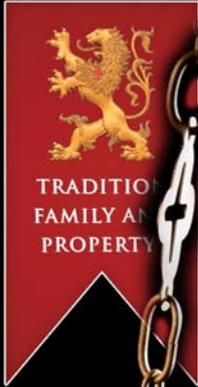


May/June 2020

CRUSADE[®]

MAGAZINE



REMAINING FAITHFUL

During the Current Crisis in the Church

Fatima: A Message More Urgent than Ever



Fatima is the key to navigating our challenging times, and in the words of Pope Benedict XVI, “without doubt, the most prophetic of all modern apparitions.”

Our book, *Fatima: A Message More Urgent than Ever*, is a one of a kind. It provides a powerful account of the events with a deep analysis of their importance, immersing the reader into the Portuguese culture and village life where the three shepherds to whom Our Lady appeared lived.

Basing most of his book on *The Memoirs of Sister Lucia dos Santos*, author Luis S. Solimeo offers the reader an insightful, detailed account of their story, Our Lady’s message and its continual relevance for our times.

The book is richly illustrated in full color.

Call (888) 317-5571
today and get 20% off!

(mention code FNL1916Offer)

Retail: \$8.95

Item # B58

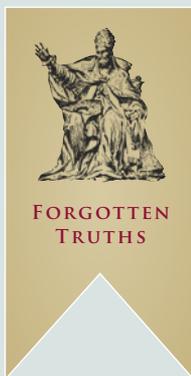
Softcover

FREE Shipping

You Cannot Love Good and Not Hate Evil

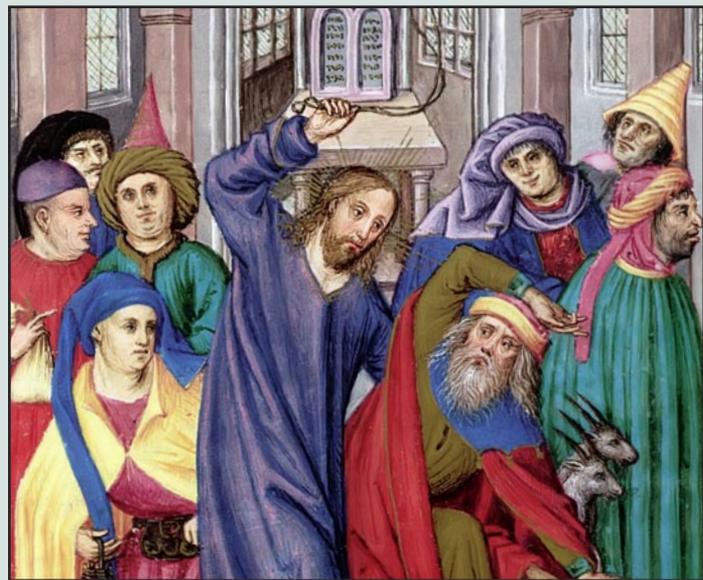
BY FR. B. W. MATURIN

“Love is of God,” says Saint John, “and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God... for God is Love.”



But love involves and necessitates hate. God hates evil, and such hatred must be an essential attribute of God. The power of hatred, then, is as truly a Divine gift to man created in the image of God, and as necessary an element in the Christian character, as love is. “O ye that love the Lord,” said the Psalmist of old, “see that ye hate the thing that is evil.” He that is incapable of hating is so because he is incapable of loving. The intensity of the power of hating will always

be in proportion to the power of loving. We feel instinctively that a man who cannot hate, whose anger and moral indignation can never be roused, is a poor creature. A strong man will always be strong in his likes and dislikes. All this may, and as a matter of fact generally does, work evil. But it is not essentially evil, but good. Love can work evil as truly as hate can,



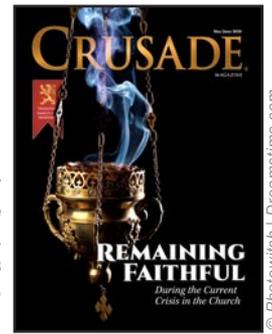
© Peeterson | Dreamstime.com

for it may be exercised on an unworthy object and in a wrong way, but it is not therefore an evil thing, and no more is hate. They are both part of the equipment of man’s nature. They work together, they grow together and together they die. ■

Taken from *Self Knowledge and Self-Discipline*, Roman Catholic Books, pp. 182-183.

CONTENTS

MAY/JUNE 2020



Cover:

The smoke of burning incense—symbolizing the prayers of the faithful rising to heaven—rises from a thurible during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

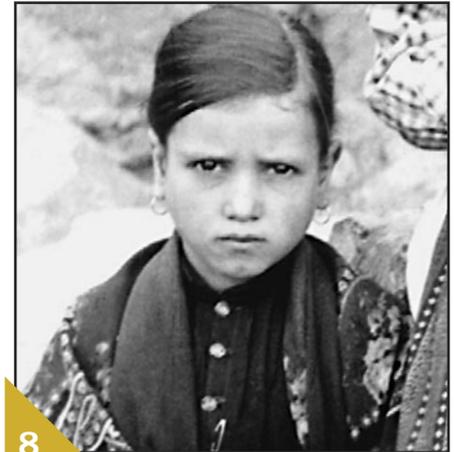
© Photowitch | Dreamstime.com

IN BRIEF	4
CHRIST IN THE HOME	
Teaching Children to Conquer Human Respect	5
RETURN TO ORDER	
Why Greta Thunberg Should Be <i>Time's</i> Person of the Year	6
FATIMA	
♦ A Fire in My Chest	8
♦ They Made Her Heart Theirs	9
COVER STORY	
Remaining Faithful During the Current Crisis in the Church	10
ANF PROGRESS REPORT	
♦ Join Our Monthly Rosary Rallies!	15
♦ Candles for Jacinta	16
♦ Prayers for Purity	16
♦ Our Lady's Youngest Custodian	17
♦ Our Readers Write	18
♦ An Unlikely Battlefield: The American Public Library	20
♦ Roses at Guadalupe	21
BACK COVER	
The Sword of Saint Michael	24



6

Greta Thunberg, a false model for our times



8

Saint Jacinta, the child chosen by Our Lady to live the Fatima message



20

America Needs Fatima and Tradition, Family and Property gather prayer warriors in the battle against the Drag Queen Story Hours

Crusade Magazine is a publication of The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP). Direct all requests and inquiries to: *Crusade Magazine*, P.O. Box 341, Hanover, PA 17331 or email to: crusade@TFP.org. Web: www.TFP.org. Tel.: (888) 317-5571, Fax: (570) 450-6352. © 2020 by The Foundation for a Christian Civilization, Inc. This publication may include images from iStockphoto™ and Dreamstime™ which are protected by copyright laws of the U.S. and elsewhere. ISSN 1096-3782 LCCN 98-641433

M-165 (FNL2004)

CRUSADE

Editor: Antonio Fragelli

Associate Editors: John Horvat II, Michael Drake, Norman Fulkerson, Kenneth Murphy, Vincent Gorre

Photography: Gary Isbell, Michael Gorre, Joshua Long

Foreign Correspondents: José Carlos Sepulveda, Brazil;

Philip Moran, United Kingdom; Benoit Bemelmans, France;

Beno Hofschulte, Germany; Juan M. Montes, Italy;

David Nash, South Africa; Felipe Barandiarán, Spain

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

Largest Catholic Country Takes on Netflix

Nearly three million people in Brazil and around the world signed a petition calling for the online streaming giant Netflix to remove a blasphemous Christmas comedy film that aired on December 3, 2019. The short film, titled *The First Temptation of Christ*, was produced by the Brazilian comedy group Porta dos Fundos and depicts Our Lord as an effeminate homosexual who brings a new boyfriend

to meet Mary and Joseph at his birthday party. God the Father is portrayed as a cruel and spiteful deity and Saint Joseph is depicted as a coward. The comedy sparked widespread outrage in Brazil, the largest Catholic country in the world, with millions signing the petition call-



ing for Netflix to publicly retract the film and be “held responsible” for villainizing the Faith. Many other Catholics worldwide have voiced their disgust by canceling their subscriptions to Netflix.

Abortion and Transgenderism Battles Heat up in Virginia, Kansas, and South Dakota

Democrats in Virginia’s House of Delegates and Senate approved a series of bills undoing Republican-sponsored abortion restrictions. The bills would repeal the 24-hour waiting period before an abortion, ultrasound and counseling requirements and disallowing non-physicians to perform abortions. In Kansas, the Senate passed a constitutional amendment declaring there is no “right” to abortion. In South Dakota, the House passed a bill that would prohibit medical providers from prescribing gender-altering drugs, treatments or procedures. The bill is strongly supported by the South Dakota Catholic dioceses.

“Women’s March” Protests Steadily Declining

From a reported claim of one million attendees to the first Women’s March held in Washington D.C. in 2017, this year’s dismal turnout of approximately 10,000 was a huge disappointment to its organizers. A *New York Times* report attributed the low turnout to stormy weather,



controversy involving its organizers and waning interest. However, according to John Horvat II, vice-president of the American TFP and author of *Return to Order*, the real reasons could be attributed to the alienation of all women who don’t agree with the feminist agenda that does not exclusively address women’s issues and the increasingly negative message offered by the organizers.

“Art” Goes Bananas

A good indication of how impoverished our culture has become is what passes for art these days. While modern art is widely known for portraying the shocking, the hideous and the senseless, one particular work of art that debuted in December 2019 proved to be so absurd that it attracted widespread media attention. The exhibit, a ripe banana duct-taped to a wall by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan (*pictured right*) and titled “Comedian” was displayed at Miami’s Art Basel Festival and sold for a staggering \$120,000. Art critics and patrons alike praised the banana for its supposed provocative message and unhesitatingly declared it a “work of art.” However, a self-described performance artist later took it upon himself to peel the \$120,000 banana off the wall and consume it before horrified on-lookers, dubbing his act of satire “Hungry Artist.”

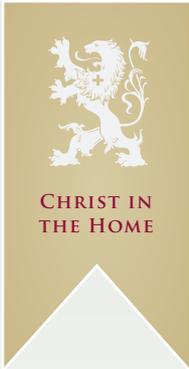


Americans Reject Transgender Athletes in Women’s Sports

According to a Rasmussen Reports poll taken on November 2, 2019, 51 percent of Americans oppose allowing “transgender” athletes to participate on the sports teams of their preferred sex, including allowing biological males to compete in girls’ sports. Twenty-nine percent polled supported allowing “transgender” athletes, while 20 percent remained undecided. The results show little change from a similar poll conducted five months earlier, despite aggressive efforts by LGBTQ activists to garner greater public approval.

Teaching Children to Conquer Human Respect

BY FR. FERREOL GIRARDEY, C.S.S. R.



Human respect leads many astray who would otherwise remain good and exemplary Christians.

You should therefore engrave it deeply on the minds of your children that it behooves them to avoid sin and do their duty, no matter what others may do, no matter what others may think or say, no matter how much ridicule others may cast on them for it. Show them that there never is any disgrace in doing what is right or in being laughed at by the worldly for doing one's duty, but that the moral cowardice

which yields to human respect by neglecting one's duty, by committing sin just to please others, just to escape ridicule, is most disgraceful.

Explain to them how unreasonable, how foolish, and how dangerous it is for them to suffer themselves to be guided by the opinions of those whose views deserve no respect, on account of their worldly-mindedness and dissipated and even vicious life.

Explain to them how noble he is who has the moral courage to trample human respect under foot and despise the opinions and the ridicule of such persons, and who shows himself a lover of duty and virtue.

Remind them that even the wicked themselves cannot withhold their esteem and admiration from those who have the courage to practice virtue and shun every sinful act and occasion. Moral courage is, without doubt, far superior to physical courage and far more worthy of admiration. For, indeed, how noble and praiseworthy are those young men and young women who are true to the dictates of their conscience and faithful to

“Whosoever shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.”

(Matt. 10: 32, 33)

duty in spite of the bad example, the ridicule, and the sneers of those with whom they are compelled to associate!

In this connection often repeat to your children these words of our divine Savior: “Whosoever shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.” (Matt. 10: 32, 33).

This means that those who have the moral courage to practice their religion in spite of the opinions and ridicule of the evil-minded will be acknowledged by our divine Savior as His true disciples, as deserving of heavenly reward, whilst the moral cowards who neglect their duties to please men to escape being laughed at, shall be excluded from heavenly bliss. ■

From Popular Instructions to Parents, p. 47-50.



Standing up for Our Lady and Christian civilization, teaches one early not to be deterred by the negative actions of others.



© Ian Allenden | Dreamstime.com

Why Greta Thunberg Should Be *Time's* Person of the Year

BY JOHN HORVAT II



*T*ime magazine announced that the 2019 Person of the Year award would go to the 17-year-old Greta Thunberg. The Swedish school-girl-turned-eco-activist has become the poster-girl of the climate change-turned-emergency worldwide. The choice was not surprising, given the media adulation for the girl who has traveled the globe with a “minimal” carbon footprint.

Time has long abandoned the pretense of giving the award to truly great people, full of personality and talents, and who influence events. Alas, the time of grandeur, discipline and vision is over. *Time* is no longer the serious magazine of importance that it once was. People no longer want to make an effort to know, admire and appreciate grand figures. We easily tire of greatness.

Greta Is a Perfect Fit

In this sense, the award to Greta Thunberg fits perfectly. In our shallow and mediocre times, today's figures must not be too deep or complex. They must not be connected to any historical or religious narrative outside of their own evolving story. Their speech must be Twitter-friendly. The new models need not be exceptional as long as they defy standard definitions. *Time* typically picks those who can link themselves to all the liberal causes in vogue.

By naming Greta Thunberg, *Time* is presenting a perfect postmodern archetype. Her award might be better called the Archetype of

People no longer want to make an effort to know, admire and appreciate grand figures. We easily tire of greatness.

the Year award. Like all archetypes, she serves as the model for which all other activists of the same type are representations. She is meant to represent “the power of youth” in rebellion against an adult-dominated world. Her story expresses well postmodernity's rejection of Western Christian civilization.

Time's choice makes more sense when we consider that agendas progress more with archetypes than party platforms. If a movement can find an archetypal person who can embody its platform principles, it will advance much more quickly. If the media can propagate a perfect archetype, they can make a cause universal.

Thus, Greta Thunberg is the personification of all the eco-movement could want and more. As a child, she can lay claim to represent the future. She does not play the role of leader, but assumes the much more important mantle of symbol. In so doing, she need not present concrete proposals but only make impossible demands.

What She Is Not

She presents a new human type to act on a world stage that will be stripped of leaders and



Time Magazine's cover honoring Greta Thunberg is displayed on a storefront window.

thinkers. She stands out much more for what she is not than what she is.

Thus, Greta is not a deep thinker or an articulator. She is nothing more than a symbol. Hers is a fatalistic world of gloom and doom of either-or alternatives. She accepts no other explanations beyond the coming human extinction scenario, and, like a broken record, she repeats it over and over again.

She is not given to tact, subtlety or diplomacy. Instead, she demands vague and urgent action without specifics. Her message is cold, brutal and unpoetic. She will talk about the hopes of youth and the instability of ecosystems without transitions. Her discourse uses direct, simplistic terms that address her anger, rage, frustration and desperation.

She has no fondness for anything since she is the ultimate expression of anti-consumerism. She dresses in plain expressionless clothes without adornments or jewelry. Everything surrounding her life is likewise plain and unassuming. It is a joyless world that does not admit an appreciation of man-made beauty or progress. A coldness permeates her world, filling it with sadness.

Mystery and Mysticism

There is also an element of mystery and mysticism in her presentation. Unfortunately, she suffers from Asperger's Syndrome, which impairs her emotional expression, making it cold, mysterious and disconnected. Thus, everything about her tragically defies the standard definition of what might be expected of this child seemingly without a childhood.

Like all who embrace the ecological cause, Greta claims to have a spiritual connection with the earth from which we might draw energies. She takes up the cause of the indigenous peoples who she holds up as models of eco-friendly populations.

As *Time* notes, she is a 17-year-old girl that appears to be twelve in her short five-foot-tall body. *Time's* cover picture reinforces a mystical overtone by presenting an almost elfin figure staring out into the vast expanses of waves crashing into a rocky beach.

The media have been quick to capitalize on ascribing to her mystical persona special powers, not unlike that of a prophetess or oracle. However, the school truant from Sweden has only become a sensation due to the enabling power of adults who have opened every door



© Shawn Goldberg | Dreamstime.com

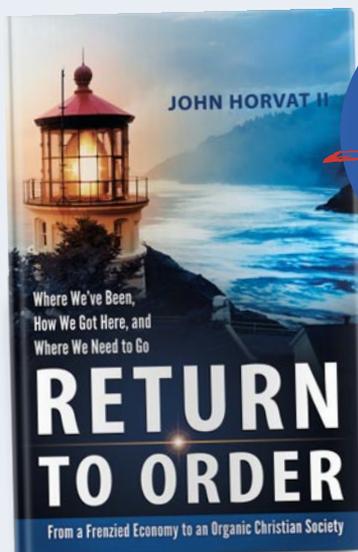
from the Vatican to the United Nations. It is no coincidence that every liberal cause, from feminism to indigenous rights to gun control, can identify with Greta.

Advancing the Liberal Cause

If the object of *Time's* Person of the Year award is to recognize the person that most advances the liberal agenda, then Greta Thunberg certainly can claim the title. By serving as an archetype for the ecology cause, she is a model to take the sagging eco-movement's fortunes forward.

However, what we need are authentic role models that practice virtue and move society to true progress. This vision is not found in a neopagan pantheistic worldview that rejects all that is civilized and Western. Instead, truly representative figures in society aspire to an order based on sanctity and governed by a personal God and His Providential action on Earth. ■

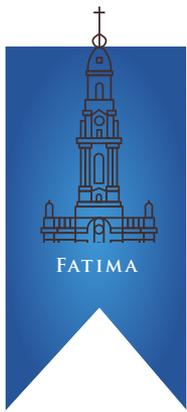
Like Greta Thunberg, today's climate change activists need not be articulate, talented, or problem-solvers, but radicals who vent their rage and desperation over an imagined climate catastrophe and who demand vague, unrealistic solutions.



HARDCOVER
~~\$21.95~~
20% OFF
 YOUR PRICE, INCLUDING SHIPPING & HANDLING:
\$17.50

Call (855) 861-8420 to order.

Mention code **FNL1916OFFER** to get 20% off plus free shipping.



A Fire in My Chest

BY ANDREA PHILLIPS

Visiting Fatima years back while preparing to work on my children's book *Jacinta's Story*, the tiny town of Aljustrel gave me a glimpse into the personalities of the three small seers, Lucia dos Santos, and Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

I will never forget emerging from the tiny, white-washed cottage that had been Francisco and Jacinta's home and seeing the last of their living brothers leaning against a wall, available for souvenir photos. He was a man out of modern time, unsophisticated, direct and simple, a man "of the earth," still untouched by the complications of industrialized civilization.

This is how Jacinta, her brother and cousin, must have been—even more so. There was nothing remarkable about this man, peering at me shyly from under his brow, just as there must have been nothing extraordinary about the little shepherd girl whom Pope John Paul II declared blessed in May of 2000 and was canonized a saint in May of 2017, and who looks at us just as shyly from under her brow in her photos.

Pictures and descriptions of little Jacinta show us a pretty, spritely, charming girl who at times, according to Lucia, was a bit sulky, and "the sweetest of his children" in the words of her father, "Ti" Marto.

We get a glimpse of a sensitive, affectionate child when, at age five, she cried bitterly on hearing about the sufferings of Christ and promised not to make Him suffer anymore.

We sense her contemplative nature when we read of her calling the moon, "Our Lady's lamp."

And we meet the little Portuguese "hostess" when, at age seven, at the first apparition, on May 13, 1917, she shyly asks Lucia if they should share their lunch with their heavenly visitor.

We also glimpse the pristine innocence in the small oval face of the pictures, coupled with an almost disconcerting directness and strength in the brown eyes—eyes that seem to see "beyond," for indeed they had had a glimpse of Heaven—and Hell. In the second apparition of June 13, the Blessed Virgin said that she would soon take Francisco and Jacinta to Heaven. In the vision of July 13, they were shown a terrifying scene of Hell, in which they saw, immersed in a huge fire, innumerable souls like "burning embers."

This vision coupled with Our Lady's plea, "Pray for sinners, many go to Hell because there is no one

to pray for them," lit in the innocent girl's heart a fire of love for God and souls.

Between the great graces of Our Lady, the knowledge that she was not long for this earth and the thirst to save as many "poor sinners" as she could, Jacinta forgot the earth, and for four short years lived only to please God, her "Lady" and to help souls make it to that Heaven she had been promised for herself.

Jacinta's natural sensitivity and affectionate disposition were sublimated into that burning charity that renders all sacrifice small and all effort easy. Lucia writes in her memoirs how Jacinta never tired of telling Our Lord and Our Lady how much she loved them. She once said, "I have a fire in my chest but it doesn't burn me."

This inward "fire" fueled her on until her death of tuberculosis just shy of her eleventh birthday, alone in a hospital in Lisbon. She embraced this last sacrifice for her beloved "sinners."

Despite her youth, in the words of Pope John Paul II at her beatification on May 13, 2000, "She could well exclaim with Saint Paul: 'I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the Church'" (Col. 1:24).

In four short years the little Portuguese girl had gone from carefree shepherdess to heroic saint. ■



On the morning of May 13, 2017, the most amazing event that happened at the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal was the canonization of Jacinta Marto and her brother, Francisco. They became the youngest children to be canonized (who are not martyrs) in nearly 2,000 years of Christianity.

How did these two children achieve Christian perfection at such young ages? How did they acquire virtues in the heroic degree which took other saints a lifetime of asceticism to achieve? How did Our Lady transform these two children into great saints?

Transformation from Child to Saint

The saints agree that perfect obedience requires giving up one's own will. Saints Francisco and Jacinta adhered faithfully to Mary's will at the least prompting. Her apparitions gave their lives a higher purpose and transformed them in a matter of months. One sign of this transformation is a change of will. Our Lady told them to pray and they did. Our Lady asked them to offer sacrifices and they did. They did numerous penances such as wearing coarse ropes directly against their skin. Even when the ropes cut into their skin and the pain it caused prevented them from sleeping at night, they wouldn't relent from practicing such a severe penance. However, when Our Lady instructed them not to wear the ropes at night, they again obeyed.

Another remarkable transformation took place in the hearts of Jacinta and Francisco. The children's only desire was to please Mary. They were willing to do anything for love of Jesus and Mary, offering penances of hunger, thirst, discomfort and the constant harassment of disbelievers.

One radical example of the very real persecution they endured occurred on August 13, 1917. On their way to their fourth appointment with Our Lady, the three children were abducted by the administrator of Ourém. During their imprisonment, the other prisoners wanted to distract Jacinta by singing and dancing with her. She quickly tired of this. In order to do something more pleasing to Mary, Jacinta hung her

They Made Her Heart Theirs

How Our Lady Transformed Francisco and Jacinta into Great Saints

BY SETH HAKES



Brown Scapular on the wall, invited everyone in the prison cell to kneel before it, and they all prayed the Rosary.

Even when the administrator threatened to throw them in a cauldron of boiling oil if they didn't reveal the secret Our Lady entrusted to them, these children chose death rather than displeasing Our Lady. To live or to die no longer mattered to them. To please Jesus and Mary became their only concern.

Mary Changed Their Lives and Dreams

These children were not always little saints. They began as very typical children. For example, before the Angel of Peace appeared to them, they prayed an abbreviated version of the rosary. Instead of saying each prayer, they would simply say the words "Our Father" and "Hail Mary." In this way, they were able to get back to their games all the sooner. Mary radically changed their lives. What they used to see as a chore was now a source of spiritual nourishment. They soon burned with the desire to pray the Rosary, not just every day, but many times throughout the day.

All children grow up full of hopes and expectations. Some will dream of becoming famous like a professional athlete or an actor. Others dream of becoming rich. Others dream of something more honorable like becoming a firefighter, a policeman, a professor or a war hero. Surely, Francisco and Jacinta had their childhood dreams as well.

But, when Our Lady appeared to them, any dream they may have had vanished. They no longer dreamed about the joys of the world. Their only joy was to obey Mary's will. They no longer hoped for a long, full and happy life. Their only hope was to go to Heaven. They no longer dreamed of fame or riches. Their only dream was to please God, console the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and convert and save sinners.

They Made Her Heart Theirs

How were such young children transformed into great saints? The answer seems to be an invitation and a challenge to everyone, especially children, for all times. They simply made Mary's will their will. They made her desires their desires. They made her hopes and dreams theirs. In short, they made her heart theirs. Perhaps, this is the best explanation of what devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is. ■



The two youngest saints in history that were not martyred, Saints Jacinta and Francisco Marto.

REMAINING FAITHFUL

During the Current Crisis in the Church



BY GUSTAVO SOLIMEO

PART ONE Explaining the Change of Mentality That Made the Current Crisis Possible

Many Catholics have traced the philosophical and theological roots of the present crisis inside the Church. This research does much to explain the evolution of the doctrines that undermine the Faith. However, it does not explain everything.

There are other aspects of the practice of the Faith involving habits, culture and customs that also changed. Understanding these developments is an essential part of the fight for the Church.



This change in mentality explains why Catholics were prepared to accept Modernism almost without resistance after the death of Saint Pius X, who fought against it.

Catholic thinker Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira explained the process that led to a change of mentality inside the Church and played a role in the acceptance of erroneous doctrine, as well as new ways of being and thinking that departed from Catholic tradition.

This change in mentality explains why Catholics were prepared to accept Modernism almost without resistance after the death of Saint Pius X, who fought against it. It helps explain why after Vatican II Catholic faithful accepted with euphoria the abandonment of cassocks, religious habits, chapel veils and other pious customs.

His penetrating analyses of this psychological and spiritual phenomenon show how all this was made possible. The shift prepared the doctrinal changes that would come. An outline of his analysis follows.

A Period of Great Fervor Changes

The proclamation of the dogmas of the Immaculate Conception (1854) and especially the dogma of Papal Infallibility and the Primacy of the Pope (1870) provoked a worldwide wave of enthusiasm and fervor among Catholics. Episcopate, clergy and the faithful all applauded these proclamations.

At the same time, religious congregations and Catholic works multiplied. Missionaries spread the Gospel to all continents despite persecutions in Africa and Asia. The Faith flourished despite hostile governments in France and Germany.

The clergy was generally zealous and worthy. Numerous saints appeared, some of which were beatified or canonized.

However, optimism took hold of a good part of the episcopate, the clergy and the faithful. They fell prey to complacency with the apostolic successes obtained.

The consequence was a loss of momentum. It did not immediately lead to decay, but to a diminishing desire to go higher. This spirit affected the clergy and religious orders and had a negative impact on the faithful.

The Progressive Lukewarmness of the Clergy

This diminishment of fervor led to a stagnation that progressively affected the clergy from top to bottom, causing a consequent decay in the fervor of the faithful.

According to the famous French Cistercian abbot and writer Dom Jean-Baptiste Chautard (1858-1935), there is a relationship between clergy and people, which he expressed in this way:

“If the priest is a saint, the people will be fervent; if the priest is fervent, the people will be pious; if the priest is pious, the people will at least be decent. But if the priest is only decent, the people will be godless.

The spiritual generation is always one degree less intense in its life than those who beget it in Christ.” (Abbot Jean-Baptiste Chautard, O.C.S.O., *The Soul of the Apostolate*, p. 39)

Loss of the Militant Spirit

This spiritual decay was characterized by the loss of fervor, the spirit of self-denial, the desire for renunciation, and a deadening of enthusiasm for the Faith. It gradually led to a change of mentality in the clergy and the faithful, by which they lost the notion of the Militant Church.

Indeed, long before the Second Vatican Council, a sentimental and sweetened piety spread among Catholics.

On the sidelines, some fervent priests battled against liberals who preached revolutionary doctrines. However, most mainstream Catholics heard sermons or read publications that contained pious and abstract considerations about “humility,” “charity” and other virtues valid for any time and place, but completely disconnected from the concrete battles of the Church.

When preachers spoke of combat or struggle, they referred almost exclusively to spiritual combat or the struggle against the passions and bad inclinations. They never, or almost never, mentioned the fight against the enemies of the Church, whether they be external or internal.

This one-sided preaching led to the systematic omission of any idea of militancy. It contributed to a deformation of the Catholic mentality. Catholics assumed a merely passive attitude towards the enemies of the Church.

The loss of the militant spirit did not directly lead to the acceptance of modern errors and deviations.



© JerryPDX | iStockphoto.com

The loss of the militant spirit did not directly lead to the acceptance of modern errors and deviations. However, it did contribute to the weakening of resistance to such errors and deviations.

However, it did contribute to the weakening of resistance to such errors and deviations. It changed the mindset of countless Catholics who came to believe that to fight error or admonish a person in error is not “charitable.”

An Atmosphere of Boredom and Desire for Change

The loss of the militant spirit produced a state of prostration, drowsiness and boredom. The general lethargy surrounding this state of affairs concealed a discontent, and an undefined uneasiness that awakened in people a desire for change.

This phenomenon was aggravated by the Second Vatican Council, which created an atmosphere of optimism, ecumenism, and “dialogue” that excluded the idea of struggle.

The times immediately following the Council were marked by euphoria and optimism that is hard to understand by those who did not live through those tragic days. Optimistic expressions of change pervaded everything. Everywhere there was talk of “aggiornamento,” participation in the vernacular liturgy, and increased participation of the faithful in the life of the Church.

The famous quote attributed to John XXIII said it all: “We must open the windows so that fresh air can enter the Church.”

From Lukewarmness to the Sexual Abuse Scandals

When the idea of struggle is absent, the spirit of vigilance diminishes or ceases altogether.

The lack of vigilance, along with lukewarmness and little faith, had bitter—but not unexpected—fruit in the infidelity of so many priests and prelates that gave rise to the sexual abuse scandals of the present day.

Thus, the grave situation of the Papacy today is

not the cause of the present crisis, but rather, to some extent, a consequence of this crisis.

The present pontificate could not have taken place without the process of a profound deterioration of the whole social body of the Church, including the episcopate, clergy and faithful. This process destroyed the natural defenses, the “antibodies” that would have allowed the body to react. Unfortunately, not only the head but all parts of the body are sick. A mysterious virus infects the entire organism. Not even drastic surgery can bring the body back to health.

In non-metaphorical terms, the very unlikely election of a conservative or even a holy Pope in a future conclave will not be enough to restore full normality in the life of the Church. At the same time, the possibility of the Church emerging from this crisis and returning to normal is impossible without the restoration of temporal society that is affected by a crisis of apocalyptic proportions.

Thus, only divine intervention can save the Church and the world from the chaos and madness that now seems to reign everywhere. This crossroads makes all the more timely the message of Our Lady of Fatima, who foresaw these times and proposed Divine solutions.

PART Overcoming the Temptations **TWO** Caused by Human Weakness in the Church



Saint Peter and his successors were given the mission of securing the deposit of Faith by Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Many Catholics justify their inertia and passivity by repeating to themselves and others the Gospel passage that says, “the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:18). Thus, this promise to the Church supposedly dispenses us from combating those working to destroy Her from within and without.

God cannot break His promise that “the gates of Hell shall not prevail.” However, it should not be understood in a fatalistic sense. We cannot conclude that we should leave to God alone the task of watching over and preserving the Church, the Faith and customs. God makes use of secondary causes. Moreover, He wants us to demonstrate our fidelity.

We cannot stand idly by while the Church of God is outraged, and souls are lost to eternal damnation rather than salvation.

Church History Shows Periods of Darkness

Church history shows how this promise that “the gates of Hell shall not prevail” did not prevent many nations from losing the Faith. It did not save many flourishing Christian communities from being wiped out, as seen, for example, by the Islamic conquest of Northern Africa.

The French theologian Father Joseph de Sainte-Marie, OCD explains:

“The real issue is: We must be faithful to the Church even when Her hierarchy, through a mysterious divine permission, is failing so dramatically. Her infallibility is by no means in doubt, nor is the promise of Christ that ‘the gates of Hell shall not prevail against Her.’ However, this promise does not mean there will not be times of darkness.”¹

The Darkness of the Recent Scandals

One such period of darkness is the current crisis of sexual abuse scandals, where believing in the sanctity of the Church is a trial for many.

The Church is holy and pure in itself but composed of sinners in its members. Therefore, by rejecting the scandals, we are not turning our back on the Church, but rejecting and saying no to the sins, sometimes committed by eminent Church members.

Far from contradicting the holiness of the Church, the infidelities of members of the clergy and the hierarchy underscore how only an institution of divine origin could endure for centuries, despite human weakness and the tendency toward evil that is the inheritance of Original Sin.

The Church remains as holy and sanctifying as it was in the beginning, and will be forever, because Her soul is the Holy Spirit, the sanctifying Spirit. She alone has the truth, the way, and the life. She alone continues the work of He who immolated Himself for Her: “Christ also loved the church, and delivered himself up for it: That he might sanctify it, cleansing it by the laver of water in the word of life: That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy, and without blemish” (Eph. 5:25-27).

Pope Pius XII confirms this explanation in the Encyclical *Mystici Corporis Christi* (1943):

“And if at times there appears in the Church something that indicates the weakness of our human nature, it should not be attributed to her juridical constitution, but rather to that regrettable inclination to evil found in each individual, which its Divine Founder permits even at times in the most exalted members of His Mystical Body, for the purpose of testing the virtue of the Shepherds no less than of the flocks, and that all may increase the merit of their Christian Faith.

For, as We said above, Christ did not wish to exclude sinners from His Church.”²

When All Seems Corrupt and Lost

One might object that the Church cannot be holy when most members of the clergy and hierarchy are totally corrupt.

Homosexual scandals by members of the clergy are reported—even by conservative media outlets—with extreme insistence and exuberance of lurid details. These reports create the impression in the minds of the faithful that not a single priest or bishop remains faithful to their vows and adheres to sound doctrine.

This is not true. Despite the vast scope of the crisis, it is clear that a large number of seminarians, priests, and bishops have remained faithful to their vows.

We must be careful that our righteous indignation at the crimes perpetrated by ecclesiastics unfaithful to their noble calling does not lead us to revolt against the Church itself, despair and even the loss of the Faith.

That is why we must combat the climate of sensationalism trumpeted by the secularist, and even some Catholic and conservative media, which is unfortunately aggravated by the cynicism of many ecclesiastics.

We need to avoid a feverish state when reporting or commenting on the current crisis. We have to keep the Faith, and we have to not lose objectivity and logic. Cold reasoning and common sense are very important in dramatic situations like the present one.

Where to Find a Solution to the Crisis

When facing a crisis, we tend to seek an easy, effective and complete solution. Such easy solutions often neglect to understand in depth the real characteristics of the crisis and its possible causes. As a result, such solutions aggravate the crisis by adding new problems, which are often more difficult to solve than previous ones.

This happens with political, economic and other crises that involve natural events. It is all the more true when dealing with crises in Holy Mother Church. In this case, supernatural elements of Revelation and Divine Grace are added to natural and human elements.

Thus, we must avoid a naturalistic perspective that looks at the present crisis of the Church with purely human eyes without taking into account its supernatural aspect. We then become liable to falling into traps set by the enemies of the Church.

A naturalistic attitude leads us to propose human solutions of a sociological or political nature

when what is needed are matters of supernatural Faith, theology, piety and sanctity.

PART THREE Growing in Hope

Many Catholics are well aware of the crisis in the Church. They are often tempted to be discouraged and abandon the struggle. The devil makes things worse by whispering in our ears the stronger temptation that the gates of Hell have prevailed against the Church contrary to the words of Our Lord (Matt. 16:18).

With so many reasons to be discouraged, we must cultivate a supernatural hope in God’s plan of triumph in history that will protect us against despair, discouragement and cynicism.

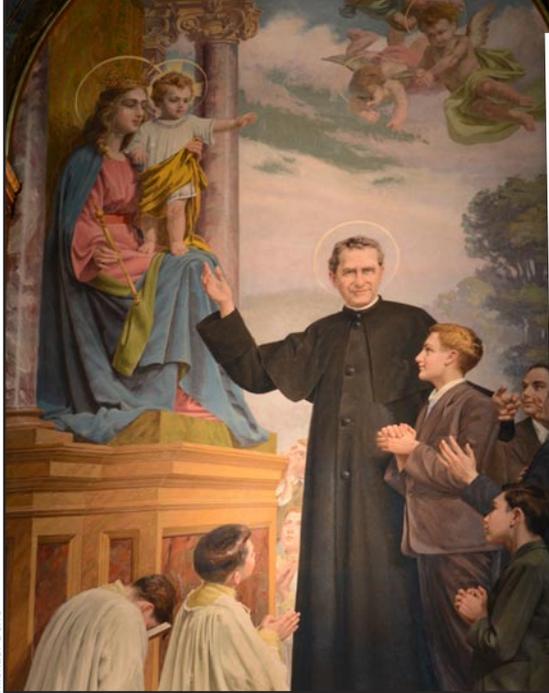
Our hope in Christ and His Most Holy Mother must not lead us to the inaction of quietism. The virtue of hope does not work this way. Our hope should impel us to action for the glory of God and the good of His Church.

The Catholic Church has weathered many storms, all with Our Lord at the helm. *The Storm on the Sea of Galilee* by Rembrandt.



Wikipedia

...the possibility of the Church emerging from this crisis and returning to normal is impossible without the restoration of temporal society that is affected by a crisis of apocalyptic proportions.



Michael Garre



Paul-Emile Millefaut

Left: Saint John Bosco; when priests sanctify themselves, they lead people back to Jesus through Mary. *Painting, interior of the Basilica of Our Lady Help of Christians, Turin, Italy.* **Right:** Saint John Vianney offering a new church to Saint Philomena, to whom he had a strong devotion. *Stone sculpture, exterior of the Basilique d'Ars, France.*

In other eras of crisis in the Church, the faithful have experienced and overcome similar temptations. Examples abound.

The Protestant revolt of the sixteenth century saw entire Episcopates abandon the Church and embrace heresy. In response, the Church convoked the Council of Trent to fight the new heresy. Good Popes like the great Saint Pius V appeared on the scene. There were intrepid warriors of the Faith like Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Saint Charles Borromeo and Saint Peter Canisius.

True reformers, or rather, restorers of the decadent religious orders emerged, such as the great Carmelite Saint Teresa of Avila and the great Franciscan Saint Peter of Alcantara.

This work of regeneration, known as the Counter-Reformation, recovered much of the terrain that the Church had lost.

At the same time, Spain and Portugal, which were practically on the sidelines of the Protestant revolt, sent their ships abroad. They brought this renewed Catholicism to the New World and Asia. A powerful new Christianity appeared on this side of the Atlantic and in the East.

The next great crisis in the Catholic Church was

Jansenism, followed by the great storm of the French Revolution, which practically destroyed the visible structures of the Church in France. This tempest later spread the germs of egalitarianism, relativism and liberalism throughout Europe. These errors gave rise to “Catholic liberalism.”

The Catholic reaction to all of these “-isms” was a revival of religion. The Church was blessed with great saints, such as Saint John Vianney and Saint John Bosco. There were the pontificates of two great anti-liberal Popes: Gregory XVI and Pius IX.

The history of the Church should give us reason for hope in the present crisis, which shakes the Church to Her foundations. God takes advantage of each crisis to serve as an occasion for the growth of His Church. The only condition for success is that we remain faithful in these times of great affliction.

During periods of crisis, God demands greater fidelity from us. It is not enough that we be regular, average or typical Catholics. We cannot be simply pious souls that live carefree lives. We must be fighters, soldiers of Christ, faithful defenders of Holy Mother Church. Only then, can we expect victory! ■

God takes advantage of each crisis to serve as an occasion for the growth of His Church.

Notes:

1. Fr. Joseph de Sainte-Marie, O.C.D., “Réflexions Sur le Problème de la Messe Aujourd’hui dans l’Eglise,” in *La Pensée Catholique*, July-Aug. 1974, p. 25 (our translation).

2. Pope Pius XII, Encyclical *Mystici Corporis Christi*, On the Mystical Body of Christ, June 29, 1943, n. 66. Retrieved from http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/pius_xii/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xii_enc_29061943_mystici-corporis-christi_en.html.



AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA[®]

MAY/JUNE 2020

PROGRESS REPORT

Join Our Monthly Rosary Rallies!

BY BERNARD SLOBODNIK

In 2007, America Needs Fatima started the annual Public Square Rosary Campaign to win back the heart and soul of America for Our Lady. That first year, we had 2,100 rally captains across America. In 2019, there were over 21,000 rally captains.

Building on this success, America Needs Fatima has started a monthly rosary campaign. We are asking people from all across America and other countries as well, to host rosary rallies each month, just like they do for the annual October Rosary Rally Campaign.

Each month we have chosen a different theme. The first of them was in December of 2019 for the intention of keeping Christ in Christmas. There were over 1,100 of these Christmas rallies. In January, there were 915 rallies for life. The February rally was held in honor of Saints Jacinta and Francisco. In March, rallies were held for traditional marriage in honor of Saint Joseph whose feast is March 19. In April, the theme of the rally is to pray for the police in our communities. May will be a rally for Fatima and Our Lady in the month of Mary. The June rally is for

traditional marriage in reparation for the *Obergefell* Supreme Court decision, as well as to take back the month of June for the Sacred Heart of Jesus. July's rosary rally is a patriotic rally for America.

August and September will be months to prepare for the main rally in October, so there are no official rallies in August and September and the same with November. Then it will begin all over again, with the second December rosary rally to keep Christ in Christmas. With the grace of Our Lady, these rallies will grow with the same momentum as the annual October Rallies.

Just like the October Rally, these monthly rallies are a way of offering reparation for the sins of our country and to take back the heart and soul of America for God. It is often a deceit of the evil one to make right-minded, God-loving people think that they are alone in their beliefs, that they are "the only ones." By gathering Catholics for the October Rallies over the last thirteen years, we have heard firsthand how strengthened these same people feel when gathering with others like them in their own town! ■

Christmas Rally 2019



Please be a part of the monthly rosary campaign and take back the heart and soul of America.

To learn more, call (866) 584-6012.



CANDLES FOR JACINTA

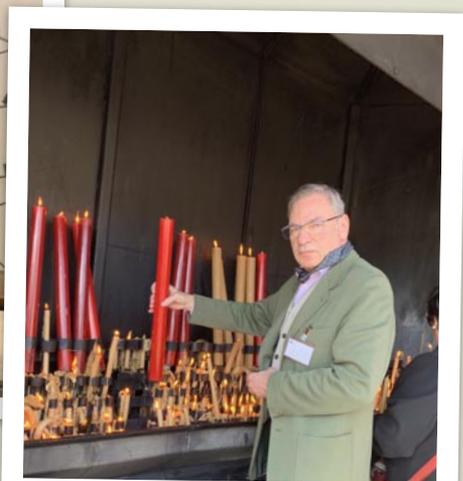
In honor of the 100th anniversary of the death of Saint Jacinta Marto, the youngest of the three Fatima seers, America Needs Fatima offered a spiritual opportunity to many friends and supporters.

They were invited to send in their own “Jacinta’s Candle” to be melted with others into several larger candles, which were then carried across the Atlantic to Fatima, Portugal. On February 20, these candles were lit at the site where Our Lady appeared to Saint Jacinta, her brother and their cousin. As the flames flickered, all the intentions of our friends and supporters were placed at Saint Jacinta’s tomb at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Why a candle? Because it is a fitting celebration of little Jacinta’s “birthday” into heaven, where it is certain that a grand celebration was held in honor of this heroic child.



America Needs Fatima representative, Felipe Barandiaran, presents sixteen red candles to Saint Jacinta’s tomb on the 100th anniversary of her death.



Felipe Barandiaran lights the Saint Jacinta candles at the Fatima shrine.

Jacinta Marto and her older brother, Francisco, were solemnly canonized at the sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima, in Portugal on May 13, 2017, the centennial of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. They are among the youngest Catholic saints, with Jacinta being the youngest saint who did not die a martyr.

Saint Jacinta, pray for us!

Prayers for Purity

BY TONIA LONG

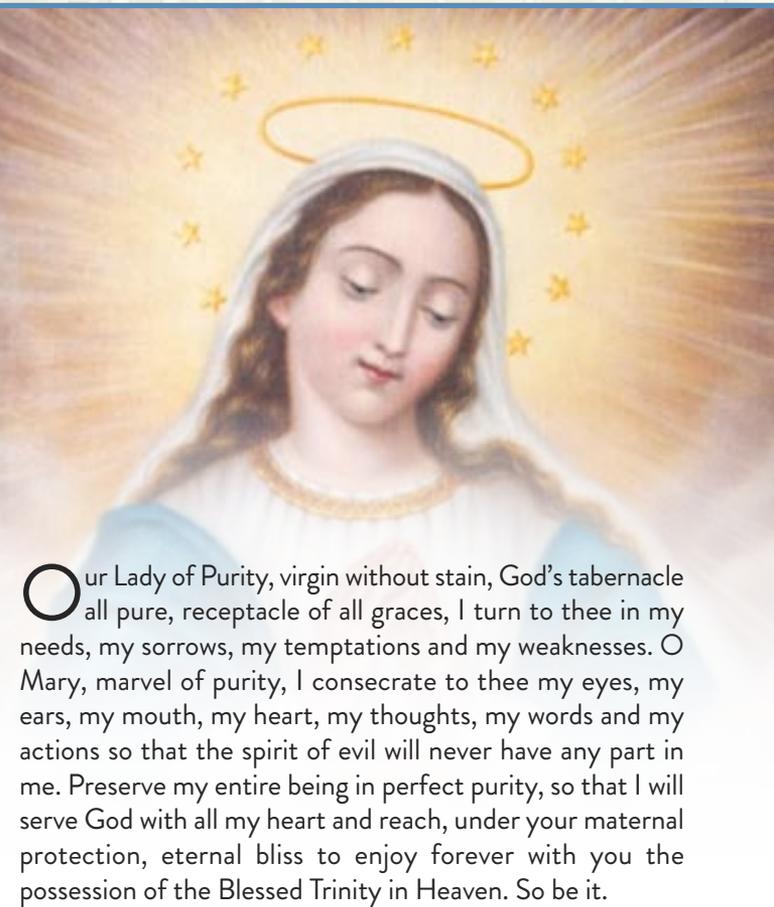
Taking to heart the words of Our Lady of Fatima that, “More souls go to hell because of sins of the flesh than for any other reason,” America Needs Fatima recently launched a campaign to help the youth of America persevere in the angelic virtue of purity.

Reaching out to many friends and supporters, we asked them to become a guardian angel for a young person. We also asked them to sign a card containing a beautiful picture image of Our Lady of Purity, and then to send it back to us.

Armed with these prayer cards, our full-time volunteers began distributing them to youth all across America.

At our Fatima visits, street campaigns and college campuses all across America these beautiful, spiritually packed prayer cards are getting into the hands of young people from all walks of life.

We invite our readers to join in this campaign for the youth of America by praying the following prayer to Our Lady of Purity:



Our Lady of Purity, virgin without stain, God’s tabernacle all pure, receptacle of all graces, I turn to thee in my needs, my sorrows, my temptations and my weaknesses. O Mary, marvel of purity, I consecrate to thee my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart, my thoughts, my words and my actions so that the spirit of evil will never have any part in me. Preserve my entire being in perfect purity, so that I will serve God with all my heart and reach, under your maternal protection, eternal bliss to enjoy forever with you the possession of the Blessed Trinity in Heaven. So be it.



CUSTODIAN'S CORNER

Our Lady's Youngest Custodian

BY JOSEPH GENSENS

I first came across America Needs Fatima while participating at the Canadian March for Life back in May 2018. As an 18-year-old Canadian from a devout Catholic family in Ontario, I was amazed to discover other young men who were just as enthusiastic about serving Our Lady and dedicating themselves to the cause of the Catholic Church. Having just finished high school, I decided I wanted to be a part of it. Soon afterwards, I began volunteering with the America Needs Fatima campaign, bringing Our Lady to homes across Maryland. Our Fatima team is one of ten teams that bring the Pilgrim Virgin statues to some 2,000 homes each year.

Doing Fatima visits is essential because when Our Lady appeared at Fatima to the three children in 1917, she warned that mankind had to change its ways to avoid impending chastisements. One hundred years later, the situation has only become worse, and that's why the Fatima visits are so important as a means of emphasizing prayer, sacrifice, and amendment of life.

Since the goal of America Needs Fatima is to "Win America for Mary Most Holy," at each visit, we encourage all those present to foster a greater devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. One of the best means of achieving this is the daily recitation of the rosary, of which Saint Louis de Montfort says, "If you say the rosary faithfully until death, I do assure you that, in spite of the gravity of your sins you shall receive a never fading crown of glory."

It's incredible to see how Our Lady touches people at the visits, even in small ways. At a recent visit in Maryland, we met an elderly woman whose birthday coincided with the Fatima visit. All through the visit she was looking at the statue of Our Lady with great devotion. As we were packing up to leave, her daughter took us aside and told us that her



Joseph Gensens (rear, right) is the youngest Fatima Custodian and volunteers his time to bring the Pilgrim Virgin statue of Our Lady of Fatima to homes.

mother had stage 4 cancer and only a short time to live. As we drove home that evening, I couldn't help thinking about how providential it was that Our Lady had visited this faithful woman on her birthday in order to strengthen her before death.

At the end of each Fatima visit we encourage everyone to be more active in their communities. Whether that means praying outside an abortion clinic, protesting at a Drag Queen Story Hour, or joining a rosary rally, it is important to fight harder in order to save this great nation. May Our Lady continue to bless this important work of spreading her message so that, one day, as she promised at Fatima, "finally, my Immaculate Heart will triumph." ■

*"I would love to have the Lady visit as often as possible! Her visit in my home was so uplifting."
M. S., Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

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



Our Readers Write



2019 October Rosary Rallies

“At our rosary rally, we helped save a teenage girl. One of our ladies went to go get a jacket from her car. On her way back to the rally, a young girl literally fell over into her arms and they both fell to the ground. The young girl had overdosed on pills. We were able to get her help. Imagine if we hadn’t been there, holding the rally that day!”

C. B., Latrobe, Pennsylvania

“I have a little story to share with you about the enclosed donation: we were attending a Public Square Rosary Rally in Cedar Park, Texas, and all were praying when a young man stopped by, and approached us. Amazingly, he actually joined us and prayed the rosary out loud with us for a while. Then he asked if he could donate to the cause. He even apologized that he didn’t have more to give. I told him I would make sure his gift was sent to you all at ANF. Please use the check towards gas money for the Fatima Custodians, who take Our Lady’s statue and Fatima message around the country into the homes of faithful Americans who need to see Her and hear her message.”

W. P., Leander, Texas

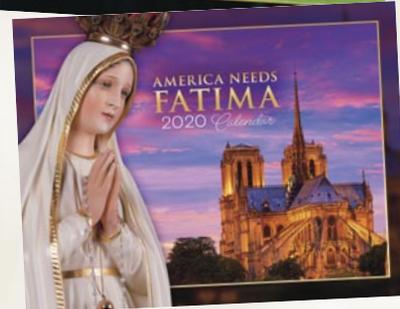
fact that our universe is in need of urgent help. I do agree, sadly, that we do have too many TVs, including myself. I’m keeping your letter and will read it often, hoping I can make changes in my life.”

C. T., Phoenix, Arizona



“I love it! It’s very beautiful. I enjoy seeing the face of Our Lady on every page of the calendar. Please continue the good work for all Catholic people, especially the younger generation. Thanks again for the special calendar. It’s so pretty.”

T. B., Juneau, Alaska



“One year I got 11 calendars from groups, but yours is the only one I write in and use almost daily. Thank you for it!”

R. M. H., Saint Paul, Minnesota

“This is a keepsake calendar; I love it!”

P. P., Lake Worth, Florida

“I rejoiced to see many shrines I have visited in Europe featured here in your calendar. I have also framed the pictures inside your calendar of Our Lady and given them to family and friends over the years.

J. L., Salinas, California



“The Rally at Rockefeller Center in NYC is a splendid example of our Catholic Faith! Thank you!”

P. M., New York, New York

Saint Michael Rosary

“I love the Saint Michael Rosary. Also the heartwarming testimony of the Marine on the battlefield. Thank you!”

B. R., Milwaukee, Wisconsin

“I love, love, LOVED the story about Saint Michael the Archangel!”

I. A., Los Angeles, California

“Thank you for the Saint Michael Rosary. I have a special bond with him. I pray to him all the time. He is my special advocate!”

M. L. S., Saint Paul, Minnesota

2020 Fatima Calendar

“I really enjoyed reading your letter which came with this calendar. You expressed many things that I worry about and pray for. I wish the priests would discuss these things in their Sunday sermons—let people know how desperate we are. It is a



Have something you’d like to share? Send us your feedback by writing to Crusade@TFP.org



Dear Reader,
 By the grace of Our Lady, and the generous gifts of many friends, in 2019 America Needs Fatima was able to distribute 240,000 free copies of the great Marian book, *The Virgin Mary*.

Here we share with you a small sampling of the unprecedented amount of feedback we have received. I hope this will bring you joy as you hear from people across the country how *The Virgin Mary* has touched their lives.

In Jesus and Mary,
 The Editor

What Catholics like you are saying about *The Virgin Mary*:

“This book makes my heart so much closer to Mary and the Holy Family. I’ve read this book three times since we received it. Tears flow as I read. What a beautiful, great book. Thank you for sending it to me.”

A. P. Adams, Massachusetts

“Thank you so much for sending me your book *The Virgin Mary*! I have had a hard time putting it down!”

L. L., Baton Rouge, Louisiana

“Thank you for the amazing book. It is so heartfelt. How happy you have made Our Lady. She has been a huge source of love to me. I am handicapped and have cancer; she is such a help and a blessing to me. I’m praying you have huge help with this book campaign and all your campaigns! May Our Lady bless you.”

P. Z., Toledo, Ohio

“Mr. Ritchie, as long as I live, you will never know just how grateful I am to have this book.”

A. R., Jonesville, South Carolina

“Thank you for the wonderful book on the Blessed Virgin Mary. God bless you for being devoted to our Blessed Mother—we are indeed living in the last days—and people go on with business as usual without giving any thought of what is to come... an eternity of salvation or an eternity of damnation.”

G. C., Farmington, Michigan

“I will give this book to a young man that I am trying to get back into going to Mass! I love God and the Blessed Mother very much. I am also close to many saints and love their lives.”

M. S., Homewood, Illinois

“Would you please send me another “Holy Mary” booklet, and another copy of your book *The Virgin Mary* by Fr. Saint-Laurent? I am going to send them to a friend who is in prison. He loves these religious and spiritual books! I believe he can

greatly benefit by these wonderful books you publish (which I am now reading). They are getting me closer to Mary. I had recently lost my rosary, so I was very happy to open my mail from you and find a handsome white-beaded rosary. You are in my prayers.”

Bro. T. B., S.J., Santa Clara, California

“Thank you for this wonderful book. It has given me different insights into Mary which I did not have previously. What an amazing creation of God is she!”

J. K., Olmsted Falls, Ohio

“Thank you for this precious book *The Virgin Mary*. Can’t stop reading it! I’m learning so much about Our Lady’s love and kindness for all of us. The Virgin Mary helped me many times when I was sick and alone and asked for help. She is my friend, sister, mother (since I lost my parents and brother in WWII). It is so sad that lots of people are not interested in learning about the Virgin. I’m praying for you to distribute thousands of these books! God bless your work!”

R. A., Tulare, California

“Thank you for sending me *The Virgin Mary* by Fr. Thomas De Saint-Laurent. When I first saw it, I could not take my eyes off of it. It was like the Virgin Mary and Baby Jesus were talking to me. I have seen a lot of pictures of Our Blessed Mother, but this one got to my heart. Thank you very much. I started reading it the same day I got it. God bless. I am very grateful.”

S. D., Yuma, Arizona



To get your copy of *The Virgin Mary*, call (888) 317-5571 or visit our website at ANF.org.



An Unlikely Battlefield: The American Public Library

BY T. M. SALAMIDA

Do you remember the library of your childhood? It was a safe place to spend a leisurely Saturday afternoon, exploring the world of words. It was a place where one could go to learn about the world and all the treasures it held. The library of those days was permeated by an almost sacred silence vigilantly guarded by a librarian whose “Shhh!” could stop any child mid-sentence.

Sadly, that scene has been changing in libraries across the country with the introduction of the Drag Queen Story Hour. In a total of twenty-one states so far, if one were to stroll into a local library he may be accosted by a strange sight almost surreal in its vulgar bright colors and mixed-up gender signals. Men in drag, faces covered in makeup, greet young children with a garish hyper-smile, inviting them to sit and listen to a story. The “story” is a sinister collection of politically correct jargon, meant to erase any natural distinction between male and female in the mind of the innocent child.

And at the end of this story hour from hell, the drag queen shouts out to his audience, “Who wants to be a drag queen like me when they grow up?” The children chorus back, “Me!!”

This is the new battleground and America Needs Fatima is engaged in the fight. Just recently, rally of

and other prayers. As I was leaving I walked past a counter-protester and a child around 8 years of age pointed to our protest and asked the woman whom she was with who we were. The woman answered, ‘they are bad people who want to stop the story hour.’

“In December three candlelit rallies of reparation were held in opposition to a ‘Drag Queen Christmas’ that took place in cities all across America. In our area, rallies were held in Omaha, Kansas City, Missouri and Tulsa. Over fifty attended the rallies in Omaha and Kansas City despite extreme cold temperatures. Many of those who attended in Omaha had been present before at DQSH protests earlier in the spring and summer. Throughout the rally in Omaha a number of people shouted, ‘God bless America Needs Fatima for doing this!’

“These events demonstrated how much those who support such unnatural vice desire to impose it on America.”

The first Drag Queen Story Hour was held in San Francisco in 2015. Since then the events, meant to give kids “glamorous, positive, and unabashedly queer role models,” according to a website that tracks them, have spread across the nation through public libraries, museums and bookstores. Though not all drag queens are homosexual or transgender, the events have become a kind of barometer for a community’s tolerance of expressing homosexual identities in public.*

The rallies of reparation are drawing graces from heaven, and one lawmaker recently proposed a bill that would protect the children in his state. The bill would give parents “recourse” to say they were “not OK” with the programming introduced into their community. The bill’s sponsor, state Rep. Ben Baker, a southwest Missouri Republican, stated that the Parental Oversight of Public Libraries Act requires each library district to create a five-person oversight board of adults that would hold public hearings and make final decisions on whether “material” was age appropriate. ■

Rally of reparation and protest in Dallas, Texas, in opposition to the corruption of children by the Drag Queen Story Hours.



reparation events took place in Omaha, Kansas City and Tulsa, Oklahoma. A rally captain in St. Joseph writes:

“At the St. Joseph Rally there were 72 present on our side. Across the street there were 150 counter-protesting us. There were multiple signs and banners displayed.

“Our crowd was enthusiastic praying the rosary

*[government/article239357118.html?fbclid=IwAR3Q_6mQ7896-VpV4Wzxp4z-oNbFXj3n58tZ3VKg0YDOR7fbxYvqDo9eA-M](https://www.government/article239357118.html?fbclid=IwAR3Q_6mQ7896-VpV4Wzxp4z-oNbFXj3n58tZ3VKg0YDOR7fbxYvqDo9eA-M)



Roses at Guadalupe



On a Saturday in late February, the entrance to the shrine dedicated to the Patroness of the Americas was adorned by several thousand roses offered to her by her faithful children. This was the result of a campaign by America Needs Fatima giving its members an opportunity to send roses to Our Blessed Lady of Guadalupe for the end of the national sin of abortion in America.

When Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Saint Juan Diego in the sixteenth century, she portrayed herself as an expectant mother, our heavenly Mother expecting the divine Child. So the offering and requests were most appropriate.

In addition, members who sent roses to Our Lady also included their personal intentions which were taken to the shrine. We delivered these intentions and prayed several rosaries for all those who sent a rose to Guadalupe.

As a symbolic gesture, forty-seven votive candles were lit in Guadalupe in reparation for the forty-seven years since the infamous ruling of *Roe v. Wade*. If anyone can defeat this the culture of death, Our Lady is certainly in the position to do so. The apparitions and intervention of the Mother of God in Mexico was the beginning of the end of human sacrifices and other atrocities of the time.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us! ■

Thank You...

...for submitting your intentions for Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico!



continued from back cover. . .

Skellig Michael (Ireland)

The first shrine to Saint Michael is known as Skellig Michael, a craggy mountainous island off the west coast of Ireland. In the fourth century, Saint Fionan occupied the island and founded a Celtic monastic community there. The monks lived in stone



Skellig Michael

huts and were not only subject to the deprivations inherent to their ascetic life, but also the hardship of sustaining themselves given the difficulty of maintaining crops and herds in such a hostile environment. Despite harsh living conditions, the monks remained faithful.

It is also said that Skellig Michael is the location where Saint Patrick waged his final battle against the serpents, expelling them from Ireland forever.

Saint Michael's Mount (Cornwall, United Kingdom)

Next in line is Saint Michael's Mount, the lesser known sister-site of the famous Mont-Saint-Michel in France. Like Mont-Saint-Michel, it is on an island accessible by foot only when the tide permits.



Saint Michael's Mount

Long before it was occupied by any order, the island was a site of pilgrimage because of frequent apparitions of Saint Michael. According to sources from the early Medieval period, the Archangel, who is also the patron saint of fishermen, would guide nearby sailors to safety.

Mont-Saint-Michel (Normandy, France)

Like its holy patron, Mont-Saint-Michel reflects the harmony and sacrality of the union of the religious and military spirit. Easily one of the most recognizable landmarks of Christendom, the abbey-fortress on the Norman coast of France traces its origins to the eighth century when Saint Albert, bishop of Avranches, was instructed by Saint Michael in a series of visions to build an abbey on the island.

Under Abbot Hildebrand II, the plan for the structures of Mont-Saint-Michel that we recognize today began. Despite



Mount-Saint-Michel

setbacks, the monumental project was finally completed in 1520.

Unfortunately, the Congregation of St. Maur was forcibly removed from the shrine by French revolutionaries, who turned the monastery into a political prison ironically named Mont Libre (Mount Freedom).

Sacra di San Michele (Turin, Italy)

The origins of this shrine to the Archangel are steeped in history. Roman Legions used the location as a base and later the Lombards occupied the strategic outpost.

The Catholic history of the Sacra di San Michele begins in the tenth century, when Saint Giovanni Vincenzo, a hermit, was commanded by Saint Michael to build a shrine. Located on Monte Pirchiriano, the task before the Saint was practically impossible. By a miracle, however, all of the necessary building materials appeared precisely where the shrine stands today.

Pictured on back cover.

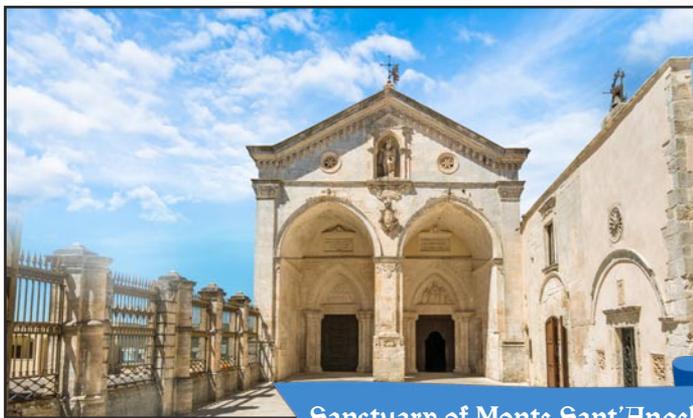
Sanctuary of Monte Sant'Angelo (Monte Gargano, Italy)

Like the other shrines, the Sanctuary of Monte Sant'Angelo sits high above the surrounding countryside. However, aside from being the oldest shrine of Saint Michael in Western Europe, it is

unique because it was consecrated by the Archangel himself.

One miracle associated with the shrine took place not long after when the local town was besieged by a large army. Despite the apparent hopeless situation, Saint Lorenzo beseeched Saint Michael for aid in battle. In turn, the Archangel appeared to him and assured him of victory. When the struggle ended, the enemy was destroyed.

Following this extraordinary victory, Saint Lorenzo, by his own accord and at the behest of the Holy Father, went to consecrate the grotto to their celestial defender. Before he was able to do this, the Archangel announced to the bishop that there was no need to consecrate the site, for Saint Michael had already



Sanctuary of Monte Sant'Angelo

done so. In thanksgiving, Saint Lorenzo, seven other bishops, and multitudes of clergy and laymen processed to the sacred shrine. As they went, eagles shielded the bishops from the sun with outspread wings and when they arrived, they found a complete altar in place, along with a footprint of the angel.

Stella Maris Monastery (Haifa, Israel)

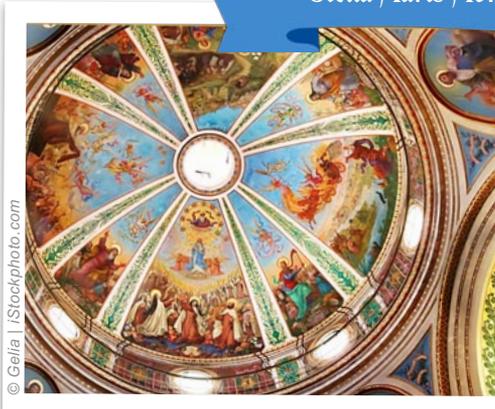
The “tip” of the sword rests in the Holy Land, not in Jerusalem, but in Haifa, the site of the Stella Maris (Our Lady Star of the Sea) monastery on Mount Carmel. This is the same place where the prophet Elias resided, who, like Saint Michael, wielded his sword against the enemies of God. Is it any surprise then that the spiritual children of this prophet, the Carmelites, live in the same spot as their father once did?

The current monastery, a minor basilica, was built in 1836. Today it is still home to a Carmelite community.

May Saint Michael the Archangel continue his vigilant defense of God’s creation against the powers of darkness, proclaiming until the end of time and beyond “*Quis ut Deus.*” ■



Stella Maris Monastery



The SWORD of Saint Michael

BY BENTLEY HATCHETT

Quis ut Deus? Who is like unto God? This was the battle cry of Saint Michael the Archangel at the beginning of the first war in history, a war which will be fought until the end of time. That is, the struggle between the children of God and the children of the Lucifer, that old serpent. It is no surprise, then, that this glorious champion of God's cause in heaven would be a suitable patron for those devoted to His most sacred cause on earth.

Devotion to Saint Michael flourished in the Middle Ages, particularly among the monastic orders as they viewed themselves as warriors of Christ. It follows naturally that these spiritual "special forces" in the combat for the salvation of souls would name their monasteries and shrines after Saint Michael the Archangel.

This enmity between the children of God and the children of Lucifer is symbolized by a mysterious geographic line called the "Sword of Saint Michael," linking six shrines dedicated to the great Archangel. This line extends northwest to southeast from Skellig Michael in Ireland and ending at the Carmelite Monastery of Stella Maris, Haifa, Israel. Some of these shrines were formerly places of pagan devil-worship. Transformed into some of the most sublime monasteries, basilicas and churches, these shrines to Saint Michael represent his victory over the devil and his powerful intercession before the Throne of God.

Let us take a journey through these spiritual battlegrounds.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22...



Sacra di San Michele