

January/February 2010

# CRUSADE<sup>®</sup>

MAGAZINE



TRADITION  
FAMILY AND  
PROPERTY<sup>®</sup>

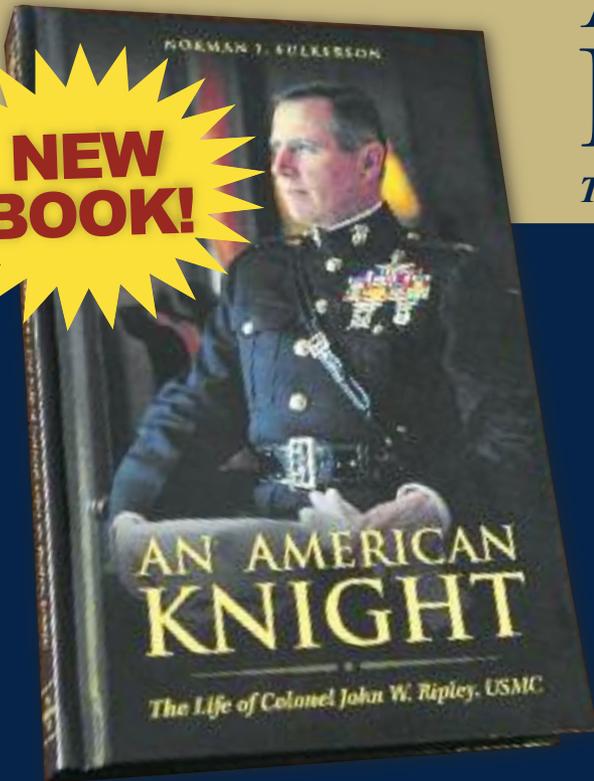
## AN AMERICAN KNIGHT

*The Life of Colonel John W. Ripley, USMC*

# AN AMERICAN KNIGHT

*The Life of Colonel John W. Ripley, USMC*

**NEW BOOK!**



## TIMELY

With political and public attention once again focused on the sacrifices made by our military, it's more important than ever to remember the American heroes who set an example for all of us. In this first cradle-to-grave biography of Colonel John W. Ripley, Norman Fulkerson tells the extraordinary life story of a Marine Corps hero of legendary stature; the selfless leader of combat troops and embodiment of "Semper Fi."

"If a young officer or Marine ever asks what is the meaning of 'Semper Fidelis,'" Colonel Ripley once told a friend, "tell them my story." This is his story!

## IDEAL

This book has all the right ingredients to inspire and instill a sense of purpose in a generation seeking honor and meaning. Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Wesley Fox calls it a "must read" for anyone desiring to be a leader, especially those who want to lead Marines. General Carl E. Mundy, the thirtieth Commandant of the Marine Corps, says *An American Knight* is a "fine book that provides well-deserved tribute to a great man."

## COMPREHENSIVE

Most people who only know Colonel Ripley the warrior will now know John Ripley the husband, father, mentor and friend. Follow him from his "Huckleberry Finn" days in Radford, Va., to the Naval Academy where strength of will was developed, which later was applied to the battlefield where he earned the status of legend during his first tour in Vietnam as a 28-year-old captain.

Norman Fulkerson,  
*An American Knight: The Life  
of Colonel John W. Ripley, USMC*

Hardcover, 218 pages  
B64 ..... \$14.95

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**FORGOTTEN  
TRUTHS**

## Beware of Marxist Liberating Ideologies

Pope Benedict XVI, while Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, gave an address during the May 1996 meeting of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith held in Guadalajara, Mexico, with the presidents of the Doctrinal Commissions of the Bishops' Conferences of Latin America. The following is an excerpt from that address:

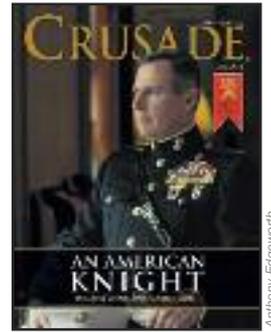
Precisely in those places where the Marxist liber-

ating ideology had been applied consistently, a radical lack of freedom had been produced, the horror of which now appeared out in the open before the eyes of world public opinion. The fact is that when politics want to bring redemption, they promise too much. When they presume to do God's work, they do not become divine but diabolical. ■



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Col. John W. Ripley,  
USMC

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## CRUSADE

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### The American TFP

The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) was founded in 1973 to confront the profound crisis shaking the modern world. 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

### **BBC: Global Warming Now Global Cooling**

The warmest year recorded globally was 1998, and for the last 11 years no increase in global temperatures has been observed, according to a BBC report “Whatever happened to Global Warming?” Paul Hudson, a BBC climate correspondent, quotes a climatologist as saying there could be 30 years of cooling because of the oceans’ falling temperatures.



### **Relics of Saint Mary Magdalene Touring America**

EWTN reports that Father Thomas Michelet, a Dominican priest, brought the relics of Saint Mary Magdalene on their first visit to the United States. Father Michelet shares the story of the relics and the saint who was the first witness of the Resurrection. A letter of authentication from Bishop Rey reports that the relics were hidden at the time of the Saracen invasions and rediscovered in 1279, from which date they have been venerated for 730 years without interruption.



### **Top Embryonic Stem-Cell Researcher Convicted of Fraud**

Hwang Woo-suk, one of the most famous embryonic stem-cell research scientists, has been convicted by Seoul Central District Court in South Korea of accepting \$2 million in donations after knowingly falsifying embryonic stem-cell research. A paper by Hwang and his fellow scientists at Seoul National University claimed they had created the world’s first cloned human embryos and extracted from them embryonic stem cells. A second paper announced that Hwang’s team created lines of genetically matching stem cells, thereby overcoming the immune system rejection issues plaguing embryonic stem-cell research. Both claims and all of the information in the papers were false. To date, embryonic stem-cell research and human cloning have yet to cure a single patient while the more ethical use of adult stem cells have helped patients with more than 100 diseases and conditions.

### **Land of the Free and Home of the Brave**

Polls show that America is more conservative than it has been since 2004. According to Gallup, 40 percent of Americans describe their political views as con-

servative, 36 percent as moderate and 20 percent as liberal. Pew polls also found that 44 percent of Americans are opposed to legal abortion in all or most cases, and only 33 percent of respondents to a CBS News/*New York Times* poll said homosexuals should be allowed to marry.

### **Socialistic Control in Venezuela Leads to Water Shortage**

Hugo Chávez, Venezuela’s socialist dictator, has ordered that showers should be limited to three minutes to save water. Chávez blames the water shortage on El Niño, but according to investors.com, his decision to control the price of water in 2003 is really to blame. The price controls cut water companies’ revenues to 80 percent and maintenance was neglected, resulting in waste of 62 percent of the water collected through broken water mains.



### **Forty Days for Life**

Tens of thousands of people in 212 cities conducted a unified 40-day campaign of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion, consisting mainly of peaceful vig-



ils outside abortion facilities and Planned Parenthood offices. According to 40daysforlife.com, the campaign’s official Web site, 542 babies were saved from abortion during these 40 days.

### **The Root of the Problem**

The problem of clerical abuse is not pedophilia but homosexual abuse of adolescents, according to the Vatican official Archbishop Silvano Tomasi who is the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the Office of the United Nations and Specialized Institutions in Geneva. Responding to criticism of the Vatican’s handling of the pedophilia crisis, Archbishop Tomasi said, “Of all priests involved in the abuses, 80 to 90% belong to this sexual orientation [homosexual] minority . . . .”



# I WILL TELL YOUR STORY

BY NORMAN FULKERSON

On November 1, 2008, Ron Darden was watching the evening news when an item, scrolling across the bottom of the screen, caught his eye. He was shocked to find out that his former company commander, Colonel John Walter Ripley, had died at his home in Annapolis, Maryland.

On that same day, I decided to write *An American Knight, The Life of Colonel John W. Ripley USMC*, the first biography of this great man.



John Ripley earned the status of legend during his first tour in Vietnam as a 28-year-old captain.

\* \* \*

Sergeant Darden admitted that he was afraid when, as a 19-year-old lance corporal, he first joined Lima Company. He drew guard duty on his first night in Vietnam after being wounded and described how his fears were put to ease when he received an unexpected visit from Captain John Ripley, Lima Company's fearless commander, who jumped into the fox-hole next to him. The solicitous captain asked Sergeant Darden where he was from, if he was married and how his parents were getting along without him.



Colonel Gerald Turley, USMC (Ret.)

This photo was taken four days before the Easter Offensive. Left to Right: Capt. James Johnson, Capt. John Ripley, Lt. Col. Gerald Turley and Capt. William Weschmeyer.

During this night visit, Captain Ripley spoke to Sergeant Darden with the gentleness of a father and told him it was OK to be afraid, but that he should not let his fears dominate him. Sergeant Darden would go on to earn a Silver Star when he ran out into the middle of a firefight to save the life of a wounded Marine. He is a man who has seen the worst of war while serving under the best of battlefield commanders.

As Mr. Darden related stories about Colonel Ripley during a phone interview, I sensed that this Silver

## Foreword from *An American Knight*

It is safe to say that since the dawn of history no warrior has captured man's imagination as much as the medieval knight. Images of chargers frothing at the mouth as they propel their steel-clad riders into the fray will likely fascinate mankind until the end of time.

However, these knights were known for more than their wartime deeds alone. They also personified the Christian virtues to a high degree. They are the stuff of which legends are made!

Thus, anyone who tries to compare any modern man with these mythical warriors has his work cut out for himself. However, this is the task which Norman Fulkerson has striven to accomplish in the present book. In it, he recounts the crib-to-grave story of Colonel John W. Ripley, making *An American Knight: The Life of Colonel John W. Ripley, USMC* an engaging read that will be hard to put down, regardless of the reader's background.

Having known Colonel Ripley personally, I can affirm that if there are still men who merit the title "knight" — he is one of them.

We were fellow Marines and shared that

friendship which unites all warriors who have struggled together and shed their blood on the same fields. In fact, the colonel and I fought literally on the same battlefield, as, on April 30, 1968, I was ordered to defend the Dong Ha Bridge in the Quang Tri Province of Vietnam. Ironically, Colonel Ripley would earn a Navy Cross four years later by destroying that same bridge. Because of that fact, I would often tease him, complaining that he had "destroyed my bridge!" However, my story had little to do with Dong Ha.

Rather, on May 2, 1968, I led 180 Marines of E Company in an assault on the hamlet of Dai Do to relieve G Company that was

Star recipient was fighting back tears as he remembered this remarkable man and that unforgettable night so many years ago. He could not believe the lack of news coverage of this great man. His surprise quickly turned to frustration and then anger as he searched for more details about the passing of a man who had already been revered as a “living legend.”

The news of Colonel Ripley’s death did begin to hit the airwaves and his obituary eventually appeared in *The New York Times*. What the *New York Times* and so many other newspaper articles recounted was the story of a man who blew up the Dong Ha Bridge on Easter Sunday in 1972. This is understandable considering Colonel Ripley almost single-handedly halted the largest Communist offensive of the entire Vietnam War. This amounted to stopping 30,000 enemy troops and 200 tanks. He was successful in this task and would later sum up his actions in a succinct way, “The bridge was there, the enemy was there, and I was there.”

### Desiring to Tell the Whole Truth

What he did on that day defies belief and I could not fail to narrate the Dong Ha story in *An American Knight*. There is so much more to Colonel Ripley, however, that has been conveniently overlooked by those either unable or unwilling to tell the whole truth. Colonel Ripley was a rare warrior who willingly and enthusiastically addressed a number of politically incorrect issues of his day.

I saw the importance of one of the issues he addressed when I was “mugged by reality” in an airport some years ago by the sight of a young lady about to

*While others paid homage to the “god of equality,” he chose to defend the noble ideals of womanhood and femininity.*

board a plane. She was a picture of femininity, in every way, except for her battle fatigues and the rucksack thrown over her shoulder. Moments later, her tearful parents said their final farewells to a daughter being sent off to do a man’s job.

It was only natural, therefore, that I drew an enormous consolation when I first read the heroic testimony of Colonel Ripley against sending women into harm’s way. While others paid homage to the “god of equality,” he chose to defend the noble ideals of womanhood and femininity.

These, and his care for children, were the things that caused me to see in Colonel Ripley a modern-day knight.

Since justice is the virtue whereby man renders to each what is due to him, I could do nothing less for this great man. This was one of the motivating

stranded there. They had been separated from the rest of their battalion and were facing a situation that was getting desperate in a hurry. To accomplish our mission, we had to advance across a 500-meter-long rice paddy, under heavy enemy fire without any cover. On the way, we cleared more than one hundred A-frame bunkers which could only be taken by getting close enough to blow them up from the inside—a difficult task, considering each one contained a fresh North Vietnamese soldier hell-bent on keeping his bunker intact.

After securing Dai Do, my force of 180 had shrunk to 37 Marines. All the others had



John Ripley standing on a slope near “Mudders Ridge,” explains Lima Company’s recent action to his brother George.



The diorama at the U.S. Naval Academy depicting how John Ripley set the explosives to blow up the Dong Ha Bridge, an action which halted the Easter Offensive.

been killed or wounded. A few hours later, I heard over the radio that H Company, which was besieging a town within a couple hundred yards of my position, was in trouble. I then ordered my men to reenter the fray in support of H Company. In spite of everything they had been through, every one of those 37 Marines unhesitatingly responded, “Yes sir!”

We ran the couple hundred yards to H Company’s position and got back into the fight. Shortly after, I received a .50 caliber bullet in my leg that incapacitated me. I proceeded to offer cover fire for my men to get them to safety, telling them to move on and leave me where I lay. Two courageous Marines

factors that urged me to write about his life. Mysteriously enough, I was encouraged in this project as much by Colonel Ripley himself, as anyone. In a letter to a friend, he said something that struck me like a voice from beyond the grave, "If a young officer or Marine ever asks what is the meaning of *Semper Fidelis*, tell them my story." After reading such a statement, I could not fail to tell this man's story.

#### 'I Walked with a Hero'

There was another motivating factor that urged me to write the story of Colonel Ripley, and that was my desire to console hero-seeking Americans who yearn for a role model they can admire and emulate. During the researching of *An American Knight*, I took time to read numerous Web site commentaries and was inspired by the eulogies posted by average Americans.

*"We claim Semper Fidelis as our motto, but it was Col. Ripley's life. His loyalty was complete in all directions."*

One man, no doubt inspired by the Marines' Hymn, which speaks of Heaven being guarded by U.S. Marines, said the following, "We claim *Semper Fidelis* as our motto, but it was Col. Ripley's life. His loyalty was complete, in all directions. The earth is less

today without his soul, but the heavens are a safer place tonight."

Another comment was even more impressive but demands an introduction. Colonel Ripley was an outstanding officer who took great pride in the rank he earned. This can be seen in the picture I chose for the cover of *An American Knight*, which is the same one that graces the cover of this issue of *Crusade*. Yet he was a man that had a profound humility and never wanted attention drawn to himself. Colonel Ripley was not a man who tried to impress others with his Navy Cross or his legendary status. In fact, he would often point out the achievements of those of lesser rank and frequently expressed his unbounded appreciation for the common Marine Corps grunts that "get the job done."

He did this in a very refreshing way without ever adopting the "one of the guys" egalitarian attitude so lamentably common among many people of higher station. Colonel Ripley was, from top to bottom, a serious Marine Corps officer and was not ashamed of it. Yet he never missed the opportunity to challenge those around him to reach higher. It is for this reason that toward the end of his life he gave himself wholeheartedly to mentoring. He loved to counsel young men starting out on their military careers, especially those of the U.S. Naval Academy, his alma mater,



Mrs. Mary Susan Goodykowitz

Left to right: Col. Ripley, his brothers Michael and George, and his father "Bud."

disobeyed my orders, approached me and said, "Skipper, you're coming with us."

They evacuated me and, after two months in the hospital, I was back on my feet. I received the Medal of Honor for my actions that day from President Richard Nixon on May 14, 1970.

With this background, it is understandable that I would read avidly *An American Knight*. However, I was surprised to find a book that is attractive to any reader because it highlights a variety of Colonel Ripley's qualities in and out of combat.

This is indispensable if one sets out to compare him to our medieval predecessors,

because being a knight meant a lot more than prowess on the battlefield. It meant upright and gentlemanly conduct, the practice of the Faith, care for the weak and defenseless, and a whole slew of other characteristics the colonel possessed.

Particularly noteworthy is the moral courage he showed by taking controversial stances against allowing women in combat and homosexuals in the military. In doing so, he confronted intense pressure to capitulate, but stood true to his convictions.

Thus, he lived up to his own idea of bravery, which he believed was more praiseworthy when practiced in defense of one's

principles in face of hostility than against the enemy on a battlefield. "I have seen courage in many forms," he said, "but that which I admire far more than physical courage is moral courage, which I define as the will to stick up for your moral and ethical principles when someone turns up the heat."

This moral integrity demonstrates a similarity between Colonel Ripley and the medieval knight, but so does his style of leadership in battle. Like his armored forbearers, the colonel led his troops from the front lines. This corresponds with my idea of leadership and the way I always led my men. Simply put, an effective combat com-



A Marine pays his final respects beside Col. John Ripley's coffin on November 7, 2008.



Col. Ripley and the author at the 1993 launching of *Nobility and Analogous Traditional Elites in the Allocutions of Pius XII* by Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira.

which he loved with his whole heart.

All of this helps in understanding better a midshipman's comment after Colonel Ripley's death:

This is the same man who sat at dinner with me and asked me, a first class midshipman, about to be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, to sign his program for the evening because he was going to read about me in the papers and all the great things I did for the Marine Corps. I walked with a hero. *Semper Fidelis.*

#### Rest in Peace Now

I saved the best eulogy for last. It came from a mother of four who called herself a "simple American woman." I pray that she someday know how moved I was to read her words:

I never had the honor of meeting Colonel John Ripley. In fact, before a dear friend suggested that

I look him up, I had never heard his name. But I have sat here and read stories of his life and countless postings by the people that loved him and will miss him dearly. I am a simple American woman enjoying a world that Colonel Ripley dedicated his life to protecting. I am humbled by the recounts of his heroism and tireless dedication to his country. I suppose I'd just like to say thank you. Thank you from the core of my being and on behalf of my four children. When the time is right, I will tell each of them of this great man, Colonel John Ripley. May God bless your soul.

I thank you also Colonel Ripley. Rest in peace now, I will tell them your story. ■

To order *An American Knight: The Life of Colonel John W. Ripley, USMC*, visit [www.AmericanKnight.org](http://www.AmericanKnight.org) or call (888) 317-5571.

mander must be close enough to the fighting to "smell the gunpowder." If he cannot do that, he is simply too far away.

Colonel Ripley practiced this principle to an extreme degree. At times he even advanced alone. On one occasion, he single-handedly stormed a machine-gun nest and "silenced" a gunner who was threatening his men.

Another knightly quality that shone in Colonel Ripley is disdain for danger. In Vietnam, he earned a reputation for being utterly fearless. That is not to say that he was foolish, but when circumstances required him to face a perilous situation, he never hesitated.

He saw accepting risk as part of his job as a Marine. He expressed this while speaking to a group of young men considering a career in the Corps. "Risk comes with the job," he told



Major General James E. Livingston, USMC (Ret.)

them. "If you are not comfortable with risk, you need to get into a new line of work."

These and many of Colonel Ripley's other qualities are enumerated in *An American*

*Knight*. Thus, I recommend it strongly. I hope my thoughts will help its readers to gain a better appreciation for this Marine who will doubtlessly be remembered as one of the greatest men ever to honor the Corps.

As I said, comparing any modern-day warrior to the medieval knights may seem impossible, but if any man fits the bill it is Colonel John Ripley.

Demonstrating this fact in a work as short as *An American Knight* is no easy task, but Mr. Fulkerson took it on and, as far as I am concerned, mission accomplished.

Major General James E. Livingston, USMC (Ret.)

Medal of Honor Recipient  
August 31, 2009

# THE ALLURE OF LOURDES

BY JOHN HORVAT II



COMMENTARY

As I sat down in the train for my trip's final leg to Lourdes, I could not help but reflect that this was a trip repeated many times by tens of millions of pilgrims from all over the world over the last 150 years. They have embarked with similar expectations. Upon writing down my impressions, I was tempted to think that my account would be of little value, since my story has already been told so many times before.

However, though it is the same story, I have no doubt each trip is different. Part of the allure of Lourdes lies exactly in that each pilgrim's experiences it differently. Lourdes draws each one to go on the pilgrim's route. Everyone takes different problems and miseries, and is filled with different expectations.

Mine was a simple four-day pilgrimage, a retreat without Internet, cell phone, camera or even air-conditioning. My expectations were simple. I sought peace of soul in a world that aggressively disrupts that peace. I sought time to reflect and recollect. I expected to be cleansed of so much. I just wanted time to pray to Our Lady and ask her for all that I needed.

## A Place of Violent Contrast

My first impression of Lourdes was that it is a place of dramatic contrast, born of violence and extremes. I found it unexpectedly dramatic. The rocky foothills of the Pyrenees are filled with abrupt cliffs, mysterious caves and scraggly brush. The Gave River rapidly flows with violent intensity. While praying at the Grotto, it was not uncommon to feel sudden gusts of strong winds that added to the sense something different and important was happening there. The intensely hot sun of the July day contrasted with the chilly night mountain air.

This contrast is above all present at the Grotto. The Grotto lies inside a huge rocky hill near the river. I had always thought the Grotto was separate from the basilica. However, the huge Gothic sanctuary sits right on top of this massive rock and its stone foundations dig like roots into the rock, dominating and forcing itself upon the wild landscape. However, the Grotto still retains that exuberant wildness that it must have had at the time of the apparitions. The outside of the Grotto is covered with that untamed scrub brush and wild grass that tenaciously cling to fissures in the rock.

Almost as dramatic as the landscape is the violent contrast of the



*Lourdes belongs to broken humanity.  
It is full of the sick and troubled who go  
there with their impossible cases.  
. . . you feel as if a balm has been applied  
that makes it so much more bearable.  
You leave less broken.*



**Above:** The Rosary Basilica sits directly above the site of the apparition. Our Lady came to Saint Bernadette in a grotto in the foothills of the Pyrenees Mountains. **Right:** Thousands joined the candlelit procession. **Bottom:** Pilgrims from all over the world fill the air with different languages.



pilgrims. They come from all over the world and speak in many languages. But the most notable contrast is the extreme cultural clashes one sees between genuine signs of devotion and faith and the most glaring signs of our fragmented postmodernity found in the modern fashions and icons that are found on the pilgrims' Che Guevara shirts and caps. You cannot help but feel it is the affliction caused by this internal cultural war inside souls that brings many of the pilgrims to Lourdes.

All of this is a fitting stage for the drama that takes place inside souls at Lourdes. You pray in the context of this dramatic setting.

### The Heart of Lourdes

The heart of Lourdes is the Grotto. All over the city, the signs point to the Grotto. In front of the Grotto, I spent hours praying before a life-size statue of Our Lady that stands some 15 feet above in a large cavity inside the Grotto.

The activities around the Grotto are impressive. It is the site of Masses, adorations and recitations of the Rosary. There are times when you can kneel very close to the statue of Our Lady. There are other times when you must stand back because of the crowds. At night, a tree of large candles illuminates the area and creates an atmosphere of recollection and devotion.

There is a constant flow of people who enter the Grotto and pass by its walls. Deep inside there is the spring of water from which so many cures and benefits have flowed. All enter the Grotto touching the walls of the cavern, now worn smooth by so much touching. Pilgrims touch the walls, bless themselves with the small streamlets of water that flow from little fissures. They put their foreheads on the rock walls. They leave prayer requests, candles and flowers. They ask, pray and beseech for Our Lady's help. Some leave emotional; others merely curious. However, I noticed that everyone leaves the Grotto serious—no one is laughing.

### Broken Humanity

Lourdes belongs to a broken humanity, full of the sick and troubled who go there with their impossible cases. It is especially the physically sick and handicapped that can be seen everywhere in an unfortunate display of human ailments of all kinds. The most impossible cases are especially represented and they are cared for with touching solicitude. Tens of thousands of volunteers look after their every need and one sees legions of volunteer ladies who assume temporary white habits or other garb to help these "least of our brothers."

Here, the handicapped are given charity wholeheartedly. Here, they accept this char-

ity with all humility and gratitude. They are sick and they show no shame in their weak condition that will, in the final analysis, be that of all men. Parades of antique three-wheeled wheelchairs can be seen at all events—Rosary processions, Eucharistic adorations and Grotto visits. Many have received cures at Lourdes; others have simply received the means to deal with their sufferings. All receive special care.

There are, of course, the others who go with maladies of a different kind. These are those with spiritual sufferings. All bring their own crosses and miseries, and I count myself as one of these pilgrims. One is not necessarily relieved of one's miseries, but you feel

as if a balm has been applied that makes it so much more bearable. You leave less broken.

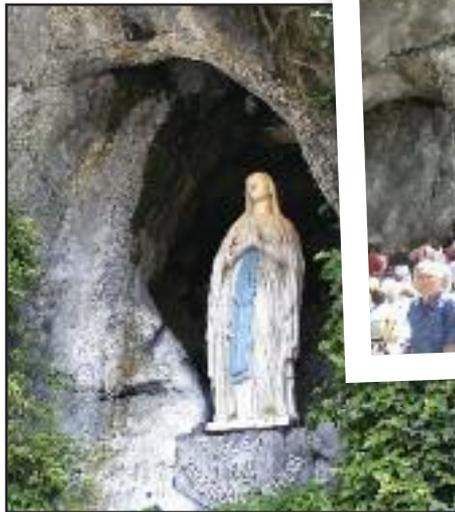
### The Nightly Rosary Procession

The Rosary procession is the climax of the day. Every night at 9 p.m., the faithful gather around the basilica for the simple ceremony of praying the Rosary. However, this is no ordinary procession. I witnessed an estimated 90,000 pilgrims on the central plaza at the Saturday night procession I attended.

Every night as you proceed to the shrine, you notice the shopkeepers have put out the procession candles with their paper lantern shades. For a pittance, you buy a candle and head for the procession. There is an atmosphere of exaltation and even triumph that I think comes from a joy in being Catholic—a true unity amid diversity. Although the Hail Marys are said in various languages, all the other prayers are said or sung in Latin without any problem or confusion.

A large life-size statue of Our Lady of Lourdes is carried majestically on a litter down the central plaza and the procession begins. Thousands of Catholics join in. Hundreds of sick in wheelchairs are pushed and pulled by volunteers along the procession route—the special guests of the affair. As night descends, the candlelight lanterns create a marvelous and prayerful ambience.

The procession covers the length of the entire central avenue of the sanctuary. After each decade, a Marian hymn is sung. “Immaculate Mary” is a favorite hymn since it is sung in so many languages. During the refrain, all in the crowd raise their candle lanterns in triumph and praise of the Blessed Mother, a practice that they repeat in the final “Salve Regina.” The basilica has two large esplanades that are like arms enclosing the grand plaza. During the procession these arms are also full of people praying and singing creating the impression of a huge amphitheater of unity. Finally the procession is over, and gradually the huge crowd disperses into the night.



A life-size statue of Our Lady in the Grotto marks the place where the Blessed Mother appeared to Saint Bernadette.

### A Lady of Passionate Solicitude

And what is to be said of the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes? How does she express and communicate herself to the faithful? Such opinions by necessity are subjective since Our Lady speaks to souls in different ways. I can only report what I sensed at the Grotto.

The statue of Our Lady of Lourdes is in my opinion very French. She does not have the Latin exuberance of Spanish or Italian Madonnas. She stands in the Grotto, discreetly looking upward and measuring her gestures. However, this does not prevent her from giving impressions of great mercy and goodness. Her goodness reminded me of the French merchants and pedestrians I approached with my broken French in the village. They would address you with a very courteous “*Bonjour monsieur*” and then go out of their way to help you with your problem.

Our Lady’s goodness at Lourdes has something of that same polite and intense goodness full of respect for the person despite his weaknesses. I felt dignified by my dialogue with Our Lady. Inside this enormous respect, she exhibited for me a kind of passionate and maternal solicitude that I had never experienced before.



Approximately six million pilgrims and visitors come to the shrine annually, making it one of the most visited places in the world.

It was with great sadness that I left Lourdes and the Grotto on that Sunday morning to catch my train. I bid my farewell and slowly left, turning back several times until that last glimpse and final *au revoir*, a scene that remains in my mind’s eye.

### A Change and a Promise

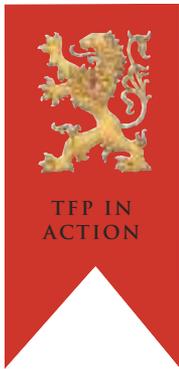
On the train back, I reflected a bit on the pilgrimage. Indeed, it was so like the millions of others that traveled the same route. However, it confirmed my idea that each pilgrimage is different and that this is the allure of Lourdes.

Did I find what I sought? I received no great miracle but then again, I did not ask for one. However, I found at the Grotto a maternal gaze, a place where one can go to be heard. I found a place that violently clashes with our modern revolutionary world. Our Lady makes no compromises with the sins of our days but she calls the poor faithful as they are, and beckons them to return to the practice of the Faith.

I returned changed in ways hard to define. I definitely felt peace in my soul. Lourdes puts your soul in order. It has a cleansing effect upon you. I sensed a promise not on the part of Our Lady to me, but rather she elicited from me a promise to return.

My sentiments are those expressed by an antiphon from the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary that is sung at Vespers that says, “*Trahe nos Virgo immaculata, post te curremus in odorem unguentorum tuorum.*” (“Draw us, O Immaculate Virgin, we will run after thee because of the savor of thy good ointments.”) ■

*Lourdes draws each one to go on the pilgrim’s route. Everyone takes different problems and miseries, and is filled with different expectations.*



# Tempest and Confidence at the 2009 National Conference

BY JOHN HORVAT

**A** TFP National Conference is always an exciting event, but this year's gathering was dramatic. On the opening day, a storm swept over the area. The outdoor tent was buffeted by wind, and the rain stopped just before the scheduled Saturday evening candlelight Rosary procession started.

The dramatic events seemed a fitting picture of the trials and efforts of those engaged in the struggle to defend Christian civilization in the public square. So often these actions are buffeted by adversity yet afterwards Our Lady rewards them with special graces.

Such thoughts were present in the minds of the more than 200 members and supporters of the American TFP who gathered on October 24–25 in Spring Grove, Pa., to discuss the theme "Human Solutions Have Failed: The Fatima Moment Has Arrived."

Among the distinguished guest speakers at the conference were Prince Bertrand of Orleans-Braganza of the Brazilian TFP, who delivered the Sunday closing speech about the certainty of victory, and Duke Paul of Oldenburg of the German TFP, who spoke about devotion to Our Lady.

## Rallies and an American Knight

The conference was held in an atmosphere of celebration for the 4,337 Public Square Rosary Rallies nationwide on October 10,

2009. America Needs Fatima Director Robert Ritchie delivered an account of the rallies. He reminded the participants that this milestone could only be properly celebrated in light of the incredible obstacles faced by the rallies' organizers and the enormous graces that Our Lady gave to overcome them.

Another highlight of this year's conference was TFP member Norman Fulkerson's *An American Knight: The Life of Col. John W. Ripley USMC*. Mr. Fulkerson recounted how he came to write Colonel Ripley's biography, a Marine who defended the country on the military battlefield as well as the cultural battlefield when he opposed women in combat and homosexuals in the military.

## Talks on the Fatima Moment

Mr. Mario Navarro da Costa presented a talk on how the world arrived to the Fatima moment with an historical overview of events leading up to Our Lady's appearance at Fatima. American TFP Vice President John Horvat delivered the talk, "What is the Counter-revolutionary Alternative to the Global Financial Crisis?" Mr. Luiz Solimeo presented a talk on the devil's objectives. Mr. Michael Whitcraft discussed the necessity of dealing with suffering in these times. Mr. Michael Chad Shibler presented an overview of the activities of the TFP members and supporters since last conference.



The Latin Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in York, Pa.

## Little Things That Matter

Our Lady's blessings upon the event were evident by the great conviviality among participants. Even first-time participants felt part of a great family of souls. Many were encouraged that many new Rally Captains attended the conference.

There were events like an organ concert and the singing of the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Also, the magnificent Latin Mass was sung by TFP members wearing the TFP ceremonial habit at the historic Immaculate Conception Church in nearby York, Pa. Father Gregory Karpyn celebrated the Mass and delivered the sermon. The recessional procession ended with the now traditional majestic rendition of the Papal Hymn with organ and trumpet.

The weekend ended much different than it had begun. Inside the calm grand ballroom of the nearby historic Yorktowne Hotel, participants sat down together for the final dinner. As the final farewells faded into the night, all gave thanks to Our Lady for a wonderful weekend despite the tempests that had seemed so threatening. ■



Left to right: Over 200 attended the conference in Spring Grove, Pa. Duke Paul of Oldenburg spoke about devotion to Our Lady. The candle light Rosary procession.

# AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA.

January/February 2010

PROGRESS REPORT

## Rosary Rally Captains Tell Their Stories

BY FRANCIS SLOBODNIK

October 10, 2009 marked the third annual Public Square Rosary sponsored by America Needs Fatima. Every year, as more Catholics understand the tremendous moral crisis that America is experiencing, the number of Public Square Rosary Rallies grows. Our first year saw over 2,000 Public Square Rosary Rallies, last year there were over 3,000 Public Square Rosary Rallies. This year we counted 4,337 Public Square Rosary Rallies all across America!

The devil understands very well the importance of the Public Square Rosary Rallies. As a result, every year brings with it unique trials and obstacles. This year, as we began enlisting captains in earnest, our computer system crashed despite our very capable computer technician, who happens to be a full-time volunteer, having tested everything thoroughly. Next, our telephone system inexplicably crashed, causing the loss of numerous messages. One of our expensive machines that print the banners

broke beyond repair. The final trial, on the day of the rally, was the sudden onset of cold weather in many parts of the United States that reduced attending numbers.

But by no means did these trials discourage us. Everything that is worthwhile in the apostolate brings a multitude of temptations and trials. A cursory reading of the Church's history and of the saints' lives demonstrates this.

Catholics consecrated and devoted to Our Lady don't give up when obstacles are sent their way. With each blow received from the devil, they perceive that it is the devil who is threatened. As a result, they attack him with greater vigor, using the weapons that Our Lady has given to us, primarily the Holy Rosary.

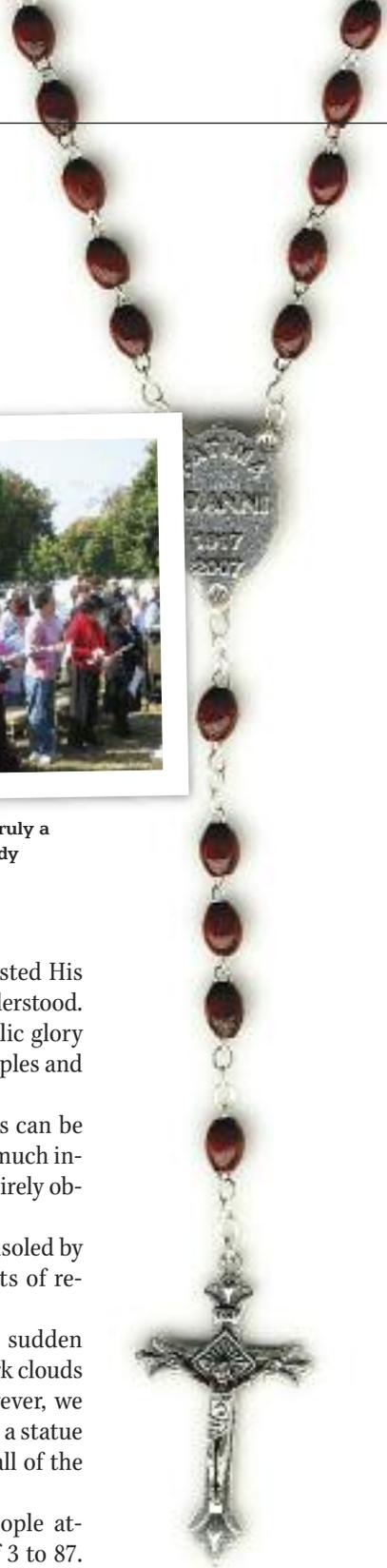
Besides the trials there were tremendous consolations. A huge consolation was the volunteers who traveled all the way to Kansas, to a place that they had never visited before, to meet people they had never



"Twenty people (including the Corpus Christi pastor) endured snow, sleet and freezing drizzle to pray the Rosary at Corpus Christi Catholic School in Colorado Springs." *G.Z., Colorado Springs, Colo.*



"All who attended were very glad they did and promised to return next year. Thank you for letting us have the privilege to share in this beautiful offering to Our Lady." *P.W., Edgefield, S.C.*



"I wish to thank Our Lord, Our Blessed Mother and you for the opportunity to serve Our Lady in such a lovely way." *A.H., Texas*

met before. They placed themselves in our care and zealously recruited the overwhelming majority of Rally Captains. At a certain point in the campaign we set up two shifts of callers. Some of the volunteers insisted on volunteering for both shifts calling from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.! We were also blessed by veteran volunteers who called from home. They also were a tremendous boost for the campaign.

But our greatest consolation was the Rally Captains themselves, so full of love for Our Lady, and so desirous of offering her reparation and so thirsty for the conversion of souls. After all, what would the Public Square Rosary campaign be without the Rally Captains?

We know from the phone calls, e-mails and letters that many of the Rally Captains also experienced trials, some quite difficult.

As is always the case, some rallies were large such as the rally in downtown New York, with an attendance of 150. These gave Our Lady external glory. Other rallies were small, plagued by trials, abandonment and even persecution. These offered Our Lady internal glory, that glory that only God can see.



"It's impossible to describe the powerful feeling of saying the Rosary with 82 people and knowing that tens of thousands of other people are also joining you across America." *G.E., Salinas, Calif.*



"My first experience as a Rally Captain was truly a wonderful blessing. My community has already requested that we make it a yearly event." *A.O., Milpitas, Calif.*

Our Lord, during His crucifixion, manifested His internal glory, which Our Lady alone fully understood. Our Lord's resurrection manifested His public glory that was made manifest to the apostles, disciples and many others.

Those whose rallies were beset with trials can be consoled knowing that their heroic act gave much internal glory to Our Lady, which Our Lady entirely observed and blessed.

So that you too may see why we are so consoled by Our Lady's Captains, here are some excerpts of remarks from a few of them:

Joy from Texas wrote, "There was a sudden overnight drop in temperature with heavy dark clouds and a damp chill. Only four attended; however, we brought much attention with the banner and a statue of Our Lady. We prayed all of the Rosaries, all of the prayers and sang all of the hymns."

Josie from New Jersey wrote, "Forty people attended despite the rain . . . from the ages of 3 to 87. May Our Lady touch all the hearts of those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love her beloved Son and her Immaculate Heart."

Anthony from California wrote that 20 attended his rally, and a photo and story were published in the local newspaper about the rally.

Elidia from Texas wrote to us that 60 people attended her rally.

Rita from Austin, Minn., wrote, "We held our first



"I'd like to see more Rosary Rally Captains for Saipan. My daughter has enrolled 20 other families to join for next year." *E.C., Saipan*



Procession of Our Lady with TFP members in ceremonial habit on 5th Avenue in New York City.

Rosary crusade in Austin. There were 20 of us present. It was 32 degrees."

Barbara from Jermyn, Pa., wrote, "My friend Kim called and asked if I could attend the rally with her. I got dressed in 15 minutes. Thirty-three people prayed under a very gloomy sky. As we finished the Rosary and started the litany, the clouds parted and the sun was shining down on us. There was a real contrast in the sky. Directly across from us was a funeral home with an American flag flapping in the wind. Over that, the clouds remained dark and ominous. I really felt that the dark clouds represented the evil that is trying to overtake our country."

Maria from Fullerton, Calif., wrote that over 20 attended her Public Square Rosary at a park. Next to them were 50 raucous college students. Someone observed how that was a typical picture of what is going on in our country. Maria and her participants resolved

*Our Lord's resurrection manifested His public glory that was made manifest to the apostles, disciples and many others.*

shall never be abandoned. Indeed the prayers of the humble pierce the clouds."

Jenny from Hopkinsville, Ky, wrote, "Total attendance was 38 people including three priests!"

Valerie from Hawaii informed us that there were 126 rallies in her state!

Finally, George from Canada wrote, "With short notice we had close to 150 attending. There is already much excitement for 2010 and I have five eager participants to form a committee. Canada needs Fatima too!"

This sampling of remarks, I hope, clearly demonstrates the seriousness with which the Rally Captains take this campaign. They understand the tremendous battle that is heating up between the angels and the devils, between good and evil, between those who are of the Virgin, and those who are of the devil.

I hope that some of these remarks may inspire you to sign up to become a rally captain for 2010. You can call us at (866) 584-6012 to sign up right now.

Our Lady needs you now more than ever! ■



"I was very pleased and happy to honor Our Blessed Mother with the Rosary. I know that She did hear our prayers." *E.P., Midland, Texas*



# Our Readers Write...



✉ Thanks for all you do to organize these important Public Square Rosary Rallies in these difficult times. You're an incredible group of people and we appreciate all your support, including the banner that we will save for next year.

*N.M., via e-mail*

✉ Now I'm inspired to be a Rosary Rally Captain every year. We showed the world that we were neither ashamed nor embarrassed to stand up for our Catholic faith.

*M.H., Florissant, Mo.*

✉ My first experience as a Rally Captain on October 10 was truly a wonderful blessing. My community has already asked me to make it a yearly event.

*A.O., Milpitas, Calif.*

✉ This was our first attempt, and 25 people gathered on the very cold, windy day to plead our case before God through Mary. We passed out blankets, caps and gloves to those who were unprepared for the weather. The banner held up beautifully between two permanent posts. We are looking forward to hold another rally next year even if it's snowing.

*V.S., Brackett, Wis.*

✉ I had the pleasure of meeting two of your young representatives, Matthew and Charles. They did a Fatima home visit at the home of a friend of mine. It is inspirational and heartwarming to see such dedication. Thank you for your wonderful mission and all who make it possible.

*J.P., Williamstown, Mass.*

✉ The statue at our Fatima home visit was exceedingly beautiful and the presentation by Custodian José Ferraz was remarkably humble and gentle. Our home was very blessed.

*J.G., Ardmore, Pa.*

✉ I'm very happy to be a Child of Mary. I love the Child of Mary lapel pin and wear it always on my jacket. I also have the big pic-

ture of Our Lady of Fatima in my room and remember that my name is on the Child of Mary Plaque at your main hall.

*C.S., Hales Corner, Wis.*

✉ I am most grateful for your courteous kindness in sending me the novena to Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, which I did not know about. I started praying it as soon as I received it.

*M.C., via e-mail*

✉ The Miraculous Rose Novena and the picture of Saint Thérèse gave me the courage to keep trying.

*M.F., Meridian, Idaho*

✉ Thank you America Needs Fatima for all your correspondence. It's like a drop of water in a dry desert.

*M.S., Edinburg, Texas*

✉ I read everything in your *Crusade Magazine*. WOW! There are conservative Catholics out there! All of your articles, especially the one on Saint Thérèse, were edifying!

*R.M., Horseshoe Bend, Ariz.*

✉ I just finished reading the July/August issue of *Crusade Magazine*, which I found by accident and I am delighted with its content. I would like to subscribe and have more information about fighting blasphemy.

*D.M., Hampton, N.J.*

✉ Thank you so much for the viewpoint that you placed in the September 22 edition of the *Washington Times* against socialistic healthcare reform.

*B.L., Onley, Va.*

✉ Please continue to spread Our Lady's pictures to other homes. I love the peaceful look in her eyes and really enjoy looking at her kind and gentle face. I hope and pray it will bring peace and love to the people who will receive it.

*C.L., San Francisco, Calif.*

✉ What a God-send! When my calendar arrived in the mail I was so overjoyed I cried. It is such a beautiful calendar. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

*M.L., Minneapolis, Minn.*

✉ The America Needs Fatima calendar is my inspiration for the whole year.

*R.Q., El Paso, Texas*

✉ The 2009 calendar was lovely but the 2010 far surpasses it.

*C.C., Falmouth, Maine*

✉ I don't ask, "Maybe we could . . ." or "How about . . ." When I think something is good for evangelizing in public, I do it; then I tell others about it. They can join me; if not, I keep doing it alone.

I started serious efforts to have a Rosary procession in our parish in May and October. Didn't know how or what to do, but decided to just do it. In 2002, at the age of 82, coming out of the church at noon, I started. While people were still coming out, I took out my Rosary and walked and prayed alone around a residential block, with the Rosary dangling from my hand. I sent a letter inviting people to do the same but no one came. I did the same in 2003 and 2004, but no one else came. Finally, in May 2005, a young mother and son came with me. I pointed out that I was old and hoped that they would keep going when I was no longer there. In May 2008, another young mother took over and formed a real procession through the streets. I made a carrier with twelve little lights around the statue for two persons to carry. Those rallies had about 24 people at each. In 2009, there were more than 60 people, including the priest and seminarians. Please pray this mother gets help and that it becomes a yearly event.

*C.J., Guelph, Canada*



# GUSTODIAN'S ORDER

## A Woman Returns to Confession After 50 Years

BY NICHOLAS MAK

We Custodians many times leave a visit without knowing how grace was working inside the souls of the attendees. In fact, I experienced such a visit in San Francisco, California. There was nothing unusual about the visit. The small group that assembled was quiet and attentive. Nothing remarkable seemed to happen, yet grace was moving behind the scenes.

Months later, the hostess of the visit mailed a letter to the America Needs Fatima office in Kansas. She wrote she had been extremely moved by the statue of

Our Lady of Fatima, and had consequently decided to go back to the Church and confess for the first time in 50 years. She concluded her letter with, "I feel so blessed she helped me find my way."

People often ask me if Our Lady has done any miracles through the statue. I answer that no "sensational" type of miracle has happened with the statue. However, Scripture teaches us that converting a soul is a miracle, and no small one at that. So the statue, or rather Our Lady through her statue, did a huge miracle in converting the



The author with one of ANF's Pilgrim Virgin statues.

hostess' soul after 50 years away from the Church! Can you imagine living that long away from the Church?

Saint Ignatius says that we should do everything as if everything depended on men, but know full well that everything depends on God, and this is very much the attitude of Fatima Custodians as we travel with Our Lady, for she is really the one who does all the work. ■

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

## Our Lady Receives Thousands of Roses at Fatima

BY BENJAMIN HIEGERT

All those who participated in the 2009 Public Square Rosary Rallies were remembered in a special way at Fatima.

On October 13, just two days after Our Lady received 4,337 spiritual roses from the Public Square Rosary Rallies across the country, the same number of red roses was presented at her shrine in Fatima. The rallies were a special project of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property and its America Needs Fatima campaign. A special five-member delegation of campaign members went to Fatima on October 13, the ninety-second anniversary of the miracle of the sun to deliver the roses.

The shrine was filled with pilgrims on this special day, and several pilgrims helped the delegation deliver the roses.

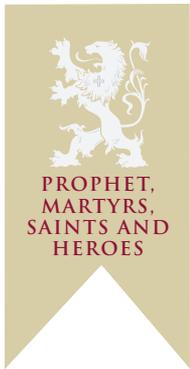
Mr. Felipe Barandiaran, the Spanish correspondent for *Crusade Magazine*, prepared the roses the day before and arranged the logistics to deliver so many fresh flowers at one time.

Together with the red roses, the delegation unfurled a large



4,337 roses were delivered on behalf of Rosary Rally Captains and sponsors.

banner with the names of the 4,337 Rosary Rally Captains. In addition, they delivered some 1,500 white roses to Our Lady of Fatima on behalf of those who helped this year's Public Square Rosary Rallies financially. This offering closed with prayers for each of the Rosary Captains and all those who helped in the preparations for the 2009 Public Square Rosary Rallies. ■



*Eusebio Francisco Kino, S.J.—*

# The Apostle of Arizona

BY WALTER THOMAS CAMIER

Arizona's motto is "*Ditat Deus*," which means "God enriches," and God has certainly endowed Arizona with amazing natural treasures. But, as beautiful as all these treasures are, they only served as a background for one the greatest riches Arizona ever received from its Creator, Fr. Eusebio Kino, S.J. Known as the Great Apostle of the Pima Indians, his accomplishments in Arizona were so widespread that Arizona honored him with a

*Never resting and with  
an inquiring mind,  
Father Kino was the first  
white man to cross Baja  
California from the  
Gulf of California to  
the Pacific Ocean.*

statue in the state's Capitol.

During 1687 to 1711, Fr. Eusebio Kino established over 24 missions. His apostolic travels totaled more than 7,500 miles. He was an explorer, historian, astronomer, mapmaker and missionary.

Father Kino was born in northern Italy in August 1645 and studied at the Jesuit College near Innsbruck, Austria. In 1663, he became seriously ill and promised God that if he recovered he would become a Jesuit and devote his life to the foreign missions as Saint Francis Xavier had done. To his physician's amazement, he recovered, and in memory of God's goodness to him, he added "Francisco" to his name.

Father Kino, living up to his promise to God, entered the Society in 1665 and after two years of novitiate, he spent three years studying philosophy and science at Ingolstadt. He was so competent in mathematics that in 1676 the Duke of Bavaria offered him a full professorship at Ingolstadt, but his heart was in missionary work. He petitioned the Father General

several times to send him to China or to some other mission.

In 1677, the Father General of the Franciscans appointed Father Kino to the missions in Mexico. He arrived in Veracruz in May 1681, and was appointed chaplain for Admiral Atondo's expedition to colonize Baja California. He remained only a year. After a colony was established at La Paz in 1683, the Spaniards had considerable trouble with the Indians and withdrew to Sinaloa. Father Kino made a second attempt within the same year and formed a mission at San Bruno, north of Loreto, where he baptized 400 Indians. Never resting and with an inquiring mind, Father Kino was the first white man to cross Baja California from the Gulf of California to the Pacific Ocean. In 1685, he left the San Bruno mission due to



A statue of Fr. Eusebio Kino stands across from the Arizona State Capitol in Phoenix, Ariz.

sickness. He pleaded unceasingly for the founding of a mission in Baja California but was rejected. Sorrowfully he wrote to his superiors for a solution,

Everybody was very much grieved to see such a gentle, affable, peaceful, extremely friendly, loving and lovable natives left deserted. Already many of them were begging for holy baptism . . . and they confessed that it was not easy to find another heathendom so free as these people from the ugliest vices, such as drunkenness and homicide.<sup>1</sup>

On November 20, 1686, Father Kino began a 1,500-mile trip to the Indians in the Pimeria Alta, a region in southern Arizona, and to the land west of the San Pedro River, and as far north as the junction of the Gila and Colorado Rivers. In 1687, Father Kino chose the village of Corsari and named it Dolores, after Our Lady of Sorrows. In the next 24 years this lone, zealous, resourceful man surveyed the surrounding areas, explored and settled this frontier. He founded many missions and baptized 5,000 Indians. He also imported seeds, cattle, horses and sheep, and gave them to the Indians. In this way he taught the Indians to form a stable society and lifestyle. This apostolic work was so blessed by God that the cattle ranches that he and the Indians founded still exist to this day.

In 1701 and 1702, Father Kino made one exploration down the Colorado River, and another exploration to the head of the Gulf of California. Using his telescope, he proved that the Baja California was a peninsula and not an island. His maps of this region were so accurate that the U.S. government used these until the 19th century.

On one of these explorations, Father Kino was accompanied by Father Juan Maria Salvatierra, born in Milan of a noble family. Fathers Kino and Salvatierra started from the Dolores mission on the Altar River in Sonora, crossing the heart of the desert to the shores of the Gulf of California. This was to become one of the hardest explorations in American history. Father Salvatierra describes it,

It was horrible country, which looked more like ashes than earth, peppered with boulders and . . . entirely black, all of which formed figures, because the lava which flows down, solidifies, stops and assumes shapes . . . . Indeed, I do not know that there can be any place [that] better represents the condition of the world in the general conflagration. And it caused still greater horror to discover that eight leagues from here stretches a great cordillera, a range of mountains, which seemed likewise of volcanic ash.<sup>2</sup>

*[Fr. Kino] also imported seeds, cattle, horses and sheep, and gave them to the Indians to form a stable society and lifestyle.*



Fr. Kino began the building of the Mission of San Xavier del Bac, southwest of Tucson, AZ, in 1697.

When these two intrepid men arrived at the Gulf of California, they saw there was no waterway leading west to separate California from the mainland. Father Kino noted,

The sun had set and from the peak we saw with all clarity the sea below, toward the south, and the place on the beach to which we descended. We saw the half arch of California whose end had been concealed from us by the spur of the mountains which kept getting closer together and joining the other hills and peaks of New Spain [Mexico].

During the next year Father Kino confirmed these findings with a new expedition to the Gila and Colorado Rivers junction and down the Colorado River.

It was soon after this last mission that Father Kino died. In 1711, he had gone to the Santa Magdalena mission, 12 miles west of his headquarters at Dolores mission, to be present at a ceremony dedicating a new chapel to his patron saint, Saint Francis Xavier. During the ceremony, he was taken ill and died shortly after. The bed on which he died was the same as he used in his lifetime: two calfskins for a mattress, two Indian blankets and a packsaddle for a pillow. The final tribute to him was fitting:

Padre Eusebio Francisco Kino—On the fifteenth of March, a little after midnight, Father Eusebio Francisco Kino died with great peace and edification in this house and pueblo of Santa Magdalena at the age of seventy years, having been for nearly twenty-four years missionary of Nuestra Señora de los Dolores, which he himself founded. He worked tirelessly, with continual [peregrinations] and in the conversion of all this Pimeria. He discovered the Casa Grande, the rivers Gila and Colorado, the In-

dian tribes of the Yuma speaking nations, the Comaricopa and Suma Indian nations, and the Quicimaska Indians. And now resting in the Lord, he is buried in a coffin in this chapel of Saint Francis Xavier on the Gospel side where fall the second and third choir seats. He was German by nationality and of the province to which Bavaria belongs, before he entered the Pimeria having been missionary and cosmographer in California, in the time of Admiral Don Ysidro de Atonda.

[signed] *Agustin de Campos*.<sup>3</sup>

Fathers Kino and Salvatierra never gave up promoting the plan to Christianize the Indians in Baja California. In 1697, their persistence was rewarded when the Spanish government turned over the missionary work to the Jesuits. With Father Juan de Ugarte's aid, who became its treasurer, the famous Pious Fund was raised from gifts of devoted Catholics in Spain and Mexico. Fathers Kino and Salvatierra were given complete authority to minister to the Indians in that area. Father Salvatierra was appointed superior, and arrived in Loreto in October 1697. Here, with the aid of three baptized Indians, a handful of soldiers and Father Picolo, they marched northward along the Pacific coast. They formed 17 Jesuit missions from Cape San Lucas to almost San Felipe. Later on, the Spanish government asked them to help find a suitable harbor for a Spanish galleon to anchor, which they did, and this opened the way to evangelize the area of what is now San Diego.

All of this is a consequence of Father Kino's work,

whose vision it was to discover new lands and new conversions for Our Lord's glory. Catholic historians today would agree that the tremendous growth of Catholicism in this area of the southwest was because of the vision, hardships and sacrifices of this selfless priest. Father Kino's process for canonization is ongoing in Rome today. The effort to elevate Father Kino to sainthood took a major step forward, with 130 pounds of documentation supporting Father Kino's beatification presented to the Congregation of Rites in Rome, on May 4, 2008.

Father Kino introduced in America the prayer for the Novena of Grace, which is a devotion in honor of Saint Francis Xavier. It was the novena Father Kino prayed to restore his health when he was near death in Austria in 1663. ■

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**Notes:**

1. Shea, John Gilmary, *Catholic Missions Among the Indian Tribes of the United States* (New York, Arno Press, 1969).

2. *Ibid.*

3. Pourade, Richard F., *The History of San Diego, v.1* (San Diego, Union-Tribune, 1960), p. 50.

## Prayer for the Novena of Grace

**O** Saint Francis Xavier, well beloved and full of charity, in union with thee, I reverently adore the Majesty of God; and since I rejoice with exceeding joy in the singular gifts of grace bestowed upon thee during thy life, and thy gifts of glory after death, I give Him hearty thanks therefore; I beseech thee with all my heart's devotion to be pleased to obtain for me, by thy efficacious intercession, above all things, the grace of a holy

life and a happy death. Moreover, I beg of thee to obtain for me [mention here the spiritual or temporal favor you wish to obtain]. But if what I ask of thee so earnestly doth not tend to the glory of God and the greater good of my soul, do thou, I pray, obtain for me what is more profitable to both these ends. *Amen.*

*(Recite an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be.)*



MANIFESTO

# A Call to Gratitude: Who Will Thank Our Heroes?

*On November 21 and 22, 2009, dissident Catholics and radical leftists led by an excommunicated Fr. Roy Bourgeois, staged a protest at the gates of Fort Benning against the U.S. Army's Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation – the former School of the Americas. In response, TFP Student Action published the following article in the local newspaper of Columbus, Georgia, the Ledger-Enquirer and eleven TFP volunteers traveled to Fort Benning to distribute 4,000 copies of the statement which called upon the public to thank our military heroes and not attend the protest.*

For nearly twenty years, a crowd has gathered at Fort Benning in mid-November to protest against the activities of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (formerly called the School of the Americas) and demand its closure.

The annual event is more than just a protest. It is a gathering of the scattered fringes of the religious, political and cultural left that use the event as a platform to push ideas that range from drug legalization to abortion or even women's ordination. Leftist Maryknoll Father Roy Bourgeois leads this gathering which includes a large collection of socialists, liberation theology advocates and anarchists. It is no surprise that the 71-year-old priest automatically incurred excommunication for openly opposing Catholic Church doctrine. For nearly twenty years, both he and his protesters have resisted the U.S. Army's efforts to "dialogue."

They reject outright the Army's unconditional offers to open its doors to any who wish to review the school's operation.

Nearly twenty years of protest calls to mind another twenty-year milestone – the fall of the Berlin Wall. In light of this commemoration, we offer some considerations.

## **A Continued Danger**

On the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, we might be tempted to think that the world's great military dangers have passed. However, that is not the case. We still live in a world of violence and uncertainties. Our enemies are no longer concentrated behind an Iron Curtain but are scattered about the world in the form of radical groups and rogue nations all too willing to threaten the peace.

With the fall of the Berlin Wall, one would hope that at least the outdated Marxist ideas that caused so much misery all over the world would be consigned to the dustbin of history. However, that is not the case. Guerrilla groups in Latin America like Colombia's FARC still cling to subversive Marxist ideas, causing violence and bloodshed. There is still Stalinist North Korea, poverty-stricken Cuba and communist China oppressing its people and trampling on human natural rights. There is Hugo Chavez's Venezuela exporting his Bolivarian socialist revolution across Latin America - including the building of a nuclear program.

Twenty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, it would be hoped that the terrors of our age might also



The TFP's "Call to Gratitude" campaign began on November 20 at a busy intersection in downtown Columbus, Ga.



Chants and speeches from the protest stage unjustly accused the U.S. military at Fort Benning of being responsible for the deaths of thousands of innocent people and called for its closure.



The flier alerted the demonstrators to the pacifist and socialist agenda behind the protest.

fall. However, that is not the case. Terror or the threat of terror lives as the tactic of choice among Islamic radicals who can be found in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sudan or Palestine. Iran's mullahs stand ready to develop nuclear arms. Suicide bombers strike terror into whole nations and put fear into the hearts of thousands who might become the next innocent victims.

#### **Pacifists Do Not Keep the Peace**

Now more than ever, we need the soldier to keep the peace.

We note, however, that it was not the pacifists that brought down the Berlin Wall. Theirs was a constant message of concession, "dialogue," and defeat.

When the terrible wall came crashing down, these Marxists were nowhere to be found to condemn the massive misery that lay exposed in those communist countries. They did not renounce their adherence to this system which they fought so hard to impose upon the West.

We tend to forget that it was the soldier that helped bring about the fall of the Berlin Wall. The soldier took upon himself the thankless task of confronting evil by

force of arms. It was the soldier that risked all to do his duty wherever he was called to go without hesitation or complaint. The American soldier and his counterparts all over the world stood down the communist threat in Europe, Asia and Latin America.

His services are no less needed in our days.

#### **Thank the Heroes**

Thus, we need to thank – not protest – these heroes who put their lives on the line. These heroes guarantee the peace. We live freely because they made the greatest of sacrifices – even that of life itself.

We remember Medal of Honor heroes like Specialist Ross A. McGinnis, trained at Fort Benning, who distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above

and beyond the call of duty when he threw himself upon a fragmentation grenade and saved four soldiers from certain serious injury or death in Iraq in December of 2006. We remember Navy Seal Michael Monsoor, who likewise unselfishly gave his life, in order to save his fellow Seals on September 29, 2006.

We can also remember heroes like the late Col. John W. Ripley whose heroism in Vietnam was legendary.

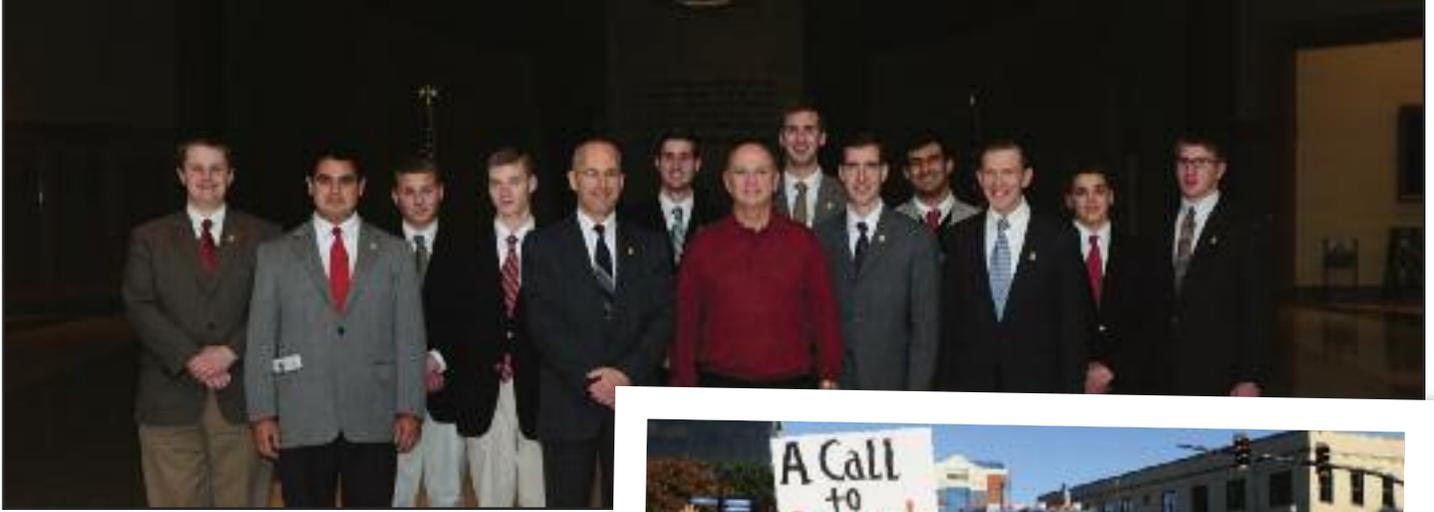
*We live freely because they made the greatest of sacrifices – even that of life itself.*



Spc. Ross A. McGinnis received the Medal of Honor for jumping on a live grenade to save his men.



The virtues of the American soldier deserve our esteem and admiration.



General White, a retired US Army general and former commander of Fort Benning, invited TFP Student Action to see The National Infantry Museum in Columbus, Ga. which he opened in June 2009.

These and so many more make up those legions of heroes that deserve not our scorn but our gratitude.

**Where Will They Turn?**

There are those who protest against the soldier. They see his role as one buttressing structures of oppression and power. They are ready to unfairly label those who still fight against Marxism as murderers and assassins. They turn a blind eye to a ruthless enemy who breaks all rules and conventions as Marxists have al-

*As Americans, let us be proud of our heroes as they continue to fight and train others to defend their nations against those who threaten the peace.*

ways done. They would deny defenseless populations the training and tools needed to defend themselves against this enemy.

In the case of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, the protesters ignore the fact that the overwhelming majority of its graduates have committed no crime, unless it is a crime to keep their countries safe and free. They are prepared to amplify any alleged crime of a soldier to gigantic proportions while reducing to nothing the blatant abuses of Marxists in countries like Cuba, China, Nicaragua, and Venezuela.

We ask those who protest: When the fury of the terrorists turns upon them, who will they appeal to? When their freedom is taken away with the same disregard as Colombia's FARC guerrillas take the free-



Long choruses of enthusiastic honking greeted the "Call to Gratitude."

dom of their innocent hostages, where will they turn? When their right to protest is met with bullets and tanks like that of Tiananmen Square, who will be there to defend them?

They will turn to the soldier who defends even those who calumniate him.

**A Call to Gratitude**

The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) calls upon the public to thank the heroes.

Let us thank them for standing up to the Soviet menace that lurked behind the Berlin Wall that fell twenty years ago. Let us thank those who still fight and keep our nation safe and help other nations do likewise.

Let us, of course, censure any abuses, but let us also be consistent and condemn the systemic and widespread abuses that have come from Castro's Cuba, the FARC guerillas and other leftist movements that still uphold the outdated and iniquitous Marxist ideologies that built the infamous Berlin Wall.

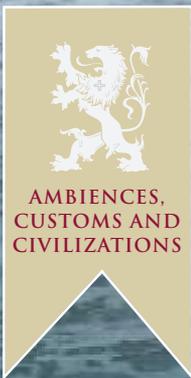
As Americans, let us be proud of our heroes as they continue to fight and train others to defend their nations against those who threaten the peace.

May God protect them and their families in their daily battles around the world.

*November 18th 2009  
The American TFP*



The reception of the TFP's bagpipes, drums, banners and flags showed the public's overwhelming admiration for the military.



# SLOW DOWN, YOU'RE NOT ON THE MAINLAND

BY THOMAS RYDER

For a few days in mid-October, I had the occasion to visit small Block Island, off the shore of Rhode Island. The island is definitely special, very different, and, after the tourist season, the calmest place on earth. The tranquility and genuine serenity of the atmosphere envelop you, something I imagine one would find in Paradise. Such an atmosphere invites you to recollect your thoughts, bringing to mind the quote, "Be still and know that I am God" (*Psalms 46:11*). After a few days away from the mainland, the feeling is one of complete disconnection.

I sat for hours on the deserted beach watching the unending succession of waves as they came in and out caressing the sand, and the magnificent grandeur of the ocean, the image of our great God lovingly aware of every hair that falls from our heads.

I went to Block Island with no great expectations, but returned with a deep experience and a great lesson. Holy Scriptures tells us that God is not found in commotion. In the calm of Block Island, without any "vision" or special "revelation" I sensed the presence and supreme goodness of all that is God. Within that same awareness, my heart went out to a humanity so much given to sensuality and the frenetic pursuit of worldly goods as its only source of happiness.

As I stepped on the ferry back to the mainland, I looked back and felt I was leaving an old friend with whom I wished I could have stayed longer.

God in His infinite goodness is clearly mirrored in His creation, and a sense of His presence would fill our hearts to the brim if only we knew how to find Him. Yet, we must remember that He will not mix with impurities. The choice is ours to make.

Small Block Island, that place cut off from the busy mainland that calls us to slow down, also calls us to reacquaint ourselves with our real Father, Who is in Heaven waiting to embrace us for all eternity! ■

