

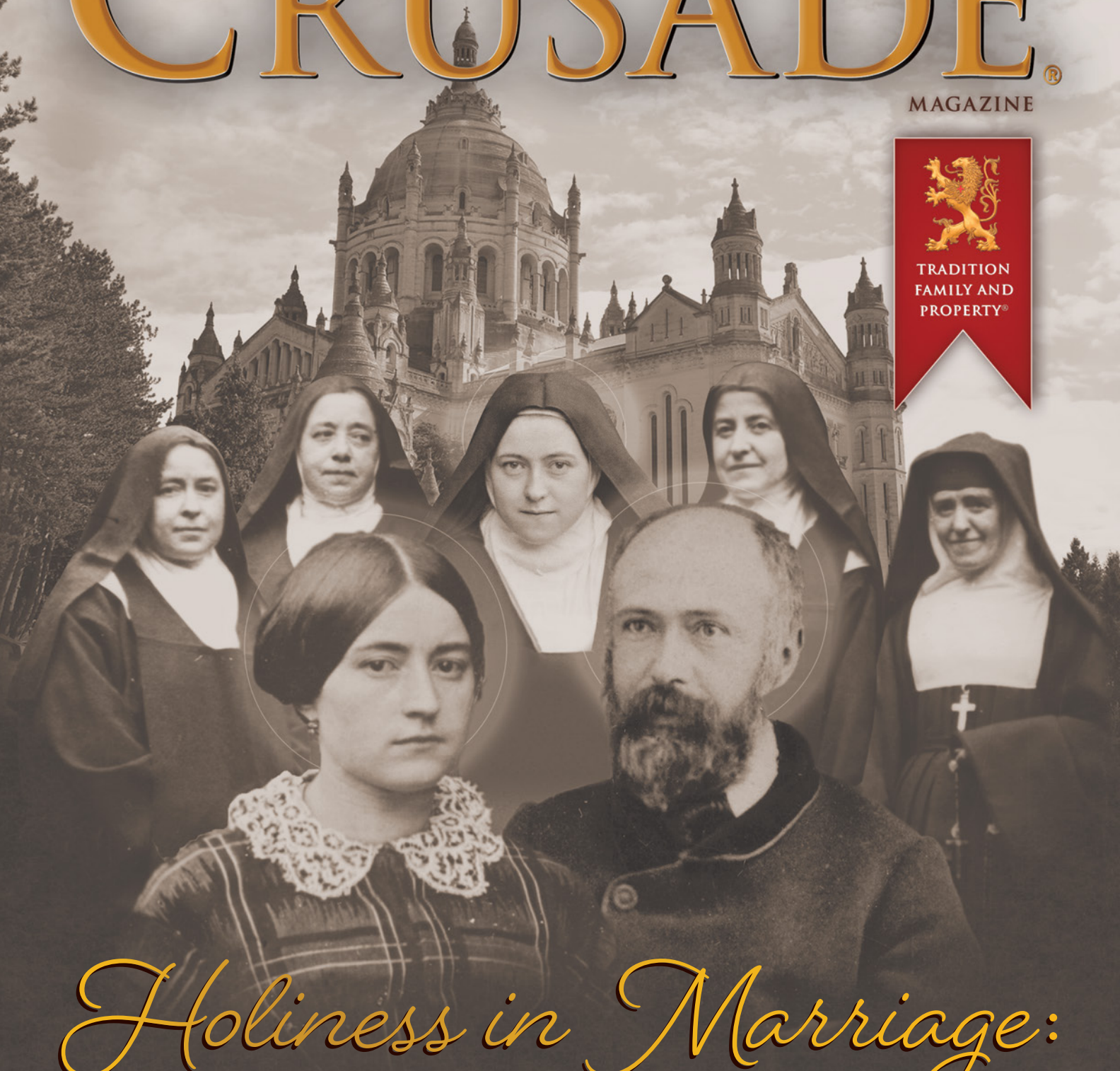
July/August 2024

CRUSADE[®]

MAGAZINE

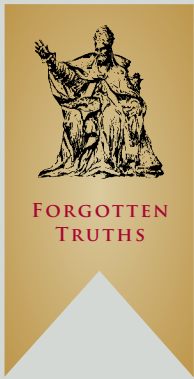


TRADITION
FAMILY AND
PROPERTY[®]



Holiness in Marriage:

THE LIFE OF LOUIS
AND ZÉLIE MARTIN



Like Lions Breathing Fire

BY SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Saint John Chrysostom (347-407) is considered the greatest of the Greek Fathers and was proclaimed Doctor of the Church. He was given the title “golden mouthed” because of his great oratorical ability and sermons. For those who receive Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist, he offers the following words:

“Wherefore this also Christ has done, to lead us to a closer friendship, and to show His love for us; He has given to those who desire Him not only to see Him, but even to touch, and eat Him, and fix their teeth in His flesh, and to embrace Him, and satisfy all their love.

“Let us then return from that table like lions breathing fire, having become terrible to the devil; thinking on our Head, and on the love which He has shown for us.

“Parents often entrust their offspring to others to feed; but I, says He, do not so, I feed you with My own flesh, desiring that you all be nobly born, and holding forth to you good hopes for the future. For He who gives out Himself to you here, much more will do so hereafter.



Through the Holy Eucharist, Our Lord Jesus Christ fulfills His promise that “I will remain with you always, even to the ends of the earth” (Matt 28:20).

“I have willed to become your Brother, for your sake I shared in flesh and blood, and in turn I give out to you the flesh and the blood by which I became your kinsman.

“This blood causes the image of our King to be fresh within us, produces beauty unspeakable, permits not the nobleness of our souls to waste away, watering it continually, and nourishing it. The blood derived from our food becomes not at once blood, but something else; while this does not so, but straightway waters our souls, and works in them some mighty power.

“This blood, if rightly taken, drives away devils, and keeps them afar off from us, while it calls to us Angels and the Lord of Angels. For wherever they see the Lord’s blood, devils flee, and Angels run together.” ■

Taken from “Homily 46 on the Gospel of Saint John.”

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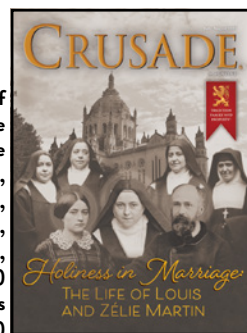
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The basilica of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux in Lisieux, France and the Martin family: Sr. Geneviève of the Holy Face and Saint Teresa, Sr. Marie of the Sacred Heart, Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Mother Agnes of Jesus, Sr. Françoise-Thérèse (background) and Saints Zélie and Louis (foreground)



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Adults must strive to see the likeness of Christ dwelling in each baptized soul



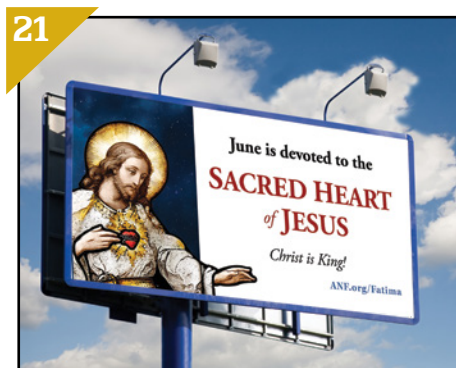
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National divorce — a solution that always ends badly



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The Candlelight Vigil Procession in Fatima, Portugal, on the 107th Anniversary of Our Lady's first apparition to the three shepherd children



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Billboards like this one reclaim June as the month of the Sacred Heart across America

CRUSADE

Editor: Michael Gorre

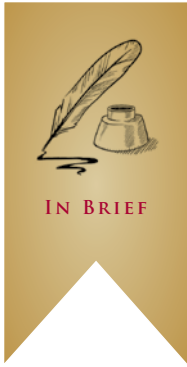
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THE AMERICAN TFP

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.



More Catholic Converts Reported This Year

According to a *National Catholic Register* report, Easter 2024 brought a bountiful harvest for the Catholic Church across the United States.

Numerous dioceses reported significant increases in the number of converts, such as the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, which experienced a remarkable 72% increase in converts compared to Easter 2023. Several other dioceses witnessed notable increases, such as the Diocese of Marquette, Michigan, seeing a 70% rise, and the Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa, experiencing an 87% increase. Many attributed the upswing to factors such as a spiritual hunger within society.

Florida Will Not Comply with Federal Rule That Supports “Woke” Ideology in Schools

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, a Republican, has announced that Florida will not comply with the Biden administration’s recently finalized rule expanding Title IX protections to include sexual orientation and gender identity. DeSantis, known for his stance against “woke” ideology and LGBT indoctrination in schools, declared that Florida will not allow the federal government to rewrite Title IX. Education Commissioner Manny Diaz Jr. issued a directive to school superintendents, instructing them not to implement any changes based on the new rule. Attorney General Ashley Moody confirmed that her office plans to challenge the rule in court, citing concerns about its impact on women’s protection and privacy. Florida’s response reflects a commitment to parental rights, student safety and upholding state education laws.

Survey Confirms Conservatives Happier Than Liberals

America has recently fallen in global happiness rankings, with Gallup reporting a drop from fifteenth to

twenty-third place in just one year. Surveys indicate that certain groups, such as liberals and younger Americans, are experiencing greater unhappiness compared to others. The happiness gap between conservatives and liberals has long been observed, with liberals consistently reporting higher rates of mental illness. Factors contributing to this disparity include ideological differences, the rise of depression among young people starting in 2012 and the influence of social media.

Pro-life Laws Drive Abortion Facilities Farther Away from Abortion-Seekers

Recent data reveals that due to the enforcement of pro-life laws, millions of American women of reproductive age now live over 200 miles away from the nearest abortion facility. As state Supreme Courts uphold laws restricting abortions, such as Florida’s six-week ban, access to abortion becomes increasingly challenging for women, often requiring lengthy drives to neighboring states. Studies confirm that greater distance to abortion facilities leads to reduced and delayed access to abortion, highlighting the impact of pro-life laws in saving lives.

Tinkering with Nature Could Cause Catastrophic Consequences

In Dubai, heavy rainfall, reportedly the heaviest in seventy-five years, resulted in devastating floods and dozens of deaths following cloud-seeding missions aimed at increasing precipitation. Despite initial acknowledgment by a government meteorologist of the role of geoengineering efforts in the extreme weather, subsequent denials by the government task force responsible for cloud-seeding missions have led to speculation about the true cause, with some blaming “climate change” instead. Meanwhile, in California, researchers from the University of Washington conducted a controversial experiment aboard a decommissioned aircraft carrier to test cloud-brightening techniques to reflect sunlight and cool the earth’s climate. While proponents argue that such methods could

mitigate global warming, critics raise concerns about potential unintended consequences, such as altering precipitation patterns and exacerbating extreme weather events.

Mass Attendance in Italy Falls to Ten Percent

A study by Professor Luca Diotallevi of the University of Rome reveals the drastic decline in the Catholic faith in Italy, with Mass attendance plummeting to as low as 10% of the population in some areas. Professor Diotallevi’s study highlights this decline over the past three decades, attributing it to various factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic. One significant finding is the increasing abandonment of the faith by Italian women, historically seen as pillars of the parish, which could have profound implications for future generations. Additionally, there is a decline in the return to faith among the elderly. Diotallevi suggests liturgical abuses and scandals within the Church, including moral and financial issues, contribute to this decline. He predicts that unless addressed, Italy may soon see Catholicism reduced to single-digit participation rates.

Idaho to Enforce Ban on Sex-Change Procedures for Transgender Minors

In a recent development, the U.S. Supreme Court has given the go-ahead to Idaho to enforce its ban on sex-change procedures for transgender youths. The decision came after a lower court initially blocked the implementation of Idaho’s Vulnerable Child Protection Act (VCPA), which was designed to prohibit medical interventions like puberty blockers, hormones and surgeries for minors with gender dysphoria. The VCPA has faced legal challenges from two transgender-identifying girls and their families, who argued that the law would deny necessary medical care and infringe upon their rights. Idaho Attorney General Raul Labrador welcomed the decision, emphasizing the state’s duty to protect all children and ensure they receive care rooted in biological reality. ■



CHRIST IN
THE HOME

What It Means to Love Children Enough

BY FR. RAOUL PLUS, S.J.



It is essential to love children enough:

1. To be willing to have them;
2. To be able to endure their demands;
3. To be able to supernaturalize one's love for them.

To Be Willing to Have Them

I meditated on this point when I considered the law of fecundity and charity in marriage.

To Be Able to Endure Their Demands

Very little children have no defense and no power. Someone must always come to their assistance. Happy those who can guess these needs of theirs. Mothers generally know the secret of that. But just the same, the baby will cry, become restless and set up a howl. Every baby in the cradle is a revolutionary in the bud; the best-established customs ought to give way to his whims, or so he thinks, and if his desires are not obeyed, he storms and puts the house in an uproar.

Furthermore, the child is born cunning. He finds out very quickly the best ways to get what he wants, not through reasoning but intuition. Such an action, such an attitude produces the desired result; the opposite way of acting does not work. No limpid logic can be found anywhere, nor any transparent pride. He knows himself to be the center of the household and is not ashamed to act the part. He is a monarch. Papa and mamma, brothers, sisters and all the other members of the

household make up his court, each one dancing attendance to his thirty-six wills.

Furthermore, he distributes as rewards the favor of his broad smiles. Later, he will have to play, jump about and run; breaking things will be a delight; sitting still and listening to a story will also be fun. The little girl will be occupied with the care of her doll, and if her elders have bought her a doll that says papa, mamma, they need to expect to hear nothing else all day! The little boy will play soldier or train, or if he receives a drum or whistle for Christmas, the household will be well aware of it!

*Be alert to know
what might harm
[children] not only in
what concerns their
body but also in
what might even
remotely concern
their soul.*

Parents should take serenely and, as a matter of course, the baby's pranks and outbursts, working at the same time toward a wise training, the prelude of a wise education. They should expect their growing children to make noise, to be curious, to want to touch everything; furthermore, they need not feel constantly

obliged to put a damper on their romping and their noise; whenever and wherever it is necessary, they ought to explain to the children what they may do and what they ought to avoid.

To Be Able to Supernaturalize One's Love for Them

Parents should strive to love their children not only because of their natural charm but for higher and truly divine reasons. "I love my children so much," parents say as if they were vying with one another; mothers especially are likely to talk like that. It makes one want to warn them, "If only you could love them a little less but love them a little better." Or rather, since we never love too much but badly, "Love them as much as you wish but for their sakes, not for your own."

For their sakes: Therefore, do not give in to all their caprices; do not try to spare them every effort; do not treat them as little idols nor teach them pride and vanity even from their earliest years. For their sakes: Therefore, be alert to know what might harm them not only in what concerns their body but also in what might even remotely concern their soul. For their sakes: Therefore, try to discover behind the human silhouette of each of these baptized souls the Holy Trinity dwelling within them and the likeness of Christ; do not rest satisfied until all your training and education is directed to make of them truly holy tabernacles of the Most High and authentic continuations of Christ. ■



Why National Divorce Is a Horrible Idea that Will Destroy America

BY JOHN HORVAT II

Some traditional-minded Americans use a horrible metaphor to describe an outcome they desire for the nation. The metaphor is divorce, and the outcome is a separation of a State from the American Union.

Proposing a national divorce is like demanding a figurative abortion for some unwanted social problem. Divorce and abortion are never solutions, literally or metaphorically. They will always end badly. The children (real and figurative) will always suffer.

However, this attitude reflects a spirit of desperation at the present state of affairs. One immediate catalyst for this call is the federal government's ideological dereliction of duty for failing to protect the border states from an invasion of illegal immigrants.

Other states also complain about desperate situations that call for dramatic action, whether it be socialist legislation, abortion, ecological regulations and classroom indoctrination. People desperately want out of these situations and now clamor for divorce.

The Call to Separation

Liberals inside the federal government and society seem to be doing everything possible to encourage outrage and separation. They definitely

stand to benefit.

A national divorce would help the left in the deadlock of the country's stalled cultural war by taking conservatives out of the national debate. It would let conservatives shatter the national institutions that liberals have been unable to fully control. Vast sections of the nation would be handed over to liberals without a fight in the process of a division.

Thus, as liberals provoke, some desperate conservatives are taking the bait.

What is happening in America today is a spectacular clash where each one's pursuit of happiness now comes at the expense of the other.

Solutions That Always End Badly

Activists like the recently divorced Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene say Texas and other states similarly treated should secure a national divorce from America. They say it need not be a nasty affair but an amiable, no-fault divorce settlement, agreeing to part ways and divide assets.



In 1850 Sam Houston proclaimed: "A nation divided against itself cannot stand."

Let the other states do what they will and even destroy themselves. The red states (and later counties or cities) will stay red and determine their separate destinies.

The calls for separation and secession are growing as Americans find it ever more difficult to live together in peace. Indeed, five million people have migrated from one state to another in one of the largest population displacements in American history.

Walking Away from the Problem

The call for an amicable divorce appeals to a mindset that refuses to delve deeply into problems. It reflects today's throw-away society, where anything can be discarded at will. When a relationship goes wrong, one can simply walk away from it and try again with someone else.

The divorce solution springs from a liberal society where the goals of life are to maximize pleasure and minimize suffering. The minute suffering or sacrifice enters into the picture, the tendency is to flee and find new pleasures.

The national divorce promoters believe the same can be done with states or nations. When the national scene becomes afflictive and works against the individual's

interest, it is time to separate rather than confront the problems.

Such a selfish decision refuses to make a moral judgment about whether something is right or wrong and, instead, simply effect an escape. Such individuals do not care how others live and its impact upon all society as long as they can continue their lives unimpeded.

A Commercial Relationship

To many Americans who hold this secession position, the notion of a national union is almost a commercial one. Heavily influenced by the Enlightenment's individualistic thought, this sector of the public has long seen the bond of citizenship like that of a shareholder or co-op member.

Under such an arrangement, everyone is full of patriotic enthusiasm when things prosper. However, resentment, entitlement and rancor enter in times of crisis. Then, people look for handouts rather than solutions. No one is willing to sacrifice for others.

A Pervasive Mentality

This selfish, co-op mentality affects both the left and right. Both share the liberal conviction that everything, including government, exists only for the individual's pleasure and self-interest.

It is a regime where all pleasures are judged equal. The freedom (or license) to pursue one's pleasure is more important than the actual goal. For conservatives, pleasure often means the practice of virtues that favor material benefits. For others, pleasure consists of gratifying the darkest passions.

What is happening in America today is a spectacular clash where each one's pursuit of happiness now comes at the expense of the other. The only way each can seek ever more consuming pleasures is by shattering America, freeing her from the restraints of past orthodoxies.

Reframing the Debate

This disconnect is what is wrong with the national divorce solution. It consists of letting all parties, left and right, pursue their different sets of pleasures separately.



To call down God's blessings on our nation, the American family must return to a Christ-centered, community-based society.

It fights liberalism with more liberalism. Everyone enlists under the same liberal banner of gratifications—some judged good and others wrong.

There is no concern for the common good. There is no objective notion of good or evil. Thus, society disintegrates since no unifying principles and morals exist to hold things together.

As long as the debate is framed this way, there will be no restoration of a moral order but only an ever-growing descent into chaos.

*America must turn to
that family-centered,
community-based
society that is
anchored in God
and a morality based
on His law.*

The Fiction of Liberal Liberty

The liberal paradigm of each seeking pleasure lies at the foundation of modernity. However, it has always been a fiction. The liberal regime has never been about allowing individuals to do what they want. It is always about destroying the obstacles that prevent people from doing what their unbridled passions desire.

The Real Target Is Christian Civilization

The target of the liberal left is what little remains of Christian civilization and its moral structures, whether it be the Catholic Church, morals, metaphysics, identity, sex, pronouns, borders, language or linear logic. These daily reminders of a Christian order must be eradicated.

What better way to accomplish this task than to have conservatives shatter the political unity of those fighting the culture war on a national scale and ghettoize the reaction into separatist enclaves?

Reframing the Debate

This debate must be reframed to reflect the real fight. It must consist of the defense of those perennial values that Russell Kirk called the "permanent things," those norms of courage, duty, honor, justice and charity that owe their existence and authority to something higher than pleasures or self-interest—indeed to a transcendent God.

Americans must challenge the false paradigm that life's purpose is to maximize pleasure and minimize suffering inside a shareholder, co-op model of society.

America must turn to that family-centered, community-based society that is anchored in God and a morality based on His law. Now is the time to gather the nation around unifying principles, not shatter it into millions of individualistic shards. ■



Holiness in Marriage: THE LIFE OF LOUIS AND ZÉLIE MARTIN

BY VINCENT GORRE

In a world marked by so much turmoil and uncertainty, many may be tempted to ask if it is possible to live out a holy and happy marriage. The answer is found in the lives of Louis Martin and Zélie Guérin, two individuals who lived in nineteenth-century France. Their lives serve as an excellent example of how virtue, practiced as individuals, husband and wife, and father and mother, can result not only in a holy and happy marriage, but also in role models of pure sanctity worthy of emulation.

Today's Role Models for Marriage and Family

Good principles are powerful motives needed to enkindle men's courage; however, living examples possess a different kind of power. They embody principles, making them tangible and real, thereby dismissing cowardice through demonstration. Saint Augustine's timeless contemplation echoes: "Can I not achieve what these individuals accomplished?"

The story of Louis and Zélie Martin stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration for today's and tomorrow's generations. As the first married couple

in history to be canonized together as saints, theirs is a tale of profound faith, unwavering love and a commitment to holiness within the sacred bond of marriage. Through life's difficulties, they remained steadfast in their devotion to each other and to God, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire generations.

The call to holiness and perfection applies to every baptized Catholic, whether married or consecrated to God in virginal celibacy. Interestingly, Louis Martin and Zélie Guérin's first aspirations were to turn toward the religious life, where perhaps they believed they would grow more quickly in holiness. But instead, their vocations lay within the sacrament of marriage;

The story of Louis and Zélie Martin stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration for today's and tomorrow's generations.

that is how God desired them to grow in holiness. Divine Providence provided in this couple a much-needed role model for the institution of marriage and its fruit, the family.

The Early Days and Vocations

Louis-Joseph-Aloys-Stanislaus Martin, born on August 22, 1823, in Bordeaux, France, was the third child of Pierre Francois Martin, a soldier who later became a captain. Pierre Francois Martin married Marie-Anne-Fanny on April 7, 1818.

Captain Martin instilled a strong faith in his children, particularly in Louis, through a solid Christian upbringing. Influenced by his father's piety, Louis acquired genuine devotion and a love for French literature. He also showed talent in drawing and painting during his youth. From 1842 to 1843, Louis learned the watchmaker's trade in Rennes and furthered his skills in Strasbourg. After an unsuccessful attempt at seclusion in a Swiss monastery, Louis pursued his training in clockmaking and the goldsmith's trade in Paris. Then, he returned to Alençon to establish his own watchmaker's shop.



The watchmaker's shop in Alençon owned by Saint Louis Martin where he worked to provide for his family.

Marie-Azélie Guérin, known simply as Zélie, was born on December 23, 1831, in Gandelain, the second child of Isidore Guérin, a gendarme, and Louise Jeanne Mace. Zélie's mother was strict with her and favored her brother Isidore, but Zélie found solace in her close bond with her sister, Marie. Educated by the Sisters in Alençon, Zélie's delicate health and persistent migraines shaped her early years.

Despite her devout faith, Zélie's mother struggled to understand her daughter's sensitivities and melancholic nature. Yearning for a cloistered life like her sister, who joined the Visitation Convent, Zélie sought entry into the Daughters of Charity but faced rejection due to her health. Accepting God's will, she prayed for a fruitful marriage and envisioned her children dedicated to Him.

Facing financial constraints at home, Zélie

pursued lace-making skills learned from the nuns to support herself. She established her own lace-making business in 1853 and soon became a sought-after lacemaker in Alençon.

Shortly after parting ways with her sister Marie, Zélie Guérin found herself considering a marriage proposal. The wife of retired Captain Pierre Martin hoped that her son Louis, a thirty-five-year-old watchmaker in Alençon, would settle down. Intrigued by Zélie's virtues, Madame Martin envisioned her as a suitable match for Louis.

Married Life

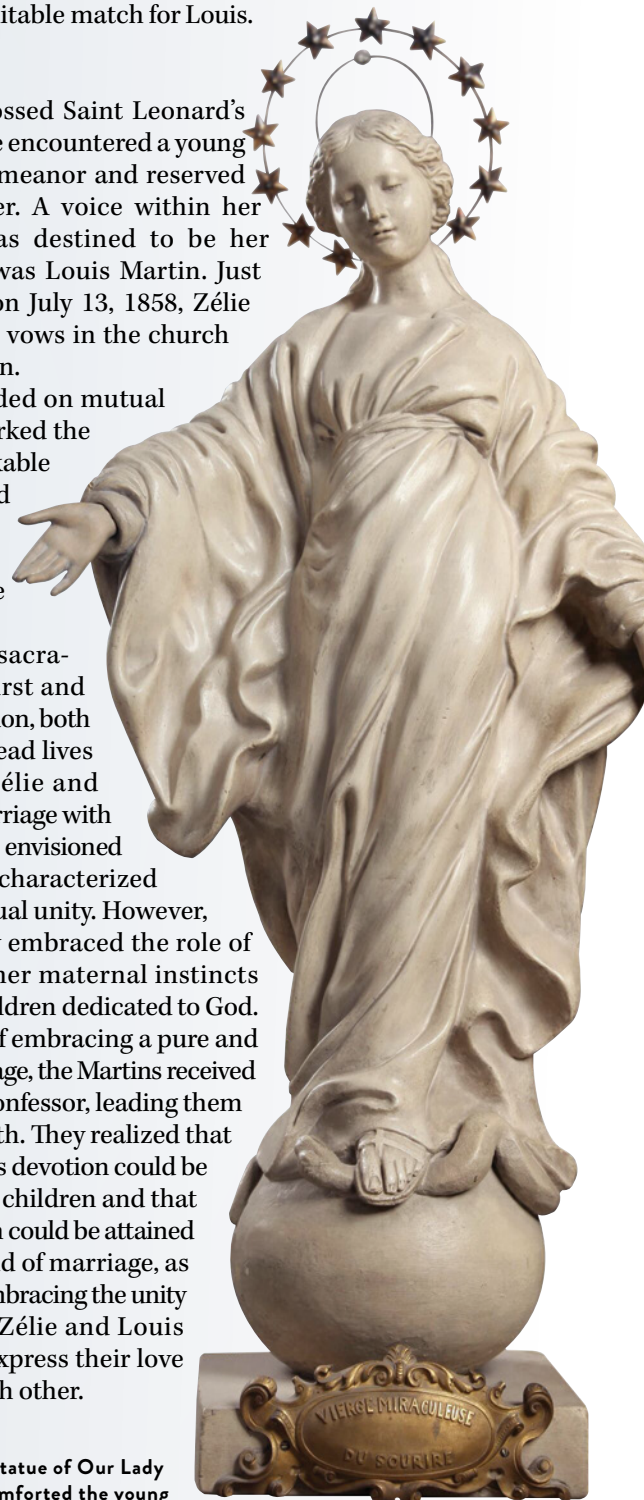
One day, as Zélie crossed Saint Leonard's Bridge in Alençon, she encountered a young man whose noble demeanor and reserved charm captivated her. A voice within her affirmed that he was destined to be her husband. This man was Louis Martin. Just three months later, on July 13, 1858, Zélie and Louis exchanged vows in the church of Our Lady in Alençon.

Their union, founded on mutual respect and faith, marked the beginning of a remarkable journey for Zélie and Louis Martin as they embarked on the path of marriage and parenthood.

Recognizing that sacramental marriage is first and foremost a spiritual union, both initially intended to lead lives dedicated to God. Zélie and Louis entered into marriage with noble intentions. Louis envisioned a Josephite marriage characterized by celibacy and spiritual unity. However, Zélie wholeheartedly embraced the role of a mother, driven by her maternal instincts and desire to raise children dedicated to God.

After ten months of embracing a pure and chaste Josephite marriage, the Martins received wise counsel from a confessor, leading them to reconsider their path. They realized that their dream of religious devotion could be fulfilled through their children and that holiness and perfection could be attained within the sacred bond of marriage, as designed by God. By embracing the unity of marital intimacy, Zélie and Louis found a new way to express their love and dedication to each other.

The miraculous statue of Our Lady that comforted the young Saint Thérèse in her illness.



Marie-Azélie Guérin married Louis Martin and together they raised their children in an atmosphere rich in Catholic tradition and devotion.



The Martins believed they could continue their spiritual journey together by nurturing and raising children who sought to glorify God. Their decision to expand their family became a testament to their faith in God's plan for them.

With God's grace, Louis and Zélie welcomed nine children into their lives, each a precious gift and a reflection of their deep bond. From the cradle, all were dedicated to Mary Immaculate, and all received her name:

- **Marie Louise** (February 22, 1860–January 19, 1940)
- **Marie Pauline** (September 7, 1861–July 28, 1951)
- **Marie Léonie** (June 3, 1863–June 16, 1941)
- **Marie Hélène** (October 3, 1864–February 22, 1870)
- **Marie Joseph Louis** (September 20, 1866–February 14, 1867)
- **Marie Joseph Jean Baptiste** (December 19, 1867–August 24, 1868)
- **Marie Céline** (April 28, 1869–February 25, 1959)
- **Marie Mélanie Thérèse** (August 16, 1870–October 8, 1870)
- **Marie Françoise Thérèse** (January 12, 1873–September 30, 1897)

Five of Louis and Zélie's nine children found their calling in religious life. Four daughters entered the Carmel of Lisieux: Marie Louise as Sister Marie of the Sacred Heart, Marie Pauline as Sister

The home where the Martin family lived and Saint Zélie had her lace shop. Today the home is called The Louis and Zélie Shrine with the mission of restoring the ideal of Christian marriage through the example of these two great saints.

Agnes of Jesus, Marie Céline as Sister Geneviève of the Holy Face and Marie Françoise Thérèse as Sister Thérèse of the Child Jesus. Another daughter, Marie Léonie, joined the Visitation convent in Caen as Sister Françoise Thérèse. Though the Martins had hoped for priestly vocations among their children, they instead received the gift of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, who devoted her life to prayer and sacrifice for priests and missionaries.

While raising their children, Louis and Zélie were esteemed in Alençon for their impeccable reputation. Despite their comfortable lifestyle as members of the upper middle class, the Martins lived modestly and prioritized generosity towards those in need. Their strong religious foundation rested on three core values: love of God above all, trust in Divine Providence and acceptance of God's will.

Louis Martin found solace in occasional retreats to the tranquil atmosphere of Mortagne and sought spiritual rejuvenation at the Trappist monastery. Zélie frequented the Poor Clares convent in Alençon and embraced membership in the Franciscan third order. Their home, adorned with a statue of Our Lady, was a sanctuary where daily prayers were offered, especially during the month of May. The couple cherished the *Lives of the Saints* as their favorite book, shaping their lives around the teachings and examples of holy figures.

Most importantly, the couple made Mass attendance a central part of their daily routine. Their devotion to their parish was unwavering, with their day starting early at 5:30 am for church services. As Céline recalls, her parents left the house early, so much so that the neighbors used to say at the sound of the closing door: "That is the holy Martin couple going to Mass, let us sleep some more!" Religious celebrations held





The Martin home was a blessed sanctuary where Jesus Christ reigned as its head and Mother Mary its heart.

a profound significance for the Martins, fulfilling a deep spiritual need within their hearts.

Family Life

Louis and Zélie Martin instilled a sense of compassion and service within their family. Louis supported Zélie's charitable visits to the poor and needy, ensuring that those in distress received comfort and aid. Zélie's dedication extended to spiritual needs, ensuring the dying received the last sacraments. As a member of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Louis also actively engaged in charitable work, setting a high standard of generosity and kindness in their community.

Within their household, the Martins treated their domestic help with kindness and respect, considering them a part of their family. Zélie, in particular, took great care to ensure their well-being, never overworking them and often working alongside them to lighten their load.

The remarkable unity and harmony of the couple extended to their children. Their home was a sanctuary where Jesus Christ reigned supreme, guiding their actions and shaping their relationships. Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus fondly recalled the blessed days of her childhood, where love and innocence flourished under the watchful care of the Lord. When they were young, both Céline and Thérèse would kneel at their mother's feet and recite after her each prayer she spoke aloud.

Madame Martin was a firm but loving mother who instilled discipline and good habits in her daughters. She seized every opportunity, no matter how small, to teach them self-control, generosity and a sense of duty. The family strictly observed days of fasting and abstinence. By guiding her daughters away from frivolous desires and towards a conscientious fulfillment of their responsibilities, she prepared them for the challenges of life ahead.

Within this nurturing environment, five of the Martin children found their calling in religious life, each answering the divine call uniquely. The sanctity achieved by the youngest child was so profound that the Church later recognized and celebrated it.

As the eldest daughter reached adolescence, Zélie wasted no time imparting essential life skills to her, knowing that her time on earth was limited. Sensing her impending departure, she entrusted her daughter with the responsibilities of managing the household. Zélie's foresight and dedication to her children's upbringing ensured they were equipped with the virtues and skills necessary to navigate the complexities of life with grace and fortitude.

Facing Life's Challenges

Raising her children was a labor of love for Madame Martin, even amidst challenges, such as the early death of several children. There was also the challenge of her daughter Léonie's rebellious nature. Despite Léonie's difficult temperament, Madame Martin remained steadfast, refusing to be disheartened. The youngest daughter, Thérèse, who would later become a saint, was at risk of being spoiled if not for the vigilant guidance of her parents. Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus acknowledged the pivotal role her virtuous upbringing played in shaping her character, recognizing that without it, she may have strayed from the path of righteousness.

In 1865, Madame Martin was diagnosed with breast cancer, a battle she faced with grace and fortitude. Over the next eleven years, as her health deteriorated, she continued to care for her children. Despite the loss of her sister and the premature deaths of her sons and another child, Madame Martin remained resilient, finding solace in her faith and her pilgrimage to Lourdes, though healing eluded her.



Saint Thérèse Speaks of Saint Louis Martin at Holy Mass

“I really did listen attentively [at Mass], but I must
T own I looked at Papa more than at the preacher, for I read many things in his face. Sometimes his eyes were filled with tears which he strove in vain to keep back; and as he listened to the eternal truths he seemed no longer of this earth, his soul was absorbed in the thought of another world. Alas! Many long and sorrowful years had to pass before Heaven was to be opened to him, and Our Lord with His Own Divine Hand was to wipe away the bitter tears of His faithful servant.”

Taken from: Soeur Thérèse of Lisieux, *The Little Flower of Jesus, An Autobiography*, p. 36. Originally published at Christmas, 1912.



The heroic Saint Zélie Martin endured an eleven-year battle with breast cancer, finally succumbing on August 28, 1877, while her children were still young.

Even as her illness progressed, Madame Martin remained the pillar of strength in her home, shouldering the responsibilities of the household with unwavering dedication. Her faith sustained her through her final days of suffering, and on August 28, 1877, she peacefully passed away at the age of forty-five. Recognized by many as a saint, including her husband, Madame Martin's legacy of love, faith and selflessness endured long after her earthly journey ended.

Life as a Widower

After Madame Martin's passing, Monsieur Louis Martin, now a widower, relocated to Lisieux on November 15, 1877. He settled in the charming villa "Les Buissonnets" to be closer to his brother-in-law, Isidore Guérin, a pharmacist. Retiring from his watchmaking profession, Monsieur Martin focused his attention on caring for his daughters, becoming the steward of their household and setting the tone for their family life. Known for his strict adherence to order and cleanliness, he diligently managed the household affairs.

In Lisieux, much like in Alençon, the household staff were considered part of the family, and Monsieur Martin treated them with kindness and respect. While maintaining a firm demeanor with his daughters, he showered them with extraordinary tenderness and love. As his older daughters completed their education in Le Mans, the younger ones were entrusted to the care of the Benedictine nuns in Lisieux.

Throughout his time in Lisieux, Monsieur Martin continued to embody a life of prayer and practical charity, rarely venturing outside except for leisurely walks and occasional outings. His deep faith and commitment to charity were evident in his daily routine, which included attending Mass at the Cathedral of Saint-Pierre. He received Holy Communion regularly and visited the Blessed Sacrament daily. Known for his Norman thriftiness in financial matters, Monsieur Martin displayed remarkable generosity towards those in need, earning the admiration of his community for his piety and charity.

The daughters of Monsieur Martin gradually embraced religious life at the Carmel of

Lisieux, one after the other. Pauline was the first to enter on October 2, 1882, followed by Marie-Louise on October 18, 1886. Despite being very young, Thérèse also felt called to religious life, and her father, though reluctant to part with his "little queen," bravely consented to her joining the convent. In a touching gesture, he accompanied Thérèse and Céline on a pilgrimage to Rome to seek permission from Pope Leo XIII, which led to Thérèse's entry into the Carmel on April 9, 1888.

Léonie, the "difficult" daughter, faced challenges finding her place before eventually joining the Sisters of the Visitation as Sister Françoise Thérèse on January 28, 1899. Only Céline remained at home, but she too expressed her desire to become a Carmelite. Monsieur Martin, acknowledging the honor bestowed upon his family by God, accompanied Céline to offer thanks before the Blessed Sacrament, embracing the path chosen by all his daughters to serve as brides of Christ.

Despite the perceived emptiness left by his daughters' departures, Monsieur Martin viewed their religious vocations as a great honor, even amidst his declining health. While some may see his sacrifices as challenging, he saw them as a tribute to the divine calling of his children.

Louis Martin, who previously enjoyed robust health, suffered a debilitating stroke in May 1887, leading to subsequent strokes and brain damage. His condition worsened, causing memory loss, hallucinations and a desire for solitude. After being cared for at an institution in Caen for three years, he returned to Lisieux in 1892 under the loving care of his daughter Céline. Louis passed away on July 29, 1894, at the age of seventy-one, after receiving the last sacraments.

Following her father's passing, Céline entered the Carmel in Lisieux on September 14, 1894, taking the name Sister Geneviève of the Holy Face and of Saint Teresa.



Saint Louis Martin surrounded by his daughter Céline (left), the Le Juifs (center, rear) who served in the Martin household and his daughter Léonie (right). He spent his final years at 7 Rue Labbey, Lisieux.



The famous Les Buissonnets ("little bush") to which Saint Louis retired with his five daughters after the death of his devoted wife in 1877.

Achieving Holiness in Marriage

Although they lived decades ago, Saints Louis and Zélie Martin beautifully illustrate that holiness in marriage is very much attainable. Just as couples today must face many difficulties, so did Louis and Zélie endure many of their own in their nineteen years of marriage. Yet, they always maintained their faith in God and acceptance of His Will. Their strong religious belief made their marriage a permanent connection to Christ's suffering on the cross. They did not expect perfection or

romance at all times. They believed that relying on the cross would help them handle their daily struggles in marriage.

Without Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, there would be no Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus. Their saintly virtues inspired saintliness in their daughters. It is no wonder "the greatest saint of modern times," as Pope Saint Pius X called Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, said: "The good God gave me a father and mother more worthy of Heaven than of earth."

Louis and Zélie Martin were canonized together as a couple on October 18, 2015. Saint Thérèse, the youngest daughter, was declared Doctor of the Universal Church on October 19, 1997. Another daughter, Léonie Martin, the third child who was considered a "black sheep" in her family, is on the path to sainthood and has been declared a Servant of God.

Role models such as the Martins are needed now more than ever to restore Christian marriages and families and, through them, our decadent modern society. May their legacy of true love, devotion and heroic virtue continue to inspire future generations. ■

The images in this article are supplied by <https://archives.carmeldelisieux.fr/en/>.



What Is Culture: All That Enhances the Human Mind

People answer this question in many different ways. Some are inspired by philology, others by all kinds of philosophical and social systems. So many contradictions have arisen around defining culture, and the related word "civilization" gives rise to so many contradictions that international congresses of scholars and professors have met especially to discuss their meaning. After so much discussion, it often happens that no agreement is reached.

In this short lecture, we cannot address the theses and arguments of the various currents. Nor can we expound and justify our thesis and then focus on Catholic culture. However, we can seriously consider the countless meanings of the word "culture" as expressed by peoples, social classes and schools of thought and show what they have in common. Thus, one basic and invariable element of the notion of "culture" is that it always involves the improvement of the human mind.



Reading is measured not in quantity, but the quality of the books read.

At the heart of this improvement is the idea that every human mind has qualities susceptible to being developed and defects liable to being curtailed. Therefore, improvement has two aspects: a positive one, growing what is good, and a negative one, pruning what is bad.

This principle unites the many current ways of thinking and feeling about culture. Thus, we all agree that a university,



Education only improves the mind to the fullest extent possible when followed by profound assimilation resulting from accurate reflection.

music conservatory or theater school are cultural institutions. We can even extend this to clubs dedicated to chess or stamp collecting. All these entities or social groups aim directly or indirectly at improving people's minds.

Likewise, we can imagine a university or other cultural institution that works against culture when it acts to deform minds due to its errors.

For example, certain schools are driven by an exaggerated enthusiasm for technology to the point of instilling contempt for all things philosophical or artistic. A person thus educated adores mechanics as a supreme value, making it the soul's only sphere of interest. A student who denies all certainty not based on the laboratory evidence and contemptuously rejects all things beautiful undoubtedly has a twisted mind.

Similarly deformed is someone driven by an immoderate philosophical appetite, which denies any value to music, art, poetry or more modest activities that also require intelligence and culture such as mechanics.

We can say that universities that form their students with such false guidelines promote anti-cultural action or a fake culture.

Fencing, for example, is recognized as an exercise of some cultural value because it presupposes physical dexterity, vivacity and elegance. However, common sense is unwilling to acknowledge the cultural character of boxing, which has something demeaning for the mind as it targets the face with massive and brutal blows. Current language includes improving the soul in the notion of culture in all these senses and many others.

Culture and Education

At first glance, the distinction between education and culture is less clear as a general concept. However, analyzing things well, we see this distinction exists and rests on a solid foundation.

A person who reads a lot is said to be very cultured compared to another who reads little. Between two avid readers, the one who has read the most is presumed the most cultured.

Education aims to improve the mind. Thus, a person who reads more is also deemed more educated (except when there are reasons to the contrary). Thus, some people might err by inadvertently simplifying notions and considering culture as measured by the number of books read. That is blatantly wrong because reading is measured not in quantity, but the quality of the books read. It depends upon the traits of the readers and how they read.

In other words, reading can theoretically educate people by making them well-informed. Thus, a well-read and educated person may be informed of many facts or scientific, historical or artistic concepts. However, that same person may be much less cultured than one with a lesser informative background.

Thus, the distinction between education and culture becomes apparent. Education only improves the mind to the fullest extent possible when followed by profound assimilation resulting from accurate reflection. Accordingly, those who read little but assimilate a lot are better educated than those who read a lot but assimilate little. For example, a museum guide is generally very knowledgeable about the objects he shows visitors.

However, he is frequently not very cultured because he limits himself to memorizing information and does not try to assimilate it.

How to Acquire Culture

Everything we grasp with our senses or intellect affects the powers of the soul. We can free ourselves more, less, or even entirely from this effect depending on the case, but as such, each and everything we grasp tends to have an impact on us.

As we said, culture consists of positively cultivating those things that enhance the mind and negatively curbing those things that deform it.

Of course, reflection is the primary means of enhancing the mind. A man of culture must be a thinker far more than a bookworm or a living repository of facts, dates, names and texts. For this thinker, reality is the primary book he has before his eyes; he is his own most consulted author. Other authors and books are precious but subsidiary elements.

However, mere reflection is not enough. We are not pure spirits. By an affinity that is not just conventional, there is a link between the superior realities that we consider with our intellect and the colors, sounds, shapes and perfumes we grasp through our senses. Our cultural effort is only complete when, through the senses, we imbue our whole being with the values that our intellect has contemplated. Singing, poetry and art have precisely this purpose. Indeed, through an accurate and superior interplay with the beautiful (rightly understood, of course), the soul is fully imbued with truth and goodness. ■

The article above is taken from a 1954 lecture of Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira at the Jesuit Seminary of São Leopoldo, Brazil. It has been adapted slightly for publication.



AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA[®]

JULY/AUGUST 2024

PROGRESS REPORT

From the Desk of Robert Ritchie

Dear Soldier of Our Lady,

From the moment Our Lady of Fatima appeared to the three shepherd children, we have been reminded how precious children are in God's eyes. And when we send our children off to school, we trust their moral and physical well-being are being protected.

But not any longer. At schools and libraries across the country, our children face a grave and morally disfiguring threat. They are taken advantage of in places of learning by those who push books and teachings of disturbingly explicit themes including pornography, homosexuality, gender confusion and pro-abortion propaganda.

In this dire situation, I firmly believe there is hope—the hope that Our Lady promised at Fatima to those who pray and promote her Most Holy Rosary. And I know you believe in her Fatima message too! Our Lady is calling you to join her army, to take up your rosary and give public witness that you oppose the deliberate attack on the innocence of our children. With prayer and action, God will turn the tide.

You and I agree that innocent children should not be exposed to immoral and blasphemous content. That's why I'm asking you to lead a rosary rally in August to pray for an end to immoral teachings in our schools and libraries.

Sign up to host a rosary rally on any Saturday in August, at noon your local time. It's easy to do: just gather your friends, family and community members in a public place, and lead them in prayer. To help you have a successful rally, we will send you a banner, a special manual and other materials, completely free. It's easy to sign up: Just email Protest@TFP.org.

Our Lady will reward you for protecting the little ones who mean so much to her!



Sincerely,
In Jesus and Mary,

Robert E. Ritchie

Robert E. Ritchie,
Executive Director



TAKEN FROM ANF'S PUBLICATION, *BATTLELINES*



One Nation Under God! Catholics Reject Satanic Invocation

A large contingent of TFP-ANF friends and other supporters of the Catholic faith in Grand Rapids, Michigan, stood up to defend God against Satan and protest the nationally-publicized Satanic invocation at the Ottawa County Commission.

Rally Captain Teresa said she felt profound gratitude to be able to lead the rosary rally. Although the commission still allowed the Satanic invocation, she reported that the group packed the commission building foyer and held banners and signs while praying.

Teresa said, "While we were unhappy that Ottawa County still permitted the Satanist invocation, Our Lord provided us a small victory, as Mrs. Joan Saintz, one of our legacy members, was able to be first in line to enter the chamber board room. She created a sign that said 'My Jesus, Mercy,' which was plastered to the door of the board room before the invocation. The news crews grabbed a photo and now 'My Jesus, Mercy' is being said and read across the nation!"



Marching for Life in Maryland

TFP Student Action members took a bold stand in the fight against abortion when they participated in the Maryland March for Life.

The students held signs and banners that read "Pray and Act Against the Sin of Abortion" and "Let Their Hearts Beat" and distributed fliers. The TFP students also provided rousing patriotic music and a selection of Marian hymns with their pipes and drums.

TFP Student Action director John Ritchie said, "Abortion is 100% immoral. And no amount of word salad, no sophistry or euphemism can justify the intentional killing of an innocent baby. Since there's no right to murder, it's impossible to imagine a right to abortion."

Sir George Calvert established Maryland as a haven for persecuted Catholics. He named it after the Queen of England at the time but many Catholics believed he also named it after the Blessed Virgin Mary. That's one reason why a Catholic

You can help TFP-ANF fight back by hosting a rally close to your home. Just text PROTEST to 87837 or contact Jose Ferraz toll-free at (844) 830-3570!



woman at the march exclaimed, “Maryland is Mary’s land! And we will continue to fight for Our Lady!”



Protesting Transgender Day at Catholic High School

Many TFP-ANF friends and supporters held a rosary rally of reparation at Saint Agnes Academy in Houston, Texas. The group was making reparation for the all-girls Catholic high school hosting an LGBTQ club and Transgender Day of Visibility.

Although it’s a Catholic school, it has been allowing a transgender student leader to run this shameful club for several years. When Rally Captain Cesar discovered what the school was doing, he organized the rally right at the main entrance of the school.

“We held the ‘God Created Them Male and Female’ banner and other signs and most of the parents and students arriving to school read them. We had many thumbs up, honks and waves and smiles,” he said. “Two separate groups of young men came from Strake Jesuit High School next door and shook our hands because they were excited to see us.”

Spreading Our Lady’s Message in McAllen, Texas

Our Lady asks us to make reparation for the sinful acts we see in our world. Rally Captain Margarita has answered the call and hosted several rosary rallies in McAllen, Texas. She recently held a Traditional Marriage rally and earlier this year she held a four-day rally to protest the Paranormal Cirque.

In addition to holding her own rallies, she has encouraged others to host rallies and reported that many of them attract a large amount of prayer warriors. She believes the rallies make a difference in the community and plans to continue to work to get more people outside to pray.

“Thank you to America Needs Fatima for helping to organize our rallies. Everyone who joined us was filled with joy because we know that we are doing something for the glory of God and answering the call of our Blessed Mother Mary as revealed in Fatima,” she said.

Victory: West Texas A&M University Stops Vile Drag Show

Dr. Walter Wendler, president of West Texas A&M University, demonstrated great moral courage when he canceled an immoral drag show that was scheduled to be held on the campus.

Although he faced backlash from leftist faculty leaders and LGBTQ activists, he decided the show must be canceled to defend the true dignity of womanhood created by God.

“Drag shows are derisive, divisive and demoralizing misogyny, no matter the stated intent,” Dr. Wendler said.

In His infinite wisdom, God created male and female. However, the transgender revolution uses immoral drag shows to mock our Creator, twist human nature and erase distinctions.

We are grateful that Dr. Wendler chose to stand up for moral values and be the voice of truth. We will continue to share stories of other faithful children of God who choose to fight the good fight.



Your Prayers Make a Difference

Our dedicated captains continue to honor Our Lady by holding rosary rallies to make reparation against acts of moral and spiritual corruption they see in their towns. They know Our Lady gives them special graces and that their prayers make a difference.

Rally Captain Jeanne has held several rosary rallies against an After School Satan Club at Jane Addams Elementary School in Moline, Illinois. She said she plans to continue to hold them each time the club meets.

Rally Captain Ivone held a rally in Indianapolis, Indiana, to make reparation against immoral books directed at children. “Thank you very much for the opportunity to be a part of this important event through Our Lady of Fatima. We held the rally in front of a Catholic school not because the school promotes these books with gender ideology, but because all children can be influenced by the things happening in the world,” she said. ■



Our Readers and Viewers Write

From Our Readers:

ANF & TFP

“Please know you are in my heart and prayers. I am very grateful to receive mailings from the TFP. There is no organization to my mind that heralds the truth that the world needs to hear as you do. Please, let’s continue to pray for one another. I would like very much to stand next to your members on Judgement Day.”

Fr. W. S. D., OP

“I said my rosary on your Sacred Heart rosary last night as I fed our farm animals. Please accept this small offering for the important work you are doing. I will be more generous in the future when I can, as right now I need to save to pay for feed to keep our cows next winter. By the way, my wife and I very much enjoy using your Green Hope rosaries as well.”

R. B., Prattsburgh, New York

“Hello TFP Student Action, I want to look presentable, professional and traditional in my day-to-day life. I want to look as though I am from a more traditional time. The modern world and modern clothing styles make me feel gross and don’t suit me at all.

“I noticed that your members always dress very traditionally and very professionally. What kinds of brands or types of clothes do you guys wear as part of your uniforms? Thanks.” *Sean*

Rosary Recipients

“Thank you for the blue Saint Michael rosary! Fittingly, I gave it to a young Marine. We here pray the rosary every day. God bless us all!”

P.F., Covington, Louisiana

“Thank you very much for this special Saint Michael rosary. I am forwarding it to my son in the Marine Corps!”

M. C., Lompoc, California

“A beautiful rosary in honor of the Sacred Heart which I carry and use when out. Your Saint Michael rosary is at my bedside, and it is used all the time, too. A real blessing to have them both! Thank you!”

D. M., Baltimore, Maryland



From Our Viewers:

“The Bible and the Church should NOT be changed to fit new social ‘norms.’ Plain and simple. God bless you all for standing up for what is right!” *@lonewolfx499*

“It is kind of crazy to think that on a Catholic university people are offended by Catholic teachings. May God have mercy on all of us.” *@juanmarcalion8628*

“I graduated from Villanova in 1981. It’s sad that so many students there have been brainwashed into the trans ideology. It’s definitely not the same university that I attended. They have an Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and all of the statements listed on their website would rival ANY secular college in its wokeness and pandering to the woke agenda. It’s so, so sad what they’ve become. As an alumnus, I used to occasionally donate to Villanova. NOT anymore. Again, sad.” *@tomm7505*

“Respect to you guys, staying so kind and calm while these demons are around.”

@Thommy3809



“As a woman, you guys are doing a great job! Don’t back down and let these people stop you. Keep fighting for our preborn brothers and sisters.”

@laurenorourke2442

“Shame on these Brown University students for their hate speech, violent actions, and their limited language. This is so childish and ignorant!”

@sandrapierce9504

“To be 100% honest, seeing them acting vulgar like that made me go from being liberal to right-leaning.”

@dickersoncharlie4961

“TFP is forever in my prayers. Your brave soldiers are truly a gift from God.”

@Thedarkestacadamia

“The devil’s legions will do anything to silence you guys and anybody else who cares to defend the most precious thing. Life in the womb. Keep up fighting TFP!”

@ericmadsen7470

“I’m pro-choice but man it is hard to believe how many of these people were rude and childish. Despite it, you guys stayed professional and approachable for a conversation. Respect!”

@smegmalasagna

“There are still a few heroes left in America. These ones wear suits and ties.”

@estebanmiguel6919



CUSTODIAN'S CORNER

What Our Lady Brings

BY FRANCIS SLOBODNIK



America Needs Fatima representatives bring statues of Our Lady of Fatima to visit private homes all across America. Our custodians have visited homes in all fifty states and U.S. territories.

Before their visit with Our Lady takes place, each host receives a questionnaire that they complete after their visit. That helps us know how we are doing.

We receive incredible comments from hosts. Here are some of the comments we have received:

“Very heartwarming and calm.”
Marie from Illinois

“The presentation was full of informational content and practical, orthodox spiritual advice. My children were included in an age-appropriate manner.”
Kaitlan from Oklahoma

“Our guests left spiritually energized. It was such a sacred event.”
Cathy from South Carolina

“I am so glad that I hosted the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima in my home. I feel so blessed!”
Sandra from North Carolina

“I felt that Our Lady was not just here in the statue, but here in person. We just returned from Fatima and felt like Our Lady followed us in order to be with us.”
Angela from Rhode Island

“The statue of Our Lady of Fatima is more beautiful in person. We were so drawn to her beauty.”
Lourdes from Connecticut

“The custodian is a saintly and most reverent person who was inspiring to me. Everything was excellent!”
Paul from Connecticut

“The scheduling process was a very loving preparation for the visit with Our Lady.”
Linda from California

“The custodian was very sharp and spoke boldly. He taught us more than I expected. He was very patient with the children, and he engaged them.”

Kenny from Oklahoma

“We learned things we did not know.”

Matthew from Texas

In these times of darkness, Our Lady brings hope, calm and conversion. Over the years, a number of conversions have taken place. Families and friendships are rekindled. Some who have neglected the practice of their faith resolve to go to confession and return to the full practice of their faith. Many are moved to tears in the presence of Our Lady, who possesses a supernatural beauty.

If you would like America Needs Fatima to bring Our Lady to your home, please call us at (888) 460-7371 or email us at anffatimavisit@aol.com. ■

Interested in leaving a legacy for Our Lady?

Just go to www.ANF.org/leave-a-legacy or call Connie at (888) 661-0272.



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

My husband Patrick and I have known America Needs Fatima for more than fifteen years. After my dad passed away, I wanted to make sure we had all our affairs in order.

It was time to update my will, 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 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



“So Many Candles Gave Me Chills”

BY LORA LUCAS-BAILIE



For the commemoration of Our Lady’s first apparition in Fatima, Portugal, America Needs Fatima sent two representatives, Evan Olwell and Michael Gorre. They began their mission in the city of Lisbon, where they visited the room where Saint Jacinta of Fatima spent two weeks just before going to the hospital where she died in 1920. Located in what used to be an orphanage, the Franciscan Poor Clares of the Convent of the Immaculate Heart of Mary preserve the room that contains the bed the young saint used, as well as other relics such as a dress, blankets, a pocket knife and even a rosary used by the saint daily. Of particular interest was a small chair next to the bed. Bolted to the floor and shorter than it originally was because relic-hunters had cut the legs short, Our Lady sat upon this chair when she visited the young seer to encourage her through her sufferings in the last days of her young but holy life. Our two pilgrims prayed a rosary for all ANF members and benefactors and their intentions in this holy place where Our Lady appeared to Saint Jacinta.

On the night of May 12, the two pilgrims participated in the traditional candlelight rosary procession in Fatima, Portugal. While many in northern Europe and North America witnessed a rare *aurora borealis* during this time, Fatima pilgrims witnessed the marvelous sight of over three hundred thousand people raising aloft lighted tapers during the recitation of the Holy Rosary. “The sight of so many candles gave me chills!” said Mr. Olwell, who was visiting Fatima for the first time. “It was also a singular honor for me to represent Our Lady’s American devotees

by carrying the American flag during the procession.” With the dedicated help of Luiz Augusto Rodrigues Ferreira and Felipe Barandiaran, the pilgrims carried the America Needs Fatima “name banner” in the procession as well. The banner bore the names of over 6,500 ANF members who helped make the pilgrimage possible.

The next day, May 13, the pilgrims offered Our Lady over 400 fresh red roses, a large multi-colored bouquet of flowers and a large wreath made up of over 9,000 small silk roses. They also presented over 7,000 consecration pledges from ANF members who made their Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Finally, they lit three large candles made from the small candles sent in from all across America by ANF devotees.

As rain showered down on departing pilgrims in the Cova da Iria, Mr. Olwell and Mr. Gorre made their way to the Basilica of the Holy Rosary to pay their respects at the burial place of Saints Jacinta and Francisco of Fatima. Grateful for the opportunity to be in Fatima during the May 13 commemoration, they ended their pilgrimage by offering more rosaries, asking Our Lady to bring the triumph of her Immaculate Heart soon and for the intentions of all her faithful ANF devotees. “Being able to see the places where the events of 1917 took place really helped me get a better sense of the importance of Our Lady’s message at Fatima,” Mr. Olwell said. “Now, whenever I recount the story of Our Lady of Fatima during our ANF Home Visitation Program, I can tell people I saw those places and prayed the rosary with hundreds of thousands of pilgrims just as Our Lady asked us to do.” ■

Top: Mr. Felipe Barandiaran and Mr. Evan Olwell carry one of many baskets of roses to Our Lady of Fatima as devotional offerings to the Queen of Heaven.

Middle: These large candles were made from hundreds of smaller ones sent in by ANF’s friends and supporters and then lit for their intentions at the shrine in Fatima, Portugal.

Bottom: In another expression of their deep devotion, children of Mary sent in small red rosettes to be made into one huge wreath, which was then placed at the feet of an image of Our Lady at the exact spot where she appeared to the three shepherd children in 1917.



Billboards Honor the Sacred Heart

BY TONIA LONG

On June 16, 1675, Our Lord told Sister Margaret Mary Alacoque to promote a feast that honors His Sacred Heart. In 1856, Pope Pius IX designated the Friday following the feast of Corpus Christi as the feast of the Sacred Heart for the Universal Church. Ever since, the month of June has been devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and His immense love for us all.

Sadly, much has changed since 1856. Many people continue to be shocked and saddened by the Pride Month offensive that floods the public square annually in June. Feeling that the LGBTQ message has been stuffed down their throats, people across the country are looking for ways to make a statement by honoring the Sacred Heart of Jesus as the rightful patron of June.

One peaceful and effective way to do this is to rent billboards. Billboards strategically placed on busy roads and highways or in high-traffic pedestrian areas can reach a large and varied audience. Billboards can even be more effective than online advertising among younger Americans. A Kantar Millward Brown study revealed that Gen-Z and Millennials overwhelmingly rejected mobile/web/app advertisements while preferring out-of-home advertising like billboards or posters.

This year, America Needs Fatima, TFP and Return to Order sent emails to friends and supporters, encouraging them to reserve a Sacred Heart billboard in their local areas. The emails were sent out in February so as to give them time to collect funds among family and church friends, and to reserve a static billboard, which is more eye-catching than a digital one.

With confidence in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, America Needs Fatima's goal was to have 1,000 billboards posted across America in June 2024. This public proclamation that the month of June belongs to the Sacred Heart is just one way to make reparation for the sins and



To reclaim America for God, we must first restore the month of June to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

offences caused by those promoting homosexual pride.

The response to an email campaign offering friends and supporters advice on how to rent a billboard in their hometown was impressive. Many Catholics who could not rent a billboard themselves generously provided the funds to make doing so possible for others. As a result, many billboards with the Sacred Heart image and others like it were seen by millions of Americans of all walks of life during the month of June.

May these humble grassroots efforts be the first of many more used to spread devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus to a whole new generation of Americans for years to come. ■



SAINT BERNARDINE OF SIENA was a famous preacher, celebrated for his doctrine and holiness. Regarding homosexuality, he stated:

“No sin in the world grips the soul as the accursed sodomy; this sin has always been detested by all those who live according to God ... Deviant passion is close to madness; this vice disturbs the intellect, destroys elevation and generosity of soul, brings the mind down from great thoughts to the lowliest, makes the person slothful, irascible, obstinate and obdurate, servile and soft and incapable of anything; furthermore, agitated by an insatiable craving for pleasure, the person follows not reason but frenzy ... They become blind and, when their thoughts should soar to high and

great things, they are broken down and reduced to vile and useless and putrid things, which could never make them happy ... Just as people participate in the glory of God in different degrees, so also in hell some suffer more than others. He who lived with this vice of sodomy suffers more than another, for this is the greatest sin.”

Saint Bernardine of Siena, *The Dialogue of the Seraphic Virgin* (London: Burns, Oates and Washbourne, Ltd., 1925), p. 255.



Faces of Hatred in New York City

BY JOHN HORVAT II

New York City's annual International Gift of Life Walk is a small yet growing event for local pro-life activists. Its rally starts at Foley Square, and the march runs down Broadway and through lower Manhattan.

However, anyone who attended the event soon discovered that two rallies and marches were taking place simultaneously: one for life and the other against it. Radical counter-protesters made their presence felt.

The Face of Hatred

The pro-abortion group taught those present several lessons about the enemies of the pro-life cause. These activists must be taken seriously since they represent currents of opinion that extend beyond opposition to abortion.

The first lesson was about hatred. Indeed, these people were enemies and wished to be identified as such. They demonstrated this disposition through their demeanor, signs and intense hatred. The unruly crowd insulted any pro-lifer who passed by—even older ladies and children. They screamed out the worst obscenities and blasphemies.

They blew horns, rang cowbells, beat drums and rattled barricades. They shouted, screeched and disrupted the peaceful event.

Worse yet, these protesters' hatred overflowed into violence. When police ordered them to move, they resisted, and seven were arrested while their comrades in the anarchist mob shouted in hatred at the police's authority to maintain law and order.

If not for the bravery of the police present everywhere, they surely would have physically harassed the peaceful pro-life crowd as they did the year before.

Abortion Unites the Left

The second lesson is that abortion is an issue that unites the entire left. It brings out activists from the most varied causes to unite as one against the innocent unborn.

Let it be said that the mob of one hundred or so that showed up was a motley crew. It was a bizarre and even sinister collection of individuals that gathered in the pouring rain next to the rally.

The pro-abortion crowd formed an ad hoc coalition of perverse and unsavory groups, which they advertised online as a "NYC Loves Abortion" coalition.

There were the expected pro-abortion organizations like NYC for Abortion Rights, the New York Reproductive Collective or the blasphemous Thank God for Abortion group.

However, what was most revealing were the participants who were part of groups that had nothing to do with abortion. Thus, the LGBTQ movement was represented by groups like Act Up!, the Black Trans Liberation and NYC's Reclaim Pride Coalition.

On a more political note, the Metropolitan Anarchist Coordinating Council (sic!) formed part of the coalition. The Freedom Socialist Party mobilized. A socialist workers' party sent out invitations. Some protesters wore macabre black facemasks with Satanic pentagrams on them. Others waved small Gaza flags.



Members of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property participate in a growing pro-life event that takes place from Broadway to lower Manhattan.

No matter how tenuous the link, anyone on the left had a place at the parallel protest rally and counter-walk. Their activists' screams all intermingled in united loathing against those who defended innocent life.

God Was the Real Target

The final lesson was that one sensed that abortion was not the sole unifying principle that brought the groups together. This hatred was not only directed against something much more than the abortion issue, important though it might be.

The counter-protesters revealed the real target of their hatred by their furious reactions to the pro-life speakers when they mentioned God, His Holy Name and especially His Mother's name. They rejected any hymn of praise sung during the walk.

These activists targeted God and His moral law, which they refuse to serve. They expressed their rejection of a just and loving God.

Thus, the walk proved to be an occasion to contrast two totally different mentalities, symbolizing the real battle between God and His Holy Mother against the principalities and powers that dominate this world of darkness.

Those who attended the walk got a small glimpse of this dark and macabre world. ■



Ponchos were standard gear for the pilgrims who endured the heaviest rainfall the Iberian Peninsula has seen in three years.

(continued from back cover)

Rain Marks the Beginning

We began our nine-day Camino to Santiago de Compostela in Vila do Conde, Portugal. After putting on our gear and tying our characteristic “Saint James scallop shells” to our backpacks, we started our pilgrimage.

Unfortunately, the Iberian Peninsula was experiencing its greatest rainfall in three years, so our Camino was destined to be wet. Putting our ponchos over our heads and backpacks became standard procedure for the nine-day adventure. Thus, the days on the Camino were long and wet but full of blessings. I had no idea of the graces that were in store for me.

As we plunged through the rain and mud, the days passed quickly. We experienced the true bonding that happens when comrades suffer together.

Praying for the End of Abortion

Prayer was a big part of the pilgrimage. Above all, we prayed for the end of abortion. We prayed the full rosary daily and said three Hail Marys inside or in front of every chapel we encountered. We also prayed short ejaculations before the numerous statues and roadside crosses along the way. Occasionally, we chanted the Little Office of Our Lady in one of the many beautiful medieval Gothic churches.

At the town of Pontevedra, in front of the Church of Our Lady of the Divine Pilgrim, we prayed a public rosary with our banner in reparation for the sin of abortion. We were, in a sense, a traveling rosary rally.

Some scowled, but others made the sign of the cross.

Lamentably, outside of our eight-man group, we saw no rosaries, signs of the

Above all, we prayed for the end of abortion . . . We were, in a sense, a traveling rosary rally.

cross or prayers from the scores of pilgrims we met who were also doing the Camino. This lack of piety reflected the secular and atheistic modern world around us.

No Pain, No Glory

Walking through medieval streets, we felt a powerful and palpable connection with the remnants of Christian civilization. The glorious past of Christendom never affected me so profoundly as during those days on the Camino. I will never forget it as long as I live.

As we crossed the Portuguese border into the medieval town of Tui, Spain, we faced a long day on the Camino, which covered twenty miles! After climbing part of an arduous hill, I sat down to rest. On a nearby wall, I noticed an expressive phrase written in Spanish and English: “No Pain, No Glory.” How true it was! How many life lessons were learned in those nine days!

Embracing the Apostle

Finally, we pushed through the streets of modern Santiago, a stark contrast to the semi-medieval roads and wooded paths of our travels. After crossing a rather steep road, we beheld the majestic Basilica and Cathedral, which housed the relics of the Apostle. We descended into the main square and thanked Our Lady for arriving at the symbolic gates of Jerusalem.

For me, it was truly a dream come true. It was the final stage of some of the happiest days of my life. We prayed



Weary pilgrims gather in front of their final destination, the august and ancient Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, A Coruña, Spain.

three Hail Marys and shouted, “*Viva Cristo Rey*,” “*Viva Maria Santissima*” and “*Viva Santiago*.”

We later entered the ancient Basilica and prayed at the Apostle’s tomb under the main altar. We then ascended the stairs to give a big hug to the statue of Saint James, which was located at the altar.

Like it or not, everyone needs to make a Camino during their life. Some Caminos in life are shorter, and some very long, but all are on Camino. If all men did their life Caminos in the grace of God, the world would certainly be a different place. ■



Silver-encased reliquary of the remains of the Holy Apostle Saint James, who was beheaded by order of King Herod Agrippa I of Judea; according to Spanish tradition, his body was taken to Santiago de Compostela.

A Pilgrimage for All Seasons

BY BYRON WHITCRAFT



Pilgrims stand on top of Covadonga, translated as "Cave of Our Lady," holding the banner carried in every pro-life rally along the way.

Boarding a plane for Madrid began a trip that would mark my life. For years, I had desired and dreamed of walking the path that pilgrims had trodden upon for over a thousand years to venerate the remains of Saint James the Greater, Apostle and cousin of Our Lord Jesus Christ. That dream was finally becoming a reality.

We were a decent-sized group of eight people. The majority were former students of mine, nearly forty years my junior. Our intention was for the end of the sin of abortion.

Upon our arrival on the Iberian Peninsula, we began our journey through the Spain of El Cid Campeador, Saint Ferdinand of Castile and Don Pelayo of Asturias.

Unfurling the Banner in Covadonga

We stopped at the city of Covadonga before starting the Camino (Way) to Saint James the Apostle's venerable

remains. It is the site where Spain's reconquest from the Moors began in the eighth century. A nobleman named Don Pelayo gathered together a vastly outnumbered band of men to defeat an immense Islamic army near the only remaining Christian stronghold in Spanish domains.

The stronghold was a simple cave in the mountains with a magnificent statue of the Virgin known as Our Lady of Covadonga. She was the true victor in this battle that started the long seven-hundred-year reconquest of Spain.

The seven younger men in our group climbed the mountain overlooking the cave of Our Lady. A few thousand feet up, they unfurled their banner, which read, "*Viva Cristo Rey! Rosario contra el pecado del aborto,*" which signifies, "Long live Christ the King! Praying the rosary against the sin of abortion." There, they prayed and shouted, "*Viva Cristo Rey!*"

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