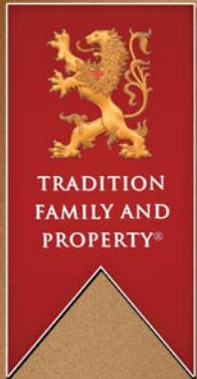


# CRUSADE

July/August 2019  
MAGAZINE



SAINT JOSÉ SÁNCHEZ DEL RÍO:

# HERO

FOR CHRIST THE KING



# Is Our Lady Calling YOU?

As human efforts fail to solve our growing economic, social, moral and spiritual troubles, more people are turning to the supernatural for solutions. That's why the idea of holding a rosary in a public place is becoming increasingly popular. We are following the Fatima message of prayer, penance, and saying the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Public Square Rosary Crusade began in 2007 with an encouraging 2,107 rallies. Growing in number steadily over the years, 21,145 Public Square Rosary Rallies were held across the United States in 2018.

*Is Our Lady calling you to lead a Rosary Rally of your very own this October 12th?*

If she is, America Needs Fatima will help you answer her call every step of the way! We will supply you with a banner and manual, free of charge, as well as a toll-free help line to answer any questions you may have.

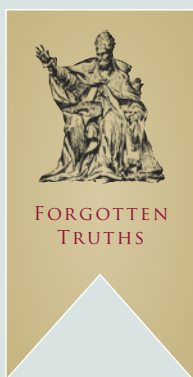


**CALL  
NOW**

ROSARY RALLY HOTLINE  
**(866) 584-6012**

## Why Celibacy?

TAKEN FROM THE ENCYCLICAL *SACERDOTALIS CAELIBATUS* BY POPE PAUL VI



**P**riestly celibacy has been guarded by the Church for centuries as a brilliant jewel, and retains its value undiminished even in our time when the outlook of men and the state of the world have undergone such profound changes.

Wholly in accord with this mission, Christ remained throughout His whole life in the state of celibacy, which signified His total dedication to the service of God and men. This deep concern between celibacy and the priesthood of Christ is reflected in those whose fortune it is to share in the dignity and mission of the Mediator and eternal Priest; this sharing will be more perfect the freer the sacred minister is from the bonds of flesh and blood.

The consecrated celibacy of the sacred ministers actually manifests the virginal love of Christ for the Church, and the virginal and supernatural fecundity of this marriage, by which the children of God are born, "not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh."

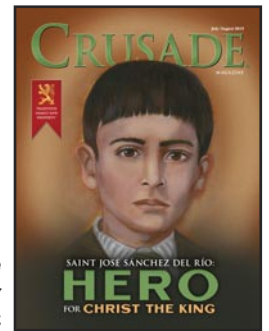
The consecration to Christ under an additional

and lofty title like celibacy evidently gives to the priest, even in the practical field, the maximum efficiency and the best disposition of mind, mentally and emotionally, for the continuous exercise of a perfect charity. This charity will permit him to spend himself wholly for the welfare of all, in a fuller and more concrete way. It also obviously guarantees him a greater freedom and flexibility in the pastoral ministry, in his active and living presence in the world, to which Christ has sent him so that he may pay fully to all the children of God the debt due to them.

We are not easily led to believe that the abolition of ecclesiastical celibacy would considerably increase the number of priestly vocations... The causes of the decrease in vocations to the priesthood are to be found elsewhere—for example, in the fact that individuals and families have lost their sense of God and of all that is holy, their esteem for the Church as the institution of salvation through faith and the sacraments. ■

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Portrait of Saint José  
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Joan Bennett

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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

### Second Drag Queen Story Hour Performer Unmasked as a Sex Offender

On April 4, 2019, activist parents from the pro-family organization, Mass Resistance, unmasked a second registered sex offender that was hosted by the Houston Public Library system to read to young children at Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH). The offender, William Travis Dees, was convicted in 2004 of sexually abusing multiple children and served jail time for his crimes. He was a member of the Sisters

of Perpetual Indulgence, a transgender group of men that mocks Catholic nuns by promoting transgenderism while dressing in garish religious habits. Dees is the second person performing in Drag Queen Story Hour to be exposed as a sex offender. In March of 2019, the Houston Public Library issued an apology after Mass Resistance revealed that drag queen Alberto Garza had been convicted in 2008 of sexually assaulting an eight-year-old boy.

### Massive Turnout at Argentina March for Life

Over two million Argentines rallied in cities throughout the country for the annual March for Life held on March 23, 2019. The main pro-life event was held in Buenos Aires under the banner “In Defense of the Two Lives” and was attended by some 300,000 people. Argentina, like many South American countries, is facing intense international pressure to legalize abortion. In 2018, a bill that would legalize abortion up to 14 weeks was narrowly defeated in the Senate.

### Record Number of Pro-Life Bills Spells Trouble for Planned Parenthood

In response to deep-blue states enacting extreme abortion laws, states with conservative majorities are enacting their own laws aimed at protecting the unborn. A report released by Planned Parenthood on March 27, 2019 found that since January, over 250 pro-life bills have been introduced across 41 states. Proposals to ban abortion once a fetal heartbeat can be detected have risen by 63 percent compared to the previous year. The report also states that seven states have introduced “total bans on abortion,” while six have introduced bans that would take effect if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned. Six states have only one abortion clinic left.

### Democrats Vow to Protect Kittens While Supporting Infanticide

Just two weeks after they had voted down the “Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act,” which would have guaranteed the right to life for babies who survive botched abortions, Democratic senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Gary Peters (D-MI), and Tom Udall (D-NM) had no problem co-sponsoring the

“KITTEEN Act” of 2019, which would ban the U.S. government from euthanizing kittens in experiments. The blatant hypocrisy stirred an outcry from pro-life legislators. Representative Sean Duffy (R-WI) stated “I find it appalling that Democrats are so out of touch that they refuse to stand up for defenseless babies but are more than eager to defend animals.” Elsewhere, Virginia Governor Ralph Norman (D), who gained notoriety for his apologetic defense of infanticide, signed a bill on April 1, 2019, that would make animal abuse a felony.

### Persecution of Christians Worsens in China

Persecution of Christians in China is at its worst in over a decade, with about 50 million people expected to experience some form of repression this year, according to a report released by the watchdog group Open Doors. Under President Ji Jinping, the Communist Party has embarked on a new program to tighten control of religious worship and purge of the Church of “foreign influences” by shut-



ting down hundreds of non-approved churches, arresting underground clergy and worshippers, demolishing crosses, spying on congregations, and banning the celebration of Christmas. In September 2018, the Vatican made a deal with the government that was widely criticized as a betrayal of China’s Catholics. Cardinal Joseph Zen, the former archbishop of Hong Kong, called it “tragic and long lasting, not only for the church in China but for the whole church because it damages credibility.”

## FACTS

## BOX

He is a cult hero of many of today’s young liberals all over the world. But the truth about Che Guevara could hardly be considered heroic, let alone a model for our young people. Below is a list of some facts unearthed by a journalist at FoxNews.com:

- He killed people indiscriminately without trials
- He was against a free press
- He made racist comments against blacks
- He arrogantly considered himself a “messiah”
- He rounded up “rock-n-rollers” into forced labor camps
- He was against free elections
- He was a notorious adulterer



# Teaching Your Child Social Responsibility

## PART TWO

BY FATHER RAUL PLUS, S.J.



**W**e have accomplished a good deal if we have accustomed the child to put himself as much as possible “in the place of others.” “If I were in such and such a situation, what would I do, what would I think?” We are all wrapped up in ourselves as in a cocoon, the child more than anyone else; particularly if coddled, or accustomed to being waited on. The child must be encouraged to wait on himself and to give service. If for any reason the mother needs to hire help, that is no reason for the child to mo-

nopolize such help to his own comfort; he should never be permitted to give direct orders to domestic help.

As much as possible, the children should be given the opportunity to do many little tasks that make family life run more smoothly: to set the table, to dust up a room, to arrange a bouquet, to take care of the baby. Such assignments should not be presented to them as burdensome tasks but as an aid toward the common good, a lightening of mamma’s work so that they are joyful about it even if it demands an effort, upsets their well-laid plans or requires a sacrifice. Often the child will be delighted, proud of the importance of his task. However, care must be taken to appeal not to vanity but to responsibility.

A delicate point to consider is the question of friendships. Should the child be permitted to associate with children who are from a different social class? They will meet in school. If these possible friends are morally good and well-mannered, why not? It will offer a fine opportunity to show that money is not everything, that the only true worth is virtue and human dignity. The child may be too much inclined to pair off only with those who belong to the same social circle or environment; that flatters its vanity. The parents should react to this tendency by teaching the little one that he ought to share with a comrade who is less privileged and, while avoiding indis-

criminate associations with anybody and everybody, seek out as friends not the best dressed but those who are the best students, the most truly pious, the strongest personalities for good, in a word, those that deserve the most esteem.

When the time comes for a choice of profession, direct the boy or girl to choose judiciously not according to possible profit or financial returns but according to the possibilities for best serving society, the common good. Generous parents will not hesitate, if the child’s qualifications are adequate and the opportune moment presents itself, to speak of vocations of complete consecration, the priesthood, religious life. There are so many needs in the world. “The harvest indeed is great, but the laborers are few.” They enlist their children’s interest. A priest? Why not he? A religious? Why not she? That sup-

poses a spirit of detachment in the parents, an informed appreciation for the needs of the Church, love of the general good of Christianity, the sacrifice of little hopes for building up a new family. Yes, it means that. Such parents will often call attention to the distress of the world; to the struggle of nations among themselves. They will explain to their children that union alone is fruitful; furthermore, that union alone is truly Christian.

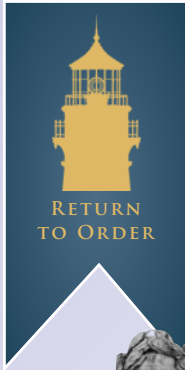
What an inspiring example do those children have whose father has always been a man of broad sympathies and a generous heart, highly social-minded; if in his profession he has always tried to serve rather than merely to earn money; if a lawyer, he has always been concerned for justice; if an industrialist, he has applied himself to bettering the human aspects of production; if a merchant, he has been attentive to injure no one; if a doctor, he has sacrificed himself to do the most possible good; if an employee, he has given his time loyally and honestly to his work—a worker eager for work well done and the social defense of his profession. The boy and girl learn from this to consider their chosen professions or careers as future social service. They get out of their narrow selfish views which formerly warped their characters—they emerge with souls truly formed. ■



Being asked to help out around the house helps the child develop a sense of self-worth.

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# CROSSING THE Rubicon

BY JOHN HORVAT II



In the year 49 B.C., Julius Caesar moved his forces into Italy over a small, insignificant stream called the Rubicon. In so doing, he violated the law that forbade generals to move troops out of their assigned provinces.

Caesar realized the seriousness of his decision by declaring “The die is cast!” The result was a brutal three-year civil war. The expression, “crossing the Rubicon,” came to mean a major decision that becomes a point of no return.

## America Crosses a Rubicon

At some point this past winter, America crossed a Rubicon that dramatically changed things. As a consequence of that subtle decision, we no longer seem to follow the internal logic by which things were predictable. We saw a loss of cooperation that is making the country ungovernable. Horrible things, once hidden, are deemed acceptable to the public.

All this changed rather abruptly. I am not saying that it was an earth-shattering change, but it was important. I do not know exactly what single event triggered this situation. All I know is that it happened.

Perhaps it was the wild applause of legislators for the New York abortion law that makes provisions for the killing of the baby all the way to birth. Maybe it was the irrational and rabid mistreatment of the Covington boys after the March for Life. It may well have been the shutdown deadlock. It could even have been some small, insignificant fact not unlike that small Italian stream.

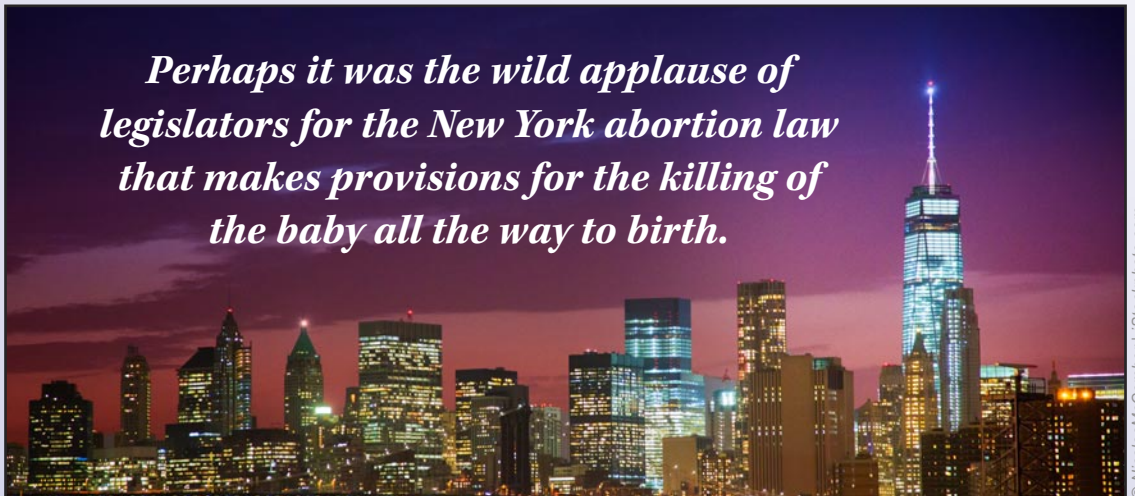
Whatever it was, something fundamental was shaken. It is as if we crossed a Rubicon. There is no going back. The die is cast.

## A Disorder That Comes from No Common Goals

Of course, America has long suffered from disorder. My thesis is that two types of disorder now afflict the nation. The first is old and the other new.

The first disorder involves the structure of most modern liberal governments, including our American one. We tend to stress the greatest possible diversity of goals and thus allow people to live according to their desires and whims. Some of these goals are good and, when shared by most people, contribute to the common good and prosperity of society. Others are not good and introduce disorder and confusion in society.

*Perhaps it was the wild applause of legislators for the New York abortion law that makes provisions for the killing of the baby all the way to birth.*



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During times of consensus in our history, there were enough shared good goals to allow for prosperity and governability. However, when society breaks down, as ours has now done, we see disorder that leads to violent clashes of goals and opinions.

### Disorder Inside a Rational Framework

However, this kind of disorder still operates inside a rational liberal framework. It is still a system that, while favoring processes of decay, still follows a certain logic that allows for heated yet civil debates, or compromise. The desired goals of this disorder appear beneficial, thus allowing bad goals to masquerade as good ones. Thus, abortion has always been framed under a women's "rights" banner. Socialism is a system that pretends to have a concern for the poor.

This first kind of disorder is really a counter-order. The breakdown of this liberal counter-order has polarized us and made America difficult to govern.

### A New Disorder Explodes

America is crossing a Rubicon that leads to the generalization of a second disorder of an entirely different and darker nature.

If the first disorder represents a system resembling processes of decay, the second disorder can be compared to an explosion. The slow, methodical processes of decay follow rules, instant explosions allow for none. This disorder is unpredictable since the explosion tears through everything in its path with unplanned intensity. Inside this lack of framework, no civil debate is possible since goals are ethereal and fluid. The new disorder is not a rational counter-order but illogical chaos without any determined course. It explodes upon the scene breaking all the old rules and respecting no one.

Thus, we are now seeing many things that represent this second disorder. It manifests itself in the denial of reality and truth. There is the rejection of logic and even the suppression of compassion. We see a destructive desire not to cooperate even when the common good is clearly at stake.

These manifestations of disorder are starting to dominate. Never have they shown their true face so clearly. Never has the debate degenerated into such low terms. It is the explosive power of chaos that has entered into the scene. It is crossing over the remaining moral barriers and entering into the mainstream with unexpected fury.

### Mainstreaming Chaos

That is why many Americans watched and reacted



Occupy L.A. protesters signify the explosive loss of order, respecting no one and breaking all the rules.

in horror as elected officials erupted in applause and laughter after New York legislators approved a barbaric law that makes provisions for abortion until birth. We listened in disbelief when the governor of Virginia unapologetically described the process by which a new-born infant might be allowed to die. Many understood the implications for all who defend morality when witnessing the media lynching of the Covington Boys whose only "crimes" were facial expressions deemed offensive.

We now see people taking passion and hatred to such extremes that they no longer can mask their rage. They no longer respect reality and truth and are willing to affirm whatever their fantasies dictate. They will demand the right to present science as fiction and fiction as science to advance their agendas. They will subject innocent children to Drag Queen Story Hours at libraries everywhere to force the acceptance of the ideology of delusional males. We now see the open promotion of Satanism that represents all that is contrary to Christianity.

This spirit of chaos is found everywhere. It encompasses all those who hate order—especially moral order. It prevents people from thinking in terms of the common good because so many now hold little in common with others. They do not recognize the existence of an objective good, or a God that is Goodness itself. In these conditions, the nation becomes ungovernable.

We have crossed a Rubicon, and a die is cast. It does not mean the fight is over, but only that it has intensified. Not only have the rules changed but there are fewer of them. However, the unmasking of disorder in all its hideousness does produce reactions by those who are shocked by chaos' brutal face. The new situation can also trigger more intense longings for a return of a moral order by those who grieve for the nation and truly love God. ■





INTERVIEW

# Compassion and the Catholic Teaching on Homosexuality

INTERVIEW WITH PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA

**D**uring these times of pervasive moral relativism, how is a Catholic to maintain that delicate balance between “love the sinner, yet hate the sin,” especially regarding homosexuality? As practicing Catholics, we are called to be filled with compassion and pray for those who struggle against unremitting and violent temptation to sin, be it toward homosexual vice or otherwise. We hope to counsel them away from sin and provide them with insight to the necessity and beauty of the virtue of chastity that some may have never known. Toward that end, we are reprinting here for the first time an interview



conducted with Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira (1908-1995), founder of the Brazilian TFP and pre-eminent Catholic thinker of the twentieth century.

*Q. What is your opinion about the increase of homosexuality in Brazilian society? Do you believe it harms family integrity?*

**A:** The effect of homosexuality on the family in Brazil is the same as everywhere else.

Since the homosexual relationship is sterile by definition, it is destructive of the family; it is the opposite of the family, and the number one enemy of the family.

*Q. Do you believe this has increased and been a threat to the family especially since the sixties?*

**A:** I believe that of itself sterility in sexual relationships is an evil. At times it is due to no fault of the spouses; it may be due to a physical circumstance for which the spouses are not responsible. But if even one of the spouses decides to avoid fecundity, that is an attack on the family.

So you can imagine what I think of a sexual relationship that is sterile by definition.

The sexual act exists in the natural order of things for the fecundity of the family and thus for the expansion of mankind. God’s precept to early man was “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth.” Hence, there is the need for fecundity in sexual relationships, which are legitimate only within marriage. There is no marriage and above all there is no fecundity in homosexuality.

Homosexuality is completely contrary to the natural order and therefore contrary to the family.

*Q. What about homosexuality on television? It seems to figure prominently in a whole series of films, etc. Do you believe it affects the formation of children and adolescents in Brazil?*

**A:** Generation after generation and for centuries, homosexuality was seen with aversion. This aversion was due not to whim or fashion, but to the principles I

just mentioned, which are principles of the Catholic Church.

When the Faith profoundly influenced with the suavity and splendor of its values all of social life, and therefore family life as well, understandably people rejected what was contrary to the Faith, including homosexuality.

To gauge the depth of this rejection, you need to bear in mind that according to Catholic doctrine homosexuality is among the few sins that “cry out to God for vengeance.”

The other day I was going through some old papers and came across the catechism I used as a child long ago. As I leafed through it, I happened on the list of the sins that “cry out to God for vengeance.” Homosexuality was one of them, along with murder.

In other words, just as murder elicits people’s moral rejection, so does homosexuality.

This rejection is also society’s reaction to what it senses to be against it. Anything alive rejects what destroys it. Therefore, in a movement comparable to the instinct of self-preservation, human societies shaped according to Catholic doctrine were profoundly and manifestly anti-homosexual.

Thanks to the increasingly paganized customs and ideas I have witnessed throughout most of the twentieth century—I was born in 1908—all this gradually lost its vigor and most profound meaning. And so we see also a gradual decline in the rejection of homosexuality.

Twenty or thirty years ago this almost continual featuring of homosexuality on television, in theater, etc., would have been rejected with indignation. Actually, it would not have been permitted.



As a Brazilian, I cannot fail to deplore the increasing acceptance of this profoundly anti-social habit.

*Q. Do you think that homosexuality hinders the population growth you consider so important for our country?*

**A:** How could I think otherwise?

Homosexuality being the practice of sterile unions, it lacks the fecundity of legitimate marriage and even the fecundity of unlawful heterosexual unions, which are still according to nature.

Homosexuality deviates people from fruitful relationships.

*Q. Do you believe that homosexuality harms work performance? Or that it can even be a bad influence, as in the case of a homosexual who teaches kids?*

**A:** Homosexuality not infrequently goes hand-in-hand with pedophilia, that is, with adults having sexual relations with children.

Pedophilia is the plague of schools and is understandably repressed by law in innumerable countries.

*Q. Does the TFP ever admit homosexual members?*

**A:** No, because the TFP is an association of Catholic inspiration. The TFP is not a Catholic association properly speaking;

it was founded not by the Catholic hierarchy but by a group of private laymen. According to canon law, the TFP is in this sense a lay association, but of Catholic inspiration.

All the TFP's thought is Roman, Catholic, and Apostolic, even in the smallest details.

From what I have told you of the Catholic morality regarding homosexuality, you understand that if we had to accept people who practice an act completely opposed to our morality, we would feel that our religious liberty was being violated.

*Q. Do you believe that homosexuals are now more accepted by society?*

**A:** This is no play of words: I would say they are now less rejected.

*Q. Do you consider this dangerous?*

**A:** Yes, in that it represents the disappearance of social censure of a habit contrary to the natural order.

*Q. Going back a bit to the conceptual question of sterility: You say that homosexuality is an unacceptable practice because it is sterile?*

**A:** Yes.

*Q. And what would you say of the sexual relationship of a sterile man or woman? Is this practice also inadvisable?*

**A:** No, I would not go that far.

It would be inadvisable if something were done to make the relationship sterile.

For example, there is a surgical procedure—I may be wrong but I think it is not done so frequently nowadays—tubal ligation, which prevents conception. It is very censurable because it artificially induces sterility.

The case is different if sterility is not induced. Say a married couple finds out that their sexual relations are sterile. There is no violation of natural law

here, because fecundity was not impeded. They practiced an act that is fecund by its nature. Nothing was done to impede its fecundity. Therefore, they have a right to sexual relations despite their sterility.

What is censurable is the artificiality with which sterility is introduced in a couple's conjugal life.

*Q. If you had to counsel a young man who is homosexual, who has homosexual relationships, what would you tell him?*

**A:** There is a distinction to be made between a young man who has homosexual tendencies but resists their urgings and therefore controls himself, and a young man who gives in to them and practices homosexuality.

In the first case, I would tell him that I respect and admire him and that I ask God to continue helping him to remain pure and to avoid condemnable sexual practices. That if he can marry, he should marry. I would have only praise for him if he does.

In the second case, I must still see him as a creature of God. I must desire his good, including his salvation. I must treat him with dignity and respect. I would tell him: "My friend, I understand that it is difficult and indeed heroic for a person to change once he has abandoned the practice of purity and let himself be dragged into a practice such as this. However, experience shows that it is possible if you take certain steps. In other words, stay away from persons and places that invite you to this, and try above all to avoid looking at or thinking about these practices. If you do this, you will have won a brilliant victory worthy of congratulation. I urge you to start fighting now. "If you choose not to undertake this great but noble effort, if you prefer the illegitimate pleasures of your disorderly nature, I can but lament and continue praying that God will have mercy on you, and touch you one day with His grace and lift you to better dispositions." ■

**Like the Prodigal Son, no one is far from the Father's embrace if he is willing to take the steps needed to return home.**



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# SAINT JOSÉ SÁNCHEZ DEL RÍO: HERO FOR CHRIST THE KING



BY ELIAS RUBIO

Our young saint lived in tumultuous times. The socialist government of Mexico was waging a bloody war against the Catholic Church, and fervent Catholics known as the Cristeros rose up to defend Christ the King. Their heroic resistance, La Cristiada, began in 1926.

## Background

The Mexican constitution of 1917—socialist at its core—sparked this terrible conflict. It put the Church under the strict control of the State: it regulated Catholic preaching, allotted a fixed number of priests per state, dictated Mass attendance, baptisms, weddings, the Sacraments, and tithing. Even the ringing of Church bells was hampered, and prelates caught disobeying these unjust laws were exiled or killed.

The president at the time, Venustiano Carranza, did not immediately enforce the anti-Catholic laws, but showed temporary tolerance. When Plutarco Elías Calles took power in 1920, however, the new constitution was brutally enforced. Calles sent more than two hundred



priests into exile, along with a number of archbishops and bishops.

The worst persecution was unleashed by the iniquitous *Ley Calles* (Calles Law) of July 31, 1926. It prohibited the practice of the Catholic religion in public. All education was removed from the care of the Church and put under direct state control. Religious vows were illegal. Monasteries and convents were dissolved, and religious could no longer use habits. Church property was confiscated.

Moreover, it was illegal for anyone, especially priests, to speak out against the government or the constitution. Priests wishing to exercise their ministry had to ask the state for permission. Frequently, this “permission” was not granted. Finally, those who did not obey these immoral laws were fined or imprisoned. A “serious” or repeated offense often meant execution.

## Cristero Uprising

In this turmoil, God rose up a strong reaction: the Cristeros. Among these Catholics we find the heroic figure of José Sánchez del Río. The young saint was born on March 28, 1913 in Sahuayo, Michoacan. His parents, Macario Sanchez Sanchez and Maria del Río Arteaga, had three older sons, two of which joined the Cristeros.

José witnessed the horrible persecution of the Church and, following his brothers, decided to

**General Plutarco Elias Calles enforced anti-Catholic laws which amounted to a full-fledged religious persecution throughout all of Mexico.**



join the Cristiada movement. He was so young, however, that his parents were reluctant. After much pleading and a visit to a Cristero officer, Don Macario and Doña Maria gave José their parental blessing. José was overjoyed, but also aware of the suffering he would endure. Before departing, he declared: "For Jesus Christ, I will do everything."

José and a friend, Trinidad Flores, set off to a Cristero camp. After a long journey they presented themselves to the officer in charge and were given tasks: carry water, prepare the fire, serve food and coffee, wash dishes, feed the horses, and clean rifles.

José enthusiastically went about the chores, and the soldiers quickly became fond of him. He fervently attended daily Mass and prayed the Rosary with the soldiers every evening. José learned how to play the bugle for battle, and was put under the care of General Luis Guizar Morfin who, with the intention of protecting the lad, gave him the duty of standard bearer.

### How He Saves the General

Outnumbered and outgunned, the Cristeros used guerrilla tactics over pitched battles. On February 6, 1928, the Cristeros ambushed the enemy, between Cotija and Jiquilpan. When the order was given to retreat, federal machine gun fire opened up on their position, ripping through the rocks that gave the Cristeros cover. José saw the general's horse drop dead beneath him. Although the general himself was not seriously injured, José rushed over, jumped off his own horse and urged him to take it:



Color-coded map of Mexico showing the various regions where the Cristero uprising took place. Red: large-scale outbreaks; orange: moderate-scale outbreaks; and yellow: sporadic outbreaks.

"General, here's my horse!"

The general replied: "Run boy, run! Go!"

But José insisted: "I am young; you are more important than me! Viva Cristo Rey!"

Overtaken by the boy's sacrifice, the general accepted the horse and fled. José, refusing to run, stayed behind to provide covering fire for his fellow Cristeros, but he soon ran out of ammunition and was captured by the Federals. They pushed, hit, kicked and insulted him while uttering foul blasphemies. Another young boy, Lorenzo "El Escurridizo," was captured as well. Their execution was interrupted by a federal general who asked the two boys to join the anti-Catholic side. José answered without hesitation:

"You have captured me because I ran out of ammo, but I have not given up!" Surprised by the answer, the general threw José and Lorenzo into prison at Cotija.

### Behind Bars, Yet Always Faithful

In his prison cell, José remembered the advice of his dear mother: have complete confidence in the Mother of God, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

As the early morning sun shone through the tiny window in José's cell, he wrote a letter to his mother dated February 6, 1928.

My dear mother:

I was made a prisoner in battle today. I think I will die soon, but I do not care, mother. Resign yourself to the will of God. I will die happy because I die on the side of our God. Do not worry about my death, which would mortify me. Tell my brothers to follow the example that their youngest brother leaves them, and do the will of God. Have courage and send me your blessing along with my father's.

Send my regards to everyone one last time and finally receive the heart of your son who

Saint José Sánchez del Río at age 9.



loves you so much and who wanted to see you before dying.

— José Sánchez del Río

On February 7th, José and Lorenzo were transferred from the prison in Cotija to the Catholic Church in Sahuayo—where José was baptized—which had been turned into a stable for animals by the impious federals. Horse manure, military supplies, empty beer bottles, and food scraps covered the floor. Soldiers vandalized the altar, using its wood to start a fire. The church, once beautiful, was now disfigured beyond recognition.

News of José's imprisonment spread rapidly. Attempts were made to obtain his release, but the soldiers refused to let him go. José's godfather, Rafael Picazo, a local political boss in Sahuayo, visited him. This man, however, was a federal sympathizer and he slyly attempted to convince José to attend military school and become an officer in the Federal Army. José was shocked by the proposal and replied:

"I'd rather die first! I will not go with those monkeys! Never with those persecutors of the Church! If you let me go, tomorrow I will return to the Cristeros! *Viva Cristeros! Viva Cristo Rey! Viva La Virgen de Guadalupe!*"

### **Zeal for the House of God**

José was outraged by the sacrilegious behavior of

*"Resign yourself to the will of God. I will die happy because I die on the side of our God."*

his captors who released fighting cocks inside the church, and had them fight in the sacred sanctuary. The colorful fighting birds roamed freely, perching on sacred objects, including the tabernacle. But as soon as José saw them, he decided to stop the profanation of the altar. Disregarding certain reprisal from the guards, he grabbed the roosters and cracked their necks one by one.

After he finished them off, José washed his hands with a rag, knelt down and prayed devoutly with a strong and loud voice. He then went calmly to bed.

Of this episode, author Luis Laurean Cervantes remarks, "As Christ had cleaned the vendors out of the Temple, he [José] had cleaned it of fighting cocks."

The next morning, when Picazo saw what José had done, he was enraged. Picazo wrenched José up by the arm and screamed:

"Don't you realize what you did? Don't you know the cost of a rooster?"

José replied: "The only thing I know is that the house of God is not a corral nor a barnyard! I am willing to endure everything. Shoot me now so that I can go before Our Lord!"

Lorenzo, who was also in the church-prison,



**Cristero leaders with their family and the Cristero banner in the background.**





**Left:** Actual photograph of Cristero martyr, José Sánchez del Río. **Above:** a common, yet grotesque, sight along the roads of Mexico, as Cristeros were hung for their “crimes.”

grew scared, but José counseled him to remain strong, and spoke about Christ, the Virgin of Guadalupe, and the stories of Anacleto González Flores and Father Miguel Pro—both martyrs.

### **“Viva Cristo Rey!”**

On February 10th, Picazo made up his mind to execute his godson. The order to kill José Sánchez del Río was issued at six o’clock and the execution itself was scheduled for eight-thirty.

José was allowed to write a final letter to his family, which he did. Thirty minutes before the execution, José’s aunt Magdalena brought him dinner. At her request, a priest hid the Blessed Sacrament in the food package and José secretly received Holy Communion for the last time.

Then José bid his aunt farewell: “We will see each other in Heaven soon.” José was about to cry, but he choked back his tears because he didn’t want to weep in front of his beloved aunt. He said, “...take care of my mother. Tell her not to rush [to see me] as I will have already won Heaven.”

Finally, the time for the execution arrived. Picazo wanted the execution to be done “quietly” without a formal firing squad. Instead, the federals cut the soles of José’s feet with a knife. They brutally beat him over and over, but with each cut and each savage blow, he shouted: “*Viva Cristo Rey!*”

### **His Way of the Cross**

The guards made José walk ten blocks, barefoot and bleeding, along a rocky path to the cemetery where he would be buried. Along the way, the soldiers screamed blasphemies with satanic hatred, praising the godless government, trying to pressure the boy to deny his faith: “You better learn your lesson!” “We will kill you!” “What a proud and arrogant boy!” they said.

José’s only response was: “*Viva Cristo Rey!*” and “*Viva La Virgen de Guadalupe!*”

Already at the cemetery, José asked: “Where is my plot?” as he did not want any of the troops to touch him. One of the soldiers suddenly swung his rifle around, breaking José’s jaw with the butt. Without hesitation, the soldiers furiously stabbed him in the neck, chest and the back with knives. At every stab, José proclaimed the name of Christ the King at top of his lungs, “*Viva Cristo Rey!*”

José was dying slowly. But he still mustered enough energy to defy the soldiers, saying, “You have done a lot to me, but God still allows me [to continue]! But when I can no longer speak, if I wiggle my feet, that means, ‘*Viva Cristo Rey* and the Virgin of Guadalupe!’”

A federal officer approached the dying and bleeding boy on the ground and asked in a sarcastic tone, “What should we tell your father?” José answered: “That we will see each other in Heaven! *Viva Cristo Rey!* and the Virgin of Guadalupe.”

### **The Crown of Martyrdom**

Overtaken by anger, the officer grabbed his gun and shot José behind the ear. José Sánchez del Río won the crown of martyrdom.

The federals tossed the boy’s body into the grave, shoveled some dirt over it and left. Luis Gomez, the undertaker, waited for the federals to leave and immediately closed the gates of the cemetery. He ran to the house of Father Ignacio Sanchez, José’s uncle, and asked the priest to give the martyr a Christian burial. Luis and the priest hurried back to the cemetery. They took José’s mangled body out of the grave and wrapped it in a blanket while the priest prayed the prayers for the dead.

Soon, everyone knew about the boy-martyr. People started to pray to him. His heroic life

quickly became a model across Mexico.

The body of the martyr was buried in that same cemetery until 1945. After Father Miguel Serrato repaired the local church of the Sacred Heart, Blessed 's remains were transferred to its shrine where other Cristero martyrs are interred. Finally, in 1996 his remains were moved to the parish church where he was held captive. His relics are kept in a wooden coffin in the baptistery, the same place where he was held captive. He was beatified on June 22, 2004, and on October 16, 2016, he was declared a saint.

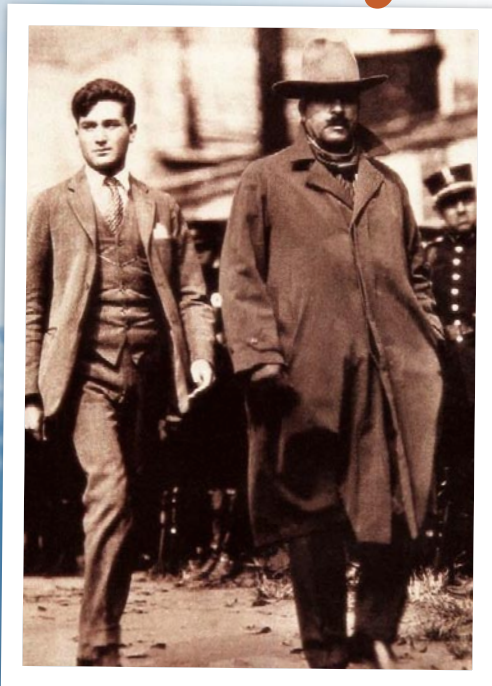
Let us imitate the virtues of this young saint: fortitude, valor, faith, holy audacity, hope and charity. Let us pray for the grace to have the same enthusiasm to defend the law and the rights of God that are under attack today, and to endure all hardships for the greater glory of God and Holy Mother Church.

Saint José Sánchez del Río, pray for us. ■



Mexican Catholics carry a statue of the boy-martyr during his beatification ceremony in Guadalajara, Mexico on November 20, 2005.

# Viva Christo Rey!



“Long live Christ the King!” Such was the cry that opened the gates of Heaven and eternal glory to many blessed during the Catholic resistance in the Mexico of the 1920s. The Cristero martyrs shouted it as they were executed by the communist regime they had fought: a tyrannical regime that shut down their churches, persecuted religion and spread disgrace over Mexico, the great gloved nation of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In this photograph, we see the young engineer, Luis Segura Vilchis, (left) walking toward his place of execution. He is as serene as if he were walking up the aisle of a church for Holy Communion. Such is his serenity that we can easily picture him in former times about to receive the God for Whom he is now to die.

Impressively pure, masculine and noble of countenance, well dressed, and visibly possessing good breeding, this hero can rightly be considered a model Catholic youth; a youth that is serious, generous, and filled with faith and courage. He shows no fear, no horror...nothing! His expression remains unchanged as he contemplates the stark reality so crudely presented before his eyes.

He is its next victim, nevertheless the chroniclers of the time attest that they noticed no reaction. His self-control is total. It can only result from an extraordinary grace to face martyrdom and from a special strength of soul.

“Gentlemen, I am ready!” said he as he faced his executioners and looked heavenward. Seconds later—and with what assurance!—he was entering Heaven. What glory is his as he is carried by the angels to the very throne of God for his encounter, his real encounter, with Christ the King, for whom he has just given his earthly life, and with Mary, who smiles sweetly upon this heroic son who during his entire life was such a faithful devotee! ■

Excerpt from an article originally published in the *Catholicismo*, No. 535, in May, 1995. It has been translated and adapted for publication without the author's revision. -Ed.





# AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA<sup>®</sup>

JULY/AUGUST 2019

PROGRESS REPORT

## Our Lady Honored at Fatima

BY TONIA LONG

America Needs Fatima has long been sponsoring Annual pilgrimages to the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal. Every year, the pilgrims bring with them three tokens of affection from friends and supporters of ANF: roses, prayer intentions, and, a recent development, a splendid banner containing the names of thousands of devout Catholics who join in this pilgrimage in spirit.

On May 12, 2019, Michael Gorre and Kenneth Murphy carried roses across the esplanade of the Fatima shrine in the midday sun. The roses appeared as a rainbow of bright colors—red, pink, yellow and white—spanning the walkway where their fellow pilgrims trod. Pausing to admire the colorful array of devotion, many Catholics from all around the world commented, in various languages, with words of appreciation and awe.

After delivering the roses to Our Lady, our ambassadors then crossed the courtyard to the exact spot where the visions took place 102 years ago. It was here in a small chapel that tens of thousands of heartfelt prayer intentions were laid at the feet of Mary Most Holy. After fulfilling this most solemn duty, they were free to seek some rest and refreshment before the devotional practices that they would be participating in after sundown.

Hours later, as the sun sank lower in the Portuguese sky, the number of pilgrims swelled as they filtered back into the square for the famous candlelight vigil procession. Probably the most moving of all Fatima devotions, the procession soon began as hundreds of thousands of pilgrims carrying small candles combined to fill the square with flickering light. As the pilgrims all began to move in procession as one, the Fatima Name Banner was raised high, a silent testimony to the affection and confidence of those whose names were printed there.





# In Defense of Children's Innocence

BY JOSÉ WALTER FERRAZ

In May of 2018, Tradition, Family and Property and America Needs Fatima formed a special department called the Deus Vult Commission. The Latin phrase *Deus vult* means “God wills it.” The Commission promotes rosary rallies, petitions and peaceful protests. We help people to take a stand against satanic statues erected in town squares, as well as false prophets such as the “rainbow Jesuit,” Father James Martin, who promotes homosexual acceptance in Catholic communities.

The commission also coordinates protests against events like the Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH), a most effective way to corrupt little children. These events often take place in taxpayer-funded public libraries. DQSH is a nationwide movement where cross-dressers read pro-homosexual stories to little children as young as 3 years old. These story sessions promote unnatural behavior and pervert the minds of children, aiming to encourage “gender fluidity,” and acceptance of perverse actions at a young age, constituting a new form of child abuse.

One activist “performer” involved in the Drag Queen Story Hour in Lafayette, Louisiana, openly confessed: “This is going to be the grooming of the next generation!”

This is why, right now, our main focus is the Crusade to Defend Our Children. The DQSH movement to pervert our youth is unacceptable. With Our Lady on

our side, the Crusade to Defend Our Children will be a powerful success—we are not going to let this atrocity take place without opposition.

These Catholic protests are taking place all across the country. For example, in Greenville, South Carolina, friends of America Needs Fatima met anti-protesters. “They make war against God and against children, and so I will make war against them,” said rally organizer, Rita Wiggins.

Two Catholics, among dozens of protestors, drove to Portland, Maine, to defend innocence in the public square. They stood in the January cold, holding signs that read “Honk to Defend the Innocence of our Children” and “Drag Queens Need Prayers, not Public Platforms.”

In Montclair, New Jersey, twenty Catholics endured violent, wintery weather during a state of emergency to stand in protest of the city’s Drag Queen Story Hour. What inspiring dedication to truth!

Houston, Texas, achieved victory when their protests led to DQSH being cancelled at Freed-Montrose Library, where, due to a “systematic mistake,” a registered sex offender was reading to and entertaining small children.

All these brave rosary warriors peacefully protested against the brazen, pro-transgender activism gaining momentum throughout the country. Our children deserve to have someone fight for their God-given gift of innocence.

Let these deplorable attacks on the most vulnerable members of society rouse Catholics from sea to sea to defend our children through acts of public reparation, and inspire them to be the comfort Our Lady seeks in such a dark time. ■

Local grassroots efforts, like those pictured here, are an effective way to both raise public awareness and make reparation for the attack on America’s children.



*Is there a Drag Queen Story Hour being hosted near you?*

To find out, place a quick call to your local library and ask if it is offering a Drag Queen event.

And then contact José Ferraz at [protest@tfp.org](mailto:protest@tfp.org), or call him at 570-582-7678. He'll help you set up a Public Rosary Rally!





# CUSTODIAN'S CORNER

## "We Are Just the Drivers"

BY REX TEODOSIO

Rain or shine, America Needs Fatima Custodians are always busy chauffeuring Our Lady from home to home. With almost two million people in our database, we try to visit three homes a day to keep up with the demand. Even though the numbers of people we meet are huge, each visit is always a unique experience.

Such was the case with a family I visited in Central Illinois last winter. There were several young children present, from five to nine years old, and several teenagers. Already, from the start, I knew the children were going to have a high interest in the presentation. One nine-year-old actually parked himself at the very front, closest to Our Lady, to secure the best seat in the house. Despite being so young, much to my surprise, the children paid full attention during the whole one-and-a-half-hour presentation and each later led a decade of the rosary. After the presentation, two of them drew a crayon picture of Our Lady commemorating the event. When we were leaving, two older boys thanked me warmly and asked questions.

At length, I received this letter from the family:

"Thank you for coming to our home with Our Lady's statue and for the beautiful presentation! I really didn't know what to expect from a visit such as this and we were all so moved! The message seemed to be renewed in our hearts as we all watched and listened. I can now see the importance of the home visits and how this can bring Our Lady's message alive



This view of America's highways becomes a familiar sight for all Fatima Custodians.

and personal to each of us. "Your knowledge and willingness to share was an inspiration not often seen in the world today. May God bless you for this awesome and holy work that you do for His Church and Our Lady!"

This wonderful letter illustrates how custodians go to unknown families who welcome us to

their homes solely on the expectation that Our Lady will bring them blessings. We, in turn, go into their homes full of confidence that Our Lady will do exactly that. We don't have any doubt about the source of these blessings. Our Lady does the bulk of the work and, as many of us custodians say, we are just the drivers. ■



*"I would love to have the Lady visit as often as possible! Her visit in my home was so uplifting."*

*M. S., Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

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



# Roses of Reparation Carried to Guadalupe



BY LORA LUCAS-BAIILE

American history has reached an all-time low when it comes to our government's refusal to protect the most vulnerable Americans—unborn children.

After 61,000,000 abortions and 46 years since the infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision which made abortion legal in the United States, we at America Needs Fatima realize we must turn again, in humble supplication, to Our Lady Patroness of the Americas—Our Lady of Guadalupe.

I traveled to Mexico City to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe to offer a bouquet of roses in reparation for this atrocity.

Along with the roses, over 3,000 prayer intention sheets were laid at the feet of Our Mother.

February 23, 2019 was an unusually warm day in Mexico City for that time of year. Arriving at the shrine at 9:00 a.m., I headed straight up to the small chapel on Tepeyac Hill, the place where Our Lady appeared to Saint Juan Diego on December 9, 1531, on his way to Mass. At the time of Our Lady's first apparition to Saint Juan Diego, Tepeyac Hill was on the outskirts of what is now Mexico City, but today, it is in the heart of Mexico City. Here I prayed a Rosary of reparation for the sin of abortion and for all America Needs Fatima supporters who offered their intentions.



After descending Tepeyac Hill, I entered the new Basilica where the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe now resides. I placed the bouquet of roses as close as possible to the miraculous image of Our Lady. I prayed for all our members and supporters, as well as submitted everyone's intentions for further Masses to be said. I then purchased 46 candles which I lit to offer reparation for each year since *Roe v. Wade* made abortion "legal."

Hundreds of thousands of people came and went in the time I spent at the shrine that day. It was so beautiful to see so

much devotion. There were hundreds of baptisms, Mass is celebrated most days every hour on the hour from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the Basilica was jam-packed for each and every Mass. Priests, nuns, students, prayer groups, people from all walks of life, from all over the world formed a continuous procession into the Basilica throughout the day to pray, hear Mass and pay homage to the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas and Protectress of the Unborn, pray for us all! ■





# Message of Hope Spreads in America

BY T. M. SALAMIDA

This past spring, America Needs Fatima hosted regional conferences across the country, bringing a message of hope across the southern states and even as far as Hawaii. The theme of this year's conferences was, *Historic Fidelity: A Crusading Strategy for Confronting the Smoke of Satan in the Church*.

The first conference of 2019 was held on February 23rd, at TFP-Louisiana's headquarters in Lafayette, Louisiana. Over 80 friends and supporters came from throughout the state and neighboring Texas. In March, gatherings were held in the College of Central Florida in Ocala and the Marriott in Coral Springs. The Ocala Conference was followed by a public procession with a statue of Our Lady and a Traditional Marriage Rosary Rally.

Out west in Kansas, a conference was held on April 6th at The Historic Dillon House, a beautifully restored home that is now a unique event center in Topeka. In May conferences were held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Sacramento, California, and the Knott's Berry Farm Hotel in Buena Park, California. On May 10th a conference was held in Honolulu, Hawaii. The final conference took place on May 18th, in Hazleton, Pennsylvania.

Though the locations and speakers varied, the topics remained consistent throughout and were presented in a fashion that corresponded to the challenges of being a Catholic today. One talk was titled, "The Fatima Chastisement Will Be God's Intervention." The speaker gave a very logical exposition on how the world has failed to heed the message of Fatima which creates all the conditions for a chastisement. Although the specific details of this event are impossible

to foresee, one may speculate about what might occur. Faithful Catholics were told how they might prepare themselves for this chastisement.

Another topic that brought consolation to those present was Mr. John Horvat's presentation on "The Prodigal Son: God Will Not Despise a Contrite and Humbled Heart." "Our only way out is to become those prodigal sons who long for the Father's house, which is a Christian civilization," said Mr. Horvat. "Our role as TFP members, supporters and friends is to awaken in ourselves and others this longing for the Father's house which will facilitate a return to order."

James Bascom, who is part of the TFP's Washington Bureau, presented the talk, "The Grand Return: Our Hope" as an example of how Our Lady can convert multitudes. He gave an account of the statue and shrine of Our Lady of Boulogne in France. The miraculous statue first appeared mysteriously in 636 off the coast of

France in the strategic town of Boulogne-sur-Mer. During and after World War II, this devotion was revived under the title of Our Lady of the Grand Return.

Long-time TFP member, Mr. Norman Fulkerson, gave a presentation about the founder of the first TFP in Brazil, Professor Plinio Correa de Oliveira. Mr. Fulkerson pointed to him as an example of one who was able to resist those who attacked the Church by defending Catholic doctrine with firmness, yet without revolt.

Other topics of interest included: "TFP in Action, Reports from the Battlefield"; "Socialism's Latest Invasion of Church and Society"; "Our Lady of Good Counsel: Our Hope and Guidance in Times of Confusion"; and an analysis of the book, *Pope Francis's "Paradigm Shift": Continuity or Rupture in the Mission of the Church?*

With Our Lady's blessing, may these conferences continue to provide an opportunity for like-minded individuals and families to meet and make new friends and for all to be strengthened for the battles that lie ahead.

Our Lady of the Grand Return, pray for us! ■



**Upper Left:** TFP speaker, Kevin Ritchie. **Lower Left:** Catholic attendees of the Regional Conference held in Ocala, Florida, participate in a Traditional Marriage Rosary Rally. **Below:** Attendees listen to words of encouragement and inspiration at the Catholic conferences held across the southern and western states.





# Our Readers Write



## 2019 ANF Membership Mailing

"I got my new membership card for this year, which I will carry with me. Thanks for staying in touch with me via your mailings. I am blessed to be a part of America Needs Fatima."

*J. R., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

"Thanks for sending me my 2019 membership card! I will tuck it into my billfold as a remembrance. I have been recently rather ill with several health issues, but I am doing better now by praying a lot of rosaries! My whole family is praying on rosaries that you sent me last year!"

*J. S., Taylor, Texas*

"I received your letter which had the membership card and also my personal labels and stickers enclosed—thank you so much. I use the labels on all my bills!"

*R. B., San Francisco, California*

"Thank you for the address labels; using them makes me feel that I am spreading Our Lady's message to organizations, family, and friends."

*J. F., Ville Platte, Louisiana*

"First and foremost, I would hereby extend my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to you for the 2019 America Needs Fatima membership card, the Fatima address labels, and the *Crusade Magazine*. You are indeed very kind and thoughtful. After thoroughly reading your letter, I was touched by your pleading and petitions to spread the teachings of Our Blessed Lady. There is now an emerging evil force that seeks to destroy the noble ideals and virtues of Our Blessed Virgin Mary, the Lady of Fatima. For this reason, we must strongly fight against those evil forces to overthrow them; indeed, to throw them out completely, altogether! With the help of our heavenly Father, God the Almighty, we will surely achieve the goal we are aspiring to. Very faithfully yours in Christ..."

*S. C., Brownstown, Missouri*

## Religious Book Apostolate

"I humbly wish to let you know that I received the book you sent me. Thank you so much! So far, the book has been wonderful and I am enjoying it. I am truly grateful for that. May the peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ and Our Blessed Mother Mary be with you and

this ministry. As a seminarian, praying the Holy Rosary every day here in the seminary has become part of my vocation and our Mother Mary is truly journeying with me. I wish I had much to support your Fatima apostolate, but be assured of my prayers, and also, remember me and my vocation in your prayers. Again, thank you for the book *The Virgin Mary!*"

*F. O., Epworth, Iowa*

"I found this *Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus* book amongst my things. I am finally reading it now. It's wonderful! Please pray for me as I undergo new cancer treatment."

*L. J., La Fargeville, New York*

## Rosary Rally Crusade

"Thank you for the opportunity to honor the Blessed Virgin, our Mother Mary, by being a Rosary Rally Captain in the Public Square Rosary Rally Crusade!"

*E. S., Davison, Missouri*

"I am working with my little church in Wahiawa, Our Lady of Sorrows, to see about holding a public rosary each month for the end of abortion, conversion of sinners, world peace, etc. Will keep you posted!"

*B. S., Wahiawa, Hawaii*

"I have been saying the rosary at the Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Port Chester, NY since 1952. We pray there every Monday night except holidays. Keep up the good work. America is in dire need of Our Lady's intercession."

*J. G., Port Chester, New York*

"Thank you for all your hard work and effort defending the Catholic Faith. Yes, I plan to be a first-time Rally Captain this October 2019 for the annual Rosary Rally. Our little group here has been praying a public rosary, using your ANF banner, every First Saturday of this past year and we will continue this year. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!"

*C. M., Front Royal, Virginia*

"I, by God's amazing grace, was able to pray a public rosary every weekend in December in reparation of blasphemies spoken towards Our Lord and for the salvation of souls."

*R. V., Fresno, California*



Have something you'd like to share? Send us your feedback by writing to [crusade@TFP.org](mailto:crusade@TFP.org)





# The Sacred Heart in the Heart of France

BY GARY ISBELL

Hidden in the heartland of Burgundy, France, the village of Paray-le-Monial possesses a unique blessing from the charming medieval architecture to the majestic presence of the Sacred Heart Church, which is now part of the Monastery of the Visitation. Seemingly unaffected by the modern pace of life, the small river Bourbince flows through the middle of the town and graces the front of the Sacred Heart Church as it winds leisurely through the small village. One can easily imagine how life was centuries ago by a first glance of this small town.

The goal of many pilgrimages, the Monastery of the Visitation was built in the twelfth century as a small-scale version of the Abbey of Cluny and now serves as a convent to the Sisters of the Visitation Order. Count Lambert of Chalon, his wife Adelaide and an abbot from the monastery of Cluny, Saint Mayeul de Cluny, founded the original Benedictine priory in 973 and Le Monial was added to the original name of the village Paray, which became known as Paray-le-Monial.

I had a mission to accomplish in this quaint, almost medieval town; it was my honor and joy to take thousands of personal intentions there and place them before the altar of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque in the Visitation chapel located near the monastery where she had lived. This favored daughter of the Church received many visions

of Our Lord between 1671-1690, and He referred to her as “the beloved disciple of the Sacred Heart.” She was given the daunting mission of establishing devotion to His Sacred Heart in the world.

At the Visitation convent, the nuns kindly helped me place the enormous quantity of hand-written intention sheets at the altar to humbly ask Our Lady and Saint Margaret Mary to intervene in each and every one of the requests. The nuns and the Mother Superior were most kind and accommodating and were also pleased to see devotion to the Sacred Heart in America.

It was a trip filled with blessings and a great honor to take everyone’s private intentions to Paray-le-Monial. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us! ■



A Visitation Sister, the author and Mr. Nelson Fragelli deliver petitions to the chapel of the apparitions.



**Top:** Stained-glass window depicting Our Lord’s visits with Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque which occurred multiple times from 1671-1690. **Center:** Monastery of the Visitation, Paray-le-Monial, France. **Right:** The author standing before a relic of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque.







# Students Rebuke Governor Cuomo from Atop New York's Highest Mountain

BY ROBERT NUNEZ

On March 17, 2019, I joined a group of twelve young men for what would be an adventure of epic proportions. All the participants were from our campus outreach, Tradition, Family Property Student Action, that brings the burning issues of the day to universities across the nation. Our goal this time was not to descend into academia but to ascend Mount Marcy, the highest peak in the Adirondack mountain range in New York. The special intention of the trek was to make reparation for the appalling late-term abortion law approved by Governor Cuomo on January 22nd. The hardships we endured on the 15-mile

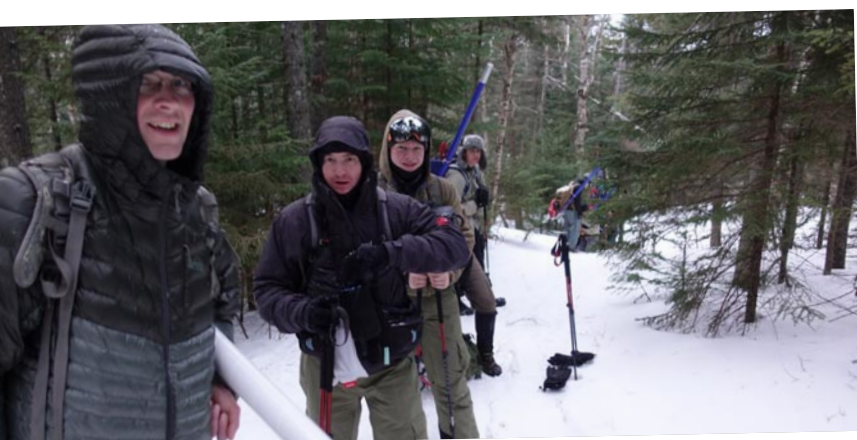
hike were akin to a pilgrimage, carried out as an act of reparation on behalf of our nation for the sin of abortion.

Our group hit the trail at 5:15 a. m. to give us enough time to reach the summit and return before sundown. It was still dark, so we used headlamps to light our way. The air was calm and steady snow was falling, forming a fresh layer of powder over the ice-choked path and muffling our footsteps. In the darkness of those early morning hours, alone and far away from the noise and agitation of modern society, we suddenly found ourselves immersed in the wondrous stillness and serenity of God's creation.

We quickly made our way through the woods and reached the base of the mountain by sunrise. The overcast sky parted somewhat to reveal a breathtaking view of the towering snow-capped peaks shrouded in mist. Placing our enterprise under the protection of Saint Michael the Archangel and Saint Patrick, we began the long climb.

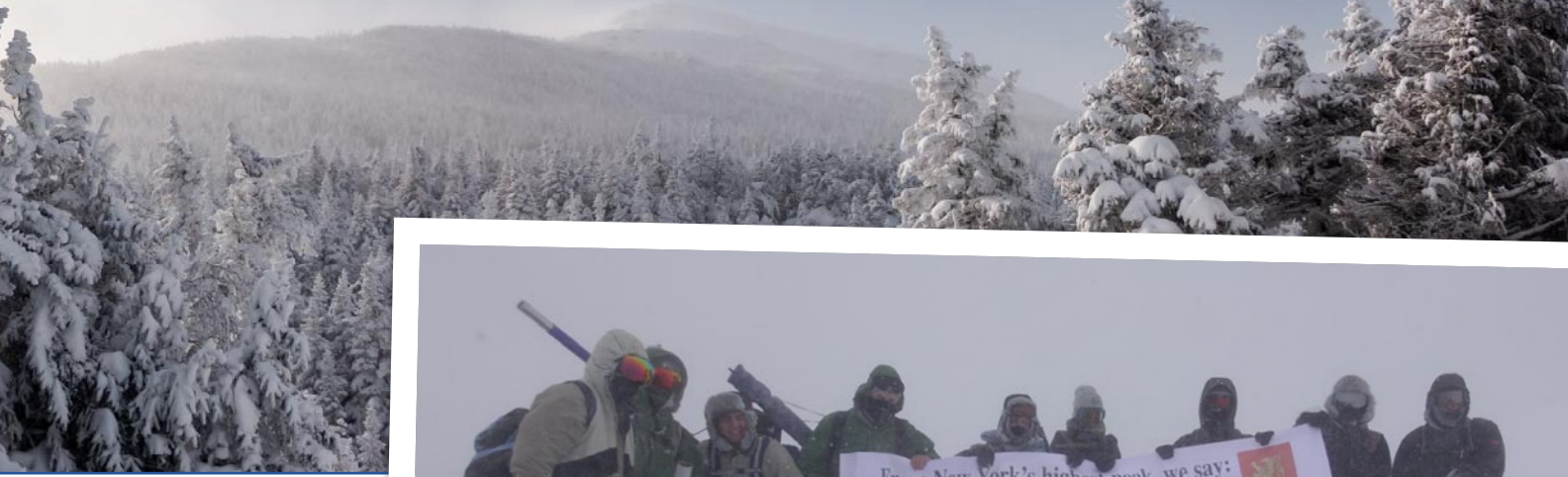
Step-by-step, we navigated the steep twists and turns, taking care not to accidentally fall into "tree wells," those hollows around the base of snow-covered trees that can swallow up hikers. The panorama opened into ever more majestic scenes. Everywhere we looked, the natural beauty of the snow-frosted conifers, frozen creeks, and an endless variety of dazzling ice crystals reminded us of God. When the going became tough, we sang

Young Catholics from TFP Student Action make reparation for the horrific abortion bill passed by Gov. Cuomo (NY).





*When the going became tough, we sang hymns and frequently invoked Our Lady and the saints. This raised spirits and gave us renewed strength to continue.*



**Nine intrepid hikers make a strong statement from the summit of New York's highest mountain. Battling sub-zero temperatures and gale force winds, the TFP standard was raised high in culmination of this epic pilgrimage taken on behalf of unborn children.**

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As the slope grew steeper and the snow deeper, we faced new challenges to our endurance. The temperature steadily fell, and the wind picked up speed. Exhaustion and cramps set in. The hardest part of the ascent would be leaving the tree line. Thus, we had to resist the temptation to give up.

The weather worsened during the final push to the summit. Upon leaving the tree line, we experienced gale-force winds of 50 miles per hour with a -20 degrees Fahrenheit wind chill temperature. Several of us were knocked off our feet. Dense sheets of whirling snow obscured our pathway and made it difficult to see. Progress was agonizingly slow, but with constant teamwork, and a prayer on our lips, we pushed resolutely ahead.

Finally, atop Mount Marcy, we unfurled our banner battling the fierce wind. It read: "From New York's highest peak, we say: 'Shame on Gov. Cuomo for legalizing infanticide.' May God receive our act of reparation." Despite our exhaustion, we

were overcome by a feeling of great accomplishment. We had conquered nature's fury and reached the top of New York State's highest peak.

We did not stay for long because of the weather. The wind had blown snow over our tracks, so we needed to exercise great care to discern the right way and avoid getting lost. What a relief it was when we found our trail again and returned to the safety of the tree line!

Exhausted, but exhilarated, we congratulated each other and gave thanks to Our Lady for making it to the top. Though we still had to walk another seven miles to get back to the base camp, we had the consolation of knowing that the hardest part was behind us.

Despite the hardships, hiking through the marvelous winter scenery of the Adirondacks was a soul-expanding experience that filled us with a spirit of adventure and comradeship. At this time of profound crisis, may God receive our humble prayers and sufferings as we yearn for the true conversion of our beloved nation. ■



# WHY DID NOTRE DAME BURN?

BY THOMAS RYDER

Some say it was due to an electrical problem. The French government was quick to explain it away in the fear someone might suspect foul play; after all, in the twenty days leading to April 15, 2019, no less than eleven Catholic churches suffered some sort of attack in France. Whatever the cause may have been, there is a much deeper and profound reason why the legendary cathedral of Notre Dame burned.

When the media reported with visual images the flames destroying the cathedral, the shock was horrifying and astonishing.

Was this real? Is this possible? Was this some sort of terrible nightmare? But no, it was real, Notre Dame was burning....



## A Tragedy of Gigantic Proportions

When I first saw the flames devouring this mythical building, my first thought was, "this is the death knell of Christian civilization."

The burning of Notre Dame was highly symbolic. In a way, the Cathedral embodied Christian civilization in all of its magnificence, grandeur and beauty. While there are many other beautiful cathedrals around the world, Notre Dame had for its platform the City of Light, Paris. If Notre Dame had been built anywhere else, its burning would not have shocked the world in the same way.

The flames which devoured the cathedral were real. But in a metaphysical sense, they were a mirror of the flames which have been ravaging Christian civilization for a long time. The images of the burning cathedral made one ask if humanity had reached a low point or perhaps the end of an era.

It was as if the Archangel of France was sending a last warning to France and to the world; a world so lost in sin and betrayal against its Creator that it was in need of shock treatment.

## What Now?

Dare one hope that, perhaps, we still have time to stop and think. What did it really mean when flames devoured the historical Cathedral of Our Lady in Paris? It is time to stop and ponder on how far we have fallen. We need to drop to our knees and pray for forgiveness and for the conversion of sinners as Our Lady of Fatima so much insisted.

April 15, 2019, was a day that marked history with an unthinkable tragedy; and we would do well not to forget it, lest Notre Dame should have burned in vain. ■

