

March / April 2021

CRUSADE

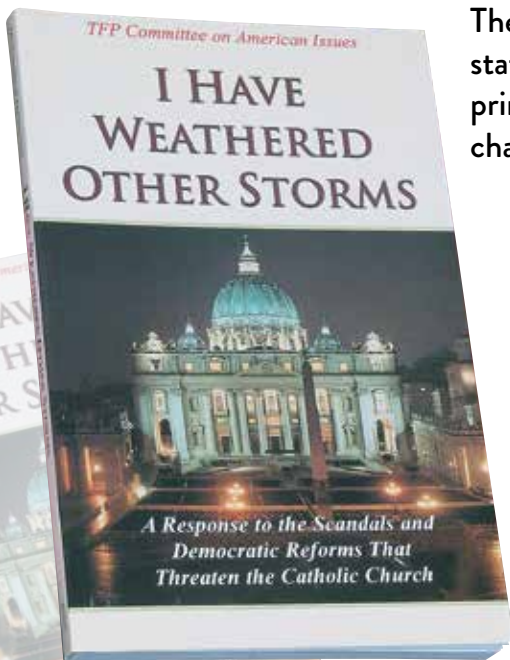
MAGAZINE



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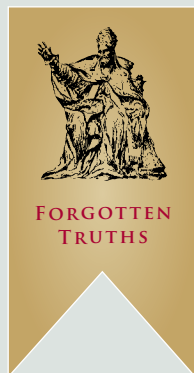
I Have Weathered Other Storms is an intelligent analysis of the causes rather than merely the symptoms plaguing the Church today.

“Every bishop and cardinal and every priest and layperson should read *I Have Weathered Other Storms* to appreciate the enemy’s true objective.”

Fr. John Trigilio Jr.,
PhD, ThD, President,
Confraternity of Catholic Clergy

The True Mission of the Pope

BY POPE LEO XII



Blessed Peter, Prince of Apostles, and his Successors have been given the power and care of feeding and ruling the flock of Christ, Our God and Savior. Hence, the more grave the evils threatening the flock, the greater the solicitude the Roman Pontiffs ought to employ in preventing them.

Those who have been placed in the topmost watch tower of the Church can discern from afar the artifices which the enemies of the Christian family undertake to destroy the Church of Christ (which they will never achieve); they can point them out and expose them to the faithful, who may then guard against them; they can drive away and remove them by their authority. Our predecessors, the Roman Pontiffs, understanding this most grievous duty imposed upon them, have unceasingly kept the watches of a good shepherd, and by exhortations, doctrines, decrees, and by their very life given for their sheep, have been solicitous about restraining and utterly abolishing the sects threatening the complete ruin of the Church. ■

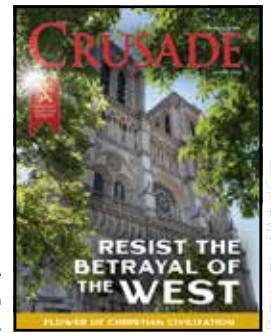
Taken from Apostolic Constitution *Quo Graviora* (1826).



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CONTENTS

MARCH/APRIL 2021



The facade of Notre Dame Cathedral, France, an icon of Christian civilization.

In Brief	4
Christ in the Home	
The Four Beautiful Bonds of a Happy Marriage	5
Return to Order	
How Suffering Can Make America Spiritually Great	6
Commentary	
Faithful Resistance to Pope Francis's Call for Civil Union Laws	8
Cover Story	
Resist the Betrayal of the West, Flower of Christian Civilization	10
Meditation	
The Immense Majesty of the Church's Celebration of Easter	16
America Needs Fatima Progress Report	
◆ "May the Souls of the Faithful Departed..."	17
◆ Protests Work!	18
◆ Battlelines Newsletter	19
◆ The Grace of God Still Operates in a World of Postmodern Chaos	20
◆ Our Readers Write	21
Prophets, Martyrs, Saints and Heroes	
"I Felt God in Me"	22
Back Cover	
The Paratrooper's Prayer	24

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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.



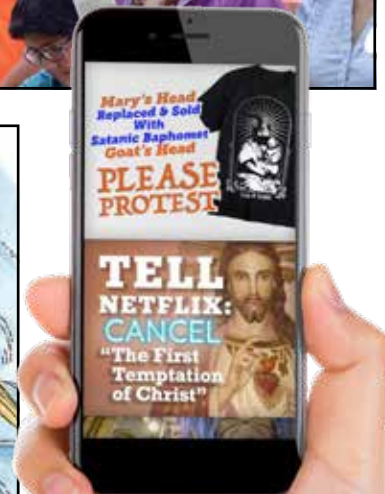
America needs souls who can pray and suffer.

6



22

Saint Francisco of Fatima was deeply changed by what the Angel of Portugal taught him.



18

In the face of lockdowns and quarantines, ANF uses the Internet to protest blasphemy across America.



IN BRIEF

Fight Continues over First Amendment Rights

Judicial and Church authorities have recently expressed their support of Americans who are fighting restrictions to their constitutional right to religious worship during the coronavirus pandemic. In a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court granted an injunction against New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's order to limit religious services to ten people in some areas and twenty-five people in others. In a speech to the Federalist Society, U.S. Supreme

Court Justice Samuel Alito warned against threats to religious liberty amid the pandemic, saying it has resulted in "previously unimaginable restrictions on Americans." Meanwhile, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, along with other Kentucky bishops, rejected the state governor's request to close churches to "slow" the COVID-19 virus.

Putin Touts Values Shared by Democrats and Communists Alike

In a wide-ranging interview on state television, Russian president Vladimir Putin, who was a Soviet Communist Party member for 18 years, and served as a KGB officer, claimed that the Democratic Party in the United States and the Soviet Communist Party share some common perspectives. He said, "First, the Democratic Party is traditionally closer to the so-called liberal values, closer to Social Democratic



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ideas... And it was from the social democratic environment that the Communist Party evolved. In other words, this can be seen as an ideological basis for developing contacts with the Democratic representative."

CDC Reports Abortions Hit All-time Low

A new Center for Disease Control report covering the year 2018 indicated that the number of babies killed in abortions has declined 1.4% from 2016 to 2018. The abortion rate, representing the percentage of women having an abortion, has declined 2%. Historically, the number of babies killed in abortions dropped 21.8% since 2009 and the abortion rate declined 24.2%. Since 1980

however, the abortion rate has declined by 50%. Despite the overall decline, the CDC reported that a staggering 619,591 babies were killed by abortion in 2018 alone. The report also indicated that more young women continue to have abortions than any other age group.



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Divorce Rates Skyrocket During COVID-19

A July survey by Legal Templates, an online database compiling legal documents, found that lawyers across the country reported a 34% year-over-year increase in inquiries about divorce since 2019. Lawyer Jordan Linn suggested in a Fox News interview that "a rise in divorce rates could be due to coronavirus restrictions that have kept couples cooped up inside. I think familiarity breeds contempt, and the more time they're forced to be together where they don't have an outlet outside of marriage, because everything is so restrictive and their social lives outside of the house are restricted, those problems are magnified."

Latinos Reject Socialism, Illegal Immigration

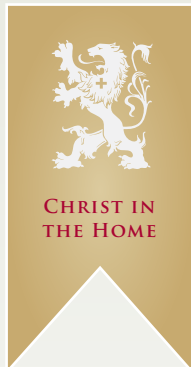
According to poll data, 47% of Latino Floridians voted for Trump, a 12% increase from 2016, while Joe Biden lost 10% of the Latino vote. Several other states also showed gains for the Republican Party among the Latinos, such as Ohio (11% gain), Nevada (8% gain) and Texas (6% gain). The Democratic Party's embracing of a socialist agenda turned Latinos away especially among Florida's Cuban-American and Venezuelan-American communities. Hispanics are also found to be against illegal immigration. A 2020 Pew research poll showed that two-thirds of Latinos view increasing security at the U.S.-Mexico border as a "very or somewhat important goal."



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The Four Beautiful Bonds of a Happy Marriage

BY FR. RAOUL PLUS, S.J.



The four bonds of a happy marriage are the bond of consciences, the bond of intellects, the bond of souls, and the bond of hearts.

The bond of consciences: This means that husband and wife must have the same norms for judging between right and wrong. Is it not only too clear that if they do not have an identical point of view in their appreciation of God's law, a fundamental disunity will be introduced into the very foundation of their unity? If one, for example, holds to the principle of

free love while the other advocates the principle of unity in marriage, can there be complete communion? Or if one is determined to abide by the demands of the moral law in the difficult duty of procreation while the other has no intention of abstaining from the latest practices of birth control or from onanism, will there not be constant struggle in their home, and that in regard to their most intimate relations? If both are not in agreement on the question of their children's education, one will insist on secular education, the other on Catholic education, and again conflict will ensue.

The bond of intellect: This bond is not so essential as the first—it is in the realm not of strict requirement, but of the desirable. There is much to be gained from shared reading experiences, from a mutual exchange of artistic impressions and psychological observations.

For this, it is not necessary that the wife share her husband's work. It is enough if she is able to be interested in his profession. Nor is it necessary that they have the same tastes, the same outlook; a certain diversity in mentality, on the contrary, is desirable on condition that there are possibilities for mutual exchange of ideas which will lead to mutual enrichment.

That evidently supposes great simplicity in both husband and wife, a loving liberty in their communication of ideas, a very humble recognition of any superior quality in each other, an entire good faith which makes each one willing to yield to the ideas of the other when they are better.

The bond of souls: It is not sufficient to enjoy an exchange of ideas in profane matters only. It is very desirable that there be harmony of action in the domain of the spiritual, the supernatural. . . prayer together. . . meditation in common. . . reception of Holy Communion together. Father Doncoeur and several others go so far as to advise making the examination of conscience together with mutual admonition and mutual



"Let women be subject to their husbands, as to the Lord: because the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is the head of the church" (Ephesians 5:22, 23 DRV).

resolves. This would surely call for extreme delicacy and could not be so generally recommended as the suggestions given previously. But how beautiful it is when husband and wife are as an open book to each other! Is it good to tell each other the graces received from God, the aspirations of the soul to become holy, to become a saint?

Yes, certainly, on condition that all be done with simplicity, with mutual spontaneity, with nothing of constraint, exaggeration or artificiality. Why should one hide perpetually from one's life companion the best of oneself? Some individuals remain much too reticent and it is a hindrance to great depths of intimacy.

The bond of hearts: How many in marriage love each other selfishly, show themselves demanding, moody, eager to receive, but never generous in giving. There is so much selfishness in certain families even when they are very closely united.

The remedy is to supernaturalize the affections; to pass as quickly as possible from passionate love to virtuous love and to make conjugal love a permanent exercise of the theological virtue of charity. ■

This article by Raoul Plus, S.J. is an excerpt from his book *Christ in the Home Part 1*, Pustet Friedrich Co., Inc. Publishers New York and Cincinnati, 1951.

How Suffering Can Make America Spiritually Great

BY JOHN HORVAT II



TFP Archive

I FIRST SAW him on Twitter and was touched by his messages. I still don't know that much about him. In the fast world of social media, there is hardly time to read anything.

However, I believe people like him represent the future of America.

The first thing to report is that he is a Catholic who takes his faith seriously. This young man showed little concern for education or ambitions. He is not rich or famous. His whole life is absorbed by being in a hospital. He suffered from some kind of exhausting and painful treatment.

I could see it was very painful. Every day he managed to tweet with an update on his condition and a picture. He suffered terribly. What I like best about him is that he manages to break every notion of what a successful young man is supposed to be in America. By all standards, he is a failure. Three things impress me about this young Catholic.

He Prays

The first is that he prays. The daily picture will often show him with his rosary or prayer book in hand. I perceive he derives great benefits from his prayers. They are a source of consolation and confidence in God. At times, he reports that he cannot finish his prayers due to the pain and exhaustion. Nevertheless, he makes herculean efforts to do what he can.

He prays and is not afraid to show he is praying. He wants people to see him praying, perhaps as an encouragement, so that they too might pray. This desire to appear praying is something rare and



edifying, especially for a young man.

I see that he believes in the power of prayer. He asks people for their prayers and confides that God will give him the best solution, which might not be his recovery, or at least not a full one.

He Suffers

The second characteristic that impresses me is that he suffers. "The body may be frail, weak, and hurting, but my spirit is still going strong," he reported in one tweet.

I am moved by his acceptance of suffering without self-pity or despair. He does not show resentment or revolt against our good God. Instead, he has a calm resignation to do God's will no matter what the costs. This is something rarely found in youth. However, what awes me is that he has a notion of the redemptive value of suffering.

Redemptive suffering holds that we can unite our personal sacrifices with Christ's on the Cross. When we offer up our sufferings as members of Christ's Mystical Body, they can have a redemptive value that can atone for sin and call down God's blessings. I do not know where he gets this notion since it is rarely taught from the pulpit. I find this amazing, encouraging, sublime and hopeful, all at the same time.

He Prays for Others

Thus, the third thing that impresses me is the most extraordinary. It addresses the redemptive value of suffering. Not only does this young Catholic pray and suffer, but he also offers up his prayer and suffering for all who ask.

“God bless, if I have some time, I’ll be praying for everyone’s intentions. I’m already offering my suffering for you all,” he tweeted.

Most Americans who enter hospitals see little purpose or meaning in their illnesses. They expect to be cured and carry on their lives.

However, when major illness strikes, it can teach patients that there is more to life than health and the pursuit of earthly happiness. The sick may appear to be helpless, but they have a role in society.

Thus, our helpless sufferer has learned his role, which is most precious. He can offer up his prayers and sacrifices for us. God hears his prayers and hastens to help us.

He Embraces the Meaning of Suffering

I was and still am amazed by the perception of the young man, who acquired a medieval understanding of his societal role. Medieval Christendom invented the idea of the hospital. The Church took care of the poor and sick with Christian charity and solicitude. For those who served in the wards, the sick represented Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Indeed, the religious men and women who cared for the sick asked that their patients fulfill

the duty of prayer and sacrifice. They held that God especially hears the prayers of the suffering, and asked that the sick intercede for their benefactors, the authorities and all in distress.

To the extent that they could, patients were asked to pray. Catholic hospitals encouraged Mass attendance and reception of the sacraments. At nightfall, the wards might end the day with litanies where the “sick lords” of the house would pray for those in need of prayers. In this way, the sick gave back their best to reciprocate for the enormous charity extended to them. Above all, this offering gave meaning and purpose to their pains.

“Finished Compline, gonna try and sleep for at least a few hours,” the sick young man tweeted as he completed the final prayers of the Little Office of Our Lady and ended his day.

America Needs Souls Like This

I asked myself where this young man learned these lessons and concluded that it was the product of grace and suffering.

America needs souls who can pray and suffer. I am consoled by knowing that this young man is not the only one who offers to suffer for others. I see other cases on social media that inspire hopes in me of an America that will be spiritually great one day.

We should value these souls and the efficacy of their actions. In today’s liberal establishment, they count for little and are considered failures with no “quality of life.”

However, in the eyes of God, they are powerhouses from which His grace might flow to society.

If our nation recovers from the coronavirus, looting and rioting, it will be much more because of the prayers and sufferings of souls like these than the acts of politicians. ■

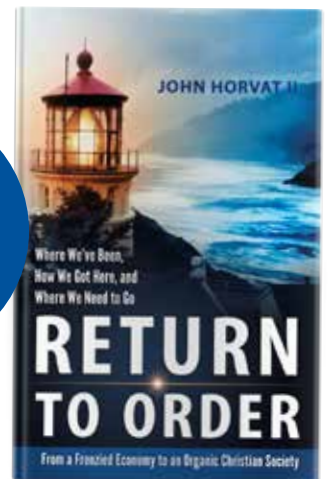


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Faithful Resistance to Pope Francis's Call for Civil Union Laws

BY JOHN HORVAT II

CATHOLICS have long extended the benefit of the doubt to Pope Francis when he frequently veers off the path of orthodoxy. With his latest statement regarding same-sex civil unions, there are no benefits in entertaining doubts. Many Catholics sense something is terribly wrong.

“What we have to create is a civil union law,” says the pope in the documentary, *“Francesco,”* just released at a premiere in Rome. “That way, they are legally covered.”

Francis's declaration that homosexual couples need the legal protection of civil unions to protect their “right



to a family” leaves no doubt that he is breaking from the Roman Catholic Church's official teaching. A legal union centered on an intrinsically evil sexual act validates that gravely sinful act. The acceptance of such unions and their constitutive acts brings down the whole edifice of Catholic moral and social teaching. It is self-evident. It does not take a doctorate in theology to understand. Liberal media worldwide are gleefully proclaiming this rupture with the Faith, making it public and notorious.

The Disastrous Effects of the “Francesco” Statement

As usual, the Holy See is not denying or “clarifying” the statement in any substantial way. Some seek to restore the benefit of the doubt. The faithful are reminded that his off-the-cuff statements are only “personal opinion” and do not reflect official Church teaching or the magisterium. Others point out that often there are errors of contexts and translation that could give this statement other meanings. However, still others note that support for civil unions is not new for the pope. He has expressed this position in the past. What makes this statement different is its timing, clearer formulation and universal diffusion.

The statement and the fact that Pope Francis is unlikely to retract it and affirm his unqualified adhesion to official Church teaching on the matter makes these sugarcoating interpretations pointless.

The statement spread uncertainty at a time when clarity is most needed. This new episode does what prior statements did: It confuses the faithful.

Two things are certain. There can be no doubt the statement will leave the most faithful pew-sitting Catholics scrambling in the dark to defend themselves as best they can in their discussion of Pope Francis's position with others. There can also be no doubt that the most heretical Catholic liberals will applaud this scandalous statement to support their leftist agendas. Pro-LGBTQ+ activist Jesuit Father James Martin, for example, called it “a big step forward.”

Meanwhile, God is offended, the crisis inside the Church accelerates, and countless souls are lost for all eternity.

Not an Isolated Incident

The debate over the latest statement cannot be seen as an isolated fact. It should be inserted into an unbroken series of statements that embrace many aspects of Catholic morals and teaching. These are not random affirmations. They form a coherent whole.

What has surfaced over the years of Pope Francis's pontificate is a body of consistent statements challenging Church teachings. How can such “personal opinions” be reconciled with the holding of the papal office? Experts will study the canonical and theological implications of



this delicate question, but what is clear to the world's 1.3 billion Catholics is that a paradigm shift inside the Church has occurred in Pope Francis's pontificate. It is reflected throughout his official policy and governance. These attitudes have tragic consequences for the faithful in their daily lives and sanctification.

In matters of faith and morals, the pope cannot entertain "personal" heterodox opinions. It endangers souls. No pope, bishop or priest can do this. No pastor can express approval for an intrinsically evil sexual relationship that will drag its participants to Hell unless they repent. No pastor can pursue a "personal" parallel magisterium in the form of "unofficial" acts, interviews, gestures and conversations that endorse doctrine and morals contrary to the Catholic Faith.

A Paradigm Shift

This rupture with traditional Catholic magisterium is well documented in the 2018 book, *Pope Francis's "Paradigm Shift": Continuity or Rupture in the Mission of the Church? An Assessment of His Pontificate's First Five Years*. Author José António Ureta—a senior French TFP member—takes a critical look at the overwhelming evidence of cases where the pope has challenged and denied traditional Church teaching, including that which condemns same-sex civil unions.

This paradigm shift manifests itself in acts, statements and attitudes, in which he calls for a radical ecological and mystical agenda, unbridled immigration and opening up to Islam. He has promoted religious indifferentism, moral and sexual relativism and neo-Marxist popular movements. A more recent scandal of this break was the deplorable worship of the Andean idol goddess, Pachamama, at the Amazon Synod in Rome in October 2019.

The break is clear. There can be no doubt. The "Francesco" statement on civil unions is one more in a long list of grave denials. The painful conclusion is that Francis's personal opinions do not reflect Church teaching.

To Resist the Pope's Errors Is a Right and Duty

What is unclear to hundreds of millions of the faithful is what Catholics should do in the face of this crisis that is uniquely monumental in Church history.

In his book, Mr. Ureta shows that the Church teaches that the pope is infallible only under certain circumstances. Outside of those circumstances, he can err. However, when the pope errs, Catholics must not err with him. Once it is seen that Francis contradicts the traditional teachings of the Church Magisterium, the faithful have the right and duty to resist his errors. This legitimate, yet most respectful, resistance to error in Church shepherds and even the Supreme Pontiff is defended by Saint Thomas Aquinas, Saint Robert Bellarmine, Suarez, Vitoria and other theological giants.

Nor is such resistance uncommon in the history of the Church. Public resistance is a duty when attitudes

endanger the Faith. The author cites the model of resistance employed by Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira in 1974 in the face of the Vatican's policy of détente toward communist governments. His reverent, yet firm, attitude was expressed in moving words: "In this filial act, we say to the Pastor of Pastors: Our soul is yours, our life is yours. Order us to do whatever you wish. Only do not order us to do nothing in the face of the assailing Red wolf. To this, our conscience is opposed."

Faithful Resistance Amidst the Blows

Thus, in response to the current pope's "Francesco" statement on civil unions, Catholics must reject and resist it. They should employ every means possible to oppose this grievous error.

This includes resisting all shepherds who follow Pope Francis in this error, especially those like Father Martin, who promote it. Mr. Ureta likens the situation of faithful Catholics to that of a wife and children of a psychologically abusive husband and father. Without abandoning the family home, mother and children may legitimately isolate themselves from the father and avoid regular contact to defend themselves against his evil ways. In this manner, the indissoluble marriage bond is not broken, and the father is encouraged to repent.

Instead of revolting and leaving the Church, Catholics with this calm attitude of firm but reverent resistance can help save the Church. In the words of TFP founder Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira: "God calls us to be the sheep who resist the urge to bolt and flee when the shepherd abuses them repeatedly with his staff. Instead, we are called to

Instead of revolting and leaving the Church, Catholics with this calm attitude of firm but reverent resistance can help save the Church.

stay and fight even when suffering this abuse. God wants this so that when He decides in His Mercy to send good shepherds again to His flock, there will be a flock for them to govern."

Thus, Catholics should defend themselves and serenely resist the actions of pastors at all levels who endanger the Faith. They can react with clarity and charity, distancing themselves from the actions of these errant pastors. They can help dispel the doubts in the souls of fellow Catholics, explaining to them how to remain faithful to Christ every time Pope Francis makes unorthodox declarations and in so doing, build up the true flock from within. ■

RESIST THE BETRAYAL OF THE WEST

FLOWER OF CHRISTIAN CIVILIZATION



COVER
STORY

BY THE AMERICAN TFP

The triple crisis of COVID-19, civil unrest, and economic disaster is now shaking the West's spiritual and material foundations and the world. This is no ordinary crisis since it questions our time-worn certainties, changes our daily lives, and restricts Church freedom. In the face of this crisis, many are stunned and wonder what went wrong.

I. The Current Situation

The current crisis manifests itself in multiple ways. However, all of them present a unity of purpose that aims to destroy Western Christian civilization's remaining structures. We might divide them into three major categories.

A. A Health Crisis That Impacts All Aspects of Life

The world is dealing with a viral epidemic whose origin and spread point suspiciously to China. This virus has affected, above all, the Christian nations of Europe and the Americas, in both its serious health risks and the profound economic, social, and psychological impact of the draconian health and lockdown measures.

The so-called new normal is also affecting the lives of hundreds of millions by restricting freedom of movement, interrupting work and education, banning or limiting gatherings and cultural events, and, finally, restricting access to Sunday Mass and the sacraments.

People are told to get used to a world of sadness, isolation, and subconsumerism controlled by technocrats, not unlike the dystopian nightmare in George Orwell's 1984 novel.

B. The Pandemic Exposed Structural Weaknesses in Our Globalized World

With massive political, social, cultural, and psychological consequences, a serious economic crisis knocks at the door. World-class analysts predict it will be much worse than the Great Depression that started in 1929.



Can the West survive the triple-threat of 2020? Or will it, too, be reduced to rubble; "shall not be left here a stone upon a stone?" (Matt. 24:2.) The answer rests with our response.

Where is the West Headed? Is it Possible to Avoid the Approaching Chaos?

Amidst the West's great peril, as lay Catholics who have long defended Christian civilization against the errors of communism and socialism, the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) and its autonomous sister organizations on six continents offer their analysis of the danger and their message of hopeful restoration.



A statue of Portugal's medieval knight, Saint Nuno Álvares Pereira, inspires strength and determination in the onlooker and casual passerby.

The pandemic revealed the West's monumental economic dependence—the rotten fruit of the reckless offshoring of its manufacturing base, above all, to China.

The result is a great political weakness in the West. It finds itself much degraded in a “multipolar” world in which communist China is taking on the role of a dragon. Many authors denounce the gradual and inevitable decline of the West's political, military, and diplomatic power on the international stage. The world, as we knew it, seems to be ending.

C. Unrest Further Weakens the West

The West is weakened by focal points of unrest that have arisen simultaneously worldwide as if triggered by a common direction. These points include:

1) An imported evil is uncontrolled immigration, which favors the formation of foreign enclaves within nations. Many newcomers (especially Muslim migrants) refuse integration and assimilation, which creates a *de facto* internal separatism. This turns the West into a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural “open space” without a common identity or purpose.

2) The rise of identity politics and leftist ideologies that seek to wipe away all remnants and structures of the Christian past—these social “deconstructionist” ideals target so-called capitalist bourgeois society. Many leftists have taken advantage of racial and cultural differences to promote class struggle through street violence and urban destruction. The rioting promoted by the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States is a typical example.

A consequence of the unrest is that it leads to a radicalism that, with help from the media, frightens and paralyzes the silent majority. In countries where the majority reacts, the consequent ideological polarization leads to a paralysis of the democratic institutions, and many voices even mention the risk of civil war.

II. Western Man in the Face of This Picture

The West is unprepared to face this triple crisis. Its foundations are eroded by the terrible structural weakness of a massive cultural revolution as seen, for example, with the crisis in the family, the culture of death represented by procured abortion, and an aggressive LGBT ideology imposing itself on all society, even innocent children.

Above all, the West is weakened by a spiritual crisis. Untold numbers abandon the faith and live without God or His law, no longer seeking God's grace and sacramental life. Our moral decadence has weakened us, and we have forgotten our Christian roots.

Deprived of spiritual and social support, many people's reaction to our triple crisis is disbelief and shock. Many psychologists call it a “collective trauma.” Powerful, solid, technologically perfect, and self-assured, our world was shaken to its foundations by a novel coronavirus.

In a few months, together with the Western economy, many certainties collapsed. These certainties had fueled the optimism of the masses in indefinite progress. Today, the crisis has eroded confidence in the media, science, political authorities, and even religious leaders.

Optimism, the characteristic feature of our

time, is disappearing. The optimism that two world wars could not shake is fading, leading to growing anxiety for the future.

Within this apprehensive context, many start to question the West's premises. They ask: What went wrong? Is there a solution? Is there a light that can guide us during this storm, comforting us and restoring confidence in the future?

These questions carry the seed of remorse and a faint longing for the abandoned path of virtue.

III. An Immense Spiritual Orphanhood

Amidst the crisis, we would do well to repair to the wellspring of Christian culture to rediscover the spiritual values that made us. From this spiritual source come the Christian order, institutions, and graces that will lead us out of the present

1. While the Catechism of the Catholic Church reiterated that homosexual acts “are contrary to natural law” and “in no case can they be approved” (no. 2357), and a later 2003 Vatican declaration condemns “the legal recognition of homosexual unions,” on the twenty-first of October 2020, Evgeny Afineevsky’s documentary movie “*Francesco*” premiered in Rome. In it, Pope Francis says: “Homosexuals have a right to be a part of the family. They’re children of God and have a right to a family. . . . What we have to create is a civil union law. That way they are legally covered. I stood up for that.”¹

2. Intent on building a multipolar “new world,” Pope Francis launched *Fratelli Tutti*, an encyclical which, from a religious point of view, puts the Catholic Church and sacred scripture on par with other religions and their foundational books. In the name of a universal naturalist fraternity and its corresponding “social friendship,” *Fratelli Tutti* provides the doctrinal and psychological bases for an “open world” without principles or borders, with no defined religion, where resources are available to all, equally, and in which conflicts are to be resolved through “dialogue.”

3. The encyclical favors the West’s uncontrolled invasion by migrants (in the case of Europe, this means mostly Muslims). It calls for the submission of countries to international organizations like the United Nations, which would solve global problems, especially those related to climate and the environment.

4. Furthermore, and contradicting Church social doctrine, *Fratelli Tutti* restricts private property and the free market economy so extensively that, in practice, it denies the moral licitness of these two foundations of the Western economy. Other points in the encyclical cause concern. Pope Francis has repeated them throughout his pontificate and is probably about to reiterate in the “Global Compact on Education” and “Economy of *Francesco*” events. For some examples, he wants “sustainable degrowth” carbon-free energy savings (that is, pauperism as a standard for consumption), and the communal ownership and management practiced by leftist popular movements.

5. To this must be added the indigenous horizons proposed in the encyclical *Laudato Si* and the apostolic exhortation *Querida Amazonia*, which present the tribal way of life as a model of sustainable living and community. Not to mention the horrendous acts of Pachamama worship in the Vatican. Both tragically confirm Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira’s predictions of pauperist and



In a well-ordered civilization, a natural calm reigns over the soul, as all is ordered to the highest end, the glory of God. *Blessing of the Wheat (La bénédiction des blés en Artois)*, c. 1856/1857, Jules Breton.

triple crisis. Only such a return of prodigals to God the Father’s house can regenerate society on the scale and scope that is needed.

However, our inability to deal with the triple crisis stems from the fact that a parallel crisis within the Church undermines our certainties, principles, and values. This spiritual crisis is far more destructive since it deprives us of the means that help us find solutions.

In this supreme hour of Christianity, the faithful would naturally lift their gaze to the Chair of Peter, the supreme authority of the Catholic Church, seeking a word of comfort and guidance.

Instead of being the West’s bulwark, however, the Holy See seems indifferent to its fate. At times it even seems to favor those attacking the West with unparalleled intensity. The West’s immense spiritual orphanhood is the current situation’s most terrible aspect.

Consider these recent facts (among many that could be listed) that undermine the foundations of the faith:

tribalist tendencies in the Church, made in the third part of his 1976 book *Revolution and Counter-Revolution*, and in his 1977 work *Indian Tribalism: The Communist-Missionary Ideal for Brazil in the Twenty-First Century*.

6. The hierarchy's passivity during the health crisis was evident when many religious authorities went beyond political ones, prohibited the celebration of Masses, and imposed Communion in the hand. For the first time in history, the Catholic clergy celebrated Easter without the faithful. Many among the latter are not returning to church, thereby aggravating a growing apostasy.

IV. Is There a Right to Resist a Pope Who Abandons the Christian West?

The Catholic Church is universal—its name says it. Its mission is to baptize all nations, teaching them to observe what Christ commanded (see Matthew 28:19–20). In that sense, it does not identify with this or that geographical area, ethnicity, or culture. However, during these 2,000 years, Western Christian civilization has been the most visible and enduring fruit of the Church's apostolate. Its holiness, evangelizing spirit, philosophical and theological depth, hospitals, universities, works of charity, economic vigor, and flourishing effects in the arts and sciences led Pope Leo XIII to write: "There was a time when the philosophy of the Gospel governed the states."²

Until Pope Francis, the sovereign pontiffs recognized Western Christian civilization as the Church's firstborn daughter and sought to defend it. What an unnatural mother the Church would be if, in a situation in which this eldest child is in the danger of dying, she would turn her back or, worse still, help her enemies attack this firstborn until she perished! The Church would be acting like a false shepherd who turns the flock over to the voracious wolves wanting to devour it. However, this is the attitude shown by many of our highest ecclesiastical authorities.

In the face of this apocalyptic scenario, a piercing question wells up in the souls of innumerable Catholics: Is it lawful to react and proudly defend Christian civilization, its religious and temporal traditions, even when this implies opposing certain guidelines issued by these high authorities? Is it lawful to resist, to the fullest extent permitted by Canon Law, the policies pursued by Pope Francis that threaten the West's integrity, security, and cultural identities?

We are not afraid to assume this state of resistance because its moral licitness was



implicitly acknowledged by the silence of Pope Paul VI and numerous other ecclesiastical authorities to the TFP statement on the Vatican's policy of détente with communist regimes. The 1974 document, written by Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira, was signed and published by all TFPs then existing. In it, we read:

In this filial act, we say to the Pastor of Pastors: Our soul is yours, our life is yours. Order us to do whatever you wish. Only do not order us to do nothing in the face of the assailing Red wolf. To this, our conscience is opposed.

Yes, Holy Father, Saint Peter teaches us that it is necessary "to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). You are assisted by the Holy Ghost and supported—under the conditions defined by Vatican I—by the privilege of infallibility. But this does not mean that in certain matters or circumstances the weakness to which all men are subject cannot influence and even determine your conduct. One of these fields where your action is subject to error—perhaps par excellence—is diplomacy. And this is precisely where your policy of détente with the communist governments is situated.

What, then, should we do? The limits of

In a world devoid of strong leaders, we must turn to the eternal truths of Our Lord Jesus Christ as related through the 2,000+ year history of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. *A Sermon on the Mount*, Carl Heinrich Bloch.

this declaration do not permit us to list all the Church Fathers, Doctors, moralists, and canonists—many of them raised to the honor of the altar—who have affirmed the legitimacy of resistance. This genre of resistance is not separation, it is not revolt, it is not acrimony, it is not irreverence. On the contrary, it is fidelity, it is union, it is love, it is submission.

V. Resistance

To resist means that we will encourage Catholics to reaffirm their love for Western Christian

civilization and their willingness to defend its remnants and culture. Furthermore, we will promote their restoration with greater brilliance and solidity, so the West regains the world leadership it deserves not because it is Western but because it is Catholic. Western Christian civilization builds on a bi-millennial past and the fact that it has Rome, the See of Peter, at its center.

To resist means to invite Western leaders and peoples to study the deep reasons for their decline, as analyzed in *Revolution and Counter-Revolution*, Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira's masterpiece, and implement the remedies it suggests to extricate the West from this existential crisis.

To resist means that the West's demise is not a foregone conclusion for as we are reminded by the late Brazilian Catholic leader in that same book:

"When men resolve to cooperate with the grace of God, the marvels of history are worked: the conversion of the Roman Empire; the formation of the Middle Ages; the reconquest of Spain, starting from Covadonga; all the events that result from the great resurrections of soul of which peoples are also capable. These resurrections are invincible, because nothing can defeat a people that is virtuous and truly loves God."

To resist means to respectfully publish our analysis and judgment in situations such as the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* or Pope Francis's endorsement of the legal recognition of homosexual unions—a death blow to what remains of Western Christian civilization.

To resist means to denounce with filial and



A proper attitude of resistance—involving fidelity, union and charity—will be the cement that holds together the foundations of our Christian civilization.

Here is a list of the 26 sister organizations that signed the manifesto:

Instituto Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira (Brazil)
 Asociación Civil Fátima la Gran Esperanza (Argentina)
 Australian TFP, Inc.
 Österreichische Gesellschaft zum Schutz von Tradition, Familie und Privateigentum (Austria)
 Canadian Society for the Defence of Christian Civilization
 Acción Familia por un Chile Auténtico, Cristiano y Fuerte
 Centro Cultural Cruzada (Colombia)
 Sociedad Colombiana Tradición y Acción
 Circulo Beato Pio IX (Ecuador)
 Société Française pour la Défense de la Tradition, Famille, Propriété
 Federation Pro Europa Christiana (France)
 Deutsche Gesellschaft zum Schutz von Tradition, Familie und Privateigentum e.V. (Germany)

Irish Society for Christian Civilisation
 Associazione Tradizione Famiglia Proprietà (Italy)
 Stichting Civitas Christiana (The Netherlands)
 Sociedad Paraguaya de Defensa de la Tradición, Familia y Propriedad (TFP)
 Tradición y Acción por un Peru Mayor
 Philippine Crusade for the Defense of Christian Civilization, Inc.
 Fundacja Instytut Edukacji Społecznej i Religijnej im. Ks. Piotra Skargi (Poland)
 Instituto Santo Condestável (Portugal)
 Family Action South Africa
 Tradición y Acción (Spain)
 Helvetia Christiana (Switzerland)
 Tradition, Family, Property–United Kingdom
 American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property (U.S.A.)
 Tradición y Acción por un Uruguay Auténtico, Cristiano y Fuerte

respectful frankness the dangerous contradiction between the privileged treatment accorded by the Holy See to Red China (whose communist regime it does not condemn) and Pope Francis's disdain for the great countries of Europe and the Americas, for he mercilessly attacks their sovereignties and economic system based on free enterprise and private property. Nevertheless, this system is broadly aligned with natural law, the Ten Commandments, and the popes' bi-millennial teaching, as found in the Supreme Magisterium of Holy Mother Church.

To resist means to proclaim with indomitable confidence that beyond the spiritual storms, material challenges, and every attack by their enemies, the West and Christian civilization will rise again, fulfilling Our Lady's prophetic words in Fatima, "Finally, my Immaculate Heart will triumph!" ■



Recourse to Our Lady of Fatima and her maternal warnings of a chastisement will give each Catholic the strength and seriousness necessary to engage in the fight for Christian civilization.

Notes:

1. Catholic News Agency Staff, "Pope Francis calls for civil union law for same-sex couples, in shift from Vatican stance", October 21, 2020 at 06:35 am MT, <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pope-francis-calls-for-civil-union-law-for-same-sex-couples-in-shift-from-vatican-stance-12462>.
2. *Immortale Dei*: Encyclical of Pope Leo XIII on the Christian Constitution of the States, 28, November 1, 1885, http://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_01111885_immortale-dei.html.

Why I Decided to Make a Lasting Gift to America Needs Fatima



I've known *America Needs Fatima* for more than fifteen years. They're an amazing group of men and women, totally committed to spreading Our Lady's message. We all need the rosary. This country needs Our Lady of Fatima's message. We need to find balance and order from the chaos that surrounds us every day.

My husband Patrick and I pray the rosary every day. We've personally experienced the power and the calm which comes over us.

In 2019, Patrick and I went to Fatima in Portugal and attended Mass near the tree where Our Lady appeared to Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco.

I'm a planner so after my dad passed away, I wanted to make sure we had all our affairs in order. I know it's difficult to think about these things, but it's also a reality.

It was time to update my will and consider which organizations to include, and I didn't hesitate. I included a bequest to *America Needs Fatima* so they can continue their work even after I'm gone.

I just told ANF about this bequest recently and they were so grateful.

We need *America Needs Fatima*! We need them to spread the rosary and Blessed Mother's message. Considering the pandemic and chaos we are in, our country needs Our Lady of Fatima and her Son Jesus more than ever before!

I hope you'll consider a gift in your will like I did. It's very easy and it will make a lasting difference!

Erica W., Marstons Mills, Massachusetts



Interested in leaving a legacy for Our Lady? Send in the card in this magazine or go to www.ANF.org or call Rosie at (888) 317-5571.

Thank you and God bless you!



The Immense Majesty of the Church's Celebration of Easter

BY PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA



THE REGULARITY with which the various cycles of the liturgical year succeed one another in the Church's calendar is truly an affirmation of the celestial majesty of the Church. She remains undisturbed no matter how much the events of human history change around her and despite the ups and downs of politics and finances as they continue their disorderly race, for she is above the caprices of human passions.

Above, yet not indifferent to them.

When the sorrowful days of Holy Week are commemorated during times of tranquility and happiness, the Church, like a solicitous mother, seeks to revive in her children a spirit of abnegation, a sense of heroic suffering, a spirit of renunciation of the triviality of everyday life, a total devotion to ideals that give life a higher meaning. Better than a "higher meaning," these ideals give life the only meaning there is, the Christian one.

But the Church is not a mother just when she teaches us the great and austere mission of suffering. She is also a mother when, pain and annihilation having reached an extreme, she lets the light of Christian hope shine before our eyes, opening unto us the serene horizons that the virtue of confidence places before all true children of God.

Hence, even amid the sadness of the contemporary world, Holy Church uses the vibrant and most chaste joys of Easter to highlight the triumphal certainty that God is the Supreme Lord of all things, that His Christ is the King of Glory Who overcame death and crushed the devil, that His Church is the Queen of Immense Majesty, capable of rising again from amid the ruins, dissipating all darkness, and shining with an even more resplendent triumph precisely when the most terrible and most irremediable defeat seems to await her.

The joy and sorrow of the soul are a necessary result of love. When man has what he loves, he is joyful. When the object of his love is missing, he becomes sad.

Today men place all their love on superficial things. This is why they only become emotional about superficial things—above all personal misfortunes such as poor health, uncertain finances, ungrateful friends, the promotion that never comes, and so on. All these are secondary for the true Catholic who cares above all for the greater glory of God, the salvation of



his own soul, and the exaltation of Holy Mother Church.

This is why the greatest suffering of the Catholic should be to see the Church in her current condition.

There are so many reasons for sadness, some of which, perhaps, point to a not-so-distant catastrophe. However, Christian hope continues. This reason for hope is taught in the very Easter celebration itself.

When Our Lord Jesus Christ died, the Jews sealed His tomb, and had soldiers placed to guard it. They thought the whole episode was all over.

In their wickedness, they had denied that Our Lord was the Son of God. They did not want to admit He was able to destroy the prison-sepulchre in which He lay, and above all, rose from the dead. Yet all this happened. Our Lord resurrected Himself without any human assistance, and by His orders the heavy sepulchral stone was effortlessly and quickly removed, as if it was a cloud. He resurrected.

Likewise, the immortal Church may appear to be abandoned, sullied and persecuted. She may lie under the sepulchral weight of the heaviest trials, and appear defeated. But She has within herself a supernatural and interior strength, which comes from God, and that assures her a victory as splendid as it is unlikely.

This is the great lesson of Easter. It is the great consolation of upright souls who love God's Church: Christ died and rose again.

The immortal Church rises from her trials, glorious like Christ, in the radiant dawn of His Resurrection. ■



AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA[®]

MARCH/APRIL 2021

PROGRESS REPORT

“May the Souls of the Faithful Departed...”

BY TONIA LONG

The salvation of eternal souls is serious business, and the teachings of the Catholic Church on Purgatory being a key component to this, America Needs Fatima launched its Holy Souls Campaign in November 2020.

This campaign has two objectives. The first goal is to restore an understanding of the true teachings on Purgatory among friends and supporters. Thus, we are honoring Our Lady of Fatima’s call to “pray for those who have no one to pray for them.”

To do this, we sent 1,314,000 e-mails to friends and supporters, inviting them to place the names of their departed loved ones in our Holy Souls Registry. The response was overwhelming!

Secondly, we want to inspire our readers to pray for the release of as many souls as possible from Purgatory. An additional 537,000 e-mails were sent out inviting readers to join the Holy Souls Pledge on the ANF.org web site. Much like the Three Hail Marys Pledge, the Holy Souls Pledge provides an opportunity for tens of thousands of prayers for those souls listed in the Holy Souls Registry.

If you have not already pledged to pray for the Holy Souls at www.ANF.org, please log in at your earliest convenience and join in this mighty crusade that implores God’s mercy to release our friends and loved ones from Purgatory, so that they in turn can pray for us and for America. ■



“I come to tell you that they suffer in Purgatory, that they weep, and that they demand with urgent cries the help of your prayers and your good works. I seem to hear them crying from the depths of those fires which devour them: ‘Tell our loved ones, tell our children, tell all our relatives how great the evils are which they are making us suffer. We throw ourselves at their feet to implore the help of their prayers. Ah! Tell them that since we have been separated from them, we have been here burning in the flames.’” – ST. JOHN VIANNEY





PROTESTS WORK!

BY JACK BURNHAM

One of the ways America Needs Fatima asks your help in fighting the spread of evil in our society is by protesting public evils.

In the words of Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira, we must never “become mediocre and tepid. To become a person who no longer cares about the great panoramas and the grand needs of our cause, but one who just wants to live his petty life with its small pleasures. Such a spirit of mediocrity and tepidity makes a person insensible to the Passion of the Church in our days and the grandeur of the fight to save the Church from her enemies.”

With the participation of many dear readers, ANF protests work!

And I truly believe that our protests rise as a pleasing incense to Mary Most Holy’s Immaculate Heart, whose soul magnifies our pleas to Her Son for His kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven.

From November 2019 through October 2020, America Needs Fatima has conducted twelve different protest campaigns. These campaigns generated a powerful 302,704 responses!

Three Most Prominent Campaigns

In November 2019, America Needs Fatima protested the “MARY GOAT” blasphemous T-shirt being sold through the Redbubble.com web site. The image on the T-shirt was of a traditional Madonna and Child but with Mary’s

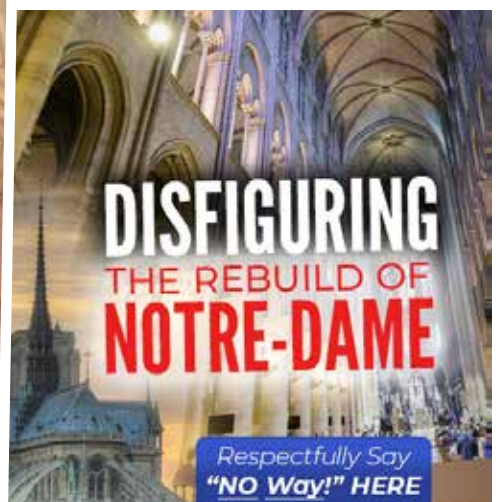
head replaced with a demon-goat’s head. 25,799 people protested.

In March 2020, America Needs Fatima protested the impure and blasphemous book, the *Testament of Mary*, published by Simon & Schuster. Among so many other blasphemies in the book, Mary proclaims, the death of Jesus: “When you say that he redeemed the world, I will say that it was not worth it. It was not worth it.” 28,592 protested.

Finally, in June 2020, in the midst of the COVID assault, hunkered-down but full of Catholic action, Catholics strongly protested with our “First Temptation” campaign. Netflix streamed, and continues to stream a movie which portrays Christ as a homosexual and the Blessed Virgin as an adulteress. 34,302 of you protested.

Victory!

Recall the June 2019 petition requesting that the grand cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris be restored to its original beauty. Well, 22,543 signed the petition, joining over a hundred thousand protesters from our French and European sister associations. God heard our cry in support of one of His Mother’s premier earthly edifices and, against all expectations, Notre Dame will be restored exactly as it was before the tragic fire which occurred April 15, 2019. ■





TAKEN FROM ANF'S PUBLICATION, *BATTLELINES*

In Carmel, Indiana

Under the mantle of Saint Michael, Americans storm Heaven with prayer, begging for the safety of our police who so valiantly face danger every day. During some of the rallies, the officers participated in the prayers. Carol Ann of Carmel, Indiana, gave her local police chief enough blessed Saint Michael medals for every man, woman and K9 on the force.

"The Chief and his wife were so taken by the rosary, they stayed to the end," Carol Ann wrote. The officers who were there said they wanted to make sure to always keep the medals safe and close.

Our prayers are making a difference!



In Kansas City, Missouri

On the steps of the police headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, faithful Catholics have gathered in prayerful defense of police for months. During one rally, where about forty-five people attended, the Kansas City police chief, who has endured unfair criticism by the local press and members of the city council, visited with attendees



and handed out bottled water to the prayer warriors.

"People understand the enormous need that our police have for organized, peaceful, legal, and prayerful support," rally participant Jack said. "The police were very happy to have us there. Our presence did an enormous good and boosted the morale of this brave, persecuted, and thin blue line!"

In Luray, Virginia

In September 2020, Therese and her family, in Luray, Virginia, held four peaceful, prayerful rallies in support of the police.

During one occasion, the chief of police himself came to thank all gathered in prayer.

"We want to be a good instrument of her [Our Lady's] work," said Therese, a veteran prayer warrior. "We are the prayerful militia, and we have to pray with courage and conviction! Our police need our special prayers and support more than ever. America needs Our Lady's saving grace, and we faithful Catholics must continue to raise our voices in public prayer! I encourage you to join America Needs Fatima in supporting peaceful, public rallies in prayerful support of our police."



And in West Bend, Wisconsin

Every Saturday since June 1, 2020, Jean and her family of West Bend, Wisconsin, have stood in peaceful, public prayer, begging for the deliverance of America. Twenty to thirty fellow Catholics often join them.

As the world continued to face crises, Jean turned her peaceful prayer to an intention so important in today's America: the safety of our police.

"I'm not going to cave to the pressure of people who oppose the police," Jean said in an interview. "Our rallies remind people that God is always there—Satan never rests, and we can't either!"



Would you like to lead a rally of peaceful prayer for our police?

Call Jose, toll free at (844) 830-3570 or email Protest@TFP.org!



CUSTODIAN'S
CORNER

The Grace of God Still Operates in a World of Postmodern Chaos

BY JOSEPH FERRARA

Many say the grace of God no longer operates in the modern world. I do not believe this. I have seen grace working wonders inside souls.

I am among the privileged men chosen to be a custodian of the many Pilgrim Virgin statues of Our Lady of Fatima that travel the country as an initiative of the America Needs Fatima campaign, visiting homes with the Fatima message. On one such occasion I was to visit the modest, unassuming home of a hostess and mother of five adult children, all present with rosaries in hand.

I could not help but notice that some children had tattoos and body piercings, which I normally do not find among everyday devotees of the rosary. Notwithstanding, I sensed an atmosphere that expressed profound piety.

The visit proceeded with the reciting of the Holy Rosary, a video presentation on the Fatima message and the filling out of intentions and envelopes that are taken to Fatima, Portugal. It ended quite naturally with the family expressing heartfelt gratitude for Our Lady's visit.

As I gathered up my materials, I chatted with the hostess, who confided to me how her deceased husband had spent his last days. He was a sports enthusiast and trained his boys in boxing. His Sundays consisted of going to Mass and spending the rest of the day with sports.

On Holy Days of Obligation, his wife would remind him about going to Mass. However, he would usually cut her off and say, "Look here, I go to Mass on Sunday, and that's it!" She prayed many rosaries for his conversion.

One day, her mother accepted the invitation to receive our Fatima Pilgrim Statue in her home. As Providence would have it, the hostess had a previous engagement, but her husband would oblige his mother-in-law by putting in a polite appearance at the Fatima event, "as long as she doesn't

harangue me about praying the rosary." Thus, her husband went to the event when something very unusual happened. Unlike himself, he was quiet and observed the proceedings and devotions most attentively.

His mother-in-law was so surprised by his unusual, mute behavior that she called her daughter to ask if her husband was alright. She said she had never seen him like that and wondered if he was ill and possibly "suffering from a heart attack."

At the conclusion of the evening, the husband spent some time kneeling in quiet prayer in front of the Pilgrim Statue and then departed. Upon his arrival home, his wife was equally concerned when he remained for some time in his truck in the driveway without coming immediately inside, as was his custom.

Our hostess was expecting the worst from this turn of events. She thought he must be fuming and that she was going to get an earful. Much to her surprise, he entered the house and declared with deep emotion, "I just met the most beautiful woman in my life!"

From that day forward, he was a changed man. He gave up his obsession with sports and would often steal away to visit Our Lady at a shrine or a nearby church. His conversion was so profound that he started bringing a pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima to homes. The hostess pointed to the statue her husband had used for the visits. It was a traditional one molded in plaster.

Years after this transformative visit with Our Lady, he announced to his family that he was going to die on a First Saturday—a day so special to Our Lady of Fatima. That is exactly what happened, as his family was gathered around his bedside praying the rosary.

Yes, the graces of God and the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Spouse of the Holy Ghost, are still very much at work in our world and bearing unexpected fruit. ■



Pictured above is long-time volunteer and Fatima Custodian Joseph Ferrara. His zeal and dedication have made it possible for thousands of families across America to grow in their love for Our Lady of Fatima and be consoled by her maternal message.



Our Readers Write



“The Secret of the Rosary” Book

“I so wish I could send you more for this campaign. This book may have saved my soul.”

E.N., Chicago, Illinois

“Thanks for the *Secret of the Rosary* book. You are an amazing grace for me. You were moved by the Holy Spirit to pull me out of spiritual drowning by this book. The rosary was everything to me but I stopped praying it. I lost my favorite rosary, and then I got discouraged, and then stopped praying the rosary. It was like I was drowning in problems. Thank you for saving me.”

A.P., Louisville, Kentucky

“I want to thank you for *The Secret of the Rosary*. I did not know so many things about the rosary—the meaning, the crowns, so much more. I can’t put your book down. I want to read it and read it until I’m done. I wish I could donate a lot more to your book campaign! Love what you’re doing!”

M.L., Largo, Florida

“I read my copy at night when I go to bed or when I spend one hour at Adoration. I love it. Thank you so much.”

J.S., Lemoore, California

“I love this updated format of this book! So easily readable! Very much appreciated! Thank you!”

P.M., Cincinnati, Ohio

“I am very grateful to have received this beautiful and inspiring book *The Secret of the Rosary*. I am reading it. I have learned a lot of things that I didn’t even know! But this book inspired me so much, that I feel very relaxed. I will take good care of this book. Be assured that I am praying for all of you!”

M.T., Houston, Texas

Rosaries Are Gifts of Peace and Joy

“I frequently share your rosaries with others who do not have Rosaries! If you want to move a mountain—pray. If you want to see a mountain move—pray the rosary.”

J.D., Old Monroe, Missouri

“Thank you for the Saint Joan of Arc Rosary. Saint Joan of Arc is the unofficial Saint of New Orleans! The rosary you sent is now displayed at Hotel Hope—a shelter for homeless women with children, who are in much need of our Blessed Mother’s protection. Please keep Hotel Hope in your prayers.”

K.K., New Orleans, Louisiana

“Sometimes when I see or feel that someone needs to say the rosary to Mary our

Mother, I give them one of my rosaries that you’ve sent me.

They are so happy to take it when I offer it to them

(through the holy grace of God). I pray that they use them. God bless you and all your

helpers so much for the beautiful work you do—I am sure Our Holy Mother Mary was and is blessing you greatly! May Our Merciful God keep all of you in His Heart, just as His Mother is.”

S.T., Los Angeles, California



Non-Catholics Love Our Lady Too

“Although a Protestant, I truly believe that America Needs Our Lady of Fatima!”

S.T., Pensacola, Florida

“My copy [of *The Virgin Mary* book] went to a Catholic friend who is very ill with cancer. Although I am not a practicing Catholic myself, I do embrace many of the teachings. Can you please send me another copy for myself?”

M.P., Calumet City, Illinois

“I have started reading the book [*The Virgin Mary*]. I am not a Catholic but a Presbyterian, and enjoying your book and understanding the devotion Catholics have for the Blessed Mother. Thank you!”

J.V., Long Beach, California

Photo of Our Lady of Fatima Statue

“I was so impressed by the beautiful picture of your Our Lady of Fatima statue that I immediately thought of you and am sending a donation. I cannot take my eyes off Her gaze. I have framed it and put it next to my bed stand where I can see Her eyes each morning and each night. I am amazed at how this photo has affected me. God bless you and our wonderful organization.”

A. K., Middle Village, New York



Send us your feedback by writing to Crusade@TFP.org



PROPHETS,
MARTYRS,
SAINTS AND
HEROES

“I Felt God in Me”

BY FR. FERNANDO LEITE, S. J.

On the eleventh of June 1908, in Fatima, a small village in the township of Vila Nova de Ourém, some seventy-five miles north of Lisbon, another child came to gladden the family of Manuel Pedro Marto and his wife, Olimpia de Jesus. Nine days later, on the twentieth of June, the bell of the rustic parish church pealed cheerfully announcing that the new child, by name Francisco, had been born to God in the waters of baptism.

His father, Manuel Pedro Marto (1873-1957)—“Ti Marto” (Uncle Marto) as he was affectionately called—

was known to be a serious man, incapable of deceiving anyone. Dona Olimpia, Francisco’s mother, had had two children from her first marriage. After her husband’s death, she married Mr. Marto and they had seven more children. The two youngest were Francisco and Jacinta who were later favored by the heavenly apparitions.

Who Was Francisco?

Francisco was a well-formed boy with a round face, regular features and lively eyes. Like other young people of the village, he dressed poorly: long trousers and a short jacket, with the typical conical cap with elongated tail coming down over his shoulders.

He seemed to have inherited his father’s character. Sweet, very humble, patient, peaceful and well-balanced, he naturally hated noise and trepidation. He was a son of the mountains, with calm nerves, a lively imagination, and a simple and candid joy. He had a meditative soul, was more inclined to listen than to talk, and had a greater propensity to stay put than to walk.

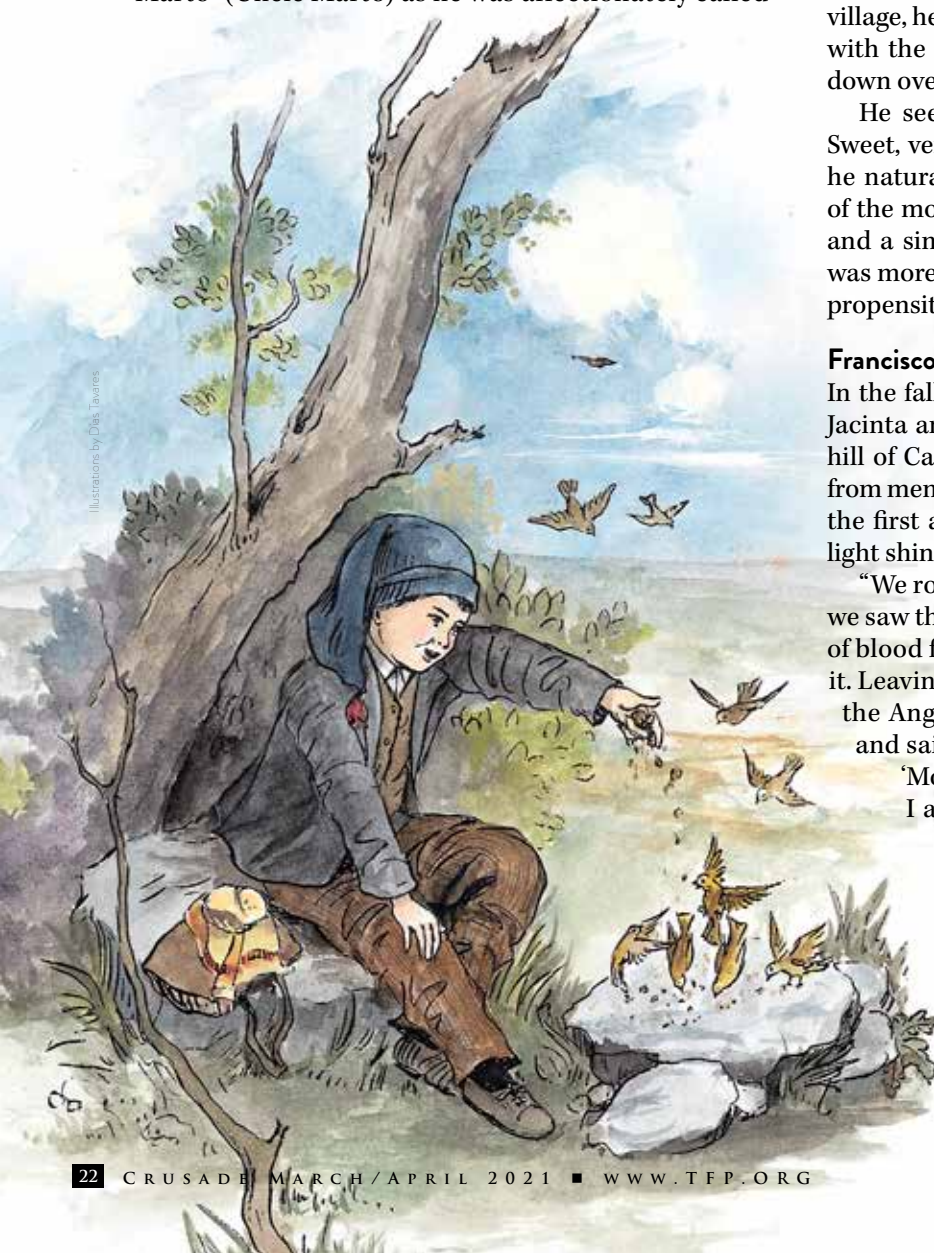
Francisco’s Mission from the Angel of the Eucharist

In the fall of 1916, the three little shepherds—Francisco, Jacinta and their cousin, Lucia dos Santos—were on the hill of Cabeço with their faces on the ground, repeating from memory the prayer the Angel had taught them during the first apparition. All of a sudden, they saw a brilliant light shine over their heads.

“We rose to see what was happening,” said Lucia, “and we saw the Angel bearing a chalice in his left hand. Drops of blood fell into the chalice from a Host suspended over it. Leaving the chalice and the Host suspended in the air, the Angel prostrated himself on the ground beside us and said the following prayer three times:

‘Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, I adore Thee profoundly and offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the earth, in reparation for the insults, sacrileges, and indifference with which He is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg Thee for the conversion of poor sinners.’

“After this, rising up, he again took the



Illustrations by Dale Tworzes



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chalice and the Host in his hand; he gave the Host to me and the contents of the chalice to Jacinta and Francisco to drink, saying: 'Eat and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, Who is horribly insulted by ungrateful men. Make reparation for their crimes and console your God.'

"He again prostrated himself on the ground and repeated with us the same prayer three more times. 'Most Holy Trinity. . .' Then he disappeared."

Francisco, who was unable to hear the Angel and later could not hear Our Lady either, asked Lucia: "The Angel gave you Holy Communion, but what did he give me and Jacinta?"

"It was also Holy Communion," Jacinta answered with indescribable happiness. "Did you not see blood dripping from the Host?"

"I felt God in me but did not know how it happened," Francisco answered.

"And he lay face down on the ground for a long time next to his sister, repeating the Angel prayer: "Most Holy Trinity. . ."

Of all the apparitions with which Heaven favored him, this certainly was the one which exercised the greatest influence on his good soul. The words of the Angel asking the children to console God, saddened with so many offenses and sins, touched his sensitive heart profoundly. From then on, his ideal was to console the Lord. ■

Taken from *A Great Little Story: Francisco of Fatima* by Fr. Fernando Leite, S.J., Hanover, Pennsylvania, *America Needs Fatima*, 2011. Translated by José Aloisio A. Schelini from the Italian original *Francisco de Fátima, o pastorinho de Nossa Senhora*.

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The PARATROOPER'S PRAYER

THE PRAYER of the Paratrooper was penned by Second Lieutenant André Zirnheld of the Free French Air Force. On the twenty-seventh of July 1942, while serving with the legendary British SAS deep behind enemy lines in Libya, he was killed in action. Found in his pocket was this prayer, imploring God not to give him comfort and safety, but hardship and suffering. It is the official prayer of numerous parachute regiments worldwide.

Give me, O Lord my God, what is left Thee, that which no one asks of Thee. I do not ask Thee for rest or tranquility, either of soul or body. I do not ask Thee for riches, for success, or for health. So many ask Thee for these, my God, that none must be left Thee.

Give me, Lord, what is left Thee.

Give me what the others refuse.

I want risk and anguish; I want fight and pain.

Give me these, my God, once and for all.

Give me the certainty that these will always be my portion, for I will not always have the courage to ask them of Thee.

Give me, O Lord, what is left Thee.

Give me what others do not want.

But also give me courage, strength, and faith.