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CRUSADE[®]

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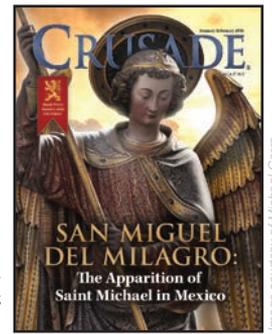
TRADITION
FAMILY AND
PROPERTY[®]

SAN MIGUEL DEL MILAGRO:

**The Apparition of
Saint Michael in Mexico**

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016



Cover:

Statue of Saint Michael in the Cathedral of Saint Bavo in Ghent, Belgium.

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Page 16 An ocean of roses “floods” Fatima



Page 8 The Synod on the Family—more questions than answers



Page 18 “I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel.” Gen: 3:15

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CRUSADE

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THE AMERICAN TFP

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

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



IN BRIEF

American Veterans, Assyrian Christians Join in Fight Against ISIS

Even as the U.S. government refuses to send a significant number of ground troops, a number of American combat veterans have joined the fight against the Islamic State. Fighters from America, England, Greece, Australia and Israel form an unusual band of fighters aligned with Kurds and Syrians. Another group, The Nineveh Plain Protection Unit is composed of Assyrian Christians who descended from the First Century Christians evangelized by disciples of Jesus Christ. They still speak Aramaic, the language spoken by Jesus Christ Himself.



Finnish Citizens Mobilize to Oppose Gender-neutral "Marriage" Law

True Marriage Association, a group that aims to uphold traditional marriage between one man and one woman, collected 106,670 signatures to challenge the Finnish Parliament which passed a law legalizing same-sex "marriage" in Finland. This citizens' initiative, a new way for citizens to propose or repeal a law, requires only a minimum of 50,000 signatures for the parliament to take up for consideration.

Gun Manufacturer Produces "Crusader" Rifle

A new assault rifle is being produced by a Florida gun maker that would probably never be used by Islamic terrorists. Spike's Tactical in Apopka etched its new AR-15 with a Bible verse that says: "Blessed be the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle." (Psalm 144:1) On the other side of the magazine, is etched a symbol of a cross that dates back from the Crusades of the Middle Ages.

UK Parliament Votes Down Suicide Bill as California Enacts Its Own

An assisted suicide bill introduced by Labor MP Robert Marris failed to pass in UK's parliament by a vote of 330 to 118, representing an absolute majority. Meanwhile, Catholic California Governor Jerry Brown signed into law a bill that allows terminally-ill patients to end their own lives via lethal medication whenever they choose.

Tennessee Judge Refuses Divorce to Straight Couple Citing U.S. Supreme Court Ruling on Same-sex "Marriage"

Judge Jeffrey Atherton of Chattanooga, Tenn., ruled that he will not grant a divorce to a straight couple because the U.S. Supreme Court allowed same-sex "marriage." The judge claimed that the U.S. Supreme Court's *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision



"divested subject matter jurisdiction from this court when a divorce is contested." He further wrote, "Individuals, at least according to the majority opinion, are apparently authorized to define when a marriage begins and, accordingly, ends, without the pesky intervention/intrusion of a state court. Divorce denied."

Number of Christian Martyrs Doubles

Open Doors, a group supporting persecuted Christians worldwide, reported that there were 2,123 Christians killed for their faith around the world in 2013 compared with 1,201 in 2012. Other Christian groups put the annual figure as high as

8,000 worldwide. The report also said that "Islamist extremism is the worst persecutor" of Christians worldwide.

"Death Kits" Issued to Quebec Doctors to Regulate Euthanasia

College de Medecins (QCM), Quebec's professional body regulating doctors, has published a guideline on how to euthanize their patients with contents of a death kit to be issued by pharmacists. A group opposed to euthanasia told LifeSiteNews.com that "doctors in Quebec will start killing people in December." The secretary of the QCM also said that the whole process "would probably take something around 15 minutes."



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TRAINING CHILDREN IN Generosity

BY FATHER RAOUL PLUS, S.J.



The child is instinctively selfish, but he easily learns generosity. His training should be directed toward it and the best kind of training is through example. The following stories may help your little one grow in this precious virtue.

Little Rose of Lima's childhood was marked by a series of accidents, maladies, and sufferings. When only three months old she crushed her thumb under a trunk lid and the nail had to be removed. She also had to undergo an ear operation which was followed by a skin disease that began on her head; her mother mistakenly treated it with a salve which burnt her so severely that the surgeon had to treat her for weeks. Thanks to her mother's encouragement, this little girl of four years bore the cruel pain with an astonishing calmness and in perfect silence.

Like many little girls, she was vain and took considerable care of her hair which was very beautiful. Her brother used to throw mud at it and get it all dirty just to tease her. Rose became very angry, but the brother, recalling perhaps some sermon he had heard, assumed a preaching tone on one of these occasions and said to her solemnly, "Take care, vanity will be your ruin."

Rose did not answer, but bit by bit began to understand . . . and she detached herself. That detachment prepared her for greater sacrifices and soon we see her offering her virginity to God.

Jacqueline was another little girl, a little girl of our own day, who learned the lesson of sacrifice. She was sick and suffering much. "Oh, I believe nobody has ever had pain like mine!"



Our Lord gives the ultimate example of generosity, giving up His life for our salvation. Children should be taught to generously give of themselves, with Christ as their model.

"Where does it hurt?" she was asked.

"In my stomach, in my head, everywhere!"

"Think of Jesus on the Cross. . ."

This time her attention was caught. She forgot her own misery to sympathize with her dear saint whom people had hurt.

Guy de Fontgalland had to have many painful injections in his leg.

"Offer it to Jesus, my darling," suggested his mother. "He was crowned with thorns for love of you."

"Oh yes, that is true and He kept the thorns in His head while they quickly removed the needle from my leg."

A mother had three children: the oldest was four, the second was three, and the baby, twenty months. It was Good Friday. Why not encourage them to offer Jesus on the Cross some little sacrifice which would cost them a little?

"My children, I will not deprive you of your chocolate candy at lunch today; but little ones who love Jesus will know themselves how to sacrifice their chocolate." She made no further reference to it. None of the children answered. That evening the mother was very much moved to see the three chocolate bars at the foot of the Crucifix. Our Lord must have smiled at the childish offering; one of the candy bars bore the teeth marks of the baby who had hesitated before the offering and begun to nibble on her chocolate.

These stories of successful lessons in generosity are encouraging. What others have achieved, can I not achieve too? ■

Taken from *Christ in the Home* by Father Raoul Plus, S.J.



COMMENTARY

In Search of the Lost Wolf

Making Sense of the U.S.–Cuba Negotiations—Past, Present and Future

BY JAMES BASCOM

Pope Francis' visit to Cuba last September, symbolically preceding his arrival in the United States, prompted many Americans to rethink our country's decades-old embargo of the Communist island nation. The Pope's act of visiting Cuba en route to America was clearly a symbolic gesture that expressed a greater moral opposition to the embargo than words ever could.

This was not the Pope's first action against the American embargo. For more than one year the Vatican, the United States and Cuba participated in secret negotiations in Canada that culminated in the restoration of diplomatic ties, the reopening of embassies, and the loosening of travel restrictions, with intentions to fully eliminate the trade embargo before the end of President Obama's final term. In a speech on December 17, 2014, Cuban dictator Raul Castro effusively thanked Pope Francis for his role: "I wish to thank and acknowledge the support of the Vatican, most particularly the support of Pope Francisco in the efforts for improving relations between Cuba and the United States."¹

The United States is the only country in the world that imposes a trade embargo with Cuba, a fact long decried by the United Nations, leftist governments, and socialist activists around the world. Indeed, opposition to the American embargo on trade with Cuba has been a leftist rallying cry for decades. Nearly every socialist world leader, from

François Hollande of France to Dilma Roussef of Brazil to the late Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, has publicly condemned it. For twenty-four years in a row the United Nations General Assembly has approved a resolution condemning the American embargo. These resolutions are nearly unanimous; 2015's passed by a vote of 191-2, with only the United States and Israel voting against.

Contrary to popular belief, the embargo is not a "blockade." Any country is free to trade with Cuba. Venezuela has essentially donated

billions of dollars in free oil to Cuba in exchange for the services of Cuban "doctors." China has loaned tens of billions of dollars to Cuba for building factories and buying up oil exploration rights. Brazil, governed by the socialist Workers Party, has sunk nearly \$1 billion into the Port of Mariel, an "Exclusive Economic Zone" in western Cuba. The governments of Canada, Spain and many other European countries have likewise invested billions of dollars into Cuba. Nearly all these countries have seen little to no return on their investments.²

In spite of this enormous financial and political support (or rather because of it) Cuba remains a poor, bloody dictatorship that drives thousands of its people to risk their lives at sea for a chance to escape. Those Cubans not in jail and fortunate enough to have a job earn a mere \$20 per month on average.³ To survive, Cubans joke that on the island one has three options, called the three "R's": *remar*, *robar*, *resignarse* (row, steal, or resign oneself).

On the very same day as the above-mentioned speech of Raul Castro, President Obama declared that "these fifty years have shown that isolation has not worked. It's time for a new approach."⁴ In reality, these fifty years of economic and political engagement by the rest of the world have not worked. Economic engagement has utterly failed to overthrow the Communist regime and bring freedom to the long-suffering Cuban people. The billions of dollars from tourism and economic investment have strengthened, not weakened, the Castro brothers' grip on power.

Many observers, particularly Catholics, have been led to believe that the only proper way to deal with the Cuban regime is to treat it the way Our Lord Jesus Christ supposedly would: with gentleness and compassion. We must, so they say, seek out Cuba just as the Good Shepherd would seek out the lost sheep. On the contrary, Cuba is more akin to a lost wolf, one that continues to devour innocent victims by the thousands.

These Catholics admit to the infinite mercy of Our Lord Jesus Christ, yet overlook His equally infinite justice. This Divine Justice was revealed with Our Lord's holy indignation at the hypocrisy of the

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Pharisees. He repeatedly and publicly denounced them, calling them “whitewashed sepulchers,” “broods of vipers,” and “sons of the devil.” Likewise, with Divine justice Our Lord whipped the money-changers out of the Temple. God Our Lord is both infinite Mercy and infinite Justice. To deny one or the other is to present a disfigured image of God.

As Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira wrote:

“There are many Catholics who see the episodes in the Gospel of Our Lord’s Holy Indignation against the ignominy and perfidy of the Pharisees as something unworthy of imitation. At least one would conclude that from the way they do apostolate. They speak always of sweetness, and try to always imitate this virtue of Our Lord. May God bless them for this. But why don’t they seek to imitate the other virtues of Our Lord?”

“Frequently when one proposes a forceful apostolic action the response is invariably that it is necessary to proceed with mildness ‘in order not to alienate sinners.’ Can anyone sustain the idea that forceful actions always cause the ‘alienation of sinners?’ Could it be sustained that Our Lord, when he threw his burning condemnations at the Pharisees, did so with the intention of ‘alienating sinners?’ Or should one suppose that Our Lord did not know about the ‘catastrophic’ effects that His words would have on the Pharisees? Who would dare to speak such a blasphemy against Our Lord, the Incarnate Wisdom?”⁵

According to dissident groups, more than 250 political prisoners were arrested during Pope Francis’ visit alone.⁶ Although 3,500 prisoners were released to much fanfare shortly before the Pope’s arrival, none were political prisoners, a fact that the Cuban government made very clear. Moreover, Raul Castro declared that maintaining the Cuban Communist Party in power is a non-negotiable prerequisite for any negotiations and that any attempts to intercede on behalf of political prisoners would be considered a hostile intrusion in Cuba’s internal affairs.

Since Raul Castro took power from his brother Fidel in 2006, there have been no less than 259 documented cases of “enemies of the Revolution” who have been executed or “disappeared,” and no less than 8,200 since 1959, according to the dissident group CubaArchive.org.⁷ These are merely the fully documented cases, and there are certainly many thousands more unaccounted for. An estimated 77,000 have drowned at sea trying to escape to freedom.

Cuba is a long-time sponsor of the Colombian Marxist terrorist group FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia), a group that has killed more than 200,000 people in its five-decade war to overthrow the Colombian government. At the



President Barack Obama greets Cuban President Raul Castro. As negotiations between the two leaders continue, the sufferings of the Cuban people persecuted by Communism are continually ignored.

same time that Raul Castro received Pope Francis, his government was hosting “peace” talks in Havana between the Colombian government and the FARC. Thanks to Cuban support, the FARC is demanding, and receiving, complete political and criminal amnesty without disarmament in exchange for a permanent “ceasefire.”

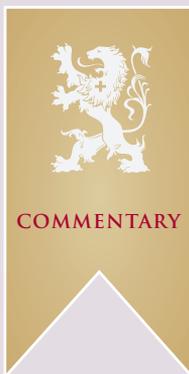
In addition, an estimated seventy American criminals are being harbored by Cuba, including convicted cop-killer Joanne Chesimard. Cuba has also given support to the Spanish terrorist group ETA for years and currently refuses to extradite to Spain two members of that group who have lived there since the 1980s.⁹

Worse than the torture and terrorism perpetrated by the Cuban regime is the abominable Communist doctrine it imposes on the Cuban people. This atheistic doctrine is antithetical to Catholic doctrine and any authentically Christian society. It is the justification for all the abuses and crimes committed by Communists, and the motivation for Raul Castro’s militant resistance to any attempts at its overthrow.

In his masterful 1963 essay *The Freedom of the Church in the Communist State: The Impossible Coexistence*, Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira demonstrated that a Catholic cannot in good conscience peacefully coexist with a Communist government. In exchange for a limited freedom of worship, Communists inevitably require Catholics to renounce certain points of Catholic doctrine, or at least refrain from preaching them. Such points always include the Catholic teachings on the right of private property and the family. A Catholic cannot renounce Church doctrine; to do so would be to disfigure the Faith and slowly lead souls to accept Communist doctrine.

Lingering Concerns Regarding the Synod on the Family

BY REX TEODOSIO



Many concerned Catholics have lingering questions regarding the Synod on the Family held in October 2015. Over 300 prelates and advisers gathered to discuss moral challenges the family faces today. Understandably, the whole world hoped for clearly stated guidelines.

In the weeks that followed the Synod, instead of clarity, articles and reports on it only generated much confusion.

Here's a sampling of the headlines from the much-read conservative online news portal, www.lifesitenews.com:

- *Wash Post* hypes “Tea Party-like faction” of faithful Catholic bishops (10/23/15)
- Toronto cardinal criticizes Wuerl, Rosia for accusing conservative bishops of not “liking” the pope (10/28/15)
- German and Swiss bishops hail Synod’s new tone welcoming those in sinful unions (11/6/15)
- Is the “gay mafia” behind the Synod on the Family? (11/3/15)
- Pope Francis’ theologian: Local bishops’ conferences cannot change doctrine (11/4/15)
- Bishop Schneider warns of “spirit of Satan” at Synod on the Family (10/21/15)

It is easy to understand how the common Catholic would be confused. Shouldn't a synod about the family help Catholic families navigate through the dangerous waters of a modern sinful world? Why are



...continued on page 23

The American rapprochement with the Castro dictatorship will do nothing to alleviate the suffering of the Cuban people. America is essentially admitting defeat in its fifty-year opposition to Cuban Communism, an act which is greatly enhancing the Castros' prestige, reinforcing their grip on power, and legitimizing their rule in the eyes of the Cuban people and the world. Cuban Catholics, by far the largest and most important obstacle to Communist rule, are receiving the message that their suffering has all been in vain.

At face value, the Obama administration's rapprochement with the Castro dictatorship seems to many to be a victory for socialism. A more profound analysis of the facts, however, reveals just the opposite. In spite of unprecedented political and economic support from many nations, as well as the moral support of the Pope himself, Cuban socialism has failed. The country is in such dire economic straits that, like the Eastern Bloc in 1989, popular outrage is seriously threatening the Cuban Communist Party's grip on power.

If the regime were truly strong—and enjoyed the support of its people—it wouldn't need the economic life raft being thrown to it by the hated “Yankees.” For the left, Cuba should be a model of socialism to be proud of. Instead, it is THE basket case of Marxism, a rotting corpse that needs all the support it can get to avoid tottering into the abyss. Obama is essentially putting Cuba on economic life support which, as any doctor could explain, is not a sign of health and vitality.

May Our Lady of Charity, patroness of Cuba, intercede to fortify the Faith of those heroic Cubans who continue to resist. May she crush the Communist regime and bring relief and freedom to the long-suffering Cuban people. ■

Notes:

1. www.washingtonpost.com/world/full-text-speech-by-cuban-president-raul-castro-on-re-establishing-us-cuba-relations/2014/12/17/45bc2f88-8616-11e4-b9b7-b8632ae73d25_story.html

2. www.bbc.com/portuguese/noticias/2014/12/141218_cuba_brasil_ganha_lgb_rc

3. www.latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/06/17/average-salary-in-cuba-rose-1-pct-last-year-to-20-month/

4. www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/12/17/statement-president-cuba-policy-changes

5. LEG, 28-09-1941, Não tratemos os lobos como ovelhas perdidas

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7. www.cubaarchive.org/files/2014_Human_Toll_of_Raul_Castros_Rule.pdf

8. www.paulbogdanor.com/left/cuba/dictatorship.html

9. www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/02/spain-us-cuba-return-eta-fugitives-terror-blacklist



SAN MIGUEL DEL MILAGRO: *The Apparition of Saint Michael in Mexico*



BY BEN BROUSSARD

The state of Tlaxcala, in Mexico, lies in a broad valley with distant views of active volcanoes. Steep hills tower over fertile farmlands where orchards, cornfields, and cattle ranches dot the landscape. The long history of this part of Mexico can be seen to this day in the impressive ruins of Indian pyramids and beautiful Spanish colonial architecture.

Prior to the arrival of Europeans, the Tlaxcalan Indians for centuries embraced idolatry and superstitious practices. When Hernán Cortés arrived in 1521, the Tlaxcalans at first resisted, but later became his staunchest allies and united with him to conquer the Aztecs. As new friends of the Spanish, the Tlaxcalans themselves destroyed their idols and temples.

The Tlaxcalans became the first tribe in Mexico to embrace Catholicism. As a result, the hand of Divine Providence blessed Tlaxcala abundantly through the centuries. No greater manifestation can be found than in the year 1631, when the great warrior archangel was sent to

save the people from mortal danger and shower blessings on future generations.

Mexico and Rome— A Celestial Connection

Saint Michael's apparition in Mexico is directly connected with another of his apparitions many centuries earlier. On the other side of the globe in the year 590, Saint Gregory the Great was elected pope. Rome and all of Italy was suffering from a terrible plague. The holy pope ordered public processions through the streets to beg for an end to the epidemic. An icon of Our Lady painted by Saint Luke the Evangelist was carried at the head of the papal court.

As the procession wound along the Tiber River, the Litany of Saints was intoned. At the conclusion of the litany, Saint Gregory looked up and saw the heavens open. Saint Michael with his fellow angels descended. A heavenly perfume filled the air. The angels began singing to Our Lady, seated high above on a throne:

*Regina Coeli, laetare, Alleluia!
Quia quem meruisti portare, Alleluia!
Resurrexit sicut dixit, Alleluia!**

Saint Gregory, overwhelmed at the sight, concluded the angelic chorus, singing out:

Ora pro nobis Deum, Alleluia!

Concluding the vision, the great pope witnessed Saint Michael sheathing his sword, and the plague at once came to an end. Castel Sant'Angelo was built at the site where Saint Michael and his fellow angels appeared. April 25th, the date of the apparition,

A view of the valley of Tlaxcala, with La Malinche volcano towering overhead. Inset: Map of Mexico showing Tlaxcala State in relation to Mexico City.



Jose Alonso

*The *Regina Coeli* translates as follows: Queen of Heaven, rejoice, Alleluia! For the Son whom thou merited to bear, Alleluia! Has risen as He said, Alleluia! Pray for us to God, Alleluia!

became the fixed date for the annual procession that would come to be known throughout the Catholic world as the Greater Litanies.

Meanwhile in Tlaxcala, the Processions Continue

More than a millennium later, the year 1631 saw the people of Tlaxcala, Mexico also ravaged by a plague. Called “cocolixtli” by the inhabitants, the horrible disease left few alive after immense sufferings. As had been done throughout the Catholic world since Saint Gregory’s time, on April 25th the people of Tlaxcala took part in the procession of the Greater Litanies.

It was here that Saint Michael chose to manifest himself again. Instead of the Vicar of Christ, this time the great archangel appeared to a lowly Indian. Diego de San Lazaro, only seventeen years old at the time, saw Saint Michael in a vision at the conclusion of the procession. The heavenly warrior addressed him thus:

“I am Saint Michael the Archangel, and I have come to tell you that it is the will of God and mine that you tell the inhabitants of this place, and everywhere around, that near a valley between two mountain ridges you will find a miraculous spring of water that will cure men of their ills. You will find it beneath a great boulder. Do not doubt what I have told you and do not neglect what I have sent you to do.”

Mural in the shrine church depicting the apparition of Saint Michael. A light descending from heaven and the expulsion of demons marked the first of a series of miraculous events showing Saint Michael’s great favor.



Octavio Alonso Maya Castro

Castel Sant’Angelo in Rome marks the site where Saint Michael appeared during the procession of the Greater Litanies, ending a great plague. Saint Michael would appear during the same procession in Mexico centuries later, ending another epidemic and giving a lasting reminder of his powerful help.

Why Me?

As Saint Michael disappeared, Diego was filled with holy joy, which soon changed to confusion and anxiety. Astounded by the celestial vision, this young man asked others in the procession if they had seen Saint Michael. The puzzled looks on the faces of those around him made it clear he was the only one who had seen the celestial prince. Diego became convinced that he imagined the whole encounter, as he could not fathom why he of all people would be chosen for such an honor. Returning home that evening, Diego decided to tell no one about his vision of Saint Michael, not even his own family.

After a few days, the great archangel appeared to Diego again. This time, this heavenly and terrible guest was quite displeased. The great prince towering over him thundered,

“Why did you doubt what I have told you? Because you have not done as I requested, you too will be stricken with the plague that is devastating your people.”

Immediately Diego fell back, taken violently ill. He remained in this state for some time, unable to move or speak, with his condition worsening quickly. Over the course of two weeks, this poor Indian stricken with the dreaded cocolixtli appeared to be wasting away. Diego’s family, convinced he was on the point of death, called for the priests. The Franciscans arrived and administered the Last Sacraments. Family, friends and clergy prayed aloud the prayers for the dying as Diego continued in his sufferings.

Saint Michael to the Rescue

Just when everyone was convinced the end was near, Saint Michael appeared yet again. This time, everyone present saw him, surrounded by dazzling light. Taking Diego by the hand, Saint Michael and Diego soon disappeared.

A short time later, Diego appeared again in the same room, standing and completely restored. He announced to everyone,

“Saint Michael transported me to the place he had told me about before. With Saint Michael going before me through the night, everything was illuminated as the great prince passed, as if it were midday. Rocks and branches split apart as he passed, clearing a path for us. As we reached a certain spot, I saw Saint Michael holding a golden staff topped with a cross. ‘From the place I touch with this staff will flow the miraculous spring I told you about during the procession. Make it clear to everyone that the illness you have suffered is a fruit of your disobedience.’

“Having said this, a great whirlwind rushed in amid the din of screams, wailing and moaning, as if a great crowd were being driven from the place. I shook with fear. It appeared the entire mountain ridge would tumble down on top of me during the turmoil. ‘Do not fear,’ said my heavenly protector, ‘these are the sounds made by the demons, thine enemies, because they know the great benefits that through my intercession the faithful will receive in this place from Our Lord. Many, seeing the marvels worked here, will convert and do penance for their sins, and all will give thanks to God for His mercies. Those who approach with lively faith and sorrow for their faults will, with the water from this spring, obtain relief in their labors and needs, and find a comfort in these waters for the sick on the point of death.’

“This being said, I saw a brilliant light descend from heaven, piercing the ground at the site of the spring. Saint Michael then said, ‘This light that you have seen descend from heaven is the virtue God in His Divine Providence gives in this spring for the health and relief of the sick and needy. Make this known at once to everyone. That they may believe your testimony, I promise to work a great prodigy through you.’ With that, Saint Michael disappeared, and I found myself here once again, completely restored.”

Making the Miracle Known

Diego’s family stood in awe as he recounted his tale. His sudden transformation thrilled them to no end. Remembering Saint Michael’s command to spread the devotion, Diego went at once to the superior of the Franciscans. The priest listened with interest as Diego recounted the story, un-



The chapel of the spring, where pilgrims have come for centuries to partake of the miraculous waters blessed by Saint Michael himself.

certain what to make of it. He decided to send Diego to the Governor of Tlaxcala, Don Gregório de Nazienzen, who was known for his learning and discernment.

Diego was received by the governor and recounted the entire story of Saint Michael’s appearance to him. The governor listened, growing more skeptical as Diego continued. How could the Prince of the Heavenly Armies choose to appear to an uneducated Indian like Diego? There were scholars, doctors of theology, skilled orators and other dignitaries living in the vicinity. Why would Saint Michael not choose from among their number?

After asking a few questions, Don Gregório concluded that the tale was false. He commanded Diego to return home at once, warning that he did not want to hear any more about apparitions. Diego did as he was told, disappointed but undaunted in his quest to promote devotion to his heavenly prince.

Diego then summoned his family and led them to the place where Saint Michael had revealed the spring. As they approached, they saw the great boulder blocking the spot. The men toiled in vain to remove the great stone, but the half-ton monolith would not budge. It was here that Diego remembered Saint Michael’s words: “...I promise to work a great prodigy through you.” Asking everyone to stand back, he said a prayer for Saint Michael’s assistance. He then walked up and lifted



Above: The shrine church of San Miguel del Milagro, enlarged over the centuries, continues to attract pilgrims from near and far. **Right above:** The sanctuary of the shrine church of San Miguel del Milagro. Our Lady Queen of Angels stands above the baldachino.



up the massive rock as if it were made of paper. The promised spring gushed forth with crystalline water. No one there

doubted the truth of Diego's words, and word began to spread of the miraculous water.

A young girl stricken with the dreaded *cocoltli* saw a vision of Saint Michael in a dream, bidding her to avail of the water. A relative brought the requested water, and she was restored to health. Hearing this, Diego begged her to give testimony to the governor. This she refused, fearing a harsh treatment. In a neighboring village, another miracle followed soon after, this time a young lady cured of the same dread disease by the miraculous water. Again, Diego failed to find help from her or anyone in the family.

Help From Above

Feeling discouraged, Diego considered the task before him impossible. A year had gone by and he still had little support. His heavenly intercessor, seeing his plight, once more appeared to him and said, "Why do you act cowardly, and are negligent in what two times now I have commanded you? Do you want to be punished once again for your disobedience? Arise, and have diligence in making known what I have commanded."

Diego at once went to the spring, and filled a jug with water. Bypassing the hostile governor, he went with haste to the Bishop of Puebla, Don Quiróz. The same archangel facilitated his entrance before the bishop. Diego recounted all concerning Saint Michael's manifestation. He came to seek the aid of

the bishop in completing Saint Michael's command of spreading the devotion. The bishop listened with great interest. He ordered the water taken to the hospital. All who drank from it were cured of their maladies.

Others soon came to testify before the bishop in the official investigation. Two recently arrived Spaniards went to the spring and were overwhelmed by a heavenly fragrance that permeated the place. Taking water with them back to Puebla, they testified to the many sick that drank and were cured. Officials sent to the spring testified to the great number of cures as well as the devotions to Saint Michael that were flourishing. Based on the numerous testimonies and verified miracles, Don Quiróz gave ecclesiastical approbation, and ordered the first chapel erected, just as Saint Michael requested.

A Constant Flow of Blessings

Since 1631, the number of pilgrims to what came to be known as San Miguel del Milagro continually increased. The first chapel became too small, and larger churches have since been built at the site. Diego de San Lazaro, faithful to Saint Michael's commands, spent the rest of his life spreading the devotion and is today buried behind the church's high altar.

Processions continue to our own day. The faithful flock to the shrine on April 25th, the day Saint Michael first appeared during a procession, and September 29th, his glorious feast day.

Just as Saint Michael promised, conversions have taken place due to the marvels worked here over the centuries. Pilgrims from Tlaxcala, other parts of Mexico and beyond come to avail themselves of the water and to honor the celestial prince. Though physical cures are rare today, great numbers leave strengthened, secure in Saint Michael's assistance for life's many battles.

The Prince of the Heavenly Armies manifested himself in 1631 in this remote part of Mexico to show forth his great power. An epidemic came to an end and a source of miraculous water now flows continuously.

Like Saint Gregory the Great and Diego de San Lazaro before us, let us have confidence in the celestial archangel. With trust in his powerful help, a great victory in our days is assured. ■

Bibliographical Note: The primary source for this article was the book *Narracion de la maravillosa aparicion que hizo el Arcángel San Miguel a Diego Lazaro de San Francisco* by Fr. Francisco de Florencia, SJ, published 1898 in Puebla, Mexico.



AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA[®]

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

PROGRESS REPORT

Over 14,000 Rosary Rallies Give Hope in a World Torn by Sin and Abortion

BY JOHN RITCHIE

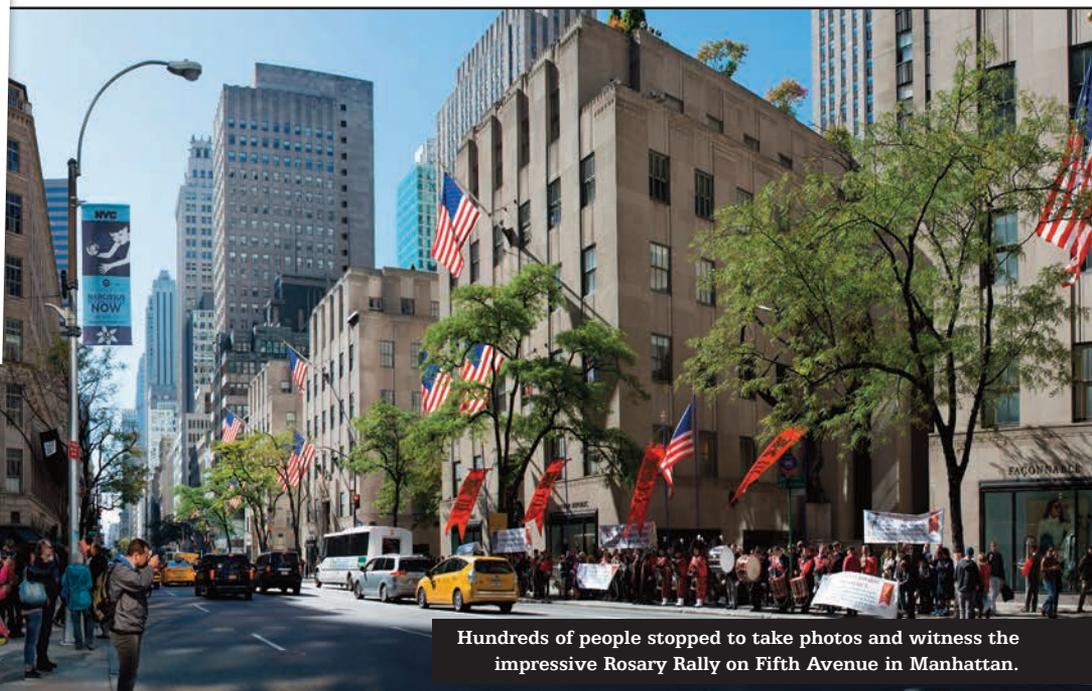
With great faith and devotion, hundreds of thousands of Catholics gathered at 14,108 different locations across the country on October 10th to pray the rosary in public and beg God and the Blessed Mother to save America. Simultaneously at noon that Saturday, more than 14,000 Rosary Rally captains went into the public square with friends and family to beseech God for special graces of conversion for our beloved nation.

Within one hour, approximately 31,500,000 Hail Marys rose up to heaven on city streets across

America. From coast to coast, these Public Square Rosary Rallies—sponsored by the American TFP and its America Needs Fatima campaign—highlight the importance of the Blessed Mother’s call to conversion at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917.

TFP volunteers attended the high-profile Rosary Rally in front of Rockefeller Center in Manhattan, New York. In the majestic shadow of the newly restored Saint Patrick’s Cathedral on Fifth Avenue, the din of traffic was temporarily subdued by the calm recitation of the rosary, punctuated at intervals by Marian hymns executed by the youthful TFP bagpipe,

Recently restored, the stunning towers of Saint Patrick’s Cathedral overlook the site of the Public Square Rosary Rally.



Hundreds of people stopped to take photos and witness the impressive Rosary Rally on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan.

Image courtesy of Michael Gorre



brass and drum corps.

Hail Holy Queen Enthroned Above and *Immaculate Mary* and other hymns echoed off the surrounding skyscrapers making the sight impossible to miss.

The rally in Manhattan began when a statue of Our Lady of Fatima, escorted by TFP volunteers in ceremonial habit, processed up the sidewalk to her place of honor. Hundreds of bystanders temporarily froze on the busy sidewalk to capture the moment on their cell phones. Some even joined the rally.

After an hour of prayer at Rockefeller Center, TFP volunteers marched some twenty blocks to the Planned Parenthood Federation of America building located on West 33rd Street to pray for the end of abortion. Here more prayers were recited and “Reparation! Reparation! Reparation!” was chanted by those gathered as a way to console the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary for the grave sins of abortion and homosexual “marriage” in our land. Taking notice of the prayer rally at their doorstep, Planned Parenthood employees exited their building and paced to and fro with agitation,



Image courtesy of Michael Gorre

snapping photos of the peaceful protest. Reactions from pedestrians varied greatly: some mumbled insults, others expressed approval.

Another 290 pro-life rallies were held at other Planned Parenthood facilities nationwide in all 50 states across the country calling for the end of federal funding to the mega abortion provider.

“Without God, we can’t expect to find lasting solutions that will be able to reverse our culture’s moral decline,” said Francis Slobodnik, national coordinator of the 2015 Public Square

ANF volunteers hold banners bearing the names of 12,885 Americans protesting Planned Parenthood’s barbaric dismembering and selling of aborted parts of unborn children.



For the ninth year in a row, thousands of Americans gathered in public squares across America to pray the rosary for our country.



Rosary Crusade.

“We can’t allow the sins of abortion and unnatural same-sex ‘marriage’ to disfigure the moral fabric of society and family,” Slobodnik said. “To be a nation truly blessed by God we must fall on our knees, pray, do penance and amend our ways. In the measure that we turn to the Mother of God and do what she requested at Fatima, we will find true hope and courage to turn things around.”

Praying in public is a sign of hope and becoming more popular. Inspired by the annual prayer rallies in America, faithful in faraway Saipan reported having ten rallies of their own this year. Canada reported having 125, and the tally from South Africa reached a total of 260 rallies. ■



To see more images of the 2015 Rosary Rally Crusade, go to www.RosaryRallyTools.org to view the galleries.

CALL UPON MARY!

As the world spirals deeper into chaos and confusion, our readers are invited to join Saint Bernard, Doctor of the Church, in his moving prayer:

All of you, who see yourselves *In dangers, in*
amid the tides of the world, *anguish, in doubt,*
tossed by storms and tempests *think of Mary, call*
rather than walking on the land, *upon Mary.*
do not turn your eyes away from
this shining star, unless you want

to be overwhelmed by the hurricane. If temptation storms, or you fall upon the rocks of tribulation, look to the star: Call upon Mary! If you are tossed by the waves of pride or ambition, dejection or envy, look to the star, call upon Mary.

If anger or avarice or the desires of the flesh dash against the ship of your soul, turn your eyes to Mary. If troubled by the enormity of your crimes, ashamed of your guilty conscience, terrified by dread of the judgment, you begin to sink into the gulf of sadness or the abyss of despair, think of Mary. In dangers, in anguish, in doubt, think of Mary, call upon Mary.

Let her name be ever on your lips, ever in your heart; and the better to obtain the help of her prayers, imitate the example of her life. Following her, thou strayest not; invoking her, thou despairest not; thinking of her, thou wanderest not; upheld by her, thou fallest not; shielded by her, thou fearest not; guided by her, thou growest not weary; favored by her, thou reachest the goal. And thus dost thou experience in thyself how good is that saying: “And the Virgin’s name was Mary.”

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us! ■

We’re getting ready for the 2016 Public Square Rosary Rally Crusade with a goal of 15,000 Rallies!

If you would like to participate in the 2016 Rosary Rallies, please call the Rosary Rally hotline at **(866) 584-6012**



Image courtesy of Felipe Barandaran

Crossing the Atlantic to Take an Ocean of Roses to Fatima

BY ANDREA PHILIPS

Since the first October Rosary Rallies in 2007, America Needs Fatima makes its special mission to deliver a red rose to Fatima in the name of every Rosary Rally captain, and a white rose in the name of each Rosary Rally sponsor.

With 14,108 Rallies across the country this past October 10th, an “ocean” of roses was in order!

This year, ANF’s friends Lora Lucas-Bailie and Cyndee Poole crossed the Atlantic to accomplish this mission of delivering the roses to Fatima for October 13th, the day the shrine celebrates the last Fatima apparition and the Miracle of the Sun.

Lora flew into Atlanta from California where she met Cyndee and the two boarded a plane for Portugal. Meeting our Spanish correspondent, Felipe Barandaran, in Lisbon, they proceeded to Fatima and set to work.

A Massive Operation

A group of florists, with a heart for the mission, is contacted every year and begin the massive operation of sourcing and sorting the roses. Once the blooms are ready, they are placed in large bins, and loaded in a couple of vans. This year, both vans had to be loaded twice and two trips made to the shrine.

Once there, the florists help arrange the roses in the great Fatima Square before the basilica, and also eagerly volunteer to hold the banners for a photo shoot.

Impressed by America’s Faith and Devotion

Lora reports that pilgrims passing by invariably stopped to inquire as to the reason for so many roses. On hearing that they represented 14,108 Rosary Rally captains in America and also sponsors of the effort, they were amazed, impressed and edified.

Someone exclaimed: “Our Lady is being crowned with a shower of roses from the good American people! God bless America!” And all wanted to help. Despite a soft rain, many stood holding the banners for the pictures—wet, but happy.

Once the pictures were taken, the roses were distributed throughout the Fatima Shrine, to decorate Our Lady’s float, altars and many places around the sanctuary.

Delivering Prayer Petitions

Later that afternoon, our envoys also delivered thousands of prayer petitions either sent in or emailed by ANF members and supporters. A large bin of printed in-

tentions was presented to Our Lady at the “Capelinha” or small chapel built at the exact place where Our Lady appeared in 1917. There, a Mass was said, a rosary offered and candles lit for all of the prayers, petitions and intentions.

A special bouquet of flowers was also offered at the “Capelinha” in the name of special donors of America Needs Fatima.

Impressions of Fatima

“This was my first time in Fatima,” writes Lora, “and after all I had heard and read about Fatima, I was not prepared for the special feeling of being in a place where Our Lady appeared and where the miracle of the sun took place...Thousands come to pray for themselves, their families and their intentions. We are all there for the same reason.

“On the next day, October 13th, as the statue of Our Lady was processed through the square, thousands of voices suddenly sang out a parting song in Portuguese, waving thousands of kerchiefs as a goodbye gesture to our Blessed Mother.”

As the last kerchief was waved, our envoys made their way back to their respective countries. Mission accomplished. Fatima and Our Lady were once more gladdened and honored by an “ocean” of roses from America. ■



Our Readers Write...

I truly believe it was Divine Providence which inspired you to send me *The Glories of Mary* at just the time I was in the 2nd week of the 33 Day Consecration to Mary.

One of the recommended books for that week is the book *The Glories of Mary*. I will renew my Consecration on August 15th.

B. M., Versailles, Ohio

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for including me with this awesome promotion of the *Glories of Mary*—this book is a godsend! It came at the right time for me. I already feel my Lady working in me, for me. I will cherish it always.

D. B., Hebronville, Texas

I received your book, *The Glories of Mary*, just last week. Today I got your catalog and the donation of novena cards as well. Thank you so much for everything.

I am the chaplain in a state prison. This year, the state of California has stopped providing a budget to all chapels for denominational items. As such, I am unable to order anything from your wonderful catalog. I hope, though, that you will keep us all here in your constant prayers. The men and I will be privileged to do the same for you and your ministry.

May the Lord make His Face to shine upon you.

Fr. P. A., Vacaville, Calif.

I am elated at the quality of material sent to me! I treasure the *Way of the Cross* book you sent me—and now, the

new edition of *The Glories of Mary*, which was a bit of a shock to receive. You see, my old copy of the book was the first Saint Alphonsus Liguori book I acquired, and that was about 1980. The Holy Ghost guided me across the store and put my hand on that book, which opened up to answer the question I was seeking. Your sending me a new copy of the book—it is a call to restart.

G. P., Lake Charles, La.

Yes sir, I got it! The greatest book I will ever have. Thanks a million!!

M. B., San Francisco, Calif.

Thank you very much for this beautiful book, as well as the *True Devotion to Mary* book a few months ago! Every time I am having a bad day, I arrive home, check my mail, and receive a lovely item from America Needs Fatima. Your items and mailings warm my heart and soul! THANK YOU! God bless you!

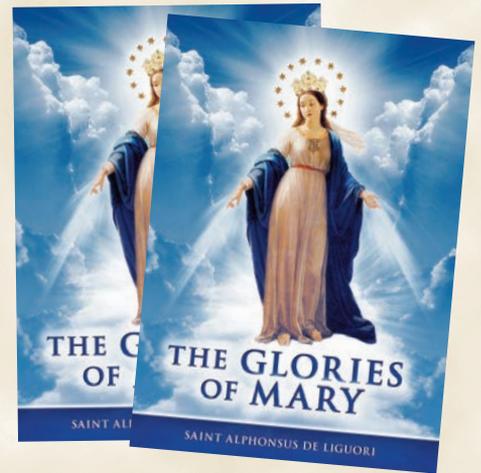
P. P., Lake Zurich, Ill.

Thank you for sending *The Glories of Mary*. I love Our Lady but had never read the book and am so glad you sent it. I had always wanted to read this book, but couldn't find it anywhere.

I've heard about Fatima since childhood and read articles about what happened, but I believe the children today do not know anything about Mary and you have helped me know how to speak to my grandchildren so they'll know, too.

C. B., Huntsville, Texas

Thank you for this wonderful book *The Glories of Mary*! I love every word of her



In July 2015, America Needs Fatima distributed more than 100,000 copies of the book, *The Glories of Mary*.

book. It is a very spiritual treasure—I keep it at my bedside. It gives me great joy.

L. V., Santa Barbara, Calif.

I am almost finished reading the book you sent called *The Glories of Mary*—and when I am finished, I am going to pass it onto my daughter to read! It is very inspirational.

C.D., Chicago, Ill.

Thank you for the book about Mary. What a blessing to all those who take the time to sit down and read it! Thank you once again.

F.M., Fresno, Calif.

**Order your own copy of
The Glories of Mary!
Call us at
(888) 317-5571 or
send us an email at
ANF@ANF.org.**

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



Protesting Lucifer, the Eternal Loser

BY BEN BROUSSARD

“Proud Lucifer next to the Christmas Crib—NO thanks!” These words of protest gained national attention. All eyes turned to Old Town Spring in Texas. Locals and visitors alike voiced their outrage. The Greater Church of Lucifer was to open its doors in the middle of this busy shopping area. Its goal? To make the occult and Luciferianism more acceptable. In an area known to be frequented by families for Christmas shopping, a “church” was to open, promoting devotion to the Father of Lies.

As word spread that the opening day coincided with the end of October, America Needs Fatima volunteers sprang into action. More than 27,000 people signed an online petition asking the intervention of Texas Governor Greg Abbott and other officials.

“God, Yes! Satan, No!” “We reject Satan and his



All images courtesy of Michael Goins

A large crowd of Catholics gathered to pray in reparation. Locals were quick to express their outrage at mankind's infernal enemy being publicly honored in a shopping area frequented by families.

works.” “Mary Queen of Angels, Crush Lucifer’s Head!” No one could miss these messages. Dozens of signs were held by young and old alike. Catholics came together from near and far to oppose the public acceptance of the infernal enemy.

Standing for Christ or Against Him

On Friday, October 30, 2015, the opening day for the Greater Church of Lucifer, great numbers of Ten Commandment Americans came to oppose this satanic foothold in the community. At noon, two dozen gathered to pray the rosary in reparation. A woman walked out



Catholics of all ages were unafraid to show their opposition to the public acceptance of Lucifer.

from a palm-reading and aromatherapy business and began circling the protesters with incense. A Catholic woman came right behind her sprinkling water from Lourdes. The two of them engaged in an argument, after which the woman with the incense left. The rosary continued, followed by singing of the hymn We Want God.

Three sisters who grew up in Spring, Texas came from different parts of the country to oppose the Luciferian “church.” Intending to purchase some fabric from a local shop, the eldest was outraged to learn the proprietors supported the occultists. “I will no longer buy any fabric from there. Never again!” she shouted. Reactions from business owners left no middle ground: they were either ardent supporters of the protesters, or ardent supporters of the Luciferians.

At 5:00 p.m., over 120 gathered for the protest organized by America Needs Fatima. TFP members in ceremonial habit processed with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. Mr. Thomas Drake, president of TFP-Louisiana, exhorted the crowd of God-fearing Americans to echo Saint Michael’s battle cry, “Who is like unto God?” A protestant tried to interrupt the protest, shouting loudly. The faithful Catholics gathered there effectively drowned him out. Prayer of the Most Holy Rosary, Mary’s great weapon against the power of hell, was interspersed with hymns accompanied by the bagpipes.

Passing motorists were forced to take a position in favor of or against the protest. Many stopped to take photos, others to give a thumbs up, still others shouted profanities. The faithful Catholics prayed all the more fervently, kneeling on the pavement to pray the Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary, according to Saint



Louis de Montfort. All then processed behind the statue of Our Lady of Fatima singing *Hail, Holy Queen Enthroned Above*.

A Coordinated Effort

The opening of the Greater Church of Lucifer in Spring, Texas, is the latest in a series of events aimed at promoting Lucifer and the occult in America. Harvard University was to host a black mass on campus in May 2014, though they cancelled due to protests and stiff resistance. In September 2014, the Oklahoma City Civic Center hosted a satanic black mass on public property, despite widespread opposition. In Lake Worth, Florida, a man opened the city council meeting in December 2014 with a prayer to Satan, followed by similar attempts in other parts of the country.

In July 2015, the Satanic Temple revealed the 9-foot tall statue of Baphomet, a symbol of Satan, in the city of Detroit. The same group is pushing for the erection of similar statues on state capitol grounds in Oklahoma and Arkansas. The move is openly stated to be a direct counter to monuments honoring the Ten Commandments.

By the grace of Our Lady, America Needs Fatima has opposed all of these efforts at every step. The efforts to encourage Americans of good will to strongly oppose these latest attempts to honor Lucifer are gaining momentum. Online protests and manifestations on the ground show that Americans are willing to defend God's honor.

“Be gone, Satan: the Lord thy God shalt thou adore, and Him alone shalt thou serve!” (Matt. 4:10)



TFP Student Action director John Ritchie interviewed several locals and visitors. Many readily pointed out the location chosen for the Luciferian “church” is a short distance away from the site of the annual Christmas parade.



Top: The faithful knelt to pray the Total Consecration to Jesus Through Mary of Saint Louis de Montfort. Above: Bold signs sent clear messages to everyone passing by.

Coexist?

Often the argument of “coexistence” rears its ugly head. It is only logical, though, that good and evil cannot coexist. At the beginning of time, Lucifer in his arrogant pride was banished because Saint Michael rose up to boldly defend God's honor. Far from dialoguing or coexisting, the Prince of the Heavenly Armies forcefully and emphatically expelled the evil one.

As followers of Satanism openly push for public acceptance, faithful Catholics should take Saint Michael's example and make no compromises with evil. Our words and efforts should echo those of Christ Himself: “Be gone, Satan: the Lord thy God shalt thou adore, and Him alone shalt thou serve!” (Matt. 4:10)

In these days when the whole world is choosing to be for Christ or against Him, Americans should boldly acclaim that now and forever our land is one nation under God. ■



A Progress Report of the Rosary Project for Africa

BY REMIGIUS KINTU

A pilgrimage to Fatima in 2008 changed my life and inspired me to think of the rosary in a new dimension. I shared my thoughts of distributing rosaries to needy people in Africa so that they may pray to our heavenly Mother for peace and stability. At that time several African countries were engulfed in military conflicts that were claiming thousands of innocent lives in Sudan, Chad, Somalia, Congo DRC and Burundi. Famine and other calamities in Africa repeatedly made the evening news around the world.

On the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, August 15, 2008 I launched the Rosary Project for Africa with thirty hand-made rosaries donated by a good friend, Dr. Frank Kelly, my Grand Knight in the Knights of Columbus council. That donation was hand carried by a friend who was traveling to Uganda.

A few months later, I was introduced to Our Lady's Rosary Makers of America, an organization which is based in Louisville, KY. They donated 2,000 rosaries and advertised my project in their newsletter. That set the ball rolling and many groups whose mission it is to make rosaries throughout the United States started sending to me hand-made rosaries ranging from one to a few hundred in a single box. At that time, I depended solely on people traveling back to different countries in Africa to take rosaries in their luggage and distribute them FREE of CHARGE to people in their respective parishes. The word spread rapidly among African Catholics residing in



A Cameroon volunteer distributes donated rosaries on the street in front of her parish. The Rosary Project for Africa has met with great success, inspiring many conversions and greater devotion to the rosary.

the Washington, DC area that there were rosaries which they could send to their respective communities in Africa as a way of promoting devotion to the rosary in their home countries.

As of October 1, 2015, we have delivered over 430,000 rosaries in various amounts to Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Congo and Malawi. We have received reports from Nigeria and Uganda that people have formed rosary prayer groups in villages, schools, prisons and market places to pray the rosary for peace.

Our goal is to flood heaven with a million plus rosary prayers every day in as many communities as we can in Africa so that peace and stability can be attained to mankind. We ask all people of goodwill to donate rosaries that we may send to Africa. You can send rosaries to:

Remigius Kintu
Rosary Project for Africa
11223 Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20901
Email: Bikira10@hotmail.com



Consider putting America Needs Fatima in your will! Your generosity will help win the

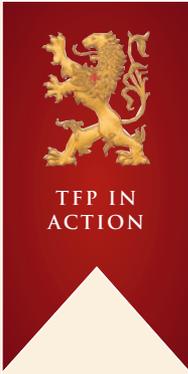
FUTURE OF AMERICA

... because the Fatima message is one of the most powerful gifts to give to the next generation.

Your help will make the following works possible:

- Home visitations with Pilgrim Virgin statues of Our Lady of Fatima, reaching thousands of families annually
- Acts of reparation and protests nationwide to stop blasphemous attacks against the Sacred Persons of Jesus and Mary
- Massive promotion of religious literature, books, medals and especially rosaries
- Thousands of Public Square Rosary Rallies annually

Call Louisa today at (888) 317-5571 to find out more!



On the Right Side of History

BY VINCENT GORRE

As members, supporters and friends of The American TFP gathered for its 2015 National Conference on October 23rd through the 25th, serious issues continue to develop both within and without the Catholic Church. This year's theme, *On the Right Side of History: Our Role Inside the Storm*, was fittingly designed to address key topics of concern to all those in attendance.

Many who traveled from all over the country not only looked forward to being with old friends and meeting new ones, but also gained much-needed insights, valuable information and inspiration to continue their part in the struggle for the traditional values of Christian civilization which we all hold so dear.

Blessed with pleasant fall weather, the talks were interspersed with friendly discussions, delightful cuisine and most importantly, the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Eucharist provided by two very dedicated priests. The first day of talks was capped by a traditional candlelit Rosary Procession graced by a life-sized image of Our Lady of Hope of Macarena. The second day ended with a Solemn High Mass at the historic Sacred Heart Basilica, followed by a closing address by HIRH Prince Bertrand of Orleans Braganza during the medieval banquet.

The speakers this year were all members of The American



The conference attendees applaud Mr. James Bascom's "Countering the Environmental Offensive."

TFP and delved into the following topics: "The Battle for Marriage Continues" by Ben Broussard; "The Benedict Option and a Return to Order" by TFP vice president John Horvat II; "What Have We Done? Overview of Recent TFP Activities" by Michael Gorre; "Dealing with the Synod and the Crisis in the Church" by Luiz Solimeo; "*Semper Fidelis: A Means to Weather Future Storms*" by Norman Fulkerson; "The Libertarian Temptation to Go It Alone" by Michael Whitcraft; "Countering the Environmental Offensive" by James Bascom; "Secrets of Grace that Spell Big Trouble for the Revolution" by Michael Chad Shibley; and "Transgenderism and Other Deviations: The Cutting Edge of The Revolution" by Rex Teodosio.

Much as Saint Augustine saw history as the work of man united with Divine Providence as in his *City of God*, the overarching theme of this year's talks reminded everyone that indeed, the right side of history is with Our Lady, for she declared the certainty of her victory when she said at Fatima, "Finally, my Immaculate Heart will triumph!" ■

Bottom: Mr. Michael Whitcraft cleared up misconceptions concerning Catholicism and libertarianism. **Below:** The solemn candlelight rosary procession provided a fitting end to a day filled with activities.

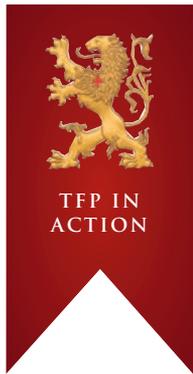


All images courtesy of Michael Gorre



Same-Sex “Marriage” Is STILL WRONG

BY WILLIAM GOSSETT



Wrapping up our week-long caravan for traditional marriage, we joined forces today on the Feast of Christ the King with a second team of TFP members for a final day of campaigning in the Cincinnati, Ohio area. In total, we were sixteen TFP Student Action volunteers.

After attending a beautiful Latin Mass at Sacred Heart parish, we assembled at a busy intersection near a shopping center on Beechmont Ave. The message—God’s marriage = one man and one

woman—was warmly welcomed.

There was one notable exception. A couple with face piercings and tattoos approached yelling insults and profanities. The woman was more vocal: “You lost already! We won!” she screamed. “Blacks can vote. Women can get abortions, and gays can marry!” The curses and insults continued.

A TFP volunteer inquired, “Why are you displaying so much intolerance?” to which she replied, “Yes, I hate you! I hate you! I hate you!”

The final campaign ended on Eastgate Boulevard. Unable to find a sidewalk, the members stationed themselves with banners, signs, and standard on a grassy incline bordering a major intersection. The reception here was excellent. Honks, waves, thumbs up, applause, smiles—all forms of approval for God’s marriage were received.

All was well until four police cruisers arrived with lights flashing. The sight of the policemen elicited even more support from passing vehicles. A more senior police officer informed us that he did not intend to infringe on our First



The red capes, large banners, honk signs and bagpipes make the campaigns for traditional marriage impossible to miss.

Amendment Rights, but only requested that we adjust our placement at the intersection in order to make sure that passing traffic could read the various signs and have the “right of way.” We complied and the campaign continued.

Then we noticed a small, pro-homosexual counter-protest form across the road. Their three signs read: “It’s legal, get over it;” “God doesn’t judge;” and, more inappropriately, “Honk if you watch gay porn.”

This last sign reveals how same-sex “marriage” advocates not only lack basic moral standards, but hold morality and common decency in contempt. In order to oppose the vulgarity, we sang *God Bless America*, *Saint Louis de Montfort’s We Want God*, and *Hail Holy Queen*.

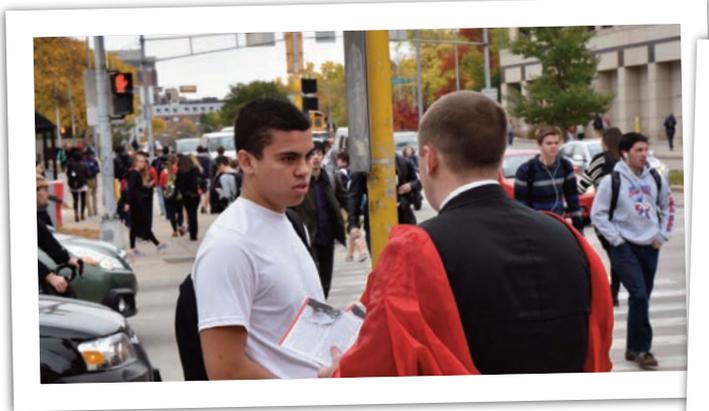
This all lasted about an hour.

At the end, the opposition shouted, “It’s legal! Get over it!”

We replied, “It’s still wrong! Get over it!” and “An unjust law is no law at all” and “Purity is the answer.”

The pro-homosexual activists stood there in shock.

Once again, TFP Student Action volunteers were happy to be able to defend the sacred institution of marriage which is being torn apart and destroyed by the homosexual agenda. Through the intercession of Saint Michael the Archangel and the Blessed Virgin Mary, we renew our unyielding certainty in God’s final victory: “True marriage will endure; counterfeit unions will not.” ■



Despite what many are led to believe, there are students at every campus who support the defense of true marriage.



...continued from page 8

these articles talking about “factions,” “sinful unions,” the “gay mafia,” and the “spirit of Satan?”

Curiously, even secular newspapers like *The New York Times* reported on the division among the Synod fathers. Here is a sampling of those headlines:

- The Plot to Change Catholicism (10/17/15)
- Pope Francis' Plans for Inclusiveness Divide Bishops (10/21/15)
- Amid Splits, Catholic Bishops Crack Open Door on Divorce (10/24/15)
- Who Won the Synod? (10/26/15)

Conservative Bishops Versus Liberal Bishops

What has become clear to most Catholics, and the rest of the world, is that the split is between conservative and liberal bishops.

Bishops who advocate liberalism would like nothing more than to “modernize” the Church by changing Church doctrines and morality.

Bishops who advocate conserving Catholic traditions were challenged by their counterparts to adapt to the changing reality of the modern world, in other words, to change Catholic beliefs and practices.

At the heart of the debate are a few crucial issues: the acceptance of same-sex “marriage,” permitting divorced and remarried Catholics to receive Holy Communion, and recognizing unmarried, cohabiting couples as a family.

Liberal bishops insist that people in these situations are essentially good-hearted and therefore should be accepted as an integral part of the parish community and be allowed to receive Holy Communion.

Conservative bishops oppose this idea. They insist that people in these lifestyles place themselves in an objective and public state of grave sin and therefore must first reconcile with God through confession and amendment of life before receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.



Volunteers from several Catholic organizations gathered at the start of the Synod on the Family to present the petition signatures of 790,150 concerned Catholics. In this Filial Appeal to Pope Francis, faithful Catholics made known their desire for strong statements defending Church teaching on the family.

Can Catholic Morality Be Changed?

Though several months have passed since the end of the synod, what remains clear is that nothing is clear.

Yet clarity is one of the most sublime aspects of Our Lord Jesus Christ's teaching. His parables were accessible to the children and the elderly alike, to the uneducated and the scholars.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was particularly clear in regard to sin, especially when He told the woman caught in adultery: “Go and sin no more.” (Jn. 8:11) This is such a gentle admonition from the Divine Savior whose Heart never ceases to call sinners back to repentance.

Drawing from personal experience, what a sinner needs is not the practiced tone of a funeral director droning on how the deceased, and everyone who is deceased, is now in a better place. This does not console the grieving heart, but only numbs it.

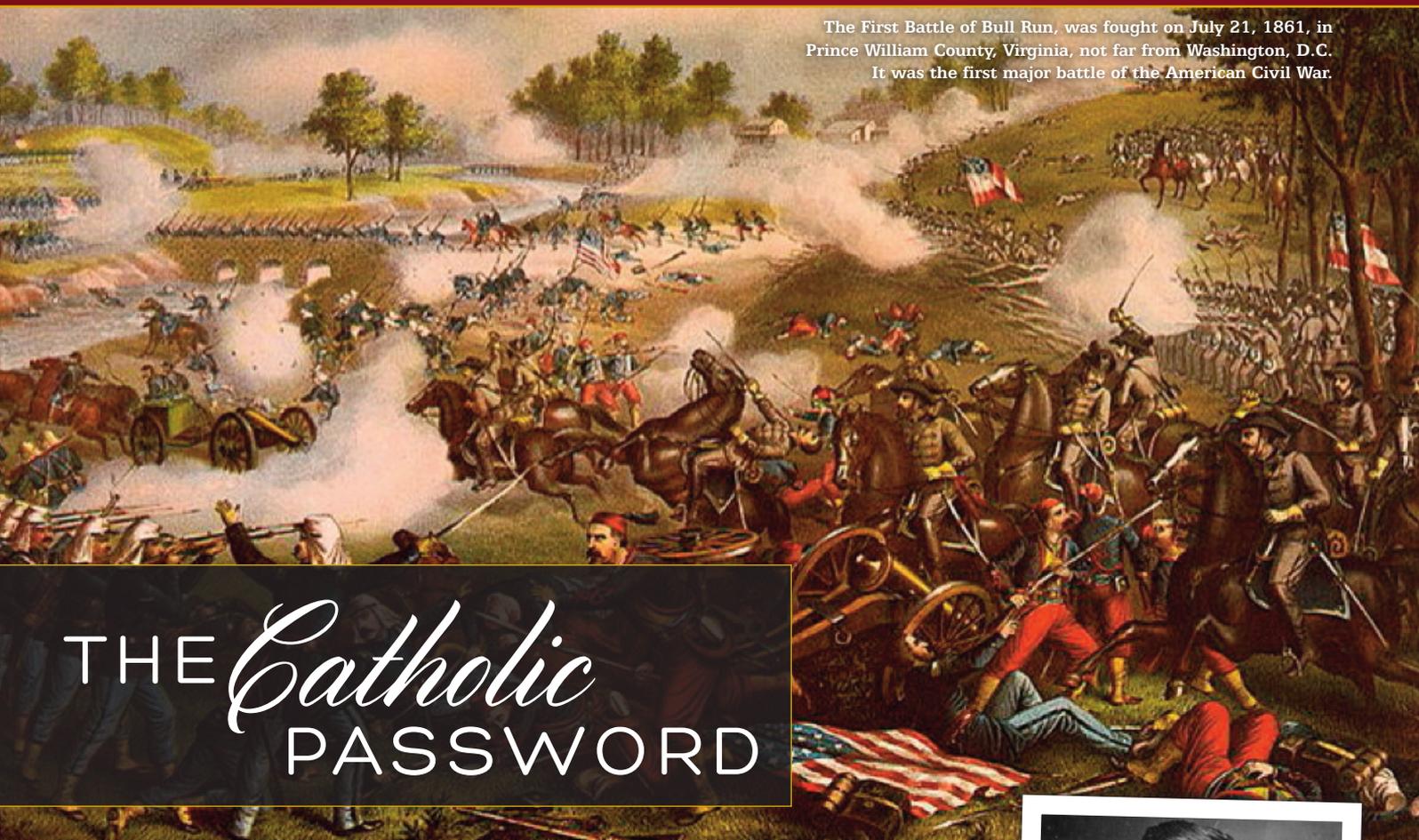
What every sinner needs is the physician who heals, the savior who restores life, the shepherd who disentangles us from the brambles of vice, the preacher who teaches us the truth, the guide who shows us the way, the mother who encourages us when we fall and sometimes the father who disciplines us when our hearts harden. These are the aspects of Our Lord Jesus Christ that were not reflected in the Synod's final report.

Instead, what is offered to the hardened sinner, entrenched in a sinful lifestyle, is the mortician's formaldehyde to preserve him in the state of corruption, and the numbing words of the funeral director to anesthetize his troubled conscience.

Our conscience constantly calls us to conversion and sanctification: “Go and sin no more.” This is the essence of Christian morality stated clearly.

Saint Paul's admonition is applicable to our times: “There are some who are confusing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let that one be accursed.” (Gal. 1:7-9) ■

The First Battle of Bull Run, was fought on July 21, 1861, in Prince William County, Virginia, not far from Washington, D.C. It was the first major battle of the American Civil War.



THE *Catholic* PASSWORD

On the day of the famous battle of Bull-Run, General Smith, who commanded the army of the South, arrived along with his division too late to know what the required password was. He foresaw that if he advanced without it he would be fired upon by his own army, and if he remained where he was he would most likely be attacked by the enemy. Seeing the danger he was in, both from friend and foe, he came in front of the division, and asked if there was any man amongst them who would volunteer to sacrifice his life for the salvation of the rest.

A young man immediately came forward and said he would do it.

“Do you know what will happen to you?” said the general.

“Yes, general,” he replied.

“You will be shot.”

“I know it,” he answered.

Then the general wrote these words on a piece of paper: “Send me the countersign: General Smith,” and gave the paper to the heroic soldier. He knew that as soon as they had shot him they would search him, and finding the paper, would carry it to General Pierre Gustave Toutant-Beauregard.

When the young soldier received his message, he departed amid the cheers of his comrades, who admired his bravery. He was a good Catholic, and on the

way he prepared himself to die by acts of contrition and by recommending his soul to God.

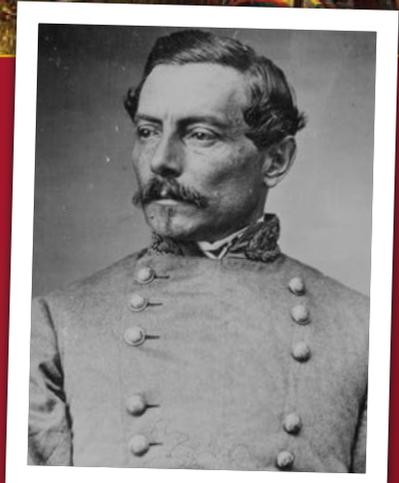
When he reached the outposts of the army he heard the cry, “Who goes there?”

“A friend,” he replied.

“Give the countersign,” they cried.

He went forward towards them without saying a word. In an instant all the guns were raised to fire upon him. Thinking that his last hour had come, he stood, and, raising up his hand, made the Sign of the Cross. Immediately every gun was lowered, and the soldier was told to pass.

It happened that the Sign of the Cross was the countersign that Beauregard had that morning appointed, as he himself was a good Catholic, and so, by using it, the pious soldier escaped death. ■



Pierre Gustave Toutant-Beauregard was the first prominent general of the Confederate States Army during the American Civil War.

THE GLORIES OF MARY

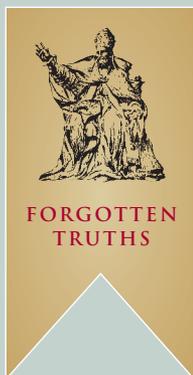
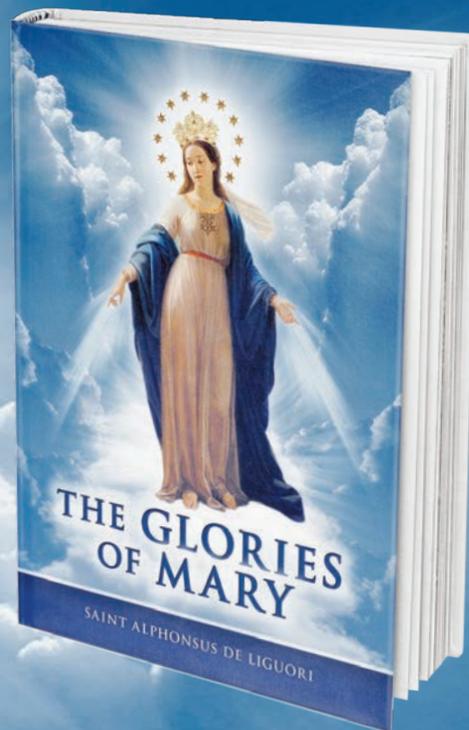
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The Necessity of Having a Catholic Sense

BY PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA

Catholic doctrine is one thing and Catholic sense another. There are several points where Catholic doctrine is applied with great advantage when it is aided by Catholic sense.

Catholic doctrine does not condemn priestly marriage. But Catholic sense, profoundly identified with the thought of the Church, understands that in the real world, the grandeur of the priesthood demands priestly celibacy.

Catholic doctrine is perfectly compatible with the early organization of the Church, in which some ecclesiastical posts were filled through election by the faithful among themselves. But Catholic sense, while understanding the advantage of this system in other times, today intransigently defends the

present organization of the Church, the only one compatible with the circumstances of our times.

Catholic doctrine does not oblige the Holy Father to surround himself in the Vatican with all the splendor of the papal court. But Catholic sense perfectly understands the need for this splendor as the human manifestation of the hallowed dignity of the Holy Pontiff.

In short, knowledge of Catholic doctrine is for us as necessary as it is for a navigator to know the position of the stars as he watches the skies to orient his route. For its part, Catholic sense represents the practical knowledge of the pilot who, mindful of the treacherous reefs and sandbanks, turns his eyes not only to the skies but also to the sea, looking for the dangers he must avoid.

Without both things, that is, knowledge of the stars and the obstacles hidden in the sea, navigation is impossible.

Likewise, without a serious knowledge of Catholic doctrine and a keen Catholic sense, it is impossible to navigate safely through this stormy ocean in which we sail.

Therefore, it is not sufficient to respect minimal points of Catholic doctrine. It is necessary for Catholic sense to permeate everything so as to enable us, in its own way, to resolve our multiple difficulties. ■

