

CRUSADE

November/December 2021

MAGAZINE



GNOSTICISM

The Force Behind the Chaos



“This terrible enemy has a name: It is called the Revolution.”

- Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira

Revolution and Counter-Revolution, the inspiration of the many autonomous Societies for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property and like organizations, contains within its chapters evergreen principles of wisdom that explain the disintegration of civilization in the world today.

The author of this profound work is the world-famous Brazilian Catholic thinker Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira. In the third part of the present work, the author states that the main battleground of the struggle between anti-order (the Revolution) and order (the Counter-Revolution) is no longer civil society, but the Holy Church Herself.

Such a terrible state of affairs is of first concern to Catholics. But it also interests all men of good will, for without the influence of the Church, temporal society will never rise from the prostration to which it has been reduced by the Revolution.

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The Church Must Say No to Pro-Abortion Politicians*

BY THOMAS RYDER



The secularist attack on the Church's freedom to preach the Gospel is greatly helped by liberal Catholics inside the Church. Liberal voices fall short in their arguments:

1. That in rebelling against Church teaching on abortion and homosexuality they are following the dictates of conscience. **However, conscience is not the source of morality.** The objective norm of morality is God's law known to us through our rational nature (natural law) and by divine revelation (divine positive law). Therefore, although our conscience perceives the natural moral

law and makes it present to us in order to guide our action, it does not create this law.

2. That proclaiming Church teaching is imprudent and divisive. **However, what divides is not the truth, but our position in face of it.** Hence, the prophet Simeon said of Our Lord that He had come "for the fall and for the resurrection of many in Israel and for a sign which shall be contradicted." Thus, it is from truth that "out of many hearts, thoughts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34).

3. That strict fidelity to Church discipline will lead to increased bigotry and persecution against the Church. **However, the Divine Master warned that persecution would befall the faithful: "The servant is not greater than his master. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you" (John 15:20).**

4. That denying Holy Communion to publically pro-abortion and pro-homosexual Catholics will drive them

from the Church. **However, we do well to remember that the Savior faced an analogous situation when some disciples were scandalized with His words about the Eucharist and abandoned Him.** He turned to the Apostles and asked, "Will you also go away?" To which Saint Peter replied: "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou alone hast the words of eternal life" (John 6:69).

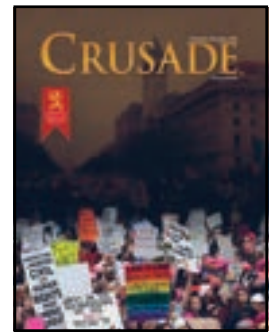
5. That denying Holy Communion to government officials who systematically vote in favor of abortion and homosexuality is to "politicize" the Eucharist and turn the Blessed Sacrament into a weapon. **However, it is "manifest, persistent and obstinate sinners" insisting on their "right" to receive Holy Communion who are politicizing the Eucharist, not the shepherds who remind them of the conditions for the proper reception of the Sacrament.** Bishops who deny Holy Communion to "manifest, persistent and obstinate sinners" not only defend the honor of the Blessed Sacrament; they give an example of charity.

6. That it is unfair to deny Holy Communion to Catholics in favor of abortion and homosexuality, and not to Catholics in favor of the death penalty or the war on terror. **However, this is not a valid comparison.** The Church has always and everywhere taught that abortion, homosexuality and euthanasia are intrinsically evil. It does not teach the same regarding the death penalty or just war. ■

* Excerpts from the 2004 TFP statement, "Catholics Must Affirm Their Faith in Their Public Lives."

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Crusade Magazine is a publication of The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP). Direct all requests and inquiries to: *Crusade Magazine*, P.O. Box 341, Hanover, PA 17331 or email to: crusade@TFP.org. Web: www.TFP.org. Tel: (888) 317-5571, Fax: (570) 450-6352. © 2021 by The Foundation for a Christian Civilization, Inc. This publication may include images from iStockphoto™ and Dreamstime™ which are protected by copyright laws of the U.S. and elsewhere. ISSN 1096-3782 LCCN 98-641433

M-174 (FN2110)

CRUSADE

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THE AMERICAN TFP

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

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



IN BRIEF

Louisiana Commemorates Saint Joseph with New Holiday

In a nod to its Catholic roots, the state senate of Louisiana passed a resolution on May 28, 2021, formally establishing May 1 as “Saint Joseph the Worker Day” in the state. The resolution also commemorated “The Year of Saint Joseph” that was held between December 8, 2020, to December 8, 2021. The resolution reads: “That the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize May first of each calendar year as a day to be observed to honor the working men and women in Louisiana, who get up every day and work hard to provide for and lift-up their families, their communities, the state of Louisiana and the United States of America.” The resolution is scheduled to go into effect on May 1, 2022.

Homosexual Choir Proclaims “We’re Coming for Your Children” in New Music Video

The “San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus” released a controversial music video on July 1, 2021, mocking parents who try to protect their children from the LGBTQ agenda, and declaring that the homosexual movement is going to “convert your children.” “You think that we’ll corrupt your kids, if our agenda goes unchecked,” one of the choir members sings. “Funny, just this once, you’re correct.” Later, the lyrics continue: “We’ll convert your children. Happens bit by bit. Quietly and subtly. And you will barely notice it.” The chorus adds: “We’re coming for them. We’re coming for your children... The gay agenda is here... soon we’re almost certain, your kids will start converting you!” The video received widespread negative feedback and was soon removed from public viewing.



Tse-tung, stated: “You are now teaching... training our children to be social justice warriors and to loathe our country and our history. Growing up in Mao’s China, all this seems very familiar. The communist regime used the same ‘critical theory’ to divide people, the only difference is that they used class instead of race... This is indeed the American version of the Chinese communist... the Chinese culture revolution. The critical race theory has its roots in cultural Marxism, it should have no place in our schools.” Fleet’s speech received major repercussions on social media and in the news.

Muslims in Iran Convert to Christianity

According to a recent article by *Newsweek*, multiple sources report that Christianity is growing at an unprecedented rate in the Islamic Republic of Iran, despite systematic persecution by the theocratic government. The mass exodus from Islam is being driven

mainly by young people, who are discontented with the oppressive Islamic religion imposed on them by the regime, and are embracing Christianity in large numbers. According to one report, there may be anywhere from 720,000 to one million converts practicing their faith secretly in Iran. The Iranian government has viewed this growing trend as a national threat and has taken measures to harass and punish converts, but many observers believe that these will do little to stop the surge of conversions.

Americans Pessimistic Over Future of Country

According to an ABC News Poll taken in July of 2021, optimism among Americans about the future of their country plummeted nearly twenty percent since a similar poll was taken in May of 2021. A majority, or fifty-five percent of respondents, now state they are pessimistic about the direction of the country. The decline in optimism was observed among Democrats, Republicans and independents. In the same poll, only four in ten Americans approved of President Biden’s handling of the immigration crisis at the U.S. border, while six in ten disapproved of the president’s handling of crime and gun violence. ■

Survivor of Communism Denounces Critical Race Theory

In June of 2021, during a heated meeting between concerned parents and the Loudoun County School Board in Virginia over its teaching of Critical Race Theory, Xi Van Fleet, a Chinese-born mother who lived under the brutal communist regime of Mao

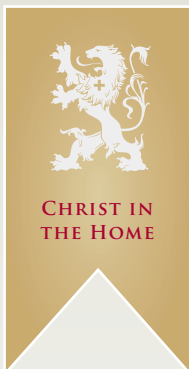




When Johnny Won't "Converse"

Restoring the Lost Art of Conversation

BY ANDREA PHILLIPS



Communication Is a Learned Skill

So knew Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, who brought up a generation of politicians. True, the Kennedy scenario was a tragic disappointment on many fronts. But the family had outstanding qualities that, if sanctified, could have edified the nation.

The book *Times to Remember* by Rose Kennedy reveals a woman of admirable traits, who instilled much good in her family, and strived to bring out the best in each of her children. Rose spoke several languages, was well read, informed and cultured.

For her, dinner time was the ultimate quality-time with her children, and she made it a priority to take advantage of this hour together.

Rose's father, once the mayor of Boston, had the curious habit of pinning news clippings to his lapel and commenting on them. As a young girl, Rose benefited from the conversations these clippings generated.

The Message Board

When raising a family of her own, she came up with a similar idea. On a convenient wall, she hung a message board on which she pinned news clippings. The children were required to read, or at least scan one or two clippings and be ready to comment on them at the dinner table.

Though the clippings encouraged deep discussions, Rose was careful to ensure that meals did not become dry "mental drill sessions," but retained the natural pep of a family gathering. As she raised questions, prodded, discussed, debated and laughed with her children, she also kept a vigilant eye that the louder ones did not silence the quieter ones. The children not only learned to express ideas, but to listen—the "secret of secrets" of good conversation. Rose made meal time a stimulating game—she was the "coach" and all were expected to play as a team.

Given the different age brackets in her large family, Rose sat the tiny ones at a small table (my own mother's practice as well) so that they could enjoy their prattle and not disturb the older ones. As they grew, they graduated to the larger table. At home, this "graduation" was something to anticipate.

How-To's, Benefits and Updates

Today, good news is scarce. So such a message board would need to include clips from other life venues: nature stories, positive clips from books or magazines, church bulletins, stories of saints and heroes, excerpts from sermons, Bible quotes, famous quotes, Catechism passages, information on gardening, cooking, art and music, snippets on countries and languages—or whatever comprises the specific interest of each family.

With a trendy range of message boards out there, this can be made a fascinating corner of the home, a project involving one and all.

The idea is to get the children to "converse," not just jabber or retreat into isolation. Quoting from Mrs. Kennedy in *Times to Remember*, "[children . . . can't just suddenly as teenagers, bloom into remarkable conversationalists or speakers or suddenly acquire the mental quickness, emotional poise or knowledge needed." She adds that ease in conversation and social confidence do not happen without preparation and effort, and this preparation should begin as early as age five.

In fact, with the disappearance of the dinner table, social confidence has suffered. Today, many lack social confidence and struggle with phobias, not knowing how to act or what to say in company. Whole books and courses have been written on the subject.

Electronic Devices

An "updating note" is that social savvy can be largely impaired by the electronic gadgetry scenario.

Beginning with TV, the electronic world invites minds to "roam" rather than think analytically. The electronic device does the "thinking" for the viewer. It provides a very incomplete means of communication which does little to satisfy our human social need.

While small electronics have their use, these gadgets can hamper thinking processes and communication skills. Comments, articles, videos, posts and cartoons abound on the subject.

Next to the message board put a basket—if needed—where all electronic devices are deposited. No cellphones, iPads or iPods at the family table.

Unfortunately, the Kennedys veered off the path of faith and morality, and were not shining examples for America. But no one can deny they could navigate socially, were fascinating communicators and even, at times, led brilliantly. ■



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Why Do We Blame Society for Bad Personal Choices?

BY JOHN HORVAT II

In a Christian civilization, people are responsible for their acts before God and man. There may be attenuating circumstances that diminish a person's guilt for crimes or destructive actions. However, the final responsibility always lies with the individual. For this reason, life is full of trials and difficulties. Acts have consequences that people of character embrace.

Postmodern thought denies personal responsibility while affirming that individual freedom is absolute. Thus, the person is considered free to choose whatever acts gratify the passions. However, any resulting harm must be blamed on society, social structures and other persons. Everything is "systemic" in this new, woke world. Nothing is personal save the feelings of those who claim to be hurt.

A Promising Career Cut Short

Two cases come to mind, which serve to illustrate the postmodern miscarriage of justice. They involve two very different individuals whose acts led to their deaths. However, society is blamed in both cases for failing to prevent the free choices of the perpetrators.

The first case involves Los Angeles Angels pitcher Tyler Skaggs. The twenty-seven-year-old Skaggs overdosed on oxycodone pills laced with fentanyl on July 1, 2019. He was found dead in a Texas hotel room just before a game. His promising Major League career was cut short.

However, it seems that the overdose was not Tyler's fault but his team's.

His widow is suing the Los Angeles Angels for negligence. His parents are expected to file a similar suit seeking damages. The plaintiffs allege that Angels' communications director, Eric Kay, supplied drugs to the pitcher, and the team should have taken measures.

Failure to Provide a Safe Place

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, the wife's lawsuit claims, "The Angels owed Tyler Skaggs a duty to provide a safe place to work and play baseball. The Angels breached their duty when they allowed Kay, a drug addict, complete access to Tyler. The Angels also breached their duty when they allowed Kay to provide Tyler with dangerous illegal drugs. The Angels should have known Kay was dealing drugs to players. Tyler died as a result of the Angels' breach of their duties."

A supporting affidavit in a criminal suit against Kay quotes Drug Enforcement Administration special agent Geoffrey Lindenberg stating that without "the fentanyl in [Skaggs'] system, [Skaggs] would not have died."

The person who supplied the fentanyl that ended up inside Skaggs' body is irrelevant. The obvious conclusion is that the pitcher would not have died if he had not made the personal choice to swallow the fentanyl-laced pills. The work environment did not force him to kill himself.

Moreover, the availability of the drug facilitated the tragedy but did not cause it. Tyler chose to associate with people who sold him drugs.

Addiction as a Personal Choice

The pitcher did not complain of a toxic environment—which his addiction made more toxic. Mr. Skaggs bears the responsibility for his plight.

The baseball team denied the charges and has called the lawsuit “without merit,” “baseless” and “irresponsible.” Indeed, if the lawsuit claims are true, then all players on the team can ask for damages for breach of contract. However, the team could also claim a similar breach since the pitcher was engaged in a dangerous addiction that jeopardized his ability to play ball.

Drug addiction is a choice that carries the risk of death. However, this tragic death by personal choice has been turned into the demise of a victim of a supposedly toxic work environment.

Air Force Fails to Register Mass Murderer

The second case of responsibility denial is even more absurd. It involves the mass shooter, Devin Patrick Kelley, responsible for killing twenty-five people and wounding twenty others before killing himself near a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, on November 4, 2017.

The former Air Force airman was court-martialed in 2012 for domestic assault on his wife and child. In 2014, he was removed from the Air Force with a “bad conduct discharge.” However, by an oversight, the Air Force failed to enter the airman’s criminal record into the federal background check register, which would have barred him from firearm purchases.

This failure enabled the man to buy the firearms used in the 2017 mass shooting.

Air Force More Responsible for Murders than the Killer

Devin’s crime was a terrible personal decision, but it seems, like Tyler Skaggs, the mass murder was not entirely his fault.

The families of the victims are suing the Air Force for its negligence. U.S. District Judge Xavier Rodriguez for the Western District of Texas just ruled that the Air Force was legally at fault for the Sutherland Springs shooting, since Kelley remained eligible to buy the firearms he eventually used for the crime.

Judge Rodriguez found the gunman was only forty percent responsible for the shooting, while the U.S. government was accountable for sixty percent. In other words, the government was more at fault for the crime than the criminal was! He who pulled the trigger is less responsible than the clerk who forgot to enter his name into the database. One act was conscious

and voluntary; the other was accidental and careless.

Indeed, one would think the government had dangled the weapons in the face of the former airman irresistibly. The case assumes that he killed his victims because the government has made these weapons available, not because he was evil. The ruling turned the criminal into a mere accomplice to the Air Force!

A Distorted Vision of Justice

Not even the death of many individuals moved the judge to consider the shooter’s full responsibility. This distorted vision of justice favors the culprit over the victims. It is all too ready to blame the systemic structures inside society for the harm caused by personal choices.

A society that blames the system will end up destroying itself. This perspective is fast becoming the norm in defunded police districts and dangerous cities where criminals are not punished—and law enforcement is blamed for all social ills. This danger is found in laws that bar the prosecution of shoplifting when the stolen goods are no more than \$900 in value.

For when criminals face no serious consequences, all disorder becomes possible. The Church established a Christian civilization, in which people assumed responsibility for their crimes and sins. Such norms favored the common good and domestic peace. It established stable social structures like the Christian family that helped people assume responsibility for their actions. Only a return to a Christian order will bring back the sanity needed for individuals to reject evil choices, embrace good ones and accept the consequences of their actions. ■

Postmodern thought denies personal responsibility while affirming that individual freedom is absolute.



OUR LADY'S THOUGHTS ON Christmas Day

BY PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA



PLINIO
CORRÊA DE
OLIVEIRA

As Christmas approaches, let us make some considerations about this great feast.

What were Our Lady's thoughts on Christmas Day? What did Christmas represent for her? We must consider that Our Lady carried Our Lord within herself as in a tabernacle. She evidently had the greatest intimacy with Him; she maintained a soul-to-soul relationship with him. Our Lord was already conscious within the maternal womb. He had the faculty of thinking from the first moment of His being. Thus, He was in continuous

communication with His Mother, not only as the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, but also as the God-Man.

Under these conditions, we must not imagine that the birth of Our Lord was an event in which Our Lady became familiar with her Son. She already knew Him intimately and ardently. Thus, what did Christmas represent for Our Lady?

One obvious thought is that Christmas represented the moment when Our Lady gave Our Lord to the world. Thus, Our Lord left the maternal cloister and came into the world through her arms. Our Lord's birth happened in a mysterious way, without harming Our Lady's virginity. It must have been a blessed moment, full of great manifestation of joy and most intimate contact.

Our Lord must have been born through a most intense act of love. Our Lady must have been raised to an inexpressibly high degree of mystical rapture when coming into contact

with the divinity of Our Lord. We can imagine that this act of love and the birth scene were presided over and examined by the three Persons of the Holy Trinity and all the angels of Heaven with songs and festivities. Thus, this moment of Our Lord's birth must have been the object of one of the most magnificent feasts in Heaven, and the greatest glories in the history of mankind.

While Our Lady had an unimaginable degree of spiritual intimacy and union with God, I believe the birth of Our Lord represents something more for her. She had not yet seen the Sacred Face of Our Lord or His whole Body. Physical reality serves as a symbol of spiritual reality. Thus, His facial features served as a physical representation of the spiritual perfections of Our Lord, Who was most perfect and had no form of fraud, deception, inadequacy or flaw.

The faces of men generally, though confusingly, express what is inside their souls. Thus, imagine how the Most Sacred Face of Our Lord and His whole Body reflected the interior of His soul! By seeing His Face, His gaze and every member of His Body, Our Lady acquired new insights and knowledge about Our Lord, whose physical presence revealed His whole mentality and soul. Hence, she had a new reason to love Him; she had a new motive to unite herself to Him. These reasons certainly provoked acts of ineffable adoration that Our Lady presented to Our Lord on that Christmas night.

Every facial expression, and especially the gaze, expresses the mentality of a person. In their own way, the neck, shoulders, hands, feet and body as a whole also express a person's mentality. Thus, imagine Our Lady contemplating




WHEN CHRIST WAS BORN OF MARY:

A CHRISTMAS CAROL GREETING

Amidst the darkness of our troubled days,
There shines from a grotto in Bethlehem luminous rays.

There the Christ Child awaits us in the manger,
To infuse our souls with serenity and courage to face the danger.
Well looked after by good Saint Joseph and Blessed Mother Mary,
With infinite goodness and tenderness, He comforts the weary.

On our knees let us venerate the Babe in swaddling clothes,
And bid Him prepare us as the year comes to a close.
“The gates of Hell shall not prevail,” He whispers in our ear.
Then onwards friends! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



this unmistakable expression of Our Lord’s psychological and supernatural character, and profoundly adoring Him.

This notion of the Infant Jesus’ mental and spiritual side was completely deformed by Renaissance artists and needs to be corrected. To give an idea of the Infant Jesus’ highest purity, Renaissance artists present Him as a silly, expressionless baby playing and moving without manifesting any indication of having a conscious mentality. I find this portrayal hard to believe, since I have the impression that the Face and Body of the Infant Jesus already expressed all those qualities that we admire in Our Lord as an adult. We see how He transcends all things. His soul exists in an entirely superior realm of things. It calls to mind His comment: “My ways are not your ways, nor are my thoughts your thoughts.” His interior life seems to occupy an entire Heaven within Himself, from which He looks benevolently down upon mankind. His goodness toward a distant humanity brings His mercy closer. We see already in His Infant Face all the balance, distinction, affability and strength that should inspire us to strive toward these truly ineffable moral perfections.

Christmas is the first manifestation of all these qualities of Our Lord, which were the objects of Our Lady’s adoration. Our Lady’s relationship and union with Our Lord at that point, is something beyond our understanding.

Saint Joseph, who was close to Our Lady, also participated in this act of worship as her husband and the father of the Infant Jesus. We can imagine Saint Joseph’s tenderness, respect, enthusiasm, adoration and veneration upon seeing the Child he knew was the Son of the Holy Spirit and Our

Lady. However, Our Lord legally belonged to him. Through the person of Saint Joseph, He became a Son of David, and thus fulfilled the prophecies. Saint Joseph would look at that Child and see that He was his God and the God of all men. At the same time, He was his Son and the Son of his wife. Considering the holiness of Our Lord emanating from the scene and above all from His Person, we can imagine what all this meant to Saint Joseph!

We should be enchanted by the idea that the human Person and Body of Our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas manifested His holiness, which in turn manifested the dignity of God hypostatically united to human nature. This consideration is what we should ponder on Christmas Eve. Our attention should not be on the Christmas scene portrayed by many holy cards depicting a light-filled manger holding the Infant Jesus, in which He is shown as a little boy with a silly face. The light did not come from the straw; it came from the Child, and above all, from His Most Sacred Face!

This meditation would be most interesting to use this Christmas. Let us ask Our Lady and Saint Joseph to help us understand it well and to give us encouragement for a truly recollected and pious Christmas. ■

The preceding article is taken from an informal lecture given by Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira on December 21, 1965. It has been translated and adapted for publication without his revision. –Ed.

*"There is one ideology that is so evil,
it is considered the quintessential heresy ..."*

GNOSTICISM

The Force Behind the Chaos



BY VINCENT GORRE

The life of a man, even the most dull and trivial, is metaphysics in action. This assertion by French sociologist Paul Bureau (1865–1923) is true. Because all ideas greatly influence the way we think and act. The motivational forces that drive our public and even private actions are deep down based on philosophies that we unknowingly follow.

The authors and promoters of consequential ideas are seldom known to us. We have probably never read nor studied their work. But as their ideas spread and filter into all branches of human knowledge, they are propagated in many ways and repeated thousands, nay millions of times, and eventually invade the arts, culture, religion, workplaces and practically all aspects of human life. In the end, they affect the way we think, act, live, work, rest and even die.

The Quintessential Heresy

Heretical ideas have caused people to suffer and die throughout history. However, there is one ideology that is so evil, it is considered the quintessential heresy—Gnosticism. The Church's fight against it began in the second and third centuries A.D., but far from being ancient history, Gnostic beliefs are widespread even today. Although many people do not identify themselves as Gnostics, their approach to many issues and the way they arrange their lives is rooted in Gnostic thought. As a result, chaos ensues as revolutionary ideas almost always create disorder, tension and suffering amongst people. The multiple crises happening in our midst today can be profoundly traced to their Gnostic origin.



Saint Irenaeus of Lyons, leading Church Father who spoke out against the errors of Gnosticism in the second century.

It is therefore especially important to understand Gnosticism and its derivative ideas to know what is going on in America today and in the world, and most importantly, why. It is also important to know the Christian response to it to stand firm in our beliefs. The Church Fathers, led by Saint Irenaeus of Lyon (130–202 AD), fought against ancient Gnosticism by preaching the true Gospel as opposed to the Gnostics' false narrative which was

set up to undermine Christianity. To attract adherents, the Gnostics claimed to have the answers to life's key questions cleverly wrapped in Christian language. But Gnosticism is not only the concern of the Church. It is prevalent in secular society as well, thus making it critical for us to be aware of its implications in our daily lives and in our society at large.

Catholic thinker and author Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira (1908–1995) explained that Gnosticism is so anti-Christian that it could only come from the mind of Satan himself. He wrote that “The Gnostic heresy is a doctrine radically opposed to the laws that God placed in the universe, because they represent His likeness. It aims, therefore, to make the universe the opposite of God's likeness as much as possible. Ultimately, it aims at the destruction of being itself.”¹

What Do Gnostics Believe?

To simplify a complex, illogical, sometimes contradictory idea such as Gnosticism is a challenge for most of us. Fortunately, several learned scholars and keen observers and thinkers have analyzed it well and exposed its many manifestations and ruses. Below is a gist of what Gnostics believe:

- The material world is bad, the spirit world is good. The material world is under the control of evil, ignorance or nothingness.
- A divine spark is somehow trapped in some (but not all) humans and it alone, of all that exists in this material world, is capable of redemption.
- Salvation is through a secret knowledge by which individuals come to know themselves, their origin and destiny.
- Since a good God could not have created an evil world, it must have been created by an inferior, ignorant or evil god.

From these core ideas, many more evil ideas were derived and have wreaked havoc throughout human history. Their authors and promoters may be known to intellectually curious minds, but the unlearned man on the street is ignorant of their identities, even less so of the evil ramifications of their ideas. In fact, those who are heavily influenced by Gnostic ideas may not even know of or believe in Gnosticism.

Since Gnostics believe that all matter is bad, they consider human bodies bad as well. Just this idea alone goes a long way in explaining extremes of immorality prevailing in society today.

How Do Gnostic Ideas Influence Morality?

First and foremost, since Gnostics believe that all matter is bad, they consider human bodies bad as well. Just this idea alone goes a long way in explaining extremes of immorality prevailing in society today. The implication is that there is no problem in indulging in sensual desires, since the body is totally corrupt. Therefore, the practice of reckless hedonism is justified, seeing no point in keeping the body pure. At the



Many — if not all — of contemporary “slogans” have their roots in Gnostic thought.

same time, the practice of severe asceticism is also justified, to keep our “evil” bodies in check.

In the area of sexual morality, the Gnostic view of the human body affects certain aspects of sexuality, gender identification, sexual orientation, sexual relations, marriage and procreation. For example, Gnostics believe that the distinction between men and women should be rejected because it is part of the “useless” creation order. The ideal is androgyny (a synthesis of male and female, and so neither one nor the other).² On gender, since the “real you” is what you feel inside, the inner person overrides all external factors—including objective biological reality. Thus, the transgender movement claims that “gender identity” does not necessarily align with birth sex. A person can look within to decide whether he is a male or female or some other option, regardless of his body.

If a living human body is insignificant and only the inner person is valuable, human worth would then depend on something “within,” such as self-awareness or knowledge. Consequently, an unborn child is often regarded as not yet a person and someone with advanced dementia may be viewed as no longer a person. Thus, Gnostics do not have a problem with abortion nor with euthanasia.

In marriage, Gnostics define it by feelings. The complementary natures of men and women do not matter. Marriage becomes

a disembodied and subjective relationship between two or even more people. This means that marriage is adaptable, with same sex “marriage” being just one consequence. Furthermore, concubinage and prostitution are preferable to marriage, since these are not permanent and not generally productive.³

The Gnostics abhor the conception of children. They regard a pregnant woman as having a devil in her, and they believe that procreation indefinitely replenishes the

world and prolongs the captivity of the light, generation after generation.⁴ Misogyny (hatred of women) is advocated by Gnostics because women are potential mothers. Masturbation, homosexuality, sodomy and pedophilia are all preferable because these forms of sexuality do not result in the “hateful imprisonment” of more souls.

The bottom line is that Gnosticism is not concerned with a moral life, but with “mystical enlightenment” and freedom from the bondage of creation.⁵

Implications of Gnostic Ideas in Religion

Now we can imagine why Gnostics reject the idea of Our Lord Jesus Christ as a true man with a fleshly body. This heretical idea called Docetism, taught that Jesus Christ only ‘appeared’ to have a man’s body. So, Gnostics deny Our Lord’s true humanity, His Crucifixion and Death on the Cross and Resurrection from the dead. They claim that the Resurrection was not a physical but only a spiritual event.

Gnostics believe that our basic need is to escape into the perfect, non-physical ‘essence.’⁶ Salvation is therefore attained by enlightenment or knowledge (*gnosis*), affirming the divine spark within. This *gnosis* equips the chosen few to return to the realm of light after death.

The implication for religion is clear. If salvation comes from within, who needs the Church, the Sacraments and the priests? Perhaps this explains why today, millennials and even a growing number of the older generation identify themselves as religiously non-affiliated.⁷ Does the phrase, “I’m spiritual, but not religious” sound familiar?

Implications of Gnostic Ideas in Politics and the Economy

When the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to the three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal in 1917, she warned that if her requests were not heeded, “Russia . . . will spread its errors throughout the world, promoting wars and persecutions of the Church . . .” The Mother of God was referring to communism. This totalitarian sociopolitical and economic system of government started in Russia and subsequently spread throughout Europe, Asia and Central America. As it turned out, many millions were lost and many more were subjugated under these cruel communist regimes.

Where did the idea of communism come from? German philosophers Karl Marx (1818–1883) and Fredrich Engels (1820–1895), who were the brains behind this evil idea, were adherents of the Gnostic myth of Darwinism.

Darwin's theory of evolution is Gnostic because it implicitly denies the transcendent origin of being. Marx and Engels envisioned the evolutionary development of society into a utopic dreamland by means of a perpetual class struggle among the social classes. With Marx's principle called "dialectic materialism," they hoped to eventually attain their "heaven on earth," where there is no state, no classes (absolute equality), no religion, no private property, no freedom.⁸ In other words, a system of errors, as Our Lady of Fatima warned the world in 1917.

Furthermore, according to an insightful study by German-American political philosopher Eric Voegelin (1901–1985), other mass movements in modern times have their origins in Gnosticism. Voegelin found that all intellectual and political movements that aim to correct the world's failings are Gnostic. The self-glorifying modern Gnostic redeemers exploit the passions of the people and resort to violence in the transformation of the wretched world into a utopian dream.⁹ Voegelin included progressivism, scientism, positivism, socialism, communism, fascism and psychoanalysis, as Gnostic in his exhaustive analysis of the modern age.

Voegelin described the Gnostic mindset with these six characteristics:

- The Gnostic is dissatisfied with his situation,
- The belief that the world is poorly organized (as opposed to believing that the world is good but that human beings are inadequate),
- The belief that salvation from the evil of the world is possible,
- The belief that therefore the order of being will have to be changed (as opposed to the Christian belief that the world will remain as

is and salvation is in grace through death),

- The belief that changing the order of being is within human ability,
- The belief that the task is to seek out the method of altering reality.¹⁰

Gnostic Ideas Found in Popular Culture

In addition to immorality, Gnostic ideas can be seen applied in various ways and degrees in today's culture. Tattooing, body piercing, cosmetic surgery, body modification, sex change, are all ways of mistreating or abusing the body. Cremation is another way of denying the significance of the human body. Before the Church allowed cremation for practical reasons, the Christian custom of burying the dead, with the head facing east where the sun rises, demonstrates the hope of the resurrection of the body.

Gnostic ideas also play a key role in many films, novels, video games and the like, that promote finding who you really are and just "being yourself" as the path to true fulfillment. Themes of self-discovery, self-awareness, self-actualization and self-salvation, not to mention a dislike of any kind of authority, especially religious, are common in so many works of art, especially in the film industry.

Another idea that is popular in today's culture is environmentalism. Forty percent of Americans identify themselves as environmentalists.¹¹ But amongst the forty percent, there are radical elements that believe the Gnostic and pantheistic idea that the Earth's biosphere *is* God. They also believe that human beings are the destructive parasites, eating away at the life of their god. These radicals believe that they are the elect, the knowing, superior beings, apart from the rest of mankind.

To attract adherents, Gnostics claim to have all the answers to life's key questions, cleverly wrapped in "sensible" language.



Recognizing that Gnosticism still exists and that it is the force behind the chaos in our society, is the first step in combating this perennial heresy.

Destruction of the Family

As we have seen, Gnostic ideas clearly target the traditional family. An institution founded by God Himself to form and regenerate society, the traditional family is rooted in an indissoluble marriage between a man and a woman. The Gnostic beliefs of non-traditional marriage, contraception, abortion and the rest of the deviant sexual behaviors and practices seek to destroy the traditional family, thereby thwarting God's sacred plan.

Satan's Ultimate Goal

Professor Corrêa de Oliveira wrote that the devil's focus is to cause as many men as possible to go to Hell, to cause man to not perceive the good things God placed on earth so he will not be edified and sanctified. He wants to eliminate the beauty of material creation. The way to do this is destroy elements of variety and inequality that God placed in the universe, which reflect

His likeness. Thus, the devil strives to present the most egalitarian culture possible. By eliminating all this and establishing uniformity and egalitarianism, the likeness of God is erased. This radical egalitarianism leads to pantheism, a Gnostic belief that God and the universe are identical, that all are divine.

But the devil's goal is not only to present man with an egalitarian vision of the universe, but also a vision that destroys the very concept of being. He wants to implement a state of nothingness, to reabsorb creation into the primitive nothingness, which is *gnosis*. If he succeeds, he will have attained his ultimate goal.¹²

Christian Principles, the Antidote to Chaos

When the world rejects the metaphysical order of the created universe, chaos is inevitable. According to Professor Corrêa de Oliveira, chaos is the logical outcome of an anti-Christian society: "If there is a common denominator unfolding today in the private and public life of many nations, one can say that it is chaos. Chaotic prospects seem to repeat themselves and we increasingly tread the paths of chaos, no one knows how far."¹³ Catholic author and educator Edward Leen, C.S.SP. (1885–1944) postulates that "If Christianity in its integrity was accepted by all and its principles were applied in efforts to solve the practical problems of life, peace and comparative happiness would be the result."¹⁴

To have a firm idea of the Gnostic heresy and its influence, gives us the opportunity to reaffirm our Christian beliefs and be sensitive to the heretical threats we face in our daily lives. In answer to the Gnostics, we affirm the following truths:

- We firmly believe that there is only one God, and He is the Creator of all things. We reject the idea of an evil world. The source of evil in this world is man's sinful rebellion against God, not the physical world itself.
- We reject the Gnostic idea of an evil body since our bodies are intrinsic to us and are designed in wisdom and love by our good Creator, to serve and glorify Him. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Ghost, and we honor God with our bodies by living in obedience to Him. Far from an empty shell, our bodies will be raised again to a new life forever.
- Human life is uniquely precious as created in God's image. Our significance derives from this, not from our "quality of life," age or capability.
- God grounds marriage in His creation. It is defined as being between a man and a woman and forms the foundation for family and society. Marriage is the framework within which love can thrive and children can be raised. God also gives human marriage as a picture of the ultimate marriage between Christ and His Church.
- Our Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and man. He is the eternal God—the Word Who was in the beginning, Who was with God (John 1:1). Scripture reveals that He became fully man. The Incarnation is at the heart of our faith, making redemption possible.
- Every human being needs redemption from sin. But our loving and wise Creator gave His Son to save lost sinners. Salvation comes through faith in Him, not from looking within ourselves.

Fighting Gnosticism

The more we fight against Gnosticism the more we will be grounded in our Christian beliefs. As sociologist Lester Kurtz wrote, “What people do not believe is often more clearly defined than what they do believe, and it is through battles with heresies and heretics that orthodoxy is most sharply delineated.”¹⁵

Recognizing that Gnosticism still exists and that it is the force behind the chaos in our society is the first step in combating this perennial heresy.

There are various ways to fight Gnosticism. Dr. Ben Reinhard of Christendom College suggests that there are two factors behind why Gnosticism’s influence is widespread today: loss of trust in public officials and the Internet. He writes, “It is easy to believe the world is evil when so many of its leaders manifestly are. Even more dramatically, however, the crisis of public confidence makes the allure of *gnosis* especially hard to resist.”¹⁶ The second major factor according to Dr. Reinhard, is the all-encompassing embrace of the Internet. He considers the Internet the Gnostic invention par excellence. It provides access to a dream world of unfettered spirit, overwhelming us with limitless information far disproportionate to man’s capacity to know, designed to be addictive by algorithms that take their users ever deeper into this virtual world. And, with the smartphone, nearly everyone today carries his own personal portal into this disembodied world.

According to Reinhard, to fight Gnosticism we must learn to foster wisdom instead of mere knowledge, and to turn as best we can from the pseudo-world of social media, propaganda and relentless news towards reality: life with our families, reading of Scriptures and the writings of the saints and especially liturgical prayer and the Sacraments.



The Destroyer of All Heresies

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the Patroness of all those who fight against the Revolution. And because of her absolute *fiat* to God, she is also the destroyer of all heresies. At Fatima, she outlined a “survival guide” which she guarantees will save us. It requires prayers, penance, amendment of life and devotion to her Immaculate Heart. If we follow her advice, she promised that we will be saved. And that finally, her Immaculate Heart will triumph and there will be peace in the world. This intervention of the Mother of God and our loving mother, is the counter- revolutionaries’ greatest reason for hope. ■

The Blessed Virgin Mary is God’s quintessential answer to Gnosticism, as she exemplifies the perfectly balanced union of body and soul.

Endnotes

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14. Edward Leen, C.S.SP., *Why the Cross?*, (Scepter Publishers, Inc., 2001), 9.
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FREE Cuba: A Plea to Our President

As the communist Cuban government brutally suppresses protests in the streets, the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) joined those who deplore Marxism in all its forms to demand an end to the country's communist dictatorship.

The time has come to rally around the abandoned Cuban people that have suffered this oppression for sixty-two years. Thousands have been arrested in the current protests. Many were killed, and hundreds are missing. The government censors communication with the outside world and blocks the Internet. At this critical hour, the judgment of God and history will be severe should the anguished cries of protesters be ignored. The communist oppression in Cuba must be eliminated once and for all.

For this reason, the American TFP was relentless in its campaign, "Free Cuba Now!" beginning with an online petition to President Joe Biden, asking him to take the lead in denouncing the failed system of communism in Cuba. As of August 5, 2021, a total of 71,128 online signatures were collected on the petition.

Among the many caravans and prayer rallies held around the nation, a Caravan campaign of TFP members and volunteers headed to Miami's *Llamada por la Libertad* rally in Bayfront Park on July 31, where a crowd of several thousand rallied for freedom in Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua. The TFP banners, standard and Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady were erected and became a powerful presence at the entrance to the rally. While the mayor of Miami and several local Cuban leaders gave speeches, the Caravanners valiantly stood in the heat collecting signatures for eight hours. With Our Lady's grace, a total of 1,200 signatures were gathered and 2,000 flyers featuring a QR code for the petition were distributed.

On August 5, a TFP press conference and rally was held in front of the Cuban Embassy in Washington D.C. The TFP announced the delivery of the signatures to the White House, asking for action to free Cuba from the scourge of communism.



On August 5, 2021, protesters for Cuba's freedom joined a rally and press conference organized by the American TFP in front of the Cuban embassy in Washington D.C.

On this occasion, American TFP Vice President John Horvat II delivered a speech. Among his remarks were the following words:

"We come here today before the embassy of the island/prison of Cuba to make our voices, and that of 72,000 signers heard. We denounce the regime and, above all, the complicity of the West. We refuse to be silent in the face of this regime's brutality."

At many of the protests in Cuba, the people could be heard shouting: "We are not afraid." Indeed, in the face of the regime's brutality, the Cuban people will have nothing to fear if they place their trust in the powerful intercession and protection of the Virgin of Charity of Cobre, patroness of Cuba. May she give the Cuban people all the graces and virtue necessary to attain their long-awaited freedom. ■



AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA[®]

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021

PROGRESS REPORT

A Summer Well Spent Fighting for Christian Civilization

COMPILED BY TONIA LONG

The Saint John the Baptist Caravan for Moral Values

Beginning on the feast of Saint John the Baptist, June 24, 2021, the TFP-Texas summer caravan in defense of the unborn and traditional marriage was placed especially under this courageous saint's patronage. The antiphon from his Mass perfectly describes the importance of the TFP's public action during this tour for truth:

"The Lord hath called me by my name from the womb of my mother, and He hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He hath protected me, and hath made me as a chosen arrow" (Isaias 49:1-2).

With these words in mind, the TFP members and student volunteers began the first day of their caravan by leafleting near the NASA Space Center and the Kemah Boardwalk in Houston, Texas.

Overall, twenty young men volunteered three weeks of their summer vacation to stand for moral values in cities such as Austin, New Orleans, Mobile, Charleston and beyond.

The caravan focused on defending the right to life of the unborn, as well as opposing homosexual "marriage" and the threats of socialism in our country.

Saint John the Baptist toppled impurity and fought against pride. He told hard truths to the wicked and cut off the paths of their iniquity. He is an important patron saint for those who seek to spread the truth.



Left: TFP caravan leader Cesar Franco explains the need to restore moral values in America.
Right: a TFP bagpiper chats with a pedestrian during a campaign.



Fighting for a Worthy Cause at the Alamo

On June 27, 2021 TFP members and students campaigned for a return to order in America on the streets of San Antonio, Texas. Fortified by Holy Mass and the reception of the Eucharist, they headed to the Alamo to do battle with the forces of the leftist revolution.

The students held up signs and banners decrying socialism in America, abortion and radical homosexual ideology. They distributed flyers advocating the return to respect for Our Lord and for American moral tradition. They stood upon the storied ground where Davy Crockett and the men of the Alamo gave their lives for of Texas independence.

Respect for a worthy cause was apparent in the encouragement, gratitude and support from the families of San Antonio. It seemed that having the Alamo in the heart of their city was a constant reminder of their Texas values. One member overheard a mother talking to her young daughter. The daughter asked, pointing to the TFP standard and bagpipes, "Mom, what are they doing? Are they selling something?" To which her mother responded, "No, they're fighting for a worthy cause."

After the campaign, TFP members and students reflected on the fruits of their campaign in the face of an America swept by revolutionary ferment. Their conversation turned to the Alamo and the two hundred men who gave their lives there.

Prior to the battle, their commander called them together and gave them the option to leave, warning that they would likely be called upon to give their lives if they stayed. In response, all decided to stay and, ultimately, did give their lives.

Today, those engaged in a fight for a return to order strive to emulate their courage, will to fight and perseverance. In the face of immense adversity, they fight for America, the Church, Our Lady and a worthy cause. ■



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Saved by Saint Michael

Sandra, the hostess of the Fatima visit, credits Saint Michael the Archangel for saving her life in a deadly accident.

Saint Michael Saved Her Life and Arranged a Visit of Our Lady of Fatima

BY NORMAN FULKERSON

One should not underestimate the power of Saint Michael the Archangel. Sandra, of Ocala, Florida, discovered this firsthand. She had been praying a novena to the Archangel for her son to overcome an addiction. He was eventually healed. But Sandra could never have imagined what her heavenly protector was about to do for her.

On the morning of May 12, 2021, she fell asleep at the wheel of her car, which went catapulting, end over end, through a cow pasture. It flipped a total of seven times and the first responders are not sure how, but Sandra was ejected from the car and found

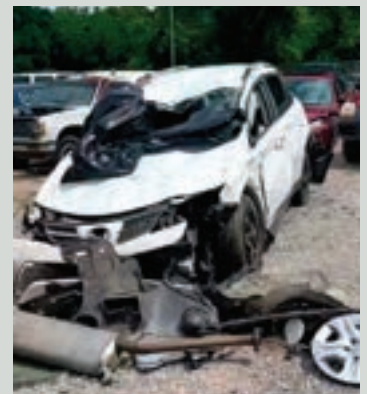
peacefully lying in a patch of wildflowers. She was flown to a nearby hospital and spent the next days recovering from eight fractured ribs, a punctured lung and a lacerated eye from being thrown through a barbed wire fence. Little did she know that Saint Michael was preparing something even more unexpected in her life!

Two weeks later, Sandra received a call from Bob at America Needs Fatima. He wanted to schedule a visit of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima with someone named "Mary." He dialed the wrong number. Sandra was a devotee of Saint Michael, but she was not on the America Needs Fatima mailing list. In fact, she was not even Catholic. Nevertheless, she enthusiastically asked if Our Lady could visit her home.

On June 16, 2021, Mr. Zechariah Long and I took Our Lady to the home of this devotee of Saint Michael and were touched to see, on the table reserved for Our Lady, a statue of the Winged Warrior. We were both impressed and could not help but marvel at what Saint Michael had done for this woman. He not only healed her son, but also saved her from what could have been a violent death, and now we were standing in her home with a statue of the Blessed Mother. We took

the opportunity to give her a rosary and a booklet explaining how to pray it. Since Our Lady's visit, Sandra has expressed a desire to convert to the Catholic Faith and steps are being taken to fulfill her wish.

This is a story that should inspire those who have lost belief in the Holy Angels and their solicitude for our well-being. They were not just created by God to help little children cross a bridge. They have an unbelievable power to convert souls trapped in addiction and prevent physical catastrophes. With that said, it should become clear for the reader that Bob did not dial the wrong number—he simply called the person for whom Saint Michael had a special love. ■



The demolished vehicle that was driven by Sandra.



Our Readers Write



The Most Holy Rosary

“We are praying the Rosary every day for our country. We will keep you in our prayers. Thank you for all you are doing to bring our country back to God! Dear God, please bless and protect these brave TFP men and our beautiful nation. We are sending one of the rosaries you mailed us to our cousins in California that have fallen away from the Faith.”

D.C. and K.C., Tonawanda, New York

“Thank you so much for the rosary and the Rosary guide! I have prayed the Rosary once in my life now, and hope to make it a habit going forward. One of my longtime friends, who lives in California, encourages me to pray the Rosary. I will pray for you and that God will richly bless all the good works. Perhaps I will be able to give more in the future.”

K.S., Omaha, Nebraska

“Thank you for always remembering me by sending me information in regards to your great organization. I first became involved with ANF in December of 2006 when I hosted the Pilgrim Virgin statue in my humble home. Since that time, myself, my eldest daughter and a small group of our friends have gathered together once a week to pray the Rosary together.”

R.M., Sudan, Texas

Sacred Heart Calendar

“This is the most beautiful religious calendar I have ever seen—I love it!”

P.O., Irving, Texas

“Just this morning, I asked the Lord to help me to find the Litany to the Sacred Heart, and the mail came with this calendar of the Sacred Heart of Jesus with the Litany enclosed in it. I felt blessed.”

E.P., Santa Barbara, California

“Thank you for the beautiful and inspiring calendar. The pictures and prayers have moved me as no other. I will proudly hang it on my apartment wall for all to see. This calendar is a treasure.”

B.R., Milwaukee, Wisconsin

“Thank you for sending your ‘old school’ calendar! I especially love the inside cover reminding us of the Sacred Heart’s unbelievable promises of the Nine First Fridays Devotion. When I read the story of Saint Margaret Mary and

the Sacred Heart to our children when they were in school, our oldest son was so impressed by the Sacred Heart’s generous promises that he insisted we make the Nine First Fridays together immediately. Although it was no easy task, we finally found a church that had a First Friday Mass after school hours. Although my husband and I had made the First Fridays when we were younger, I took the kids after school so they too could share in this devotion. My oldest son kept telling his younger brother ‘This is such a good deal!’ Our oldest son will be fifty-one years old in a couple months and I’d love to give him one of these beautiful calendars to the Sacred Heart! Thank you so much!”

M.F., Tampa, Florida

“I just opened up the eighteen month Sacred Heart calendar and flipping through it, became increasingly moved by the beautiful pictures and paired messages from Our Lord and saints on the subject. Really well done!! Actually, I was grateful for having received two, for I am going to cut and pare down the calendar to a smaller size. I wanted to see the pages on a daily basis, not only as a passing calendar.”

A.P., Baton Rouge, Louisiana

TFP and TFP Student Action

“Thank you for all you’re doing to ‘blanket America with prayer’ and go on crusade in these dark times. You are fearless in a world that has become paralyzed with fear. May God bless you and protect you as you bring Truth to those who need it most and pray for America.”

K.M., Locust Grove, Virginia

“Thank you, TFP, for your willingness to ‘Go Boldly.’ May Our Lord and Mother Mary keep you safe and well during your crusade to convert our nation.”

K.W., Roanoke, Virginia

“Dear gentlemen, I just viewed your video ‘Leftist Lie’ and I am so impressed and inspired by your courage and the wonderful work you are doing for our country. May God continue to bless you and may Our Blessed Mother keep you safe under her protective mantle. Thank you! Keep up the good work!”

R.L., Bensalem, Pennsylvania

“May God bless the efforts of your activism and campaigns bringing hope and encouragement to Americans. Thank you for what you do.”

A.D., Saint Augustine, Florida

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





Celebrating Record Growth at the Kansas Office

BY FRANCIS SLOBODNIK

July 22 of this year marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the America Needs Fatima (ANF) Kansas Office. At that time, discussions were made about how to expand the apostolate to spread devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

This silver anniversary was marked by a dinner with staff and their families as well as an open house for local residents.

Our office has a fascinating history of quick growth. In July 1996, ANF decided to open a small satellite office in Wamego, Kansas, staffed mostly by part-time employees. Immediately, the fruit of our labors caused us to outgrow that small office. Six months later, a larger office was rented in Silver Lake, Kansas for tasks such as mailing, organization of rallies of reparation, fundraising and the scheduling of home visits with the Pilgrim Virgin Statues of Our Lady of Fatima.

Since beginning the Fatima home visits, around fifty thousand have hosted a visit and half a million guests have attended a visit!

In 2003, out of the necessity of growth, a larger building was purchased in Rossville, Kansas. When ANF began the Public Square Rosary Rally Crusade in 2007, volunteers traveled to Kansas for two or more weeks, making phones calls to recruit rally captains. Since then, over 176,000 rallies have taken place, with an estimated attendance of over



A group photo of staff and volunteers of the America Needs Fatima Kansas office. For twenty-five years, hundreds of enthusiastic Catholics like these have dedicated their time and services recruiting rosary rally captains, managing email and mailing campaigns, and arranging Fatima home visits throughout America.

three million!

In 2019, it became necessary to purchase a second building dedicated to the ever-growing number of Public Square Rosary Rallies, to accommodate more volunteers.

The staff at the ANF office in Kansas work there because of their love and dedication to Our Lady of Fatima. Whether it is accounting, scheduling Fatima Home Visits, processing mail or organizing Public Square Rosary Rallies, all is done to hasten the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary! ■

Points of Light: TFP Regional Conferences 2021

BY TONIA LONG

As the year 2021 presented new and greater challenges to Christian civilization, the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) and its America Needs Fatima campaign presented timely conferences related to these topics. The regional conferences provided true solutions in light of Our Lady's apparitions at Fatima.

Zechariah Long, an organizer for the conference held in Ocala, Florida, related that one participant said to him: "In the midst of the COVID madness and riots throughout America, this conference gave me hope."

Held on February 20, 2021, the Ocala conference opened with the challenging questions: "What are we to do? Be an ostrich and stick our heads in the sand? Or, should we be like the bold Catholics of the past who remained true to the Faith no matter the difficulties?" In answer to these questions, speakers presented talks ranging from historic perspectives, to understanding anarchy in America and Professor Plinio

Corrêa de Oliveira's view on America's providential mission. The Ocala conference concluded with a rosary procession and festive dinner.

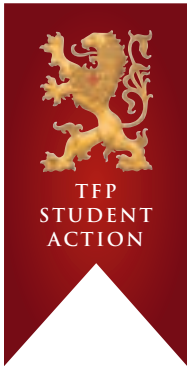
Following similar programs and objectives, several other conferences were held elsewhere. On March 27, TFP-Louisiana presented its annual conference at Our Lady of Prompt Succor House in Lafayette. Titled *Our Lady of Fatima and The Great Reset: The Choice before Us*, the conference covered topics such as egalitarianism, the cyber Revolution, the dismantling of human nature and apocalyptic times.

Catholics in the area were cordially invited to attend TFP and America Needs Fatima's Northeast Regional Conference in Hazleton, Pennsylvania on June 13. The theme for this conference was *Defeating Our Cancel and Woke Culture with Our Fatima Future*. With Our Lady's blessing, this conference provided a wonderful opportunity for attendees to meet like-minded individuals and families, and make new friends. ■



Chivalry Camp: “This Day by Fighting, We’ll Show Our Devotion!”

BY JOHN WAGNER



“This day by fighting, we’ll show our devotion,” sang the boys at a chivalry-themed summer camp in Ocala, Florida.

The Call to Chivalry Camp was one of several annual camps for Catholic boys sponsored by the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP), others being held in Pennsylvania and Louisiana. These camps are unique, being entirely Catholic, manly, and militant—the perfect combination for a growing boy’s soul. Forming young men into virtuous knights who promote the

social kingship of Christ in a chaotic world and stand up for the perennial teachings of Holy Mother Church is the goal.

The Camp That Should Not Have Existed

Covid restrictions made it look impossible to hold the annual Call to Chivalry Camp in Herndon, Pennsylvania. But as doors seemed to close, Our Lady opened a window. Restrictions eased. What appeared to be impossible became possible, but only with a month to prepare! Within days, the camp was booked. Dozens of boys and fathers enrolled for the event hosted at the TFP-run Saint Louis de Montfort Academy in June, 2021.

How to Enkindle the Spirit of a Knight

To be a knight is synonymous with being a man. To enkindle a chivalrous spirit, the boys attended inspirational talks, where they learned about manly role models. In a meeting about Lepanto, the young men learned about Don Juan of Austria, who encouraged his warriors to be brave.

Another presentation about the Swiss Guards featured their militant Catholic spirit and disciplined character, including a video interview with a commander who revealed their most powerful weapon: the Rosary.

The camp has a code of conduct conducive to virtue. It promotes a Catholic spirit of chivalry: serving Our Lord and Our Lady, doing what is right and never giving up in the face of evil. Every TFP camp promotes fortitude, purity and piety.

Activities That Foster Action and Spiritual Growth

The morning rising is complemented with the skirling of bagpipes, a martial instrument. Camp participants rise and gather to pray the Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel, led

by a camp counselor. To teach the young men order, there is a daily room inspection before breakfast. Then, the lads chant the Creed and go to breakfast singing a hymn attributed to Saint Louis de Montfort: “We Want God.”

After breakfast, the boys use the great spiritual weapon of the Rosary. Praying together is a must for knightly education. To sharpen the intellect, a talk follows. Saint Pius V, Blessed Pius IX, the medieval order and what it means to have the spirit of a crusader were some of the topics covered by TFP speakers at the camp.

The young men play manly sports, some of which are unique to TFP programs, such as Shield Ball and French Football. A highlight is wielding foam swords during Capture the Flag. All activities begin and end with prayer.

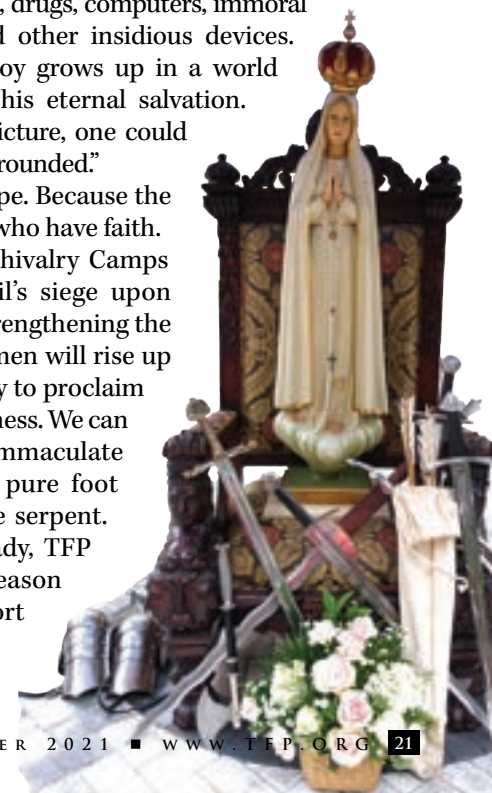
One favorite meeting is about the street campaigns of TFP Student Action, where TFP members defend the Faith in the public square, addressing issues like abortion, socialism and transgenderism.

Where All This Leads: A Renewed Generation

The youth face so many snares. An entire culture attempts to break into their Christian defenses, undermine their stability and shake their faith. The devil is out to ruin boys’ souls through bad friends, video games, drugs, computers, immoral movies, bad music and other insidious devices. The average Catholic boy grows up in a world that conspires against his eternal salvation. Considering this dark picture, one could solemnly say, “We are surrounded.”

However, there is hope. Because the future belongs to those who have faith.

Today, the Call to Chivalry Camps seek to resist the devil’s siege upon souls and nations. By strengthening the next generation, more men will rise up against evil and be ready to proclaim the truth with holy boldness. We can trust and hope in the Immaculate Heart of Mary, whose pure foot crushes the head of the serpent. By the grace of Our Lady, TFP members have every reason to believe that this effort for the glory of God is successful. ■



History 101

Our Lady's Triumph in Lepanto

BY JEREMIAS WELLS

The past is peppered with major events which make up critical turning points in history. In order to preserve a true narrative, a Christian view of event in history, which invariably includes moments of Divine Intervention, must remain safeguarded. For when history is discarded or “rewritten,” as is the current trend, its lessons and wonders also are lost. It is for this reason the 450th Anniversary of the Battle of Lepanto, fought on October 7, 1571, is celebrated this year with great jubilation.



Christendom in Peril

When Saint Pius V ascended the throne of Saint Peter early in 1566, Christendom faced extreme peril. The Huguenots had been waging a particularly violent war in France since 1562; the Spanish Netherlands exploded in revolt later in the year; England, having gone from schism to heresy, was openly assisting all the anti-Catholic forces; but the greatest danger came from the constricting tentacles of Moslem aggression throughout Europe and the Mediterranean.

The defense of Malta understandably raised Christian spirits, but it was only a defensive action. The powerful Ottoman fleet, still intact, continued to raid Christian lands.

The Pope of the Rosary

From the moment of his elevation, Saint Pius V not only recognized the grave peril to Christendom, but also saw the solution: the Ottoman power could be broken solely by means of a crusade both on the battlefield and on the supernatural level. The holy pope saw them as a threat to the order that God Himself placed in the world, and for that reason employed the weapons of spiritual warfare.

Saint Pius V increasingly asked for more prayers from pious Catholics. A devotion to which he gave special attention was the Rosary, so much so that he was called “The Pope of the Rosary.”¹ In fact, the great saint secured

the uniformity of recitation of the Hail Mary through a Papal Bull published in 1568.

The Holy League

While Saint Pius V was trying to organize an effective alliance against the increasing danger, another Moslem provocation illustrated the precarious situation. During the Christmas season of 1568, the pent-up hatred of the “converted” Moors, known as Moriscos, burst forth in all its massive cruelty. Savage tortures were employed against their victims before they were violently dispatched, especially humble village priests and their altar boys. If they called on Jesus or His Blessed Mother for strength, their tongues were cut out or their mouths were loaded with gunpowder and ignited. These descendants of the invaders who had nearly destroyed Christian Spain during an occupation lasting eight

Only a saint could have assessed the seemingly insurmountable difficulties of forming an anti-Turkish league and then gone forward with such energy and tenacity.

centuries again drenched the country in blood.

Initial attempts to subdue the well-organized revolution met with failure until Don Juan of Austria was placed in overall command. He relentlessly pursued a campaign that destroyed the enemy strongholds and brought the survivors to their knees.

Only a saint could have assessed the seemingly insurmountable difficulties² of forming an anti-Turkish league and then gone forward with such energy and tenacity.

Spain, alone among the Europeans, was willing to contribute its resources in men and material, although it had difficulty in seeing beyond its narrow interests. On the other hand, Venice was willing to fight only when its commercial interests were threatened. Yet Pius V was finally able to bring the greatest power in Europe and the possessor of the largest fleet in the Mediterranean to the bargaining table. Although sick and in constant pain, the indomitable Pontiff finally concluded an agreement with the two short-sighted governments in March, 1571.

According to the treaty, the choice of its supreme commander was reserved for the pope. When he went into the chapel to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, he reached the Gospel of Saint John, and began to read, “*Fuit homo missus a Deo, cui nomen erat Joannes!*” — There was a man from God whose name was John.³ Turning his face towards the Virgin, he paused and realized that the commander of the crusade was to be Don Juan of Austria.



A jubilant Pope Saint Pius V receives news of the Catholic victory at Lepanto from a vision in his palace at Rome.

The Battle

In the middle of September, the largest Christian fleet ever assembled sailed out from Messina in Sicily to seek out and destroy the Moslem fleet commanded by the Sultan's brother-in-law, Ali Pasha. Saint Pius V granted all members of the expedition the indulgences of crusaders. Not one of the 81,000 soldiers and sailors had failed to confess and receive Holy Communion.

The immense fleet moved eastward across the Ionian Sea in a file stretching out for nearly ten miles. Ten days later, it arrived at Corfu off the northwestern coast of Greece. The Turks had ravaged the place the month before and left their usual calling cards: burned-out churches, broken crucifixes and mangled bodies of priests, women and children.

Then word arrived: “Ali Pasha is in Lepanto!” A long thin body of water, known as the Gulf of Corinth, separates central Greece from the Peloponnesus, the southern peninsula. About a quarter of the way into the inlet from the west sits Lepanto, the fortified headquarters of the Turkish fleet.

At sunrise on Sunday morning, October 7, 1571, the chaplains on each ship were celebrating Mass as the vanguard of the fleet entered the Gulf of Corinth. Since dawn, the Turks had been moving in their direction from the east, with the advantage of having the wind at their back.

Although the Christian galleys were outnumbered, 274 to 208, they had superior fire power in cannon, while the Turks relied mostly on bows and arrows. By nine o'clock the two lines were fifteen miles apart and closing fast. Just before contact was made, the wind, which had been favoring the Turks, shifted around from the east to the opposite direction. The Christians drew first blood, but because of their lack of maneuverability, the floating batteries quickly passed out of action.

The center of both lines bore down heavily on each other. The Moslems were yelling, screaming and banging anything that would make noise. The Christians were in an ominous silence, weapons in one hand, rosaries in the other. Usually, the flagships stand off from the heat of battle, but not this time; both supreme commanders set a hard course for each other. Ali Pasha's *Sultana* gained the initial advantage by ramming into the *Reale* up to the fourth rower's bench. Don Juan grappled the two ships together and boarded. Instantly, a dozen Turkish ships closed in behind Ali Pasha, supplying him with thousands of Janissaries. Christian Commanders Veniero and Colonna hugged the *Reale* from either side. Reinforcements arrived from other galleys. Some two dozen ships became interlocked, thus forming a floating battlefield. The battle raged back and forth over the blood-soaked, carnage-strewn decks.

Finally, Don Juan, huge broadsword in one hand and an axe in the other, led an attack across the *Sultana* that ended in the death of Ali Pasha. From that point on the spirit and fighting capacity of the Turks declined, until one last hope for the Ottomans remained, which was subsequently squashed.

The Holy League had achieved an overwhelming victory in the largest sea battle fought up to that time. The Ottoman Empire lost about 240 galleys and saw 30,000 killed. The League suffered a trifling twelve galleys sunk; 7,600 men were killed.

At the time the battle was won, Saint Pius V was studying financial sheets with the papal treasurer. He rose, went to the window and looked towards the east. When he turned around his face was radiant with supernatural joy, and he exclaimed: “The Christian fleet is victorious.”⁴ After human agencies verified the news two weeks later, Pius V added the Feast of the Holy Rosary to the Church calendar and the invocation *Auxilium Christianorum* to the Litany of Our Lady, since the victory was due to her intercession. ■

Notes:

1. C. M. Antony Woodcock, *Saint Pius V: Pope of the Rosary*, (New York, 1911), 77.
2. For a complete and accurate account of the difficulties, see Ludwig von Pastor, *History of the Popes*, (St. Louis, 1929), Vol. XVIII.
3. Fr. Luis Coloma, *Story of Don John of Austria*, (London, 1913), 215.
4. Robin Anderson, *St. Pius V: His Life, Times and Miracles*, (Rockford, 1978), 78.



THE STORYTELLER

BY THOMAS RYDER

The masterful brush of Morgan Weistling has captured a soothing family scene from the past—a grandfather tells his stories to a group of attentive listeners around an old stone fireplace which emits light and warmth about the room.

The glow from the fire brightens the face of the storyteller and the children remain fixated on the story. So captivated is the older girl, that she holds her chin with her right hand, while the boy sitting near the fire grasps his cup with both hands and is careful to not miss a word. There is not an ounce of frenzy in the air. On the contrary, the atmosphere is one of serenity and calm, garnished with a sense of respect for the older generation. One could even venture to comment that the children's posture nearly betrays a sense of veneration for their grandfather.

Indeed, the painter has captured a moment of perfect harmony and joy in the life of these children.

One could further imagine, that upon bringing the story to a close, not without some protestation from the children, the grandfather will rise from his chair to bless each of the children before sending them off to bed.

The contrast between this scene and a modern TV room, with everyone mesmerized by the screen, is startling. One ambiance fits well with a lit fireplace, the other competes for attention with it. One is more personal, the other not so much. One is conducive to a deeper family bond, while the other actually inhibits the growth of personal relationships.

There is something in the human soul which is only fulfilled by direct contact with other human beings. People never tire of going out with friends, while the Zoom world has quickly become dull.

For myself, I would like nothing better than to step into Weistling's painting and quietly take up my spot among those children. ■