indescribable purity. And we should approach him with respect, with veneration and ask him to give us that which we most desire to receive...

"The first of the graces we should ask for would be the grace of devotion to Our Lady. Another grace we should ask of him is the grace to reflect so well the spirit of the Catholic Church however much it was in the designs of Providence to have created us and conferred on us at holy baptism."

Saint Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, protect and defend now the inheritance of Jesus Christ!

A Tradition Best Preserved in America

Though the Saint Joseph's Altar tradition is of Sicilian origin, sadly in much of Sicily the altars are no longer made. The Sicilians who came to America through New Orleans, though, not only maintained the custom but spread it far and wide. In every part of the country today, Catholics gather to honor Saint Joseph with their own altars.

Months of hard work and preparation go into making these altars that will only be up for a few days. And yet, even in the twenty-first century, the tradition that calls for such sacrifice not only survives but thrives. Centuries after the tradition was introduced, so many Americans are willing to sacrifice to honor Saint Joseph in this labor of love. The Saint Joseph's Altar tradition serves as a stark contrast to the modern spirit of instant gratification, giving hope for America. ■

Novena to Saint JOSEPH

Say for nine days for anything you may desire. It has seldom been known to fail.

O Saint Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in thee all my interests and desires. O Saint Joseph, do assist me by thy powerful intercession, and obtain for me from thy divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, so that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers. O Saint Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath.

Saint Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for me. ■

RECITE FROM MARCH 11TH TO MARCH 19TH.





AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA[®]

MARCH/APRIL 2019

PROGRESS REPORT

One in Spirit with Pro-Life Marchers

BY ROBERT NUNEZ

The annual March for Life up to the United States Supreme Court steps offers hundreds of thousands of pro-life Americans the opportunity to remember the more than 60 million babies aborted since the infamous case of *Roe v. Wade*. It is also a means of renewing their determination to continue the relentless battle for a future where every child is welcomed and protected.

However, thousands of other pro-life Americans who, due to circumstances such as distance, illness and work, are unable to make the trip to Washington, D.C. With this in mind, America Needs Fatima came up with an idea that allows those who cannot make it to the nation's capital to participate in the March for Life in spirit. Every year, a special banner with their printed names is carried in solidarity with the hundreds of thousands of pro-lifers marching down Constitutional Avenue.

On January 18, 2019, an America Needs Fatima banner was carried at the 46th annual March for Life,



More than 18,000 names appear on this banner, giving silent testimony to the prayers of pro-life Americans across the country.

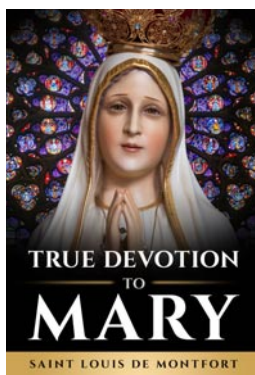
proudly bearing the printed names of 18,388 America Needs Fatima supporters and friends. The banner not only served to remind those physically present that thousands of others were with them in spirit, but also that prayer and petition to God are the most necessary components needed for achieving the final victory. By signing their names on the banner, thousands of pro-life Americans across the nation were given the consolation of knowing that they were uniting themselves, their hopes and prayers, with thousands of others for a cause so dear to their hearts. ■

Carried high through an enormous crowd, the image of Our Lady of Fatima encouraged countless marchers at the 46th March for Life.





Over One Million Devotional Books and Calendars Distributed



True Devotion to Mary by Saint Louis de Montfort

By the time you have received this *Crusade Magazine*, America Needs Fatima will have delivered 250,000 copies of *True Devotion*, a time-honored classic on Marian spirituality, to Catholic homes. Through the practice of true devotion to Mary, as outlined by Saint Louis de Montfort, the world will be brought to Jesus through His Mother, Mary.

Exclusive Fatima Calendar for 2019

A truly unique calendar—not to be found in any store or online—the 2019 Fatima Calendar was mailed to 809,500 Catholics.

One happy recipient wrote:

“Thank you so much for this calendar. It means a lot to me because the face of Our Lady is on each month. There is no doubt that America needs Fatima, as does the world.” —R.Y., Denham Springs, Louisiana



TO ORDER, CALL (888) 317-5571

Nearly 54,000 Sign Petition Against Blasphemy on eBay

BY JACK BURNHAM

Thanks to the support of many friends across the nation, America Needs Fatima is able to oppose blasphemy through our very effective email campaigns. One of the worst public blasphemies was directed to the online sales and auction company eBay.

The California-based multinational corporation allows its sellers to use infamous artist Andres Serrano’s disrespectful and blasphemous image of the Madonna and Child on the fronts and backs of auctioned T-shirts. The holy images are shown blasphemously dunked in a jar of the artist’s own urine.

To express our outrage, ANF sponsored an online petition gathering 53,943 signatures. The petition was sent to Mr. Devin Wenig, CEO, eBay, Inc.

and read as follows:

I am outraged that your company would allow the auctioning of T-shirts upon which Mary and the Child Jesus are defiled by Andres Serrano’s hateful and anti-Catholic Madonna and Child... dunked in urine!

Mr. Wenig, eBay should not facilitate hate—veiled as “art.” The Virgin Mary and her Divine Son are revered, loved, and respected by hundreds of millions around the globe. Why such hurtful and offensive auctions?

Please remove this item from your auctions immediately.

As of this writing eBay has not responded. ■



Our Readers Write



America Needs Fatima Apostolate

"Thank you very much for sending me the lovely Blessed Mother lapel pin and the most beautiful poster of her. I cannot wait to frame it and exhibit our Blessed Mother for all to see. Enclosed is a check to add to my meager monthly donation. I received a rebate check from a purchase I made and I am passing it on to you. I hope it will help spread the news that America Needs Fatima! God bless you and please pray for us."

T.F., Oak Forest, Illinois

"My sincere thanks to you, Robert, and all at America Needs Fatima for the remembrance of my birthday. I never imagined I'd be celebrating my 90th birthday! It's God's loving Will, with the help of Jesus and Mary, to grant me longer days on earth, which, I pray, have been fruitful for saving souls. As always, you and the staff of America Needs Fatima will be in my prayers."

Br. E.D., Framingham, Massachusetts

"Because of Our Lady, my life has become all that I ever wanted or needed it to! Thank you all at America Needs Fatima for saying 'Yes' and for never giving up. We need you. Mary, Our Mother and His, needs you, and that means everything. God bless you all and the works of your saintly hands. I can't wait to meet you all in eternity, God willing!"

K.F., Pemberton, New Jersey

"Thank you so much for fighting against abortion, the crime that cries to heaven for vengeance, and for all the other good and wholesome deeds that you do, both seen and unseen. May God reward your generosity!"

Z.D., Los Gatos, California

"When I opened our package, I was touched and excited. I had JUST asked God to send me a saint to help me reach the Kingdom of Heaven, and here you send me, out-of-the-blue, a book on the Little Flower, *Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus!* Thank God for the ministry of America Needs Fatima. I will die a poor man, but I am prayer-rich, and I promise to keep you in my prayers."

J.A., Massachusetts

Green Hope Rosary

"Thank you for my Green Hope Rosary. Your accompanying letter was so inspirational—it set me on fire. I say my rosary as often as I can but after reading your letter, I have the inspiration to pray it every day! I have your



letter in a special place on my desk so I can read and re-read it. Thank you so much and may God and Mother Mary bless you over and over again. P.S. My wife is a fallen away Catholic. But she occasionally says her rosary. Would you please send her the same package as mine? Thanks a bunch."

R.W., Plano, Texas

"This one dollar is from my two-year-old little girl who is absolutely taken by the Green Hope Rosary you sent us. She said 'Ave Maria' as soon as she saw the Blessed Mother's face on the centerpiece. She has not stopped singing 'Immaculate Mary' since the home visit your Custodian made to us. We will be praying for your ministry—thank you for all you do!"

K.P., Houston, Texas

"Please let my wife and I thank you for such a beautiful rosary! I have it in our room so Our Lady of Fatima may watch over us while we sleep."

J.G., Danville, Pennsylvania

The Miraculous Medal

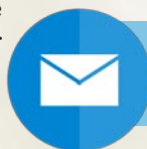
"I'm putting in an order for 100 of your beautiful Miraculous Medals! My daughter-in-law will put each one on a ribbon and distribute them to the people at the homeless shelter. She is all excited about doing this and I'm excited that she's doing it for me!"

M.J., Cincinnati, Ohio

ANF 2019 Calendar

"I am late informing you that I got your super calendar of Our Lady of Fatima. I am 96 years old and in a Catholic nursing home, and there's not much I can do to help, but in spite of that, I got the calendar put up and have it hanging right at my apartment door so that any one that comes in or out can almost shake hands with Our Lady! It came in wonderful condition and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I am a 'rosary man,' and hardly a day goes by that I don't recite it three times a day every year. I thank you so much for thinking of me and I'll be thinking of you with my rosary and prayers! Please remember me in yours."

H.S., Manitowoc, Wisconsin



Have something you'd like to share? Send us your feedback by writing to crusade@TFP.org

Defending the Unborn Amidst a Crisis of Faith

On this 46th annual March for Life, the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) joins with the multitudes of Americans all over the nation who oppose abortion and a wide spectrum of related moral issues ranging from the attack on marriage to euthanasia to gender ideology.

As we march this year, we are united more than ever and encouraged by the recent Supreme Court appointments that open new possibilities to define the legal personhood of the unborn child.

Abortion: A Religious Battle

While we oppose the *Roe v. Wade* decision, we also consider that the anti-abortion struggle has been, is and always will be a religious battle. Our strength in God sustains us and will give us victory should we remain faithful.

Foremost in the pro-life ranks are Catholics across the country. This is because the Church's teachings on abortion have always been clear and unequivocal: Procured abortion is murder. There are no exceptions allowed, no compromises possible.

We are proud to join with so many American Catholics who have been a monolithic force at the service of the anti-abortion struggle.

Scandals Rock This Monolithic Force

However, the foundations of this great force were shaken by the most recent scandals that are rocking the Catholic Church at the highest levels. The crisis is breaking the vital unity needed to fight for the unborn.

There are those who would affirm that this crisis is proof that all bishops and clergy have lost their moral authority. They claim the need to introduce democratic reforms that contradict Church teachings. The media are engaging in a blitz to portray the Church defined by the sins of Her human members and not by Her Divine origins and doctrines.

We reject these claims. This is not a crisis of Church governing structures but above all one of Faith. In reply, we present the following statement.

The Church, Holy and Immortal, Shall Prevail

"Thou art Peter; and upon this rock, I will build My Church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against Her" (Matt. 16:18). To this first promise, Our Lord

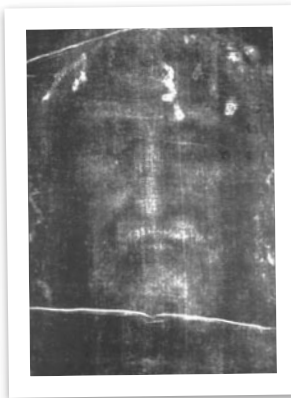
added a second: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away" (Matt. 24:35). Thus did Jesus Christ establish the One Holy Roman Catholic and Apostolic Church, sealing Her immortality with His divine guaranty.

The violence of the storm currently assailing the Church would likely bring down many a human institution, but not the institution supported by God's own promises. The Church's enemies try with all their might to defame and dishonor Her. They hurl mud and muck, but they fail to sully Her.

They declare that She cannot survive the scandals perpetrated within and against Her, but their words ring with the uncertainty that it will indeed be so. Confronted with the silent testimony of history, they know by experience that the Church is both holy and immortal. Nothing stains Her, not even infamy rising from Her ranks, for She is the spotless Bride of Christ.

Even at the height of His passion—when the insults against His Divine Person, the wounds inflicted on His Sacred Body, and His public humiliation had reached their apex—the Word of God Incarnate lost none of the grandeur in His moral profile.

We see this in the Holy Shroud of Turin. Here is a Man atrociously wounded, one would almost say crushed, yet, no painting or sculpture of a king presents more majesty, dignity, or honor than the figure stamped on that burial cloth.



The Holy Shroud of Turin.

Betrayed Ignobly from Within,

Attacked Fiercely From Without

So it is with the Catholic Church today. At the height of Her passion, betrayed ignobly from within, attacked fiercely from without, nothing can disturb Her serenity. When this frightful storm finally abates, She will appear again radiant and victorious.



The front lines in the battle over a child's right to life swell with participants at the 2019 annual Right to Life March in Washington, D.C.

But while the storm lasts, the suffering is intense, and our faith is tested. For us Catholics this means the shocking realization that a hostile element, a horrendous cancer, grows within the Mystical Body of Christ. We shudder at the tragic and unnatural “peaceful coexistence” between vice and that which is virtuous and holy.

The existence of homosexuality¹ in the institution that is the very soul of purity and chastity is deplorable beyond words. Equally deplorable is the fact that this “peaceful coexistence” has lasted for decades due to the unpardonable connivance of shepherds who should have been ready to lay down their lives if necessary to prevent this evil from gaining access to the fold.

The *Catechism of Saint Pius X* calls homosexuality a sin that “cries out to Heaven for vengeance,”² and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 1992 says: “Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity, tradition has always declared that ‘homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered.’”³ Homosexuality is a sin condemned in the Old Testament⁴ and by both Saint Peter and Saint Paul in the New,⁵ by Fathers and Doctors of the Church, and by the Popes for 2,000 years. Saint Peter Damian, Doctor of the Church, says it “should not be

considered an ordinary vice, for it surpasses all of them in enormity.”⁶

We speak of homosexuality, for this indeed is the problem. We all know the truth: the vast majority of the exposed scandals are cases of ephebophilia homosexuality, and thus a particularly heinous spillover of the more widespread problem of homosexuality. Large sectors of the media, however, choose to gloss over the homosexuality.⁷

This same media have no qualms about unleashing a ferocious uproar against the Church, Her doctrine and morals. Adding insult to injury, they give the impression that the criminal behavior of some is the general rule. This is a supreme injustice to all the priests and religious who are faithful to their vows. Moreover, they suggest that the scandals exist because of clerical celibacy. Callously oblivious to the faith and feeling of one billion Catholics, they make scant attempt to show the other side of the coin, namely the sublimity of the Catholic priesthood as reflected in its saints down through the ages.

A Mysterious Process of “Self-Destruction”

Let us put aside, however, this external assault on the Church and focus on the more important problem within.

The first step in solving any problem consists in its thorough and accurate analysis. Then we can see its detrimental consequences and especially its root cause.

The problem would not exist but for the most culpable negligence of numerous shepherds and, in some cases, the most condemnable complicity of others. There is much for the clergy to address

The Church's enemies try with all their might to defame and dishonor Her. They hurl mud and muck, but they fail to sully Her.

within its ranks, vigorously and urgently. Oh, how many tears will turn to joy when the faithful see bishops like our glorious Saint John Neumann, Philadelphia's fourth (1852-1860), fearlessly taking on those who would harm Christ's "little flock." It behooves us all to beseech God earnestly to send saints and heroes to teach, govern, and sanctify His flock.

Is the clergy alone responsible, though? Is there not the possibility that we—the Catholic laity—stand to be blamed as well, if in varying degrees? Surely, we trusted in the watchfulness of our shepherds. Surely, we feel that our trust was betrayed. Nevertheless, Our Lord had more than just the shepherds in mind when He said, "Watch and pray, that you enter not into temptation" (Matt. 26:41); He addressed us as well.

Did we "watch and pray?" Unfortunately not. In the Garden of Olives, we would have been among those who slept. If our analysis is to be honest, we must acknowledge this.

Decades ago, Pope Paul VI warned that "the smoke of Satan" had entered the Church.⁸ He also said that She was undergoing a mysterious process of "self-destruction."⁹ Did we take this warning to heart? Did we investigate this mysterious process? Its methods? How it affected both clergy and faithful?

We let this "smoke of Satan" fill every nook and cranny in the Church. Like a stupefying gas, it relaxed and anesthetized us. It diminished our fighting spirit. Indifference became generalized, and the process of "self-destruction" was left free to do its nefarious work. Today we see the consequences.

This "smoke of Satan" also spread intellectual and moral "relativism" throughout the Church.¹⁰ This relativism spared nothing: the sublime vocation and sacred persons of priest and bishop; the respectful and prayerful atmosphere within churches; the rules of beauty in Church art and architecture; the reverence due to consecrated religious life; the rules of modesty in dress, not only in public but even in our churches; and so much more. All that elevated the souls of the faithful, all that filled them with admiration and veneration for the supernatural, was targeted.

Inevitably this relativism slowly weakened in consciences the notions of good and evil, sin and grace, vice and virtue. The Church's clear teaching on every aspect of sexual behavior was gradually blurred. Virtue was

replaced with a pathetic feel-good spirituality, so that eventually we fell to where we are today, proof positive of the existence of a process dubbed "satanic" by a Pope in our lifetime.

Some critics, moved more by emotions and force of habit than clear thinking, will deny this process of "self-destruction." Unfortunately, the media bring us daily a most palpable sign of its continuation: Seeing the Church so hard pressed by the scandals, Her enemies both within and without are quick to clamor for additional "reform." In open challenge to Her Supreme Magisterium, they demand that the Church abolish clerical celibacy and accept the ordination of women, divorce, contraception, abortion, and, oddly enough, even homosexuality. This is exactly what the Church should not do! This would be the next step toward the abyss of total relativism.

Retracing Our Steps

There is only one way to extricate ourselves from the problem we are in—now that our eyes are open. We must retrace our steps. We must return from whence we came. Only in the fullness of Church teaching will we find the solution to the present crisis. The Church has dealt with many problems during 2,000 years. She is no less able to deal with them today.

The first and obvious step then is to pray.

The second is to watch, as Our Lord commanded. We must hone our ability to watch, to pay attention to lurking danger. Thus, when danger appears—partic-



Top: A vast majority of the participants in the March for Life are under 30 years of age, representing many high schools, colleges and youth groups across the nation.

Right: The red standards of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property, pictured here at the front and throughout the March, inspire hundreds of thousands to persevere in the fight for the unborn.



Dubbed the “pro-life generation,” many young people attend the annual event, giving hope that the crusading spirit still burns within the hearts of America’s youth.

ularly when in sheep’s clothing—we must know how to resist it; we must know how to assess things in the light of Catholic principles. This presupposes a clear understanding of the perennial truths of the Faith and the unchanging principles of morality, for which we must study. This “back to the basics” study of Church teaching will rekindle in our hearts a burning love for all the principles long eroded by relativism.

A Call for Heroism

The third step is a proper understanding of sanctity—the heroic struggle for virtue. True and heroic virtue is not anemic or self-centered. It is full of fruits in the apostolate with others. It rejects the comfort zone and the dictates of human respect—the fear of creating complications for ourselves. When faced with opposition, be it from within or without, it does not cringe and boldly proclaims the faith and sound doctrine. The truth is not something to be ashamed of. Our Lord wants us to influence society, as yeast ferments the dough. He expects us to be courageous in the face of public ridicule, like Veronica. He invites us to heroism: “Everyone therefore that shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father Who is in Heaven” (Matt. 10:32).

For this journey back to the paternal home to be successful it must become a true spiritual crusade, with all the dedication, self-sacrifice and zeal shown by the heroes of old. These answered Blessed Urban II’s call to arms at Clermont-Ferrand, when he launched the First Crusade, with reverberating cries of “God wills it! God wills it!”

If this crusading spirit burns within our breasts, our ecclesiastical leaders will have no doubt that they can rely on our enthusiastic support, provided they courageously assail this largely unchallenged process of “self-destruction” with the indispensable

vigor of shepherds defending their flock from ravenous wolves.

Beyond Any Doubt, the Church Shall Prevail

If both clergy and faithful carry out their respective duties, with the unfailing help of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of Saint Joseph, Her most chaste spouse and Protector of the Universal Church, of all the angels and saints, we will be rewarded by seeing the Church win one more battle. The present crisis is but one more episode—even if one of the worst—in Her glorious history of struggles.

We are reminded of this by the Catholic intellectual Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira, who wrote in his seminal work, *Revolution and Counter-Revolution*:

“Amid the storms through which She passes today, the Church could proudly and tranquilly say: ‘I have seen other winds, I have beheld other storms.’¹¹ The Church has fought in other lands, against adversaries from among other peoples, and She will undoubtedly continue to face problems and enemies quite different from those of today until the end of time.”¹² ■

The American TFP

Notes:

1. In opposition to a usage that is becoming generalized, we restrict the term “homosexuality” to homosexual practices, thus excluding the mere inclination. No individual who suffers from such unnatural inclination and resists it with the help of grace can be called a “homosexual,” just as no one who resists the inclination to steal or lie can be called a “thief,” or a “liar.”

2. www.ewtn.com/library/catechism/PiusXCat.txt. Theologians give Gen. 19:13 as the scriptural basis for this designation.

3. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (New York: Doubleday, 1995) no. 2357, 625.

4. See Gen. 19:1-29; Lev. 18:22; Deut. 22:5.

5. See 2 Pet. 2:6-7; Rom. 1:24-27; 1 Cor. 6:10; 1 Tim. 1:10.

6. St. Peter Damian, *The Book of Gomorrah* (Patrologia Latina, vol. 145, cols. 159-90) quoted in Roberto de Mattei, *L’Église et l’homosexualité* (Paris: Pierre Téqui Éditeur, 1995), 12.

7. The homosexual abuse of teenage boys is pederasty (ephebophilia).

8. See Allocution “Resistite fortes in fide,” of Jun. 29, 1972, in *Insegnamenti di Paolo VI* (Vatican: *Poliglotta Vaticana*), vol. 10, 707-9.

9. See Allocution “To the Students of the Pontifical Lombard Seminary,” on Dec. 7, 1968, in *Insegnamenti di Paolo VI*, vol. 6, 1188.

10. Moral “relativism” tries to adapt Catholic doctrine and morality to one’s personal fancies or the ruling form of worldliness. Objective norms of thought and action are thus destroyed. The person becomes the slave of his caprices and those of fashion, as channeled by the media. Eventually, he accepts evil in the guise of good. See Pope Saint John Paul II’s allocution to the religious and priests participating in the First Italian National Congress on Missions to the People for the ’80s, Feb. 6, 1981, *L’Osservatore Romano*, Feb. 7, 1981.

11. “Alios ego vidi ventos; alias prospexi animo procellas,” Cicero, *Familiares*, 12, 25, 5.

12. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira, *Revolution and Counter-Revolution* (York, Penn.: The American TFP, 1993) 115.



COMMENTARY

SAVE US FROM THE Deniers of Hell

BY JOHN HORVAT II

Anyone who wonders why the Catholic Church is in its present crisis need only read Dr. Scott Bruce's "Do We Still Need to Believe in Hell?". The *Wall Street Journal* article recently appeared in its September 2018 weekend review section.

It was a rather typical, yet brutal, appraisal of the notion of Hell. The author believes Hell is a medieval invention adapted from the ancient myths that talk about a place of punishment for evildoers in the afterlife.

Dr. Bruce recognizes the sociological value of Hell as "a frightening deterrent for sinful behavior;" however, he claims that Hell was (and no longer is) a cornerstone of Christian doctrine and that it was (and no longer is) something about which priests preached.

The author looks forward to a day "in some, better future," when the idea of Hell might be retired from use. It would be "an important step in the maturation of human communities that can mete out justice on their own, without supernatural aid."

A Cause for Concern

Such a sad commentary is to be expected from the *Wall Street Journal* with its materialistic and secular outlook on life. Light-hearted musings about Hell serve as a curiosity for those intent upon building a material paradise on earth.

However, Dr. Bruce is a Catholic. He is not only a Catholic but a professor of history at a Catholic university. His is not just any university but the Jesuit-run Fordham University in New York City.

This is a cause for concern, for Dr. Bruce runs no risk in speaking against Hell. He will not be called to task by Fordham for his critique of Hell in the nation's leading newspaper; he will never be asked to withdraw the book he has just edited about the same topic; and he will tranquilly continue teaching with the many similarly minded professors at Catholic institutions everywhere.

Such inaction on the part of administrators is not surprising to those who have followed the decadence inside the Church in recent decades. Everyone knows there is a lack of concern for orthodoxy at many of the nation's Catholic institutions. This example just shows that there is no attempt to hide it.

Hell Is Scriptural

The denial of Hell helps explain why the Church is in crisis. The Hell-deniers do irreparable harm to the Church, souls and society. The dogma of Hell is foundational for the Church. Take it away and the whole structure of Church teaching comes crashing down.

The notion of Hell has been held from time immemorial. Even Plato, unenlightened by Revelation, perceived the need for Hell, declaring: "Such is the judgment of the gods who dwell in heaven; the good are reunited with the good, the wicked to the wicked."

The existence of Hell is clearly defined in the Bible. It is mentioned many times in both the Old and New Testaments. It is also unequivocal. Hell-deniers find little room for doubt in the graphic descriptions of this place of terrible punishment of endless duration. Numerous councils have defined Hell as an article of faith. Countless saints have all consistently spoken of Hell in dramatic terms.

"I am filled with fear and trembling," says Saint Bernard, "and all my bones are shaken at the thought of that unhappy country of the damned."

Saint Anthony Mary Claret categorically states, "It is of faith that Heaven exists for the good and Hell for the wicked. Faith teaches that the pains of Hell are eternal, and it also warns us that one single mortal sin suffices to condemn a soul forever because of the infinite malice by which it offends an infinite God."

The denial of Hell is, therefore, a denial of biblical truth and Church tradition. It would imply there is no Revelation. Hell is reduced to metaphor and folklore as insinuated by Dr. Bruce's article.

The denial of Hell is a direct attack upon the Fatima message that was mercifully given by God to guide Catholics in these tragic times of sin and iniquity.

No Need for the Incarnation and Redemption

The deniers of Hell call into question the need for the Church. The dogma of Hell is a crucial piece in the logical narrative of the Faith. Without Hell, Christianity would not make sense.

Indeed, if Hell does not exist, then Original Sin cannot exist. For it was as a consequence of man's fall from grace that Hell became a punishment for those who die unrepentant and unjustified. If there is no Hell, there is no need for the Incarnation and redemption. Without Hell, sins have no consequences. Thus, Jesus Christ need not have become flesh nor died a terrible death on the Cross. His death would be meaningless and illogical. Likewise, Christians would not be bound by a debt of gratitude and love, for Christ would have neither saved nor redeemed them. Christianity would be a great hoax without the notion of Hell.

No Moral Order Without Hell

Moreover, it is in the moral order that Hell becomes important. If there is no eternal Hell, then there can be no moral order. The moral order can only be based on an absolute difference between good and evil. If the eternal reward for good and evil deeds is perceived as equal—whether heaven or nothingness—then vice and virtue become optional.

Unanchored in justice, such societies sweep away all morality, honesty, and public order. Take the fear of eternal punishment away, and Hell will be installed on earth. This was many times proved by the sinister ideologies of the twentieth century.

The deniers of Hell undermine the already crumbling moral order. They deprive justice of its sanctions; virtue of its rewards.



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Nineteenth century fresco of Temptation of Jesus, Saint George Church, Antwerp, Belgium.

Hell and Fatima

To those who say that Hell has outlived its usefulness in the modern age, one need only recall the message of Fatima in 1917. During the July 13th apparition, Our Lady showed the three children a vision of Hell. In so doing, she affirmed the special relevance of Hell for the present.

She not only confirmed Hell's existence but tragically warned that untold numbers of souls were going there. To prevent this, she asked for repentance and amendment of life. The denial of Hell is a direct attack upon the Fatima message that was mercifully given by God to guide Catholics in these tragic times of sin and iniquity.

What better lesson for today than a strong awareness of the existence of Hell? How many blasphemies and sins could have been averted had Our Lady's revelation of Hell been taken to heart? How many of the scandals inside the Church would have been avoided had all Catholics, priests and faithful alike, remembered Hell in all its hideousness?

And yet, there is a danger more insidious than those who ignore the Hell that they know exists; it is the danger of the Hell-deniers, who ridicule the notion and incite others to disbelief. They do incalculable harm to souls and the moral order. They offend a merciful God and Our Blessed Mother who desire the salvation of all.

At Fatima, Our Lady gave the shepherd children a prayer in which they were to call upon Jesus to "forgive us our sins and save us from the fires of Hell."

Today, this prayer might well be modified to ask Our Lady to "save us from the deniers of Hell." ■

As seen in Crisis Magazine

On July 13, 1917, Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco were photographed immediately after experiencing the vision of Hell shown to them by Our Lady. The look on their faces should be proof enough of Hell's existence.



IN THE STREETS OF

VALENCIA

BY ANTONIO FRAGELLI

For centuries, in the city of Valencia, Spain, celebrations known as “Las Fallas” are held in honor of Saint Joseph, the city’s patron. These festivities include many beautiful aspects which, thanks to a deep Catholic sense of tradition, have survived our modern age.

Several days before March 19th, the feast of Saint Joseph, groups of *Valencianos*, mostly ladies and young girls dressed in the most beautiful traditional attire, can be seen throughout the city. Then, on March 17th, two main avenues are blocked off in order to accommodate a long and marvelous parade of women dressed in traditional gowns, a continuous display of beauty. This parade begins in the morning and continues until nightfall for two days, nonstop.

The parade is so captivating that an hour will pass and feel like five minutes. After I had taken a good many photos, I stood next to the railing taking it all in, for it is rare in this life to see so much beauty passing in front of you for hours on end.

The combination of colors, fabrics, grace, and good taste moves the soul. The parade progresses rather quickly, but at times it stops and one gets to observe the amount of detail that goes into each costume. Every dress is unique, a real masterpiece, never duplicated.

Then I noticed how all the participants of the parade, young and old, were carrying flowers. Upon inquiring, I discovered that these are being taken to the square of the Virgin of the Forsaken. The parade moves toward the square where a breathtaking three-story-high wooden structure awaits. This edifice is constructed in the shape of the Patroness, *La Virgen de Los Desamparados*, with a replica of her head and bust on top and her mantle in

wood, with slots to be filled with flowers, below. What begins looking like a huge wooden scaffold, ends as a colorful mantle of red and white flowers delivered by the beautifully dressed ladies in the procession.

As I stood enraptured by this traditional “fashion show” in all its magnificence and purity, I happened to glance to my right. Standing there was a young teenage girl, watching as I was. She was dressed in ripped blue jeans. The contrast was a shocking one: how did we go from one to the other?

Our modern world, I thought, is full of problems, mostly rooted in modern man himself. It follows therefore that many of such problems would be solved if man changed. As an example of this, if women in general were to dress with a greater sense of their own dignity, not only would they be treated with more respect, but they would also elevate the level of everything around them.

I know this because I saw it in the streets of Valencia. ■

