



The Bellowing Ox

Summer Solstice Issue — A.D. 2024
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Ember Days - Wednesday, September 18; Friday, Sept. 20; and Saturday, Sept. 21

DAILY CONSECRATION TO HIS SACRED HEART

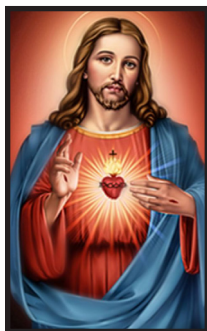
by Dr. Christopher Reed

The month of June invites us to devote ourselves more deeply to Christ's most Sacred Heart. If you're like me, perhaps you're asking yourself, "What will I do differently? How can I take the next step in consecrating my life to Jesus' Sacred Heart?"

Consecration, literally means "to do with sacred dedication." It's a spiritual practice that takes commitment and daily practice. It's a journey.

Through our actions, trials, sufferings, and interactions with others we can offer ourselves daily to love, honor, and glorify Christ, and remove from our thoughts and deeds that which is displeasing to our Lord or separates us from him.

Prayer is a powerful daily practice in deepening our devotion to the Sacred Heart. St. Margaret Mary Alacoque offers us a beautiful prayer and example to invite deeper consecration to Christ's most Sacred Heart:



Consecration to the Sacred Heart continues on page 8

REVIVING THE EUCHARISTIC MIRACLE

This is the second of a four-part series which coincides with the USCCB's strategic focus on a Eucharistic Revival and 2024 Eucharistic Conference.

by Fr. Anthony Brankin

A few months ago I read an article by Anthony Esolen that noted that the decline in faith and devotion in the Eucharist may have come about as a result of the systematic and relentless removal of all the traditional devotional supports for the Eucharist after the Second Vatican Council.

By external supports, we mean the actual prayers of the Old Mass (which are ineffably beautiful), kneeling for Communion, Holy Communion on the tongue, fasting from food and drink, genuflections, single knee genuflections, and double knee genuflections, adoration, Benediction, Corpus Christi processions, Forty Hours.

These were traditions and customs and ceremonies that were in large part eliminated or abandoned or banished from Catholic life from about 1965 to 1985.

And yet, even as the bishops expunged all these supports from Catholic Eucharistic practice, they still expected the people to maintain the same level of devotion as they had before.

Eucharistic Revival continues on page 4

THE EUCHARIST IS THE DIFFERENCE

In 2017, according to Lifeway research, 66% of Americans between 23-30 years olds stopped attending Church on a regular basis for at least a year after they turned 18... and that was just for Protestants. For Catholics, it was even worse ... more than 80%!

According to data released in July 2022, globally there are 2.3-2.6 billion Christians separated into more than 45,000 denominations!

The reality is that the youth throughout the world, and adults, for the past 50 years have had a difficult time distinguishing the differences among all Christian churches.

Prayer is prayer. God is God. Church is Church.

The growing churches — or those that have had some success in attracting larger congregations — have focused on personalities on the pulpit and/or music.

However, when understanding the "real" difference among the Christian denominations, as illustrated by the most recognized converts from other Christian faiths to Catholicism — such as Scott Hahn, Steve Ray, and now Iowan Keith Nester — will tell you the Eucharist is the most significant difference.

The Eucharist is the treasure of our Catholic faith! By not teaching, understanding, or properly honoring and venerating the Body of Christ for decades, undermines the entire Catholic faith. Without the understanding and reverence of the Eucharist, Mass attendance, Confession, marriage, and the remaining sacraments are marginalized as well. †

by Greg Yoko

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Central Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
6:00 am	The World Over™						EWTN News In Depth	6:00 am	
7:00 am	Holy Mass from the EWTN Chapel							7:00 am	
8:00 am	Stories from the Heart						The Fathers of Mercy Hour™	8:00 am	
8:30 am	Light of the East						Quo Vadis		
9:00 am	Sermons for Everyday Living								
10:00 am	Angelus & St. Michael's Chaplet						The Spirit World	10:00 am	
11:00 am	Beyond Damascus						Holy Rosary with the Keith Nester Rosary Crew	Forming Faithful Families	11:00 am
		Stations of the Cross Meditation					Light of the East		
12:00 pm	Scripture & Tradition™					Quo Vadis	The Miracle Hunter	12:00 pm	
12:30 pm							The Chatter		
1:00 pm	Mother Angelica: Answering the Call	Called to Communion				The Chatter	The Chatter	1:00 pm	
	The Catholic Sphere								
2:00 pm	Christ is the Answer™ with Fr. John Riccardo					EWTN Live (encore)	2:00 pm		
3:00 pm	Divine Mercy Chaplet	The Chaplet of Divine Mercy with Drew Mariani - Live					Divine Mercy Chaplet	3:00 pm	
3:30 pm	Rosary in Latin w/ Pope St. JP II						Children's Rosary	3:30 pm	
4:00 pm	Bishop Strickland Hour						Conversations w/ Consequences	4:00 pm	
4:30 pm									
5:00 pm	Quo Vadis					The Simple Truth	The World Over™	5:00 pm	
6:00 pm	The Chatter	Fr. Simon Says™ encore with Fr. Richard Simon						6:00 pm	
7:00 pm		The Journey Home™	Mother Angelica Live Classics	EWTN Live™	The World Over™	EWTN News In Depth		7:00 pm	
8:00 pm		EWTN News Nightly™						8:00 pm	
8:30 pm		The Chaplet of Saint Michael, with Mother Angelica						8:30 pm	
9:00 pm	Fathers of Mercy Hour						The Bear Wozniak Adventure	9:00 pm	
10:00 pm	The Angry Catholic Show						Bishop Strickland Hour	10:00 pm	
11:00 pm	Patrick Coffin Show	Christ Is The Answer				with Fr. John Riccardo	Fr Spitzer's Universe™	11:00 pm	
12:00 am	Fathers of Mercy Hour	OPEN LINE - Encore					Wisdom - Fr. Groeshel	12:00 am	
1:00 am	Mother Angelica Live Classics™							EWTN Bookmark™	12:30 am
2:00 am	The Journey Home™ encore	More 2 Life™ encore					Fathers of Mercy Hour	1:00 am	
3:00 am	Divine Mercy Chaplet	Fathers Know Best™ encore					Divine Mercy Chaplet	2:00 am	
3:30 am	Rosary - Latin						Rosary - Latin	3:00 am	
4:00 am	Daybreak™							3:30 am	
4:30 am								4:00 am	
5:00 am	Vatican Insider™						Scripture & Tradition™	4:30 am	
5:30 am	Divine Intimacy Radio™							5:00 am	

As of March 31, 2024 - Subject to change

WHY "WE" EXIST? (YOU ARE A PART OF "WE.")

We have been receiving many cards, letters, emails, and voice messages over the last few months. Many of the sentiments of our readers, listeners, and event attendees are similar. Therefore, I have combined and condensed some comments for brevity.

One of the most common themes among the comments and compliments we are receiving is directly related to the situation many of us are experiencing: family members and friends who are no longer practicing Catholics.

Many have also been commenting on the series of articles that we are presenting regarding the Eucharist.

Here is a portion of a letter from Lily that I am paraphrasing:

Dear Bellowing Ox:

Thank you for your article on the Eucharistic Miracles.

We are practicing Catholics who attend Mass on weekdays and always on Sunday. However, several family and friends (cradle Catholics) are no longer practicing Catholics. Some are either Baptist or Protestant or, of course, are atheists or agnostic.

The reasons given for leaving Catholicism are varied, but all are directly related to the fact that they were never taught the faith. For instance, not wanting to go to confession because of a divorce and new marriage that would be accepted by the church, the sex abuse scandals, or they simply do not understand the difference between a symbolic communion and receiving the Eucharist - the consecrated Body and

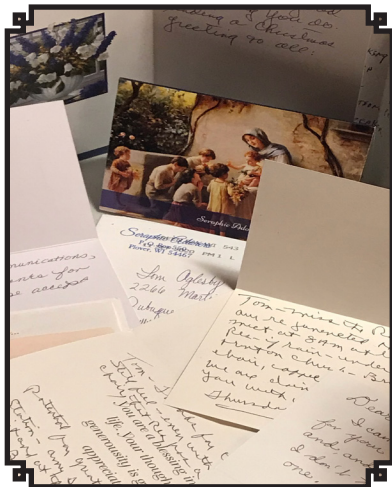
Blood of Christ.

We pray for them daily.

Lily

Another missive, this one from Donna:

I love, love your magazine. I am very active in my parish and would love to share issues with them. Thank you so much! Donna



We receive literally dozens of letters, notes, emails, and voice mails each month ... from all over the world, which is still hard for us to comprehend sometimes! Most of them <smile> are complimentary.

But, the reality is that our reach and impact has grown significantly. The Bellowing Ox has a national distribution and is available online at www.TheBellowingOx.com.

We also have individuals from all over the world accessing our radio broadcasts, podcasts and prayers from our KCRD radio app (on both Android and Apple platforms). Some of these individuals provide us with article and story ideas!

But, The Most Important Point!

With your help, we are making a difference! This is not us boasting. It is the reason we exist!

In fact, we have so many examples that we will be featuring multiple stories in this and future issues. (See pages 16-17!) †



Greg Yoko, Publisher

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Submissions must be made provided at least
FOUR months in advance of date of the event.

Letters to the Editor:

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Reviving the Eucharistic Miracle from page 1

Of course, that did not happen. It served only to diminish our faith and devotion.

We could easily make the case that just about everything in the pre-Vatican II Church revolved around and reinforced what we believed about the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Eucharist.

All of it.

From the architecture of our buildings to the art within them, it was Eucharistic. From our Catholic school system to the devotional system of novenas and missions all revolved around Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

Every bit of it was to remind us from Whom and to Whom our lives were directed and how it is the Eucharist that would lead us.

But then came the 60s and 70s. The bishops and the liturgists and theologians and seminary professors who were appointed by the bishops took all that away.

They said that those customs were external and superficial and unnecessary. They taught us, "We don't do that anymore. That's that the old-fashioned Church. We are going to have bible vigils now and para liturgies!"

And rather than our Eucharistic devotion being enhanced or expanded, it was emptied. We did almost nothing Eucharistic (except the Mass) for almost twenty years. **Nothing.**

I remember at vespers one evening in the major seminary. It was about 1973 and I was in Third theology.

Father came in to lead us in the prayers. He walked over to the tabernacle, took the Ciborium out, put it on the altar, took off the top and we all knelt and said our prayers before the Blessed Sacrament.

That's when it hit me: this was first time in eight years that there was in our seminary — from the minor seminary to the college seminary to the major seminary — from about 1965 until 1973, the slightest hint of Eucharistic Devotion that I had seen.

The Eucharist

is a priceless treasure: by not only celebrating it but also by praying before it outside of Mass, we are enabled to make contact with the very wellspring of grace ... It is pleasant to spend time with [Jesus], to lie close to his breast like the Beloved Disciple (cf. Jn 13:25) and to feel the infinite love present in his heart.

Pope Saint John Paul II
Ecclesia de Eucharistia, 25

For all those eight years in our seminary, the seminary system of the second largest Archdiocese in the nation, there was never celebrated either Benediction or Adoration or Forty Hours.

It all had been cancelled.

But, that was not just our seminary problem. There was almost no public Eucharistic Devotion of any kind in most of the American Church from about 1965- to 1985 (when Pope John Paul II came to the Chair of Peter).

And, it was like that all over the Catholic world.

The bishops, after having eliminated all the traditional Eucharistic devotions, still expected the people — without those helps — to muster the same love and devotion and faith in the Eucharist that they had before.

But that could never work. We needed all those traditions and customs and gestures and postures to remind us **Who** Jesus was — and **Who** Holy Communion was. Remove those struts and it all begins to collapse. And it did collapse.

Of course it would collapse. Every word and movement in the Mass and in our devotional life had developed organically over two thousand years in order to help us focus on Jesus and on His Real Presence in Holy Communion. It had disappeared.

Take for example the old Communion fast. I mean the very old one. The fast that told us that if we were going to receive Holy Communion the next day we had to

refrain from eating or drinking anything (including water) from midnight until the time we received Holy Communion.

Imagine the effort that that fast took — and the lesson which the person learned from fasting: that God Himself has become our Food; and our souls as well as our bodies must be prepared to receive Him. Nothing as common as natural food and drink should sully our mouths which were about to receive God himself.

And when your stomach was growling and you were getting a headache — even your body was in on the lesson: this is Our Lord Whom we are about to receive.

They changed the Communion fast when I was in 7th grade to 3 hours fasting from food and 1 hour for liquids. And, I remember raising my hand and asking sister "What if you have orange juice with little particles of pulp?" And dear Sister realized how complicated they were making it.

The newly revised fast proved so impractical that in a year or so the Communion fast was reduced to a one hour fast from any food or liquid before receiving.

Now I will admit that we all thought that this hour-long fast was great. More people could receive Holy Communion, and now we could have Mass in the afternoon and in the evening. I guess there could be something to be said for it.

But there was a trade-off.

We traded more frequent Communion for less devotion.

We hardly ever think of the fast these days. And it is the truth to tell anyone could do that one-hour fast before Communion just by leaving the house 15 minutes before Mass is to begin.

We don't have to make much of an effort at all to receive Holy Communion these days.

And since our bodies are no longer involved in reminding us how important this moment of Communion is, the fast just becomes just something we heard about on First Communion Day.

Eucharistic Revival continues on next page

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Aquinas Communications is an apostolate of the Catholic Laity. Our mission is to educate people on the Truth of Jesus Christ; to be loyal to the Catholic Church's Magisterial Authority, to The Catholic Church's Sacred Tradition, and to Holy Scripture.

Feed The Bellowing Ox for just one dollar a day!

(You may have never heard it before—but even Midnight Mass on Christmas was all about Holy Communion. Here is how: If the fast for Holy Communion was from Midnight on; and if everyone went to Midnight Mass after Christmas Eve dinner, then no one had an excuse to refrain from receiving Our Lord in Holy Communion.)

Think, too, of the various ceremonies at the old Latin Mass. All of them were particularly rich in meaning and lessons. The smallest ritual gesture pointed clearly to Jesus.

Maybe you remember how the priest after the Consecration, now that he had touched the Body of our Lord, would keep his forefinger and thumb together.



Bishop Strickland at Mass (Photo: Diocese of Tyler, TX)

The unspoken and visual point was that if there were even a crumb of Communion left on his fingertips that It would not fall! Why that is Jesus! And we dare not be careless with the Body of our Lord!

Think of all the genuflections the priest would make as he would cross from one side of the altar to the other and pass by the Tabernacle where Our Lord reposed.

He never bowed or nodded or waved or even did the head Bop. He would get down on his right knee in tribute and homage and worship saying by that simple gesture: "This is God! My God! I am His creature. Come let us worship!"

And we in the pews would watch that knee go down and say with the priest in our hearts; "This is God our God! to Whom the priest is genuflecting. We are on sacred ground!"

Something as seemingly insignificant as the manner in which the priest would fold and unfold the altar linens — particularly the corporal on which the very Body of Christ was laid — was of considerable importance.

Because, God forbid, that even the smallest particle of the Host should get caught in the threads of the seams! Jesus, Himself, might be discarded unthinkingly.

If you are as old as I am, you might remember how in the old days when a Host was accidentally dropped during distribution everyone and everything stopped. The priest would kneel down, pick up the Host and cover the spot where the Host had lain with a small cloth. Then, after Mass, Father would return to the spot and purify the area with holy water—just in case a particle of the Host might have been left behind.

Someone watching this occur today might have ask: "What's the big deal?" However, even the altar boys from those days would have answered "That is the Body of Christ touching the floor! That's the big deal!"

You might remember how the vessels, the chalice, the Paten, the Ciborium, and the Monstrance could only be touched by a priest whose hands were consecrated — because they had been in contact with the Body and Blood of Christ. And those hands were consecrated exactly so that he could hold the Body of Christ in his hands

Think of this: when a priest would follow all those external rubrics carefully and intentionally, he could not help, and neither could the people in the pews help, but to remember and be reinforced into their hearts and brains every time they witnessed even the least of these customs, that the whole Mass was about Christ, His Body sacrificed out of love for us, and now in its Eucharistic form, becomes Food for our souls.

How could a priest's soul and the souls of his people not be enlarged by such

thoughts? How could they not burst at the seams at the idea that God has given us the True Body of Christ His Son in our humble Holy Communion?

My suspicion is that for the last 60 years, since the priest has no longer been expected to do any of those things, he and his people's devotion has diminished and maybe even grown a little cold.

Each of these movements and customs and traditions were signs that pointed to Jesus. But think about it: When there is no sign, the unspoken message is that there is nothing to point to. †

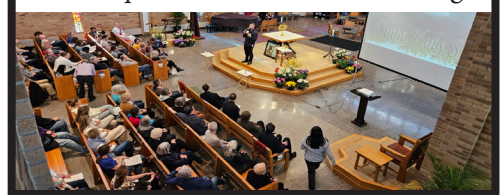
Father Anthony Brankin is a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago with 49 years of pastoral experience.

He has spent 33 of those years as a pastor.

MISSION: THE HOLY SPIRIT – GOD'S HEALING FIRE



Over 2,000 individuals attended the healing missions held in Ames and Dubuque in February and April. Priests and prayer teams from the Archdiocese of Dubuque recorded dozens of healings!



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Aquinas Communications vision is a world culture grounded in Catholic Tradition making a better life for people, and for them to become saints with an everlasting life in Heaven.

GUIDELINES: WORSHIP OF THE EUCHARIST OUTSIDE OF MASS

The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council reaffirmed the traditional teaching of the Church concerning the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. They taught:

*At the Last Supper, on the night when He was betrayed, our Savior instituted the Eucharistic Sacrifice of His Body and Blood. He did this in order to perpetuate the Sacrifice of the Cross throughout the centuries until He should come again, and so to entrust to His beloved Spouse, the Church, a memorial of His Death and Resurrection: a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a paschal banquet in which Christ is eaten, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us.*¹

During the Council, Pope Blessed Paul VI expressed his hope that the reform and restoration of the Mass called for by the Conciliar Fathers would “produce abundant fruits in the form of Eucharistic devotion, so that the Holy Church may, with this salvific sign of piety raised on high, make daily progress toward the full achievement of unity.”²

In 1967, the Sacred Congregation of Rites similarly emphasized the relationship between adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the celebration of the Mass, indicating that “when the faithful adore Christ present in the sacrament, they should remember that this presence derives from the sacrifice and is directed toward both sacramental and spiritual Communion.”³

The intimate connection between Eucharistic adoration and the celebration of Mass was more fully articulated and developed in *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass* (1973).

This document presents the worship of the Eucharist outside of Mass within the context of the official liturgical rites of the Church, noting that the Eucharist is “reserved after Mass to extend the grace of the sacrifice” of the Eucharistic celebration.⁴

This ritual book continues to guide the Church in her liturgical celebrations of offering worship to the Eucharist outside of Mass.

Purposes of Eucharistic Worship Outside of Mass

The popes of our time have consistently encouraged the practice of worshipping the Eucharist outside of Mass. For example, in his annual Holy Thursday letter to priests in 1980, Pope Saint John Paul II wrote that “the Church and the world have great need of Eucharistic adoration. Jesus waits for us in this sacrament of love. Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Him in adoration and contemplation full of faith. And let us be ready to make reparation for the great faults and crimes of the world. May our adoration never cease.”⁵

In his 2005 address to the Roman Curia, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI similarly noted the value of adoring the Blessed Sacrament outside of Mass, saying, “only in adoration can a profound and genuine reception mature. And it is precisely this personal encounter with the Lord that then strengthens the social mission contained in the Eucharist, which seeks to break down not only the walls that separate the Lord and ourselves, but also and especially the walls that separate us from one another.”⁶

More recently, Pope Francis has also reflected on how “one cannot know the Lord without the habit of adoring, of adoring in silence.”⁷

These papal statements and the historical development of Eucharistic adoration indicate that there are three purposes for the worship of the Eucharist outside of Mass:

- “to acknowledge Christ’s marvelous presence in the sacrament;”
- to lead to a fuller participation in the celebration of the Mass, culminating in the reception of Holy Communion; and,
- to encourage and foster “worship which is due to Christ in spirit and truth.”⁸

Eucharistic Adoration and Exposition

The worship and adoration of the Eucharist outside of Mass most often takes place when the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the tabernacle. These times of private adoration and prayer offer the faithful a privileged opportunity to “easily, fruitfully, and constantly honor the Lord, present in the sacrament, through personal worship.”⁹

In addition to the private adoration of the Eucharist in the tabernacle, the Blessed Sacrament may be exposed in a monstrance or ciborium for display to the faithful. The exposition of the

Blessed Sacrament is a public liturgical rite which is celebrated by the Church community. As such, the times of exposition should be scheduled when a sufficient number of the faithful can be present to pray before the exposed Eucharist. The Blessed Sacrament should never be exposed for the purposes of private devotion.¹⁰

General Regulations for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

The Church has established the following norms for the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

1. A single genuflection is made in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, whether reserved in the tabernacle or exposed for public adoration.¹¹

2. When the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in a monstrance, four to six candles are lit and incense is to be used. When the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in a ciborium, at least two candles are lit and incense may optionally be used.¹²

3. Pastors should arrange annually for the solemn exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. This may take place within the context of a “Forty Hours” devotion or for some other shorter period.¹³

4. Parishes may also schedule briefer periods of exposition more often throughout the year; however, it is prohibited to expose the Blessed Sacrament only for the purpose of giving benediction.¹⁴

This excerpt from “Guidelines for the Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass” by the Archdiocese of New York Office of Liturgy (2017) was published with permission from Father Matthew.

¹ Second Vatican Council, *Sacrosanctum concilium*, 47.

² *Mysterium fidei*, 6.

³ Sacred Congregation of Rites, *Eucharisticum mysterium*, 50.

⁴ *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass* (HCWEOM), 82.

⁵ Pope Saint John Paul II, *Dominicae cenae*: Letter to Priests, Holy Thursday (1980).

⁶ Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Roman Curia (22 December 2005), AAS 98 (2006): 45.

⁷ Pope Francis, Homily at Santa Marta Residence (20 October 2016).

⁸ HCWEOM, 82.

⁹ HCWEOM, 9.

¹⁰ HCWEOM, 86.

¹¹ HCWEOM, 84.

¹² HCWEOM, 85.

¹³ HCWEOM, 86.

¹⁴ HCWEOM, 89.

PRAYERS TRIUMPHANT!

Great news! Do you remember the blasphemous “Satancon” event in Boston last year? Thanks to the tireless efforts of faithful Catholics, we have a victory! **This year’s “Satancon” is canceled!**

Despite pronouncements from the media, a powerful wave of Rosary Rallies materialized. Catholics from across the country converged on Boston, holding daily protests that resonated with faith and prayer. This unwavering display of opposition sent a clear message.

The Satanic Temple announced via Instagram that they’re postponing Satancon until 2025. While they cite “the ongoing battle against theocracy,” it’s clear that our protests significantly impacted their plans. We made it difficult for them to secure a venue, not to mention the negative publicity and security concerns they faced.

This is a major win, but it’s not the end. The Satanic Temple is still committed to spreading their agenda, and we must remain vigilant. Local protests against their initiatives like “After-School Satan Clubs” continue to be crucial.

These events promote activities that mock our faith and sacraments, attempting to normalize a dangerous ideology. We cannot be silent in the face of such blasphemy. Protests, big or small, are a vital tool to defend our values and protect our communities. ***The success of the Boston protests is a testament to the power of collective action.*** May we continue to pray fervently and stand firm in our beliefs. Together, let us ensure that Satancon becomes a thing of the past.

Thank you and God bless you and God bless all your loved ones,

Robert E. Ritchie
Director, America Needs Fatima
America Needs Fatima

If you would like to read more about this victory, you can click here:

www.americanneedsfatima.org/news/satancon-canceled-for-2024

LEANING IN

by Rick Merfeld

I remember a conversation with my sister as I was preparing for a career change. We were discussing the emerging synergy between my growing family, career interests, and call to lay ministry.

“I’m proud of you brother,” she said. “You’re leaning into our turbulent times.”

I’ve thought about that conversation over the years. My sister captured one of the cornerstones of our Catholic life. We are called to lean in and love our neighbor. Jesus explained this in the story of the Good Samaritan. The priest and the Levite leaned away from the man left for dead. But the Good Samaritan leaned in and helped him. (Luke 10: 25- 37)

We arrived in Dubuque as our boys were entering their busy middle-school years. Dagmar, my wife, and I worked to establish ourselves in new jobs. We both attended our first CEW’s (Christian Experience Weekend).

I was invited to run for Parish Council. I didn’t have time. But I heard a speaker who challenged me. He said the church is like a football game. There are 22 people on the field who need rest and 50,000 people in the stands who need exercise.

I picked up the challenge. I try to find a good balance between my growing family, career, and lay ministry. But last year I slipped into a funk. I woke up most days with one thought—get back to bed. I was tired. Was it time to lean out?

Charlie Tremendous Jones once said, “*You will be the same person in five years as you are today except for the people you meet and the books you read.*” John Eldredge has been a favorite author of mine since I devoured *Wild at Heart: Discovering the Secret of a Man’s Soul* (Thomas Nelson, 2001). Dagmar gave me John’s new book, *Resilient: Restoring Your Weary Soul in These Turbulent Times* (Thomas Nelson, 2022).

“The longing for things to be wonderful is one of the deepest yearnings in the human heart. After times of trial--such as the Covid pandemic, war, job loss, or grief—our desire rises to the surface demanding relief. We’ve all had to rally to face crisis, tapping into our soul’s reserves. But at some point, we have to replenish those reserves, or we will burn out...”

Eldredge validates the weariness we feel and points us to the only way we can recover our joy: through Jesus’ provision of supernatural resilience...The peace and hope provided in Christ is always available to us—and his resilience never fails.” (Back cover of the book)

This was another moment when a book changed my life. I wasn’t broken, just weary. I needed to replenish my reserves. I began praying for supernatural resilience and experienced the peace of Christ in new ways.

I also found a new appreciation for the apostles. When Jesus was alive, the apostles leaned in and followed His teaching.

But, when Jesus died on the cross, believing all had been lost, they leaned back and returned to their old lives. However, after Jesus rose from the dead and promised the Holy Spirit would be with them always, the apostles leaned in for good. All of them were martyred for their faith except St. John who died of old age after receiving the Revelation of our Lord Jesus. They leaned in till the very end.

Nurtured by the Holy Spirit and the growing Church, many in the 1st Century leaned in to share the Gospel and follow the message of the Good Samaritan. The Mission of St. Vincent de Paul extended this work in 1833. We are blessed by its ongoing presence.

Our staff and volunteers lean in to serve. There is also an expectation that we prioritize service to our families and those closest to us. How about you? Are you leaning into challenges in your family? Are you feeling called by God to lean into a problem in your community? Are there people around you who need the peace of Christ and the power of the Gospel?

God never intended us to lean in all by ourselves. The scriptures and lives of the Saints paint a clear picture of God’s intention to help us and His invitation to seek out His grace and mercy. We must also be alert to the two faces of shame. Don’t let Satan shame you into thinking you have nothing to offer. And when you learn that you do, watch out! The Master of Lies will try to tell you that no one cares.

Let’s lock arms and raise a chorus of prayer for supernatural resilience. Together, we can make a great impact as we lean into our turbulent times. †

Rick Merfeld is Executive Director of St. Vincent de Paul, Dubuque, Iowa

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"O Sacred Heart of Jesus, to Thee I consecrate and offer up my person and my life, my actions, trials, and sufferings, that my entire being may henceforth only be employed in loving, honoring and glorifying Thee."

Conversation can be another profound practice of consecration. Here's how engaging in intentional dialogues can be an ongoing practice of consecration and obedience to the second great commandment: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39).

1. Follow Christ's Teachings in everyday encounters: Sacred Conversations are grounded in scriptural and gospel teachings on love, compassion, friendship, and understanding (Luke 24:17). By engaging in these dialogues, participants embody the spirit of Christ's message, allowing His teachings to guide their grace-filled interactions.

2. Foster Spiritual Growth: Just as the Sacred Heart symbolizes Christ's boundless love and mercy, Sacred Conversations serve as vehicles for spiritual growth and transformation. Through intentional dialogue, participants are encouraged to deepen their relationship with Christ, nurture virtues such as compassion and forgiveness, and strive to embody the love exemplified by the Sacred Heart.

3. Build Community and Connection: The Sacred Heart of Jesus represents unity and communion with God and one another. Practicing Sacred Conversations fosters community building and strengthens connections among participants. By engaging in open, respectful dialogue, individuals cultivate bonds of friendship, support, and solidarity, mirroring the unity found in the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

4. Promote Understanding and

Empathy: Sacred Conversations encourage participants to listen attentively, seek understanding, and empathize with one another's perspectives. In doing so, individuals honor the Sacred Heart by embracing the qualities of compassion and empathy exemplified by Christ. Through dialogue, participants strive to see Christ in one another, fostering a deeper appreciation for the dignity and worth of each person.

5. Seek Guidance from the Holy Spirit: Central to Sacred Conversations is the presence of the Holy Spirit, guiding and illuminating participants' interactions.



During the month of June, dedicated to the Sacred Heart, individuals can invoke the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they engage in dialogue, seeking wisdom, discernment, and inspiration from the source of all truth and love.

6. Live Out the Message of Love: Ultimately, the Sacred Heart of Jesus embodies the message of divine love for humanity. By practicing Sacred Conversations, participants actively live out this message of love in their interactions with others. Through compassionate listening, genuine empathy, and mutual respect, individuals honor the Sacred Heart by spreading the love and kindness that Christ exemplified throughout His earthly ministry.

Through prayer and dialogic practice, June provides a rich invitation to honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus. These forms

of dialogue are grounded in Christian teaching, deepen spiritual connection, foster community, and embody the love and compassion exemplified by the Sacred Heart, emulating His boundless love for all humanity. †

Dr. Christopher Reed is a Catholic author, speaker, and dialogue facilitator. His latest book is titled, Sacred Conversations: How God Wants us to Communicate from Sophia Institute Press. Learn more about his ministry at www.OurSacredConversations.com

Jesus gave us, through St. Margaret Mary, special promises for those who keep a loving devotion to the attribute of His infinite love for mankind as represented in His Most Sacred Heart.

1. I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their homes.
3. I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
4. I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death.
5. I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
6. Sinners will find in my Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Lukewarm souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
9. I will bless every place in which an image of my Heart is exposed and honored.
10. I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
11. Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in my Heart.
12. I promise you in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in my disgrace, nor without receiving their sacraments. My divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

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THE ANNUNCIATION: THE MOSAIC OF THE FATHER'S MERCY

by Deacon Gerard-Marie Anthony

St. Gabriel is a mighty archangel, and the Annunciation is an extraordinary event, but do we ever meditate on *each* of the participants in this spectacular mosaic of grace?

If we look at St. Gabriel, Our Blessed Mother, and our Incarnational Lord Jesus, we see how there is an order of grace and a heart of mercy! This is something to contemplate during your meditation on the first mystery of the Joyful Mystery of the Rosary.

The Archangel Gabriel teaches us about strength. His name means "Strength of God" in Hebrew.

To understand this message of strength, we must go back to the original place we see Gabriel in Scripture. This is in the book of Daniel chapters 8 and 9. Here, the Archangel Gabriel interprets a dream for Daniel about salvation history (Ch. 8) and speaks of the destruction and restoration of God's Temple (Ch. 9).

In this, Gabriel adds colorful and important aspects to the Mosaic of Mercy. He first shows that our strength must be found in being connected to prayer both in the Temple with community (liturgy) and as individuals (personal prayer).

This brings us to the second stroke of color which teaches us that the Temple is destroyed when it is not connected to God.

In Daniel's time they worshipped idols in the temple, had statues of kings of the world like taking a place of primacy, and abandoned God's teachings.

As the Church, we must not worship idols of the world in the temple of God, putting money over people, trusting in the world and "progress" instead of God and Tradition (the heresy of Modernism), and emphasizing Ideology instead of the great I AM.

This is the reason Gabriel brings the third part of this colorful lesson by pointing to the restoration of the temple. He notes this will happen when the Woman of Prayer brings the strength of

God found in the Christ-child into the temple. Gabriel shows us we must have God as our strength to interpret and bring about our dreams as well as uphold the dignity of the Temple (both our individual temples -see 1Cor. 6:19- and the Catholic Church) which Mary embodies as the one who is "full of grace." Therefore, the Archangel Gabriel points to Mary.

Mary teaches us about the colors of grace in life. Mary is known by two names, "full of grace" which equates to beauty. In Hebrew, beauty has the name Naomi. She also has the name of "Lady of Sorrows" which equates to bitterness. In Hebrew, beauty has the name Mara.

Mary shows us that in all situations of life, we can either block out the Son (sun) and be bitter, i.e. become Mara, or we can let in the Son (sun) by prayer and the Sacraments and allow God to do something beautiful through that situation, i.e. become Naomi.

As the letter to the Romans states: More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us (Rom. 5:3-5).

Thus, Mary shows us we can either allow life to turn us away from God or point us to Him. Mary points to the Son (sun) and encourages us not to eclipse the Son (sun) by blocking the warm light of grace.

Finally, we have the third colorful stroke in the Mosaic of grace who is the person Jesus Christ. He is the Word of God forever, but also takes on our human nature. He took upon Himself a human nature so He could forgive our sins and enter our lives. The Gospel of John tells us this powerful truth:

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not

to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him (Jn. 3:16-17).

The Father sends His Son not to condemn us, but to save and shower His mercy upon us! Jesus condemns sin but if we repent and decide to separate ourselves from the sin, then He can punish the sin but shower the sinner with grace and mercy!

We must realize the vastness of God's mercy. If God Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth can forgive us, why can we not forgive ourselves? Why do we hold onto guilt that God has freed us from which keeps us from the joy of Divine Mercy as Fr. Rich, M.C brilliantly reminds us. Jesus points to the joy of the Father's Mercy (see LK. 6:36) which He wants for us all to dwell through repentance, Confession, and accepting the grace of forgiveness.

In conclusion, we see that the Archangel Gabriel paints a brilliant stroke on the Mosaic of Mercy showing that our strength must be in God and Him alone. In this He points to Mary.

Then Mary fills in the background by showing us we must choose Naomi in the events of life allowing God to make it beautiful. In this Mary points to Jesus.

Finally, Jesus points us to the Father's Mercy urging us all to repentance and Confession and remembering to accept the Father's Mercy. In this we see the beautiful Mosaic of the Father's Mercy which the Archangel Gabriel, Our Blessed Mother Mary, and Jesus point us to gaze upon for holiness.

May we meditate on the Mosaic of the Annunciation and the Father's Mercy often. †

Deacon Gerard-Marie Anthony serves at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Gainesville, Virginia. He has written more on the Sacred Heart in his book *Peaceful Hearts, Zealous Hearts* www.sophia institute.com/product/peaceful-hearts-zealous-hearts

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GOD'S MERCY CONTINUES BEYOND DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY!

by Monica Daly

Alleluia! Alleluia! Jesus is Risen from the dead! The greatest Feast of the year in the Catholic Church was celebrated at Easter: Jesus giving His very life for us and new life to us through His Resurrection.

Following Easter was God's abundant mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday. We know that God's mercy didn't stop with Jesus' death and doesn't stop on Divine Mercy Sunday.

We have a crucial part to play in Jesus' mission of love and mercy. Jesus asks us to share His mercy with people around us throughout the year.

How do we incorporate God's mercy in our everyday lives?

How do we give our ourselves to others?

Jesus revealed His mercy through miracles, but also showed us how the people around Him reacted. Did they accept or reject the love offered to them?

One such miracle is the healing of the man with palsy as detailed in Mark's gospel.

1 And again he entered into Capharnaum after some days.

2 And it was heard that he was in the house. And many came together, so that there was no room: no, not even at the door. And he spoke to them the word.

3 And they came to him, bringing one sick of the palsy, who was carried by four.

4 And when they could not offer him unto him for the multitude, they uncovered the roof where he was: and opening it, they let down the bed wherein the man sick of palsy lay.

5 And when Jesus had seen their faith, he saith to the sick of the palsy: Son, thy sins are forgiven thee.

6 And there were some of the scribes sitting there and thinking in their hearts:

7 Why doth this man speak thus? He blasphemeth. Who can forgive sins, but God only?

8 Which Jesus presently knowing in his spirit that they so thought within themselves, saith to them: Why think you these things in your hearts?

9 Which is easier, to say to the sick of the palsy: Thy sins are forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, take up thy bed and walk?

10 But that you may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins (he saith to the sick of the palsy):

11 I say to thee: Arise. Take up thy bed and go into thy house.



12 And immediately he arose and, taking up his bed, went his way in the sight of all: so that all wondered and glorified God, saying: We never saw the like. (Mark 2:1-12 Douay-Rheims Bible)

Three points are revealed in this miracle.

Foremost, is Jesus' healing the man with palsy. Jesus saw the faith of the man and the four men who brought the man with palsy, and He did not hesitate to heal the man. His Mercy was evident for all to experience. He desired the man with palsy to be healed.

Second, the opposite was also obvious for the scribes who did not have faith. Rather, they were critical of Jesus, "He blasphemeth. Who can forgive sins, but God only?" Their hearts were hardened and could not enter into Jesus' healing.

Third, what did they people do when the man was healed? "so that all wondered and glorified God: saying: We never saw the like."

In the same way, Jesus invites us to enter into His mercy for others by having faith and confidence in His mercy and healing power; having eyes of faith instead of having hardened hearts and rejecting God; and glorifying God for His mercy.

Jesus told St. Faustina, as revealed in her Diary, to revere and have confidence in His mercy.

Jesus also demands us to be merciful to others...always and everywhere, and to embrace the opportunity to be merciful to someone rather than ignore or walk away from it.

My daughter, if I demand through you that people revere My mercy, you should

be the first to distinguish yourself by this confidence in My mercy. I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbor always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it.

I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first, by deed; the second, by word; the third, by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me. By this means a soul glorifies and pays reverence to My mercy. (Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalski, Paragraph 742)

Question: Who is our neighbor?

Jesus tells us to show mercy to anyone who is in need, whether a family member, someone who lives near or far from you, a co-worker, or a stranger: which are all the same to Our Lord. He tells us to show mercy to our neighbor – anyone – always and everywhere.

However, there may be circumstances where we can't show mercy because of material means. Jesus makes it clear that spiritual mercy is effective as material means.

St. Faustina: *I understand Your words, Lord, and the magnitude of the mercy that ought to shine in my soul, Jesus: I know, My daughter, that you understand it and that you do everything within your power. But write this for the many souls who are often worried because they do not have the material means with which to carry out in an act of mercy. Yet spiritual mercy, which requires neither permissions nor storehouses, is much more meritorious and is within the grasp of every soul. If a soul does not exercise mercy somehow or other, it will not obtain My mercy on the day of judgement. (Diary, 1317)*

Furthermore, Jesus challenges us in a most challenging way in Luke's gospel.

27 But I say to you that hear: Love your enemies. Do good to those that hate you.

28 Bless them that curse you and pray for them who calumniate you.

35 But love ye your enemies: do good, and lend, hoping for nothing thereby: and your reward shall be great, and you shall be the sons of the Highest. For he is kind to the unthankful and to the evil.

36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. (Luke 6:27-28, 35-36 DRB)

It is so much easier to love those who

God's Mercy continues on page 13 (bottom)



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Magazine

The Bellowing Ox

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GET OFF THE COUCH, TURN ON THE TV, GO TO CHURCH!
Catholicism is a journey. It's not a destination. It's a journey that begins with a simple act: getting up from the couch, turning on the TV, and going to church. It's a journey that leads to a life of faith, hope, and love. It's a journey that is worth the effort.

What does this mean?
It means that we are called to live our lives in a way that is pleasing to God. It means that we are called to love one another as ourselves. It means that we are called to be holy. It means that we are called to be saints.

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BISHOP JOHNS PROCLAIMS THE TRUTH ON GENDER IDENTITY
The Most Rev. William J. Joseph, Bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines, released a new page document in mid-June which sets the policy for the Diocese regarding gender identity. It is a document that is clear, concise, and unambiguous. It is a document that is in line with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

TERESA & JESSE TO HEADLINE 10TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT
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DOES GOD WANT OUR PERSONAL FAITH TO BE PRIVATE?

by Rick Merfeld

It scares me to think that God could use a sinner like me to reach people. It frightens me that God would ask me to share my faith in the world today. **I never thought I'd see the day when:**

- » The United States is so divided
- » The same story sounds so different on different news outlets
- » Lawlessness and violence shake our communities
- » Church leaders are divided on life, abortion, gender identity, and same-sex attraction
- » Priests and bishops are canceled for speaking out against Church leadership
- » Antisemitism and hatred of the Jewish people are promoted on college campuses
- » Our children and grands are walking away from the Church, many no longer believing in God, period

But this is the post-pandemic, rushing towards a one-world, volatile, everyone is worn out world we live in.

We have questions. Is this true? Is that true? Do we listen to what the Pope said three years ago or last fall? Does spiritual truth change that quickly? Unanswered questions lead to doubts. Doubts, if left unchecked, can mature into total disbelief.

Maybe God isn't aware of the times we live in. If He were, would He take mercy on us and let us keep our personal faith private? Would He want to spare us being called a hater when we share His Word based on the full council of the Bible?

As G.K. Chesterton often said, "The answers are hidden in plain view."

Jesus spent much of His time preparing believers for tough times to come:

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you." (John 15: 18-19)

"Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you for my sake. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. In the same manner, they persecuted the prophets who preceded you." (Matthew 5: 11-12)

St. Paul extended the foretelling of tough times in his second letter to Timothy.

"For the time is coming when people will not accept sound doctrine, but they will follow their own desires and accumulate teachers who will preach to their itching ears. They will shut their ears to the truth and be captivated by myths." (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

Do you see any of these conditions present in our time? It seems clear to me that Jesus saw the challenges of our day on the horizon. It seems clear that God knows full well what we are facing. And still, and perhaps even more because we are living in challenging times, God calls us to share our faith.

After the Resurrection, Jesus gave the disciples the famous instruction found in Acts 1:8.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem, but throughout Judea and Samaria, and indeed to the farthest ends of the earth."

Unsettling as it may be, we are called to share our personal faith in public.

Sometimes it feels like God throws me into public to share my faith!

At these times, it helps me to recall what Jesus has and is doing for me. He offers to forgive my sins and pay the penalties for my wrongdoings. He restores my harmony with God. He offers me wisdom to help me through my days and peace through my nights. God helps me discern the signs of our times and offers me an eternity with Him in a great neighborhood.

In gratitude I find courage. I can't think of a better movie to encourage my friends to see. I can't think of a better recipe to share with my neighbors.

When we open our mouth, our faith goes on parade. I wonder what people see when my parade passes by. What do you want people to see when your parade passes by?

I must remember when I come to the end of my parade route, I get to have a little chat with Almighty God. When I'm tempted to think that I'll be okay on my own, I read Hebrews 10:31. "It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Then I fall on my knees and crawl back to Christ.

Let's continue to nurture our faith and grow closer to the Lord Jesus and then share what we know with those closest to us. It matters! It's a great privilege to lean in and do our small part while the Holy Spirit softens hearts and beckons people to get caught up in Christ. †

Biblical references are taken from the New Catholic Bible.

For more information, visit www.caughtupinchrist.org
Rick Merfeld is President of Caught Up in Christ Ministries

God's Mercy continued from page 10

love you and to help a friend in need, like the four men who took the man with palsy to Jesus; but it can be very difficult to show mercy to people who are annoying, irritating, frustrating to you, and even hate you.

Yet, Jesus speaks loudly to us that people who are vexing or troubling to us: *to love and be merciful to them as well.*

Jesus tells St. Faustina: *I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbor always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it.* (Diary 742).

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, in her ministry to the poorest of the poor, is our role model for loving and showing mercy to those who love us, those who do not love us, and those that make life difficult for us.

Take St. Mother Teresa's words in your heart, meditate on them, and then act on these words of wisdom.

People are often unreasonable and self-centered, Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives, Be Kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you, Be Honest anyway.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous, Be Happy anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow, Do Good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough, Give your Best anyway.

For you see, in the end...

It is between you and God.

It was never between you and them anyway.

- St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta †

SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE CELEBRATING TEN YEARS

The Seven Sisters Apostolate started ten years ago in the Archdiocese of Dubuque. To celebrate this milestone, an Anniversary Celebration is set for **Saturday, June 8, 2024, at St. Columbkille Catholic Church in Dubuque.**

This Apostolate's mission is for seven women each to commit to offer one Holy Hour, each on a specific day of the week, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament for their pastor.

This celebration will begin with an 8:00 a.m. Rosary followed by Mass at 8:30 presided by Fr. David Schatz who also will be the Keynote speaker. Breakfast treats and coffee in Presentation Hall follows Mass.

There will be time to share ideas and testimonies, a time for questions and door prizes. It concludes with lunch.

All women from any diocese are invited and encouraged to attend. We especially would like all women who pray a Holy Hour for their priest or bishop to attend.

The Seven Sisters in this Archdiocese got its start in April/May of 2014 when JoAnn Olson invited two friends to join her in this grassroots effort. We personally invited women from the parishes in Dubuque and surrounding parishes to be the anchoress and invite six other women to each take one day of the week to pray one Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament.



JoAnn Olson and Leone Bergeson introduce women to the Seven Sisters Apostolate at a recent event.

Within three months, each anchoress had her group filled. What a blessing this has been for our priests!

Since this humble beginning there are now over 500 women praying for 72 priests across this Archdiocese. Unfortunately, not all priests have a group of Seven Sisters.

Janette Howe, foundress from St. Paul/Minneapolis Archdiocese, is the brainstorm behind the Seven Sisters Apostolate following the will of God, her pastor, and the Holy Spirit.

The Apostolate is continuing to spread to other parishes in the Dubuque Archdiocese and around the world.

Please support the Apostolate by attending on June 8, St. Columbkille, in Dubuque. We hope to build up our efforts and refill your tank with spiritual graces.

If you are not a Seven Sister now, come and learn how the Apostolate works.

To help us in our planning, an **RSVP is needed by May 31** to Leone Bergeson at r1berge@msn.com or phone/text 563-451-5828 by May 31. †

TEAM AQUINAS TRI-STATE AREA HOLY ROSARY RALLIES

Rosary begins at 11:00 am
unless otherwise noted

June 1 (First Saturday)

Power of Prayer

1860 St. Ambrose St., Dubuque, IA

Intention: Reverence for the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Captain: Mark Hoeger

July 13 (First Saturday)

Cole Park Pavilion

6th & Park Sts, Bellevue IA

Intention: Devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus

Captain: Heidi Kelly

August 3 (First Saturday)

Founder's Park Pavilion,

302 S. Main St., Elkader IA

Intention: Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Captain: Nick Kuennen

September 7 (First Saturday)

Commercial Park Pavilion

225 11th Street SE, Dyersville, IA

Intention: Meditation on the Seven Sorrows of Mary

October 5 (First Saturday)

Location: St. Augustine's Church

135 S. Hickory St., Platteville WI

Intention: Devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary

Captain: Brad Markham

October 12

**Location: Church of the Nativity
Rosary Garden, Dubuque, IA**

Rosary Intention: America Needs Fatima Rosary. Protection of babies and mothers.

Captain: Sue Lukasik

November 2 (First Saturday)

Location: St. Mary's Church

170 Montgomery Ave, East Dubuque, IL

Rosary Intention: Prayers for the Poor Souls of Purgatory

Captain: Chuck Spielman



St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive

June 17-29, 2024

Please drop off donations at:

- The Thrift Store at 4990 Radford Ct, Dubuque, IA 52002
- The Food Pantry at 1351 Iowa Street, Dubuque, IA 52001

share information (number of people served, etc),

Call us at: (563) 582-3733

Visit our website at <https://www.svdpdubuqueiowa.org/>

EMBER DAYS OF AUTUMN HARVEST THE GRAPES TO MAKE THE WINE

And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1: 11-12

by Dr. Helen Hoffner

The Catholic Church recognizes the beauty of the earth and the contributions of farmers with Ember Days, a time to give thanks for a bountiful harvest. The term ember is believed to have been derived from the Latin term *quattuor tempora* which means four times or four seasons.

The church has established four sets of Ember Days, one to mark every season of the year. Each set of Ember Days consists of a Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. Wednesdays mark the day on which Christ was betrayed; Friday, the day that He died. Saturdays are honored as the day on which Christ was placed in the tomb. Until Vatican II, Ember Days had been days of fasting and abstinence. Fasting and abstinence are no longer required during these times, but they're still an opportunity to show gratitude for gifts from the garden.

The Fall Ember Days begin in the week following the Feast of the Holy Cross (September 14). Fall is a time to harvest grapes, a crop which has played a significant role in church events.

As His first public miracle, Christ turned water into wine at the Wedding Feast of Cana. The gospel of St. John notes that in the hours before death on the cross, Christ said *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-dresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he will take away; and every branch that bears fruit he will cleanse that it may bear more fruit."* (John 15: 1-2)

Many saints have labored in the vineyards to prepare wine for the table of the Lord.

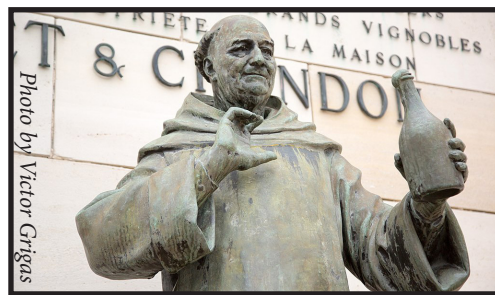
St. Urban of Langres is the patron saint of wine and vineyard workers because he gave comfort and spiritual guidance to vineyard workers who hid him from enemies of the church. St. Urban was appointed Bishop of Langres, France, in 374.

Chaos erupted in that area shortly after his appointment and the bishop was forced to leave his home and hide from his enemies in near-by vineyards. He didn't, however, hide from the workers of the fields.

St. Urban used this time in exile to convert vineyard workers to Catholicism.

About 1300 years later, another Catholic leader, Dom Pierre Pérignon (December 1638 – September 1715), harvested grapes as he praised God and raised funds needed to support his monastery.

Circa 1670, Dom Pierre Pérignon entered the Benedictine Abbey of Hautvillers in the Champagne region of France. Upon arrival, he was given the job of cellarer, the person responsible for maintaining the monastery's supply of food and drink.



Since wine was an important part of their diet, Dom Pérignon made daily trips to the monastery's vineyards to oversee the grape harvest. The abbey didn't yield the best-tasting fruit so their wine was not well-received.

Dom Pérignon moved the abbey's vines so that the optimum amount of sunlight would reach the grapes. He also began blending varieties of grapes to improve the taste of the wine. Dom Pérignon soon gained a reputation as the best winemaker in France. The clever monks recognized the value he brought and named the wine after him. Wines bearing the name of Dom Pérignon could sell for twice the price of the competitors.

Some mistakenly call Dom Pérignon the inventor of the sparkling wine known as champagne. In reality, sparkling wine existed before Dom Pérignon began his work. Dom Pérignon's study of grape production, however, paved the way for the Widow Clicquot, who created the modern champagne industry nearly 100 years later.

The fine wines that are served today to royalty and world leaders may not meet the standards for the Table of the Lord.

Canon Law 924.3 states that when

preparing for Mass, "The wine must be natural, made from grapes of the vine, and not corrupt".

The General Instructions of the Roman Missal (GIRM) further state, "The wine for the celebration of the Eucharist must be made from the fruit of the vine (Luke 22:18), natural and unadulterated, that is, without admixture of extraneous substances." Those extraneous substances refer to preservatives and flavor enhancements. Altar wines may contain only the grapes and the minimum amount of sulfite, a preservative that prevents the wine from turning into vinegar.

With permission from his bishop, during the consecration of the Mass, a priest may use Mustum, a grape juice that has started to ferment but has not become alcoholic. Mustum is a non-alcoholic alternative that enables recovering alcoholics and others who cannot drink wine to receive communion.

As we gather for the autumn Ember Days, we give thanks for the grape harvest and the skill of winemakers. We remember God's goodness as we celebrate together. †

Your threshing will last until grape gathering and your grape gathering till the time for sowing; and you will have food to eat in abundance, so that you may dwell securely in your land.

Leviticus, 26:5

About the author: Dr. Helen Hoffner is the author of **Catholicism Everywhere, From Hail Mary Passes to Cappuccinos: How the Catholic Faith Is Infused in Culture** published by Sophia Institute Press. Available at www.sophiainstitute.com

NEW PROGRAM ADDED TO AQUINAS RADIO NETWORK

A new radio show debuted on FM 98.3 KCRD on Tuesday, March 26. Morning Joy now airs at 6:00 a.m. The show is produced by Guadalupe Radio Network. The show is hosted by Keith Downey and featured Debbie Georgiani & Adam Blai. It airs Monday through Friday.



EWTN's **Sermons for Everyday Living** now airs at 5:00 a.m. Monday-Friday. †

Letter to The Coalition For Canceled Priests

A blessed and happy 2024!

I wanted to thank and congratulate you for the two excellent articles by Denise Dexter and Kalah Williams that you published in The Bellowing Ox. They really enriched my preparation for Christmas.

I was also so happy to read of so many priests that you were able to assist in 2023. I keep each one of them and all our persecuted bishops and Cardinals in my daily prayers, uniting my daily offering to the intentions of the Holy Masses that they offer, and I pray for consolation, wisdom, peace and joy for each of them.

May the Lord, through the intercession of our Mother, bring an end to their trial so that they can return to their active ministries.

In the meantime, I thank God for the graces that flow down to the faithful because of our canceled priests. Thank you to all of them!,

In unity, M. M.

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Are you considering precious metals for your investment portfolio? Check us out and support the Coalition for Canceled Priests!

www.stjosephpartners.com/coalition-for-canceled-priests

PRAY FOR OUR HOLY PRIESTS

I suspect that many of the readers of *The Bellowing Ox* have never visited the www.KCRD-FM.org website. As you would soon discover, the site contains much more than access to our radio programs and podcasts.

www.kcrd-fm.org/pray-for-priests-daily-calendar

Registration is OPEN

8th Annual Faj Squad 5K!



Michael W Oglesby Foundation

FUNDING THE CURE FOR PANCREATIC CANCER

Join us Saturday, June 29th to make 2024 the biggest and best year yet!

Theisen's Supply
6201 Chavenelle Rd
Dubuque, IA

Same day registration and swag bag pick up is from 6:30-7:30 a.m.

Visit www.mwof.org for details!

Faj Squad 5K PO Box 777 Dubuque, IA 52004

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Learning the comfort of the Divine Mercy Chaplet

My first experience with KCRD and Aquinas Communications was attending the *100th Anniversary Our Lady of Fatima* conference in October 2017. *I could not believe that 1,200 people came to Dubuque and made this the largest celebration of Our Mother's Centennial in the United States!*

I absolutely loved it: fantastic speakers, vendors, the whole atmosphere! Felt I needed to check out KCRD - Dubuque's Catholic Radio Station and I'm so glad I did.

Since I was still working full-time, I would sometimes get off work at 3 p.m. - The Divine Mercy hour!

I would pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet with Drew Mariani on my drive home. I also prayed the chaplet during my own time of need; when the time came for me personally. I would say this prayer for my father on his deathbed.

Even though I am retired now, I still look forward to the Mercy hour and the opportunity to pray with Drew are pray for the needs of others.

Thank you KCRD for this beautiful ministry.

Marie, Dubuque

A Lonely Soul on the Highway of Lifet

I'm a truck driver, usually driving late at night. One night - as I was trying to find a station while I was driving East on Highway 20 - I found 98.3 FM. At the time, I didn't even know it was a Catholic radio station. The discussion was compelling. So much so, the I stopped at the Galena Walmart parking lot to finish listening to a 2:00 a.m. program!

It really had an impact on me. I was a former Catholic who has nor returned to the Faith!

From a new friend in the Chicago area

Back to Where I Belong

I hate to admit this: I was one of those poorly catechized Catholics growing up in the 60's and 70's. The post-Vatican II confusion along with the non-existent, poor (or errant) catechesis took its toll. Through it all, I still had an interest in my faith and tried to learn whenever and wherever I could.

Imagine my surprise finding the KCRD Catholic Radio Station along with its gem of a newsletter/magazine "The Bellowing Ox!"

Both are treasure troves of information and prayers that are beacons of light illuminating me on my faith journey. My soul is eternally grateful.

Claire, Asbury

Short Takes

KCRD has made me a better driver. I don't speed anymore because I want to listen longer to the station. Martha

I have been listening to KCRD programs for three years. I finally returned to the sacrament of confession for the first time in 30 years. Mr. Anonymous

Listening to KCRD has not only taught me so much about the faith but also helps me stay in a state of prayer. ~Kristi W

A grandmother asks for intercessory prayer for her newborn grandson who is not responding to medical care. The 1,000 Fatima Conference attendees pray the rosary for his healing. A tearful grandmother reports that doctors find no more symptoms and the child is healthy. - *Anonymous*

Feed The Bellowing Ox for just one dollar a day!

SAVE THE DATE. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

THE NEXT AQUINAS COMMUNICATIONS DINNER EVENT HAS BEEN SCHEDULED!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

DUBUQUE'S BEST WESTERN CONFERENCE CENTER

GUEST SPEAKER: FATHER ANTHONY BRANKIN

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evangelization to win souls for Jesus
Christ and His Church!*

Pledge drive donations on the KCRD mobile App or
www.KCRD-FM.org or 563-599-2159

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THE PRO-LIFE COMMITMENT IS THE EUCHARIST

by Frank Pavone

Did you ever realize that the same four words that were used by the Lord Jesus to save the world are also used by some to promote abortion?

"This is my body."

The same simple words are spoken from opposite ends of the universe, with meanings that are directly contrary to each other.

Scripture tells us that on the night before He died to save all people, the Lord Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, *"This is My Body, which is given up for you."*

He was pointing to what would happen the next day, when He would give that same Body on the cross. He sacrifices Himself so that we may live. He gives up His Body so that He can destroy the power of sin and death. As a result, He welcomes us into His life, into His Kingdom. He makes us members of His Body!

On the other hand, abortion supporters say, *"This is my body! I can do what I want, even to the point of killing the life within it."*

Abortion is the exact opposite of love. Love says, *"I sacrifice myself for the good of the other person."* Abortion says, *"I sacrifice the other person for the good of myself."* In the Eucharist we see the meaning of love and receive the power to live it.

Gustave Thibon has said that the true God transforms violence into suffering, while the false god transforms suffering into violence. The woman tempted to have an abortion will transform her suffering into violence unless she allows love to transform her, and make her willing to give herself away.

The Eucharist gives both the lesson and the power. Mom is to say *"This is my body, my blood, my life, given up for you, my child."*

Everyone who wants to fight abortion needs to say the same. We need to exercise the same generosity we ask the Moms and Dads to exercise. We need to imitate the mysteries we celebrate.

This is what the Eucharist teaches us; it is the Sacrifice and Sacrament of love. And, love is the energy of the pro-life movement.

Indeed, if the pro-life movement is not a movement of love, then it is nothing at all. But if it is a movement of love, then nothing will stop it, for *"Love is stronger than death, more powerful even than hell."* (Song of Songs 8:6)

The Eucharist also shapes our pro-life commitment in many other ways.

The Eucharist is a sacrament of faith. The Consecrated Host looks no different after the consecration than before. It looks, smells, feels, and tastes like bread. Only one of the five senses gets to the truth: hearing.

Jesus says, "This is My Body."

Christians are used to looking beyond appearances. Neither the baby in the manger nor the man on the cross look like God.

Yet, by faith, we know He is no mere man. The Bible does not have a particular glow setting it off from other books, nor does it levitate above the shelf. Yet by faith we know it is uniquely the Word of God. The Eucharist seems to be bread and wine, and yet by faith we say, *"My Lord and My God!"* as we kneel in adoration.

The same dynamic of faith that enables us to see beyond appearances in these mysteries enables us to see beyond appearances in our neighbor. We can look at the persons around us, at the sick and the poor, and we can say, *"Christ is there as well. There is my brother, my sister, made in the very image of God!"*

In the same way we can look at the child

in the womb and say, *"There, too, is my brother, my sister, equal in dignity and just as worthy of protection as anyone else!"*

Some people will say the child in the womb, especially in the earliest stages, is too small to be the subject of Constitutional rights. But is the Sacred Host too small to be God, too unlike Him in appearance to be worshipped? The slightest particle of the Host is fully Christ. Eucharistic Faith is a powerful antidote to the dangerous notion that value depends on size.

We can also reflect on the fact that the Eucharist is the Sacrament of Unity, whereas abortion divides humanity at its core. The Eucharist is, furthermore the Bread of Life, and brings to the world the sacrifice by which Jesus destroyed the power of death, and therefore the power of abortion.

The Church in the United States is engaged in a renewed effort to foster Eucharistic Faith. At the same time, our nation is engaged in a fierce battle against those who want to impose abortion as a fundamental right.

Let's allow these two dynamics to illumine one another. May the Eucharistic Faith we have strengthen our pro-life commitment, and lead to the full unfolding of the victory of life! †

Pro-life leader Frank Pavone is the National Director of the Priests for Life.

For more about the Eucharist and pro-life, visit www.EucharistAndProLife.org.

Did You Know?

There is a pro-life
Mass at 2:15 pm

every Wednesday!

**Power of Prayer
Adoration Chapel**

1860 St. Ambrose Street, Dubuque
(space is limited)

 Dubuque County
Right To Life, Inc.

2205 Carter Road * Dubuque
M-F 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
563-556-5960 * dcrtl@dcrtl.org

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PRO-LIFE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Here's some legislative and court news from Iowa, the Midwest, and around the country.

IOWA COURT NEWS

We are still awaiting a decision from the Iowa Supreme Court on Iowa's so-called heartbeat law, which states that "a physician shall not perform an abortion upon a pregnant woman when it has been determined that the unborn child has a detectable fetal heartbeat," except in certain limited circumstances like life of the mother, rape and incest reported within a specified time, or fetal abnormality incompatible with life.

This proposed law provides that it shall not be interpreted "to impose civil or criminal liability on a woman upon whom an abortion is performed in violation of the law."

In other words, and in contrast to what you might hear from the news media, **women are NOT being punished by the heartbeat law.** The physician must also inform the mother of the results of the test done to determine if a fetal heartbeat is present, and the woman must acknowledge receiving that information by signing a written verification. Doctors are being required to perform normal testing and to give the woman appropriate information regarding the detectability of her child's heartbeat. Thus, the law is meant to protect the mother and her child by giving the woman easily obtainable medical data on her child.

It is not a perfect law, however, because as you know, **medical science proves that the unborn child is a human being from her/his conception**, and all conceived children deserve to be born. Some of the media characterize the heartbeat law as requiring that doctors test for "pre-cardiac electrical impulses detectable in a woman's uterus."

Such reporting is a stain on good journalism and you should watch for it and call it out when you see it. It wrongfully dehumanizes Iowa's pre-born human beings and it does not quote the language of the law itself. We should have a decision from the Iowa Supreme Court in June.

IOWA LEGISLATIVE NEWS

The Iowa Legislature has now adjourned. Here is the news on the bills we were watching:

HF 2276 – Zoning protection for maternity homes (like Mary's Inn) **PASSED.**

This bill prohibits cities from having zoning regulations that discriminate against maternity homes. It means that maternity homes can live in residential neighborhoods pretty much just like the rest of us. It's justice for expectant moms, their unborn children, and for the staff and volunteers who serve their needs.

HF 2617 – The so-called "Baby Olivia" bill (named after the Live Action video) that would have required schools to play for 7 – 12th graders an accurate video showing human fetal development from fertilization to birth **did NOT pass.**

SF 2095 – Bill to increase Medicaid eligibility and benefits post birth from six months to one year **PASSED.** This is a great thing, as it will dramatically extend the time new moms can get financial help when their babies are still very young.

HF 2267 – MOM'S Bill amendments (*More Options for Maternal Support*) – to clean up language and get more money flowing sooner to new moms, and allow private organizations to take over management from the state of Iowa **PASSED.**

This is good, but still needs to have more funding. Texas allocated \$120 million dollars to their version of MOMS. The Iowa legislature only approved \$2.5 million dollars.

HF 2637 – Bill that would have increased the adoption tax credit for adopting parents from \$5,000 to \$20,000 **did NOT pass.** This is unfortunate because we need to encourage adoption as an alternative to abortion.

SF 523 – Bill to increase civil and criminal penalties if an unborn human being is intentionally or negligently killed under certain circumstances.

For example, a person who kills an unborn child during a robbery would be guilty of a felony, and a person who negligently kills an unborn child in an auto accident could be sued by the child's mother. This bill **did NOT pass.**

OTHER STATES

ILLINOIS – The Illinois Department of Public Health (ILDPH) **rejected a request made by the absurdly named "Hope" Clinic** to disregard safety standards when aborting babies. This abortuary is notorious for often calling an ambulance for patients who need to be hospitalized after an abortion due to excessive bleeding and other trauma.

However, its Director wanted to allow her staff to perform abortions without having licensed-based privileges in any hospital, have non-physicians perform abortions, and to be exempt from having a licensed pathologist examine the dead babies they kill. Fortunately, the Illinois Department of Public Health rejected all three requests.

WISCONSIN – Longtime Supreme Court Justice Ann Walsh Bradley announced recently that she will not seek another term on the state's highest court, which creates an open seat critical to the pro-life movement.

She is a liberal justice who has served on the court since 1995. She plans to continue on the court until July, 2025. This means pro-abortion Governor Tony Evers will not be able to appoint a pro-abortion justice to serve the remainder of her term.

Fortunately, pro-life former Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel plans to run for the seat. While Attorney General, he fought Planned Parenthood in numerous court cases to protect moms and the unborn in Wisconsin.

Legislative Update continues on page 20

PRO-LIFE EVENTS SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, June 22

Des Moines March for Life
hosted by

Dubuque County Right to Life and
Knights of Columbus Council 15813

Thursday, July 11

Clarity Clinic
6th Annual Golf Outing
Eagle Ridge - North Course

Legislative Update continued from page 19

CALIFORNIA, ARIZONA - Arizona currently has a law in place to protect women and babies from abortion, due to a recent Arizona Supreme Court decision. In response, California Governor Gavin Newsom is pushing a new bill that would expedite California medical licensing for Arizona abortionists who want to abort their patients in California. The pro-abortion Governor and Attorney General of Arizona are working with Newsom to make this happen.

NATIONAL NEWS

Chemical abortions: On March 26, 2024, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in a case that has the potential to make a major impact on the widespread accessibility of chemical abortion (abortion pills). Chemical abortions are now the most common form of abortion in the United States. The case is in response to the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) promoting the availability of chemical abortion while ignoring the risks to women and violating federal law. A decision is expected by the end of June.

Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act: On April 23, 2024, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments on the Biden Administration's attempt to force Idaho emergency room doctors to perform abortions even if it is against their conscience or state law.

A federal law known as the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTLA) requires hospitals receiving federal funds to provide urgent care for all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. Biden lawyers argued hospitals receiving Medicare must direct their emergency room doctors to abort babies in certain circumstances even if a state's law says otherwise. Under Biden's pro-abortion view of how EMTLA should be interpreted, hospitals that do not comply face penalties of up to \$120,000 per violation.

So, in Idaho for example, the state law protects all babies from abortion unless the mother's life is endangered. The Biden administration is trying to use the EMTLA to force more emergency room abortions beyond the state exception of life of the mother, and punish the hospital and doctor if they won't kill more babies.

Texas has a similar law, and the Idaho lower courts ruled in favor of Biden, but the Texas lower courts ruled in favor of life. The Supreme Court will make the final ruling that will cover Idaho, Texas, and all other states, including Iowa.

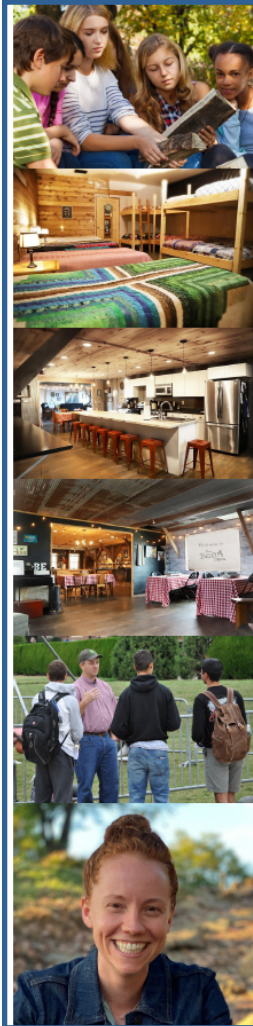
During the oral argument, Supreme Court Justices Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch drew attention to the fact that the EMTLA statute does not mention "abortion" but includes the term "unborn child" when defining what constitutes a patient. Alito asked the pro abortion lawyer representing the Biden Administration, "Isn't that an odd phrase to put in a statute that imposes a mandate to perform abortions? Have you ever seen an abortion statute that uses the phrase 'unborn child?'"

The Biden lawyer had no good answer...because there is none. A decision is expected by the end of June, 2024.

Please keep informed and involved. We must continue to educate and elevate the life issues to a prominent and productive place in our state, region, and nation.

The Dubuque County (Iowa) Right To Life (DCRTL) will lead the way in the tri-state area and beyond. †

by Arthur F. Gilloon, Attorney at Law, Vice Chairman DCRTL



GENERATIONS FOR LIFE SUMMER CAMP

Sign up today!!

Thursday to Saturday
July 11 - 13, 2024

at the Bean Farm Scotch Grove

Learning, activism, outdoor games, fellowship, prayer, music, bonfire, and plenty of good food. 3 days and 2 nights of learning, fun, fellowship, and outreach! DCRTL and the Ambassadors for Life are holding our first annual Generations for Life summer camp.

This camp is for boys and girls, ages 14-18 years old (rising high school freshmen to rising freshman in college). Boys and girls will have separate sleeping quarters.

Our confirmed speakers are Jeremy Gorr, Rebekah Dyer, & Paul Kulas, from the organization Justice for All who will be sharing Pro-Life apologetics & guiding outreach, Attorney Art Gilloon, and State Representative Luana Stoltenberg.

The cost is discounted at \$50 per person. Scholarships are available if the cost is still a hindrance. **Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, May 8th.** You can sign-up using the QR Code below, give our office a call to request the sign-up link at 563-556-5960, or email us at dctrl@dctrl.org





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JULY 11, 2024

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321-500-1000
888-735-3448
mail@priestsforlife.org



www.EndAbortion.US

www.EndAbortion.TV

OVER 500 ATTEND - RAISE NEARLY \$160,000 AT RIGHT TO LIFE DINNER

A coalition of pro-life supporters from the Illinois-Iowa-Wisconsin tri-state area converged on Dubuque, Iowa on the evening of April 4th for the annual fundraising dinner for Dubuque County Right to Life. (Link provided at end.)

Over 500 attendees, representing individuals and many organizations throughout the region came to hear keynote speaker Mark Houck. He recapped the situation of the SWAT-team-led sunrise arrest at gun-point in front of his startled and crying children on September 23, 2022.

His "crime" in October of 2021 – almost a full year earlier – was defending his son who had been accosted and threatened while praying legally outside of a Planned Parenthood abortion center.



While his family's story is generally widely known, the details and long-term impacts are still playing out. In fact, he announced that he has filed lawsuits against President Biden's Department of Justice due to his arrest.

The fundraising event was a success.

"Besides continuing our normal programs," explained DCRTL Executive Director Augustine Payne, "our plan in 2024 is to grow our Ambassadors for Life program which is centered on bringing high schoolers from area schools (and home schools) together to

form a pro-life coalition to be leaders in their schools, communities, and circles of influence."

The DCRTL will also be holding its first summer camp.

"Also in 2024, we hope to do four outreaches; three in addition to the Dubuque County Fair, where we are engaging those on the fence or are willing to discuss their position," stated Payne. †

www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-iMloa8EJ8&t=5690s



BIRTHRIGHT OF DUBUQUE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Birtheright of Dubuque is looking for volunteers who are willing to give 6-9 hours a month to help ensure that "every mother has a right to give birth and every child has a right to be born."

Volunteers welcome and assist women who call or come in for free pregnancy testing or who need other support throughout their pregnancy.

We are also looking for men or women to serve on our board, which is a commitment of 7 meetings a year. This is a great opportunity for those with limited time to volunteer but who have a desire to help with our cause and support our mission.

We will train you for this volunteer service. If you are interested in this ministry, please email us or call us

dubuque@birtheright.org

563-556-1991

Additionally, we are also happy to provide speakers for groups or organizations who may want to learn more about us. Just email or call to set up a speaking engagement.



IOWA STATE MARCH FOR LIFE

Saturday, June 22nd



On June 22nd, we will commemorate the 2nd anniversary of the overturn of *Roe v. Wade* in the *Dobbs v. Jackson Supreme Court Decision* (June 24th). We have to show the Iowa Legislature and media that the Iowa people support protecting the preborn and helping moms in need.

We would like to make it as easy for as many people to attend as possible. Early sign-up registration goes until Friday, May 17th, and cost is \$30 per person with a maximum of \$100 per family. Regular registration goes until June 3rd and the cost increases to \$50 per person with a maximum of \$150 per family. To sign-up, please contact our office at 563-556-5960 or email us at dcrtl@dcrtl.org.

Note: If it's easier for you to meet us at the Capitol instead of taking the bus, please feel free!

Members of the Iowa Coalition of Pro-Life Leaders (of which DCRTL is a member) is sponsoring and organizing this event.



Scott Leibfried



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Tuesday: 9:00 - 5:30 pm

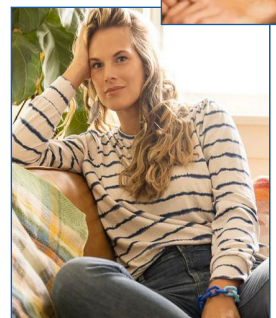
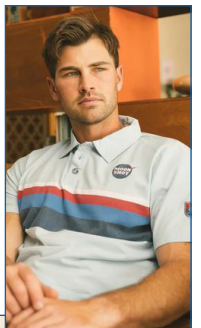
Wednesday: 9:00 - 5:30 pm

Thursday: 9:00 - 5:30 pm

Friday: 9:00 - 7:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 - 4:00 pm

www.GrahamsDBQ.com





Our Strategic Vision

Recently granted 501c3 status, the TLM Society of Dubuque, in partnership with Aquinas Communications, is establishing a strategic vision to preserve, promote, and expand the Traditional Roman Rite of the Roman Catholic Church. Our goals are as follows:

- ✝ To educate and train clergy, altar servers, choirs in celebration of the TLM.
- ✝ To work with the Archdiocese on expanding the TLM and inviting Ecclesia Dei communities to dying parishes.
- ✝ To rescue dying parishes with traditional orders.
- ✝ To provide a public presence in representing the interests of the TLM and the TLM community in Eastern Iowa, SW Wisconsin, and NW Illinois.
- ✝ Collaborate with other likeminded groups to expand and grow the TLM.
- ✝ Provide stipends for clergy and laity interested in learning how to celebrate the TLM.
- ✝ Organize conferences, and speaking engagements in the tristate area.
- ✝ Speaking engagements in the local community to educate on the TLM.
- ✝ Develop technologies, web design, and apps to evangelize to the TLM.
- ✝ Maintain a media presence in the local area to represent the interests of the TLM.

To assist us with our vision or to provide assistance either through educational efforts or financial support, please contact Brad Markham at 563-203-2583 or VicePresident@RomanMass.org. ✝

It is the Mass that Matters (part 2)

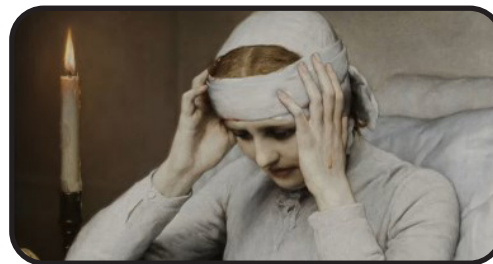
by Brad Markham

To read Part 1 of *It is The Mass That Matters*, go to page 21 of the 2024 Spring issue of *The Bellowing Ox*: www.TheBellowingOx.com

From the inception of Freemasonry, pontiffs have warned the faithful against its dangers. Pope Leo XIII highlighted that the secret sect had attained such power in his days as to be in control of most all governments.

The Freemasons' stated target has been the Catholic Church and we have prophetic warnings of their ascent to power within the Church from Pope Leo XIII, Our Lady of Good Success, and the visions of Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich, among others.

Our Lady called the Freemasons by name before they existed and Emmerich talks of men in "mantles" building a false church in eclipse of the true Catholic Church.



On September 12, 1820, Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich seemed to have visions of our times:

"I saw a strange church being built against every rule...No angels were supervising the building operations.

"In that church, nothing came from high above...There was only division and chaos. It is probably a church of human creation, following the latest fashion, as well as the new heterodox Church

of Rome [one world church of the False Prophet], which seems of the same kind...

"I saw again the strange big church that was being built there (in Rome). There was nothing holy in it. I saw this just as I saw a movement led by Ecclesiastics to which contributed angels, saints, and other Christians.

"But there (in the strange big church) all the work was being done mechanically (i.e., according to set rules and formula). Everything was being done, according to human reason. I saw all sorts of people, things, doctrines, and opinions. There was something proud, presumptuous, and violent about it, and they seemed to be very successful.

"I did not see a single Angel nor a single saint helping in the work. But far away in the background, I saw the seat of a cruel people armed with spears, and I saw a laughing figure which said: 'Do build it as solid as you can; we will put it to the ground'."

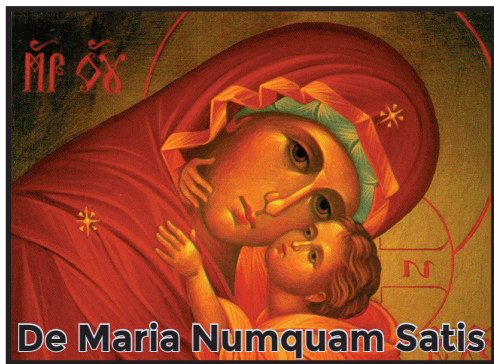
"I saw that many of the instruments in the new Church, such as spears and darts, were meant to be used against the living Church. Everyone dragged in something different: clubs, rods, pumps, cudgels, puppets, mirrors, trumpets, horns bellows – all sorts of things.

In the cave below (the sacristy) some people kneaded bread, but nothing came of it; it would not rise. The men in the little mantles brought wood to the steps of the pulpit to make a fire. They puffed and blew and labored hard, but the fire would not burn. All they produced was smoke and fumes. Then they broke a hole in the roof and ran up a pipe, but the smoke would not rise, and the whole place became black and suffocating. Some

The Mass, continued on page 25

Mission Statement

To refine your knowledge, fortify your conviction in the Roman Catholic Faith, and give you militancy and fervor for the Christian virtues through the Traditional Roman Rite. We desire your sanctity and the sanctity of all people. We pray for your children and grandchildren into the Barque of Peter, the Holy Roman Catholic faith. And we desire your militant support through the most excellent means of grace, the Traditional Roman Rite Liturgy. *Salus animarum suprema lex!*



Of Mary There is Never Enough

by Brad Markham

Queen of Martyrs

One of the titles we come across for Mary in the Litany of Loreto is “Queen of Martyrs.” St. Louis De Montfort tells us that Mary wanted nothing other than to remain hidden, to be less than nothing, unknown to the world. It was this humility that God loved most. This humility shines whenever we begin analyzing the life of our Blessed Mother.

Her title, “Queen of Martyrs” does not disappoint in how it is a fitting title and also provides the glimpse of her glorious humility. It shows her humility because even her martyrdom was hidden!

At first, the title seems open to scorn, for Mary was not martyred in body. Unlike other saints, she was not drawn and quartered, cooked on a gridiron, burnt at the stake, beheaded, shot full of arrows, or had nails driven through her fingernails. No, she “simply” accompanied her Son through His passion.

As always, because of her great humility, we must once again pull back the curtains a bit to understand that she is indeed worthy of the title “Queen of Martyrs,” and that her martyrdom was greater than all the other martyrdoms of other saints. This idea that her martyrdom was greater than all other saints is not a mere platitude, but really the case.

St. Alphonsus Liguori, in his *Glories of Mary* first highlights the innocence of Jesus.

“This Son was the most amiable that can be imagined — innocent, virtuous, beautiful, who loved His mother most tenderly, so much so that He had never caused her the least displeasure, but had ever shown her all respect, obedience, and affection: hence had this mother placed all her affections on earth in this Son.”

When we imagine our own children, innocent, tender, loving, with the glow of divine image behind their eyes, we cannot but feel the strongest of human affection. And these little ones are under the slavery

of original sin! For Mary it was not so! Her Son was the divinity; her Son had no imperfections. All that we admire in our own fallen children are mere dark reflections in comparison to the light Mary had before her to tenderly love.

We read in scripture that the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary. At that moment, if not before, she became the most learned theologian in the mysteries of the Trinity, sitting in the most unique relation to the Trinity that any mere creature could.

She was daughter to the Father, mother to the Son, and spouse to the Holy Spirit. She captured all of the most intimate relations with the Trinity that a finite creature could.

With that power infused by God, St. De Montfort relates she had the ability to perform all miracles, but she never did out of humility. St. Alphonsus tells us that this uplifting into the mysteries of the Trinity most certainly made her aware, from the moment of the Annunciation, of the death her Son would have to endure. This, indeed, was part of her “fiat”!

St. Alphonsus relates that Mary’s martyrdom was the most intense and longest in duration of any of the martyrs.

How can this be if she was never martyred in body?

First, St. Thomas tells us that “to have the glory of martyrdom, it is sufficient to exercise obedience in its highest degree, that is to say, to be obedient unto death.”

Mary certainly exceeded this standard of obedience for she gave her fiat knowing the martyrdom it would entail. Mary, however, was not killed by the executioner, but by the “bitter sorrow of heart.”

We can here imagine the Immaculate heart of Mary surrounded by thorns as it is. St. Alphonsus runs through a myriad of quotes from saints about her bitter heart, and the way he interprets this is that her martyrdom resided in the soul. Again, this may seem a platitude because it’s not physical death, but a little reflection on “soul pain,” highlights the horror of her martyrdom in comparison to martyrs in body.

Many of us have experienced something like this “soul pain,” where there is no escaping the sorrow and it haunts at every level and in every waking moment. The soul pain of depression, or the loss of a loved one, or rejection by loved ones, or life failures, or the loss of a job, seems ubiquitous and inescapable.

When going through such sorrow our desire shifts to wishing for physical pain if it meant the spiritual pain would subside.

St. Thomas Aquinas, in asking the question of whether happiness consists in sense pleasures writes, “Therefore, sense, which is a power of the body, knows the singular, which is determinate through matter: whereas the intellect, which is a power independent of matter, knows the universal, which is abstracted from matter, and contains an infinite number of singulars. Consequently, it is evident that good which is fitting to the body, and which causes bodily delight through being apprehended by sense, is not man’s perfect good, but quite a trifle as compared with the good of the soul.” (ST 1-2 q.2 a.6).



The inverse of this logic holds true. The pain of the body, which causes pain through being apprehended by sense, is but a trifle as compared with the sorrow of the soul. Mary’s martyrdom was in the soul!

St. Alphonsus also relates that Mary’s martyrdom was the longest in duration. The body expires after a time and the death of the “common” martyr happens relatively quickly when the body can no longer endure.

We experience this temporality when doing penances. The pain is temporary and passes when the time is up. Mary’s time of martyrdom started at minimum at the Annunciation and carried through until the end of her earthly life.

She related in private revelations to St. Bridget that the sorrow of the passion haunted her until the end of her life and was with her every time she looked upon Jesus. How many millions of looks are passed between mother and son over a lifetime? How many millions of martyrdoms in soul?!

In granting Mary the title “Queen of Martyrs,” the Catholic Church does not err and is without hyperbole. Just as we owe her hyperdulia (great praise) as opposed to the dulia (praise) we owe the “common” saints, so too she deserves the greater praise as Queen of Martyrs, for she is the greatest of all the martyrs.

Mary, Queen of Martyrs, ora pro nobis. †

The Mass, continued from page 23

blew the horns so violently that the tears streamed from their eyes.

All in this church belonged to the earth, returned to the earth. All was dead, the work of human skill, a church of the latest style, a church of man's invention like the new heterodox church in Rome."

To bring about the destruction of all religion, Leo XIII states the Freemasons' strategy plainly:

Again, as all who offer themselves are received whatever may be their form of religion, they thereby teach the great error of this age — that regard for religion should be held as an indifferent matter, and that all religions are alike.

This manner of reasoning is calculated to bring about the ruin of all forms of religion, especially of the Catholic religion, which, as it is the only one that is true, cannot, without great injustice, be regarded as merely equal to other religions. (Humanum Genus, pa. 16)



An image of Pope Leo XIII taken from an early video from the 1800's.

The Freemasons' logic works like this: ***If all religions are true, and are then compared, contradictions inevitably follow. But if they are all contradictory and at the same time true, then none are true.***

We have seen this play out culturally within the West over the last three centuries. Simply turn on any modern television program or movie and it is the religious that are made fools. Not because there does not exist a faith that can withstand worldly onslaught, but because there are false religions that cannot.

Bundle the one true faith with the false faiths under the category of "religion," and then fire away at the fools.

Rarely, if ever, do our cultural oligarchs challenge the Catholic Church head on. Rather they caricature it, or hold

individuals that are part of it to its own moral principles to embarrass it when it does not live up to its own exacting standards.

Ironically, there is nothing more sane or logical than the Catholic faith.

So, religious indifference is a plan of action to destroy all religion. Keeping in mind this has been the strategy and rule of action of the Freemasons, we turn to Pope Francis and the document he signed entitled, *Human Fraternity and World Peace and Living Together*.

He signed the document with a Mohammedan imam that recognized that all religions are alike, i.e. religious indifference. In the document it states: "*The pluralism and the diversity of religions...are willed by God in His wisdom.*"

The Freemasonic principle of religious indifferentism warned about by Pope Leo XIII comes out even more strongly later in the document:

"In conclusion, our aspiration is that this Declaration may constitute an invitation to reconciliation and fraternity among all believers, indeed among believers and non-believers, and among all people of good will...an appeal to those who cherish the values of tolerance and fraternity that are promoted and encouraged by religions..."

Living together peaceably is certainly a noble goal. But when we know the principle of religious indifferentism is a tool utilized by the enemies of religion to destroy religion, and we read words like the above, can we be justified in asking whether this is soft language being utilized to destroy religion, and most egregiously the (one true) Catholic religion?

Fraternity has long been one of the principles of Freemasonry. When the Freemasons of the 19th Century claimed they aimed at a "revolution in Tiara and cope," and we see documents signed by the

Pope about fraternity seemingly aiming at religious pluralism, is it fair to ask if this pluralism is the camel's nose under the tent with a target of indifferentism?

Does this aim suggest the mind of the Church has been captured and eclipsed by those men who claimed its capture as their goal?

As we saw from St. Maximilian Kolbe in 1917:

It (Freemasonry) did not even hesitate to brandish in the streets of the City during the festivities in honor of Giodarno Bruno, a black flag showing the Archangel St. Michael beneath the feat of Lucifer, still less did they hesitate to brandish masonic insignia beneath the windows of the Vatican.

A reckless hand felt no repugnance in writing: Satan will rule in the Vatican and the Pope will serve him in the uniform of the Swiss Guard, and other things of that kind. This mortal hatred for the Church was not just a prank on the part of deranged individuals, but a systematic action proceeding from the principle of Freemasonry: Destroy all religion, whatever it may be, especially the Catholic religion.

With the Vatican broadcasting "Fraternity," is it fair to ask if we are living the fulfillment of Our Lady and Emmerich's prophecies?? †

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Christ calls for the Conversion of — Not Collaboration With — the Marxist and Masonic Enemies of His Church

Excerpt from Crisis Magazine

The infiltration of Marxist and Masonic ideologies upon every facet of modern life—manifest as an inversion of God's truth and morality in societal norms, education, government, and religion.

- by Elizabeth Yore & Mary Jane Zuzolo

Duly reported by now was the Vatican's hosting of a Marxist-Christian dialogue in January, earlier this year. Pope Francis freely encouraged the interaction while, moreover, conspicuously neglecting to mention Christ, Christianity, or the fact that the Catholic Church has a long history of decided condemnation of Marxist Communism. Similar disconcerting dealings include Cardinal Francesco Coccopalmerio's presiding over a Masonic conference in February in which he renewed requests for a "permanent dialogue" with Freemasonry.

"Dialogue" is an important theme to Masons, as expressed by the Grand Master Gustavo Raffi upon Francis' election: he celebrated the hope for "a Church of the people [which] may...

dialogue with...Freemasonry.... This is the 'white smoke' that [Masons] are waiting for from the Church of our time." Yet, like Communism, membership in Freemasonry remains forbidden due to irreconcilable differences with Church doctrine.

Papal condemnation of Marxism and Freemasonry, in fact, goes back to just after the founding of these movements, the mid-nineteenth and mid-eighteenth centuries, respectively. Membership in either is strictly forbidden by Mother Church, disallowing the reception of Holy Communion for affiliates (and full excommunication by some Church councils). Collaboration with Communists was warned against as recently as Pope Benedict XVI's *Deus Caritas Est*, even on the level of charitable activity, in that Catholic charity must be centrally such rather than effectively supportive of other ideologies. And paradoxically, just late last year, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith reaffirmed the Church's ban on Catholics joining Freemasonry.

To read the entire article

www.crisismagazine.com/opinion/christ-calls-for-the-conversion-of-not-collaboration-with-the-marxist-and-masonic-enemies-of-his-church

Worldwide Prayer to Preserve The Latin Mass

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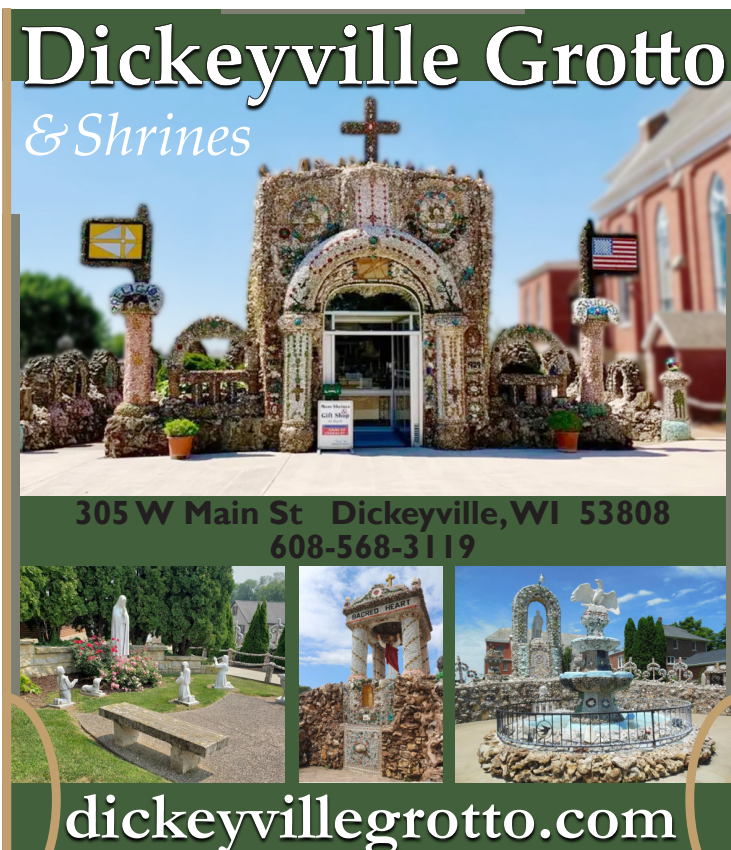
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September 10

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The 3rd Monday
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July 15

August 19

September 16

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The 4th Tuesday
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& mention Fundraiser Code **SF**
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September 24

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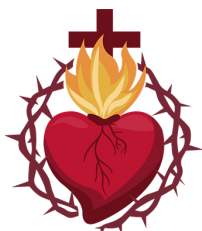
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Una Voce Clamantes in Deserto



The Blessing of Relationships

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

by Kim Steelman

Relationships are of great value and importance in people's lives. While they can be wonderful and joyous, they can sometimes be complicated and even strained. I don't believe God intended for us to be alone on an island in this world.

There are various dynamics, whether in families or friendships, and we need the Lord's guidance to build and maintain them. The good news is that we have great direction from God's word to help us along the way.

We read in Proverbs 27:17 that "iron sharpens iron" and that one man sharpens another. In 1 Thessalonians 5:11, we are instructed to encourage and build one another up. In James 5:16, we are told to pray for one another. In Galatians 6:2, we learn that we are called to bear one another's burdens. I am so grateful that we have these words of wisdom and truth to help us daily.

There are various examples of relationships, such as our mentors, peers, family, and those strangers we first meet.

This brings me to what I would like to highlight and talk about in this article.

I am new, having just joined the Coalition For Canceled Priests family in February. Part of my job here is having the joy of communicating with our supporters. Many conversations and email correspondence have blessed me, and I look forward to more. Seeing how God works and intertwines His children's lives is amazing.

One evening during Holy Week, I received a text from a dear woman requesting prayer for her family. Her husband had just received a devastating diagnosis, and they were trying to process it all.

This hit my heart deeply and brought back memories of when I was in the same situation as this dear woman. I, too, understood what it was like to

have a spouse receive such serious news of that same diagnosis and unexpectedly feel like a bomb just dropped out of the air. The timing also surprised me because our family also went through this during Holy Week many years ago. I thought, "How amazing is our Heavenly Father to allow such a moment in time to connect his children in this way." To magnify the importance of prayer and what it means to both the giver and the receiver.

This new relationship is someone with whom I now plan to stay connected and with whom I hope to encourage along the way.

There was another sweet woman I had the privilege of speaking with, and she shared with us that she was turning 95 years old, and her family members were traveling to visit with her. She requested prayer for safe travels and blessings on her birthday.

This brought back fond memories of my grandmother, who has since passed, and all the good times I shared with her. I remembered the big surprise party our whole family threw for her 90th birthday and what that meant to her and us.

These precious experiences are gifts to be so grateful for and remind us how important every moment of our time is here.

I also received an email from a supporter who had received a thank you letter from us. She told me how that handwritten note made her feel so special.

I was then reminded that something that may seem small or insignificant to us may mean a lot to someone else. God also allows these wonderful interactions to remind us that we are one family in Him. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ and should be here for one another in this daily life journey.

In the "busyness" of this world, let's take the time for the call, the text, or the unexpected visit. It's in these experiences that we often see the imprint of God.

If you have a prayer request that you'd like to share with us, call us at 312-761-2149 or email us at Contact@canceledpriests.org. †

Coalition For Canceled Priests Questions & Answers

We regularly receive questions regarding priests who may have been canceled. We will address these questions here along with further clarification as needed.

Has my priest been canceled?

As you might expect, we are not free to disclose this information since it is a personnel matter within the diocese. This information is confidential between the priest and his bishop.

It is the individual priest or the diocese that may disclose this information. As you might expect, making this news public can often make reconciliation between a bishop and his priest difficult.

Our role is to process the priests application to the Coalition as it is submitted for assistance and then to provide guidance for his return to his priestly vocation as soon as possible.

What can I do to help a canceled priest?

The most valuable thing anyone can do for the priest is pray for them. Eucharistic adoration, spending time alone with Our Lord, is perfect for praying for your active priest, a canceled priests, and priests everywhere. Do not forget to pray for your bishops as well!

Do you have housing available for canceled priests?

Most priests who come to us for help want to stay in their home region and might ask for financial assistance to pay rent. Most prefer to stay within the communities they served or near their family and friends.

Can the laity help with housing?

If you mean to provide housing, we do have a database of donors who have offered rooms in their homes or entire homes to needy priests, but we have not needed to ask for this help. †



Pray For One Another

*"First of all then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone."
(1 Timothy 2:1)*

By Kim Steelman

One of the greatest things we can do is pray for others. Prayer is a powerful way for us to bear one another's burdens. We are instructed in God's word to do this and can read about it in James 5:17.

When we pray, God opens our eyes to the needs of others, and we become more aware of their sufferings. In that moment, we are moved by empathy and compassion and reminded of how Jesus prayed for those burdened and in pain. Jesus Himself asked for prayers from Peter, James, and John in the garden of Gethsemane. Paul also pleaded repeatedly in Thessalonians, "Brothers, pray for us."

We need to pray during trials, tribulations, and times of temptation. We ask for God's protection and his help. For the strength and ability to endure and overcome whatever we are facing. It's essential to pray for the protection of our families and homes. We are reminded that we have an enemy, the devil, prowling around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.



I am so grateful that we have the Rosary, a powerful weapon against evil.

Here at the Coalition, we recognize the importance of prayer and why we should pray for one another as often as possible. We are happy to receive any prayer requests you want to share. I am blessed to speak with many of our supporters who have shared their intentions.

We have heard from parents requesting prayer for their adult children to return to the church—those who are caring for special needs children and many who are sick and in need of healing. Prayers are also needed for those dealing with mental health issues and even a few people who have battled suicidal thoughts. Some marriages are struggling and in need of healing and restoration, as well as those praying for the conversion of their loved ones. There is much to pray about, and we know that we have a Heavenly Father who loves us more than we could know and wants to hear from His children.



I want to take this time to thank all those praying for the Coalition for Canceled Priests. We greatly appreciate you. There is power in prayer, and when we come together to pray for our church, priests, bishops, and one another, Heaven moves on our behalf.

Dear Heavenly Father,

I pray for each person reading this today. Please meet their needs and help them with any situation they may be struggling with. Comfort them and bring your peace that passes all understanding into their lives. Let them know how much you love them and want them to be close to you. I pray "Your will be done" in their lives.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen †

The Coalition for Canceled Priests, Board of Directors, and staff will pray for your intentions at Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Recitation of the Rosary, and in private prayer.

If you would like to submit a specific intentions, please send an email to Contact@canceledpriests.org or call 312-761-2149.

The Glory of God

The Glory of God children's book was written to be a keepsake and resource for preparing children for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Reconciliation.

**Rev. Francis J. Hoffman ("Fr. Rocky"),
Executive Director
CEO of Relevant Radio**

In her book *The Glory of God*, Maria J. Bain provides the next generation of Catholic Christians with down-to-earth instruction on loving God and loving neighbor. The conversational text, coupled with beautiful illustrations, captures a child's imagination by bringing him or her into the everyday situations that test our desire to do God's Will.

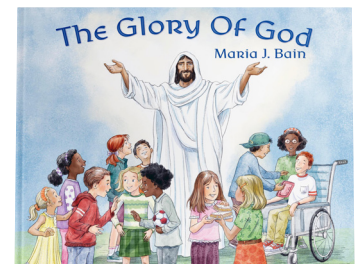
Bain incorporates the basic tenets of our Faith: The Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. These are presented to teach children not only how to make good choices but also how to identify sin and obtain God's Mercy. †

THE GLORY OF GOD

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"Looking for a book to teach your kids about the presence of God and reconciliation? Check out 'The Glory of God' by Maria J. Bain, published by JMJ Press. Find the book at www.jmjpress.org"

- Rev. Francis J. Hoffman ("Fr. Rocky"),
Executive Director and CEO of Relevant Radio



MARIA J. BAIN
mjbain@mjpress.com
mjpress.org



Bain will be a guest on the CatholicTV program, *This Is The Day* on October 6, at 10:30 a.m. EST. †

The Glory of God is available in English and Spanish exclusively at www.jmjpress.org.



Justice of God

by Kalah Williams

Have you ever watched a person die? I mean, take their last breath and be gone from this life?

On October 12th, 2006, I experienced my mother's death. The experience of my mother's death touched me more deeply than I expected.

Her death caused me to reexamine my life and, most importantly, my hope for salvation. I have not led a perfect life. I have done sinful things with a sinful heart, with the attitude that "I was not as bad as other people, and I did not deserve hell."

I went to confession, although not as often as I should have, and not with true contrition, and certainly not with the ardent desire to stop committing my sins.

CFCP Store Update!

We have new merchandise coming to our store!

We will be adding tote bags, notebooks, coffee mugs, blankets, stickers, and new shirts!

Our totes and notebooks will feature CFCP's patron saints and a customizable option for your favorite saint!

We have also partnered with "Holy Cats and Dogs" to sell rosary dog leashes!



These leashes are high-quality leather and have rosary beads and a crucifix embedded in the handle so you can pray the rosary while you take your four-legged friend for a walk.

Please visit our website, www.canceledpriests.org, for these and other products!

Any purchases you make go to the support of our canceled priests.

Keep a look out on Facebook or Twitter for more updates. Don't forget about our upcoming conference in June! You'll find our products for purchase and other vendors there with wonderful items.

Please continue your prayers and support. We will be praying for you!

I rejected what The Church taught on many things out of ignorance, and I fumed when someone would challenge my sinfulness.

I thank God for giving me so many chances to amend my life; every day I wake up is a new chance.

For a long time, I believed only in the mercy of God but did not give a thought to His justice.

Saying sorry just is not enough to regain privilege. We need to repair the damages from our offenses against God.

God, Who is Mercy, is also Justice. Nothing unclean will enter heaven, and for thousands of centuries, people have prayed for the dead. There is a place where the beloved children of God go to be purged of their sins and cleansed for their eternal reward.

We Catholics believe, and have never stopped believing in purgatory. **If there were no purgatory, we would all go straight to hell.** We cannot be fooled into believing that hell is a fictitious place to trick the unintelligent into being good. That is what the Communists teach!

My mother was afraid that everyone would think she was going straight to heaven, no one would pray for her soul, and she would be "Stuck in purgatory suffering."

I promised Mom to have Masses said for her soul, and I promised to pray for her daily until my own death. I am living up to those promises. I hope my own children will do the same for me.

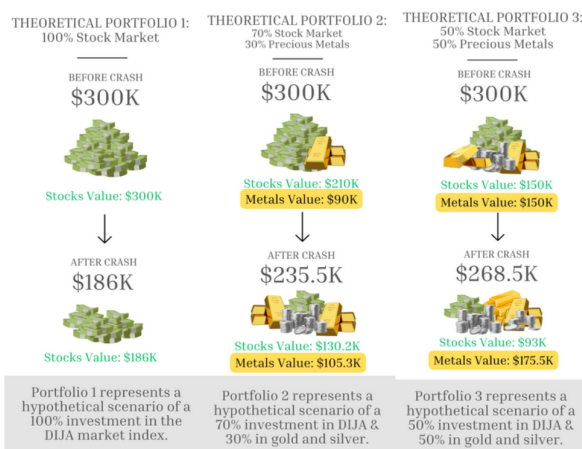
The older I get, the more I take to heart Philippians 2:12 "With fear and trembling, work out your salvation." We must not presume the mercy of God. Instead, we must plan for His justice and hope in His mercy. ✝



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