

March/April 2016

# CRUSADE<sup>®</sup>

MAGAZINE



TRADITION  
FAMILY AND  
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1716—2016

## SAINT LOUIS DE MONTFORT *and* Our Fight for Mary's Triumph

# A SPIRITUAL TREASURE

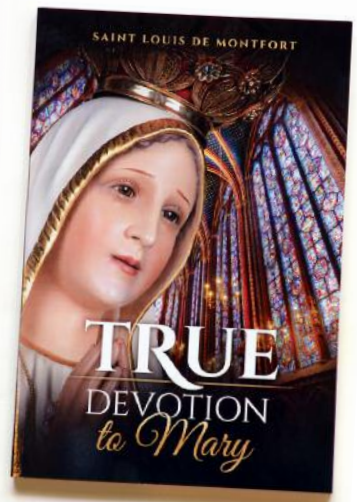
Acknowledged as one of the most important sources to better understand the role of Our Lady in the sanctification of souls, *True Devotion to Mary* by Saint Louis de Montfort has inspired and influenced countless Catholics from all walks of life as well as different ages. In this book, the attentive reader will discover the secrets of a fast and sure way to Our Lord Jesus Christ. Pope Saint Pius X, one among many popes who recommended the reading and practice

of *True Devotion to Mary*, granted the Apostolic Blessing to all those who read it.

This book is like a powerhouse treasure that God has placed in the hands of His children to help us in the bitter times through which we are living.

At the end of this book, the reader will find the author's method of consecrating himself to Mary as a slave of love.

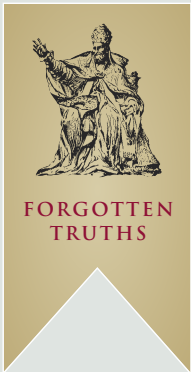
After reading *True Devotion*, one will know that he has found a true and deeply committed Catholic when he meets someone who has consecrated himself or herself to the Blessed Mother using the method of Saint Louis de Montfort. It is usually a sure sign of authentic devotion to Our Lady.



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## It Is a Subtle Snare of the Evil One

BY SAINT LOUIS MARIE DE MONTFORT

There are those who imagine they are slighting the Son by honoring the Mother. They fear that by exalting Mary they are belittling Jesus. They cannot bear to see people giving to Our Lady the praises due to her and which the Fathers of the Church have lavished upon her. It annoys them to see more people kneeling before Mary's altar than before the Blessed Sacrament, as if these acts were at variance with each other, or as if those who were praying to Our Lady were not praying through her to Jesus. They do not want us to speak too often of her or to pray so often to her.

Here are some of the things they say: "What is the good of all these rosaries, confraternities and exterior devotions to Our Lady? There is a great deal of ignorance in all this. It is making a mockery of religion. Tell us about those who are devoted to Jesus. We should go directly to Jesus; that is sound



devotion." There is some truth in what they say, but the inference they draw to prevent devotion to Our Lady is very insidious. It is a subtle snare of the evil one under the pretext of promoting a greater good. For we never give more honor to Jesus than when we honor His Mother, and we honor her simply and solely to honor Him all the more perfectly. We go to her only as a way leading to the goal we seek—Jesus, her Son.

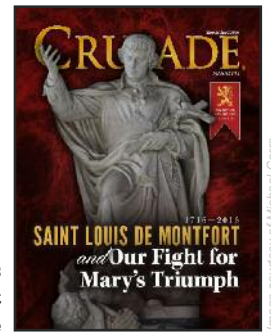
The Church, with the Holy Spirit, blesses Our Lady first, then Jesus, "Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus." Not that Mary is greater than Jesus, or even equal to Him—that would be an intolerable heresy. But in order to bless Jesus more perfectly we should first bless Mary. Let us say with all those truly devoted to her, despite these false and scrupulous devotees: "O Mary, blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus." ■

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**Cover:**  
Statue of Saint Louis de Montfort, Saint Peter's Basilica, Rome

Image courtesy of Michael Gorre



**Page 8** Sweet promises can be unsatisfying



**Page 15** Protesting Blasphemy on Christmas Eve



**Page 22** Restoring our culture to end the culture of death

## CRUSADE

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## THE AMERICAN TFP

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

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



IN BRIEF

### Sacrilegious Display Draws Thousands of Spaniards in Protest and Reparation

Thousands of Spaniards in the city of Pamplona rose up to protest against an “art” exhibit desecrating over 240 consecrated hosts. A perverted artist arranged the stolen hosts on the ground to form the word “pederasty” in Spanish. About 2,000 outraged Spaniards immediately protested and demanded from the City Council the removal of the offensive display, but to no avail. A private citizen finally removed them. Masses of Reparation were held at the cathedrals of Pamplona and Tudela, a municipality fifty miles south. At least

4,000 people packed the Pamplona cathedral, most of them receiving the Holy Eucharist on the tongue as instructed by church officials. In the meantime, over 100,000 people expressed their outrage against the sacrilege and signed an Internet petition in support of the protest.



### Number of Abortions Lowest Since 1973; Congress Votes to Defund Planned Parenthood

The number of abortions in the United States since 1973, the year of the infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision, is on a steady decline according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The CDC’s report on 2012 data shows a 17% reduction from 2003. Pro-Life Action League head Eric Schiedler attributed the decline to a “massive surge in pro-life legislation.” In the meantime, both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives voted to reduce Planned Parenthood’s federal funding by eighty percent. However, the whole exercise was largely symbolic as President Obama vetoed the legislation.

### Two Poll Results Show Decline in Religious Belief and Happiness in Young and Old Alike

Showing a disturbing decline in religious belief, a recent Pew Research poll among young adults revealed that only half are absolutely certain of their belief in God, while thirty-nine percent pray daily and even fewer are likely to attend religious services. Another poll by the journal *Social Psychological and Personality Science* found that adults thirty and older are becoming less “happy” mainly because of “economic insecurity.”

### Homosexual Lifestyle Extremely Violent, Says Government Report

The results of a survey undertaken by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), showed that men and women involved in homosexual behavior undergo much higher rates of sexual violence than men and women who are heterosexual. According to the study, forty-four percent of lesbians were either raped, physically abused and/or stalked by their partners, and sixty-one percent of bi-sexual women endured such violence from their partners. Twenty-six percent of homosexual men experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by their partners, and thirty-seven percent of bi-sexual men endured such violence from their partners.

### Nativity Scene Displays in State Capitols Nationwide

A group dedicated to promoting the exercise of First Amendment rights in public places continued to encourage private citizens to celebrate Christmas with traditional nativity scene displays in and around public venues. The Thomas More Society and the American Nativity Scene Committee have succeeded in placing nativity scenes in twenty-one different states. A nativity scene



can now be seen in front of the capitol buildings of Georgia, Illinois, Florida, Michigan, Nebraska, Rhode Island and Texas, and in front of the Oklahoma Governor’s mansion.

### Crusade Against Fossil Fuels Hurts the Poor the Most

Currently, over 1.3 billion people in the world have no electricity and 3 billion more have next to no electricity whatsoever. This fact contributes to more deaths, especially in poor countries. Thus writes Alex Epstein of *Forbes Magazine*. According to Epstein, if we care about human life, we will promote the increased use of fossil fuels. On the other hand, according to the international disaster database, climate-related deaths are down 98 percent over the past 80 years.

# THE *Ecce Homo* A Remedy for Domestic Discord

BY FR. FRANCIS SPIRAGO



A wealthy couple, in spite of all their riches, lived in constant discord and daily disputes. The married state was anything but a happy state for them; the wife especially often shed bitter tears.

One day she happened to come across a manuscript entitled "Simple Remedies for the Household." It was in her grandmother's handwriting.

Flipping idly through the pages, to her surprise her eye fell upon the heading: "A household remedy against discontent."

Intrigued by the entry's title, she read on: "Whenever you feel miserable or are out of temper, go to the picture of the 'Ecce Homo,' and place yourself at its feet. Contemplate it attentively for the space of three minutes, and recite three Our Fathers before you go away: this will restore peace and content to your mind. My confessor advised me to do this. I have tried the remedy for thirty years, and I have never found it to fail."

The lady remembered that by a mere chance she



The image of Christ crowned with thorns, known as the *Ecce Homo* (from the words of Pontius Pilate, "Behold the man!"). Those who contemplate it often can learn forbearance and patience in their daily trials.

had kept the picture in question, which had belonged to her grandmother; it was upstairs in the attic. She went up at once, dusted it carefully, and hung it on a nail in her room.

Whenever she felt that a quarrel was near, she tried the simple remedy her grandmother recommended. Through gazing at the countenance of Our Lord, so sorrowful and yet so gentle, she became so much more forbearing and complaisant that her husband soon commented on the change. She answered him with a smile: "I have found an excellent teacher."

He wanted to know who that teacher was. She told him everything quite frankly. Before long, her husband also had recourse

to this same remedy, when he foresaw some household annoyance was in store for him. Thus, in course of time, peace and happiness prevailed in that family circle. ■

Taken from *Anecdotes and Examples Illustrating the Catholic Catechism* by Fr. Francis Spirago, pp. 336-337.

## *In Memoriam:* Jeremiah Bertram Wells

February 27, 1934 – January 11, 2016

"Education is the transmission of civilization." —Will Durant

Jeremiah Bertram Wells, a longtime member of the American TFP, passed away in his sleep early on January 11, 2016.

A proud native son of Boston, his characteristic New England style never failed to leave a lasting impression on those who met him. During his time in the TFP, Mr. Wells held various positions, including speaker, writer, author, teacher and librarian. However, teaching was his passion. His enthusiasm for the marvels of Catholic history left a lasting mark on his students.

For many years his articles on Catholic history appeared within the pages of this magazine. First focusing on the history of Western Civilization, Mr. Wells then began a series of articles on *Revolution and Counter-Revolution in History*, based on the work



of Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira.

Mr. Wells will most especially be remembered for his devotion to Mary. Daily he could be seen walking and praying his rosary or reciting the Little Office.

Our readers could render him no greater thanks than offering prayers to the Queen of Heaven for the repose of his soul. His inspiring confidence in Our Lady can be summed up in the words he wrote:

"Our Lady will intervene once again in history, either to help her suffering children who have recourse to her, or to bring down the wrath of God on those who refuse to pray, make sacrifices and stop offending Him. During the third apparition she announced the ultimate result, 'Finally my Immaculate Heart will triumph!'" ■



COMMENTARY

# EXHORTATION TO CATHOLIC MEN: Engage in the Fight, Step into the Breach!

BY LUIZ SÉRGIO SOLIMEO

**W**e are immersed in a cultural war which is destroying the most sacred foundations of our civilization and increasingly plunging the world into chaos and violence.

In this context, it is important that Catholics, following the path of their ancestors, abandon self-indulgence and engage in the fight, mindful of the promises made at Baptism and of having become soldiers of Christ by Confirmation. They need to “step into the breach.”

## A Vibrant Call to Battle

This is the call that the Bishop of Phoenix, the Most Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted, makes to the men of his diocese—and by extension of the whole country – in his vibrant document of September 29, 2015: *An Apostolic Exhortation to Catholic Men, My Spiritual Sons in the Diocese of Phoenix*.

As the illustrious bishop said with words reminiscent of the great calls for the Crusades of old, it is a call to battle:

“I begin this letter with a clarion call and clear charge to you, my sons and brothers in Christ: Men, *do not hesitate to engage in the battle that is raging around you*, the battle that is wounding our children and families, the battle that is distorting the dignity of both women and men. This battle is often hidden, but the battle is real. It is primarily spiritual, but it is progressively killing

the remaining Christian ethos in our society and culture, and even in our own homes.”

## The Fight as a Defense against the Attacks of the Devil

This cultural war against the Church, Bishop Olmsted ponders, is inspired by the father of lies. He asserts, “One of the key reasons that the Church is faltering under the attacks of Satan is that many Catholic men have not been willing to ‘step into the breach’—to fill this gap that lies open and vulnerable to further attack.”

For Catholic men, ceasing to fight is devastating because they ultimately “fall away from the Church, they fall deeper and deeper into sin, breaking their bonds with God and leaving them vulnerable to the fires of Hell.”

## The Fight as the Duty of Every Baptized Person

With that, “Catholic men are failing to keep the promises they made at their children’s baptisms—promises to bring them to Christ and to raise them in the faith of the Church.”

“Many fruits of our Christian heritage still exist, but the roots below the soil are under siege,” underlines the Bishop of Phoenix, and this is why the fight has a reason for being and also becomes urgent. The remnants of our Catholic heritage must be not only preserved but restored to their fullness.

But the struggle for truth and morals, for the honor of being Catholic, is not only a sacrifice we make; with the assistance of divine grace, this struggle gives us the joy of a warrior fighting for a just cause. According to Bishop Olmsted, “In Christ’s mercy and truth, we become strong in His strength, courageous with His courage, and can actually experience the *joie de guerre* [joy of the battle] of being soldiers for Christ.”

This “joy of the battle” that visits the soldiers of Christ is one of the purest and most intense joys that can be experienced on earth.

## The Church, a School of Spiritual Battle

“The Church is, and has always been,” Bishop Olmsted notes, “a school that prepares us for spiritual battle, where Christians are called to ‘fight the good fight of faith’ (1 Timothy 6:2), to ‘put on the armor of God,’ and ‘to be able to stand firm against the tactics



Our Lord Jesus Christ was the most perfect Man who ever lived. Catholic men today should seriously follow His example and boldly fight against evil.

of the devil' (Ephesians 6:11).

This "joy of the battle" is a powerful incentive for Catholics to engage in the struggle and recover the true concept of manliness so distorted in our society, which also influences Catholics. Today there is a crisis of manhood.

### Our Lord Jesus Christ, a Model of Manliness

The true model of manliness is not the one the world offers, but Our Lord Jesus Christ. As the Bishop states in his document:

"Jesus of Nazareth—who at once is fully God and fully man, and the perfection of masculinity. Every moment of his life on earth is a revelation of the mystery of what it means to be man—that is, to be fully human and also, the model of masculinity. Nowhere else can we find the fullness of masculinity as we do in the Son of God. Only in Jesus Christ can we find the highest display of masculine virtue and strength that we need in our personal lives and in society itself."

### "Gender Theories" and the Destruction of Society

The gradual disappearance of virility greatly contributed to the so-called "gender theories" that destroy the complementary differences between men and women. The emasculation of man is accompanied by a masculinization of women. Unisex clothes, androgynous haircuts, replacement of family life by a career outside the home, these all favor this loss of true femininity.

The Bishop of Phoenix explains:

"[T]he rapid advance of a 'gender ideology' has infected societies around the world. This ideology seeks to set aside the sexual difference created by God, to remove *male* and *female* as the normative way of understanding the human person, and in its place, to add various other 'categories' of sexuality. This ideology is destructive for individuals and society, and it is a lie. It is harmful to the human person, and therefore, a false concept that we must oppose as Christians."

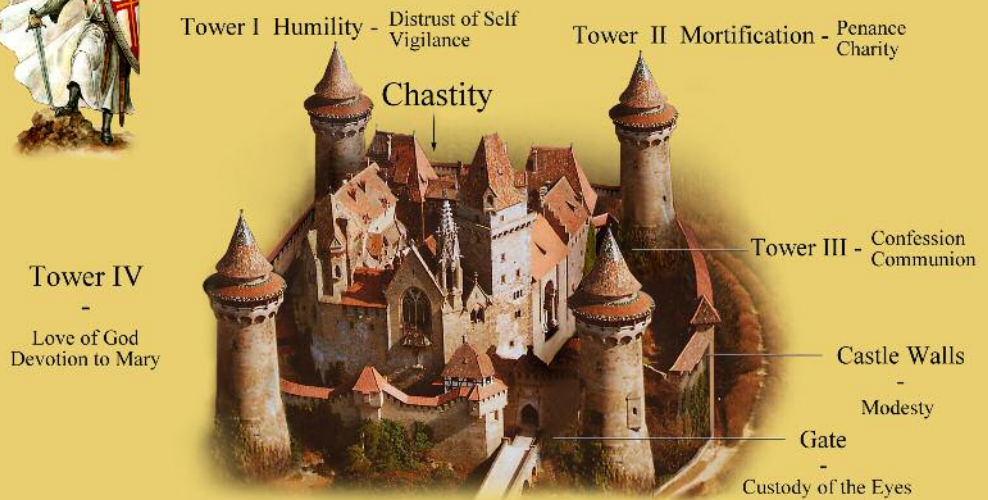
It is quite clear that no one can change sex according to his fancy. The DNA present in every cell of the human body bears the mark of the person's sex, male or female. This does not depend on anyone's will but on the designs of God, and to try and force nature contrary to these ends is a sin, a rebellion against the Creator. People can change their appearance by hormones and surgeries, but not their nature: they will always be a man or woman as conceived in the womb.

### The Crisis of Paternity

Confusion and loss of masculine or feminine identity



## THE INVINCIBLE CASTLE OF CHASTITY



The towers and walls represent our defense against temptations contrary to chastity. Towers III and IV especially represent the means to maintain, develop and perfect chastity.

profoundly hurt the family and therefore society with the loss of the notions of fatherhood and motherhood, once so lively in Christian civilization.

The bishop comments:

Today's attack on fatherhood, and by extension, motherhood, is multi-pronged and breathtakingly damaging. 41% of children are born into unmarried homes in our day, an increase of 700% from 1950, when the out-of-wedlock birthrate was a mere 6%. These children are not fatherless because of some sweeping physical conflict, like World War II, which caused many wounds of fatherlessness, but rather because, far worse, fathers' own willed absence is happening on a massive scale. ... Catholic men also contribute far too regularly to this same scandal that devastates the heart of a child and makes too many women in our culture live as if they were widows!

Touching on the father's irreplaceable role in the family, Bishop Olmsted exhorts Catholic men:

**"Men, your presence and mission in the family is irreplaceable!** We need faith like that of our fathers who defended the children of previous generations and who gave up their own lives rather than abandon their faith in Christ. My sons and brothers, men of the Diocese of Phoenix, we need you to step into the breach!"

### The Role of Healthy Friendship

Not only must Catholic men recover the sense of physical and spiritual parenthood, but also a sense of manly friendship among men, a fellowship which helps men to face the difficulties of life and is above all an aid to progress in the spiritual life. This friendship has nothing romantic or self-serving but is part and parcel of our social nature, leading men and women to the practice of friendship. Saint Thomas Aquinas says that a friend is another self; and Our

Lord commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Unfortunately, in the individualistic and hedonistic society we live in, the natural sense of friendship is being lost and that which sociologists call “loneliness in the crowd” is continually expanding.

### **Sexual Revolution, Unhappiness and Solitude**

The proximate cause for the loss of manliness, the masculinization of women, the loss of the sense of fatherhood and motherhood and that of friendship is the Sexual Revolution, which took on a violent and devastating impulse in the mid-60s.

The bishop comments:

“How did it come about that a culture so steadfast in supporting marriage and spousal commitment two generations ago became a culture that has reduced sexuality to mere pleasure and self-serving ends? The answer is the Sexual Revolution. For many, the Sexual Revolution promised ‘free love’ and liberty from the shackles of old ideas about masculinity and femininity. What resulted was the separation of sexuality from the commitments of marriage and a widespread option for sterility (chemical and surgical sterilizations), amounting to a denial of what is most essentially masculine and feminine in the person. Worse, the Sexual Revolution ushered in the scourge of abortion, pornography, and sexual abuse so rampant in recent decades. Instead of real and authentic love, this false ‘liberty’ offers cheap pleasures that mask a deeper loneliness and pain.”

### **Defending Chastity: the Great Manly Weapon**

*Into the Breach* prescribes the classical remedies presented by Catholic tradition and by authors of spiritual theology: constant custody of the eyes, control of one’s imagination, prayer, vigilance, frequenting the sacraments, especially confession and Communion, daily examination of conscience, devotion to the saints and so on.

But above all—and this is the major contribution of this admirable Apostolic Exhortation by Bishop Thomas Olmsted—Catholic men must conceive the spiritual life as a struggle and practice virtue as a means to prepare themselves for the struggle in defense of Christian principles and values, especially the great virtue so heavily attacked today: chastity. A manly, strong, combative chastity that is neither bashful nor apologizes for existing, but is seen as a powerful and necessary weapon in the fight against the destruction of the family, the Church, and civilization itself.

### **Gratitude to a Valiant Bishop**

We therefore close these quick considerations on his most timely Apostolic Exhortation *Into the Breach* with heartfelt thanks to the valiant Bishop of Phoenix. ■

**For more information please visit:  
[www.intothebreach.net/into-the-breach](http://www.intothebreach.net/into-the-breach)**

# THE Cookie Jar Elections OF 2016

BY JOHN HORVAT II



The issues now being debated in the 2016 elections are framed as if the country revolved around a great big cookie jar. The benefits and promises candidates offer are like cookies that must be substantial, instantly gratifying and abundant.

All the problems the nation faces seem to be reduced to who has access to the cookie jar. Ideally, everyone agrees that people should be entitled to as many cookies as they can get. However, the truth of the matter is that there are often

not enough cookies to go around.

Thus, how cookies are distributed is up for debate. For some, those on the top always seem to take the best cookies, while the more disadvantaged must reach down for the crumbs. For others, expanding cookie production is the solution for everyone getting a fair share. There are yet those who question the right of illegal newcomers (or unborn babies) to have a hand in the cookie jar. Candidates in electoral debates seem to center only on what can be done to correct cookie injustice and bring America back to cookie greatness once again.

The cookie, of course, represents our American way of life whereby we enjoy the fruits of our vibrant economic system with its great dynamo of production.

This system has long churned out material comfort and a surface happiness. Thus, for some time now, candidates have framed the debate around filling the cookie jar so that all will be well with America again. The election is about who can better deliver the goods, in this case, the cookies.

The problem is that the system is no longer churning out material comfort and happiness. The goods aren’t being delivered. The nation is divided, the economy is stalled and nothing seems to put things back on track.

This impasse points to an even more serious problem that most people dare not address: Perhaps life is not one big cookie jar...

Let it be said that there is nothing wrong with enjoying



*[T]he sexual revolution is ruining the nation. It is tearing society and even the economy apart. It is eroding the faith of countless Americans. The real issue is the restoration of the family. America was only great when families were strong.*

cookies. But a person who just eats cookies becomes fat and sick. Cookies require restraint and discipline since they are the reward for a balanced diet, not the main course. As every child knows, one cannot talk about cookies without first dealing with the meat and potatoes.

And that is what is missing in the present political debates. The meat and potatoes. Even when conservatives enter into the meat-and-potatoes moral issues, it is often as an appetizer for the cookie main course. The right issues are not really being addressed.

Everyone likes to talk about taxes and jobs for middle class American families, for example, but candidates should really be looking at the utter devastation of the family. It is time for candidates to admit that the sexual revolution is ruining the nation. It is tearing society and even the economy apart. It is eroding the faith of countless Americans. The real issue is the restoration of the family. America was only great when families were strong.

There is debate about freedom, rights and entitlements. Candidates should be talking against the frenetic intemperance of the present times, where everyone wants everything instantly, effortlessly and without restraint. What needs to be addressed is the lack of self-restraint that lies at the root of the destructive practices of abortion, drugs and pornography that are ruining the moral fiber of the country. What has happened to the sense of right and wrong? It is time to abandon the present moral relativism and call a spade a spade. America was only great when she feared God and followed His commandments.

Finally, the candidates spend so much time talking about restoring material prosperity to the nation. Candidates should be talking about not only material, but also and above all spiritual matters. There needs to be a return to what Russell Kirk referred to as the "permanent things," those norms of courage, duty, courtesy, justice, and charity that owe their existence and authority to a power higher than government officials, which is a transcendent God. Perhaps it is time to ask to look beyond self-interest



Just like sweets fail to give lasting nourishment, today's candidates often fail to provide long-term solutions.

and embrace great causes. America was only great when she had honor and fought for all those permanent things that really matter.

There will undoubtedly be those who smirk and claim that such a meat-and-potatoes program will hardly attract those reveling in a cookie culture. However, issues like these need to be raised to find a way out of the present disorder. Moreover, in this time of crisis, so many Americans want to see these issues raised. They long for a return to order.

As things get worse, more and more people are soul searching, looking for order, honor and authenticity that they sense once existed and might yet return. What are needed are candidates who dare to defy our culture and say "Enough!" Until this happens, we will have cookie-cutter candidates who sugarcoat the issues and reduce the debate to a cookie jar. ■

AS SEEN ON CNSNEWS.COM



1716—2016

# SAINT LOUIS DE MONTFORT *and* Our Fight for Mary's Triumph

BY BEN BROUSSARD

The sick old priest arrived at Roussay to preach a mission. He mounted the pulpit in the parish church, and after a brief prayer, began to speak. This tiny town in the west of France consisted of several dilapidated buildings, most prominent of which was this church with a rowdy bar right next door. As the preacher raised his voice, the drunkards could hear the sermon, and the parishioners could hear the raucous noise coming from the bar.

Knowing this, the denizens of the bar tried to disturb his sermon by screaming insults at the congregation and mocking them for their cleaner habits.

The priest very calmly finished the sermon, gave the people his blessing and exited the church. As he left, though empty handed and alone, he walked directly into the bar. An eyewitness describes what happened next:

“Father said nothing, except with his fists. For the first time since he came to Roussay, men had a chance to see how big, and to feel how hard, those fists were. He struck them down and let them lie. He overturned tables and chairs. He smashed glasses. He walked over the bodies of stunned and sobered hoodlums, and went slowly back up the street.”

## Perfect Self-Control

Saint Louis de Montfort was only forty years old at the time of the incident mentioned above. Due to a life of sacrifice and penance, his body was worn out by many labors. But this “sick old priest” had developed a well-deserved reputation as a fiery preacher filled with zeal for souls.

His time at Roussay illustrates the total balance he manifested throughout his life. On the second day of his mission in Roussay, a drunk man burst into the church and stood in the aisle screaming insults at Saint Louis. Saint Louis calmly left the pulpit and approached the man. Everyone was expecting him to react as he had the day before, giving the man a beating he would not soon forget. To their great amazement, Father de Montfort knelt before the man and begged pardon for anything he had done to offend him.

The man was stunned and nearly collapsed before running out of the church in sadness. Saint Louis calmly returned to the pulpit and finished his sermon as though nothing had happened.

In 1700, when Saint Louis was ordained, great crises plagued France. The heretical movement known as Jansenism had taken root in all corners of the kingdom. Working to change the Church from within, the Jansenists preached false notions

of piety. Where their influence prevailed, people stayed away from the Sacraments. This heresy infected laymen, priests and bishops alike. Once-vibrant Catholic devotions like the rosary and marian processions were condemned as idolatrous practices. At the same time, decadence dominated all social classes, marked by a craving for crass pleasures and entertainments of all kinds. These libertines seeking lives of comfort and luxury contrasted greatly with the Jansenists, though the two never condemned each other.

Saint Louis de Montfort's perfect balance inspired great multitudes while making many enemies. As he foretold on numerous occasions, the devil would toil unceasingly to erase his influence from history. However, though forgotten for many years, Divine Providence raised up this Apostle of Mary to have his greatest impact in our times. Three hundred years after his death in 1716, his undying influence and constant intercession give great strength for our many battles. As he prophesied, today's struggles will culminate with the great victory of the Reign of Mary.

### Finding His Way

Saint Louis de Montfort was born in 1673 and was the oldest of eighteen children, ten of whom died in infancy. From the youngest age, he exhibited great piety, spending long hours in prayer before a statue of the Blessed Virgin in the church at Rennes. Even as a child his zeal could be seen in the hours he would devote to teaching other children catechism. Inspired by the stories of Abbé Julien Bellier who had traveled as a missionary, young Louis began seminary studies aiming to spread devotion to Mary, his "Good Mother."

Louis gave himself entirely to his vocation, consecrating himself to Jesus through Mary and vowing to never keep any personal possessions. He walked the 190 miles from Rennes to Paris to begin his studies, and he quickly earned the admiration of his fellow students by his zeal and seriousness. His piety earned the ire of many of his superiors, many of who were infected with the Jansenist spirit. They did all they could to delay his ordination, though he was a brilliant student and model seminarian. After ordination, it was more than a year before he was given a first assignment.

A hospital in Poitiers was Father de Montfort's first vineyard. Having walked there from Paris to take up his new assignment, even the poor were moved at the pitiful sight he made upon his arrival in the chapel. Not realizing he was their new chaplain, they took up a collection for him, needy as they were. Their charity was well repaid, as Father de Montfort would

personally see to each patient, often dressing open wounds and spending long hours comforting the dying. His missions met with great success, inspiring the poor to call for a more permanent assignment for "kind Father de Montfort." The bishop made him chaplain of a local hospital.

It was during this providential assignment that Blessed Marie-Louise Trichet came to Father de Montfort for Confession. He demanded, "Who sent you to me?" When Marie-Louise replied that her sister suggested that she confess to him, he replied: "No, it was the Blessed Virgin who sent you to me." She later became the first of his "Daughters of Wisdom" and was also named the convent's first mother superior.

As would happen throughout his life, trouble followed in the wake of his good deeds. False rumors were spread by those who resented his serious example, especially from the outraged family of Marie-Louise who had become his follower. The bishop forbade him from offering Mass, which forced him to move on. He walked on to Paris, but a brief ministry at a hospital there was also short lived.

### Pilgrimage to Rome

Father de Montfort, seeing few prospects in France, walked over 1,000 miles to Rome for an audience with Clement XI. He begged the Holy Father to send him to Canada as a missionary. Pope Clement, struck by this beggar priest of extraordinary sanctity, appointed him Missionary Apostolic and sent him back to France.

Filled with gratitude for knowing the Divine Will, Father de Montfort walked back to France and spent several weeks at Mont Saint-Michel. As he later wrote, "I used my time to pray to this archangel to obtain from him the grace to win souls for God, to confirm those already in God's grace, and to fight Satan and sin."

Marching on to the northwest, Father de Montfort began his rigorous mission. In every town it was the same: he would arrive and preach missions in the parish church. The people, moved with compunction, would flock to the sacraments and engage in public processions to confront human respect. To show their seriousness, bad books would be piled in front of the parish



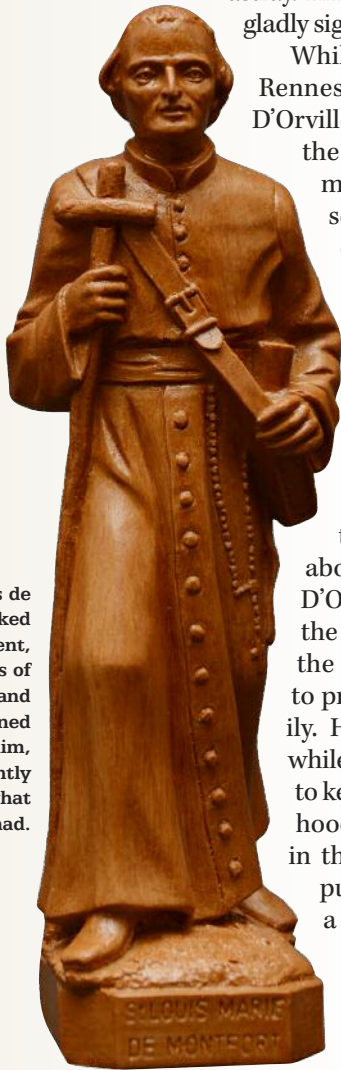
Blessed Marie-Louise Trichet takes the habit from Saint Louis de Montfort as the first of the Daughters of Wisdom.

church. Father de Montfort would set the piles ablaze, leading the crowd in joyous hymns to show their delight in embracing virtue.

### Soldier of the Queen

With the serious demeanor of a hardened soldier, Father de Montfort was never seen without his greatest weapon: the rosary. He often emphasized his confidence in the power of the rosary: “Never will anyone who says his rosary every day be led astray. This is a statement that I would gladly sign with my blood.”

While preaching a mission at Rennes, a certain Monsieur D’Orville complained to him about the noise coming from the immoral people of the town square, which was on the other side of the wall from where his family would meet every evening to pray the rosary. The pious priest offered a solution: “Place a niche in the wall facing the square, and meet in front of it to pray in the public square.” Uneasy about the idea, Monsieur D’Orville nonetheless placed the statue in the niche and met the next evening in the square to pray the rosary with his family. His wife led the mysteries while he stood guard with a whip to keep the aggressions of young hoodlums at bay. After praying in this way for some time, the public square rosary became a curious attraction. People came in crowds to pray, as if some great church ceremonies were taking place, and soon, the disorders in the square ceased.



Saint Louis de Montfort walked everywhere he went, covering distances of several thousand miles. All he owned he carried with him, and he constantly gave away what little he had.

### Building a Calvary

Taking Our Lord’s example very seriously, the great missionary never missed an opportunity for taking on physical suffering. Frequent fasting, wearing hair shirts and chains beneath his clothing, and

being tortured by devils who would rob him of his sleep were his constant lot. But these paled in comparison to the spiritual sufferings he endured.

After having given a very effective mission, the people were enthusiastic and had constructed one of the famous pyramids of immoral and heretical material to burn. Just as Father de Montfort was finishing the last sermon of the mission and preparing to go out and burn the pile, the vicar of the diocese arrived and forbade him from continuing.

Father de Montfort immediately came down from the pulpit and knelt to receive a rebuke from the vicar. When word spread that the pile of immoral books was not going to be burned, gangs of evil boys converged upon the pile and ran off with the bad material.

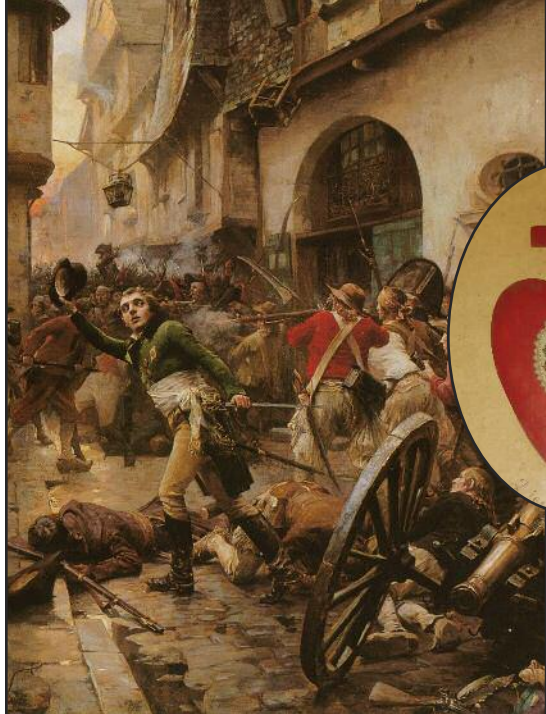
When Father de Montfort heard what had happened, he remarked: “Why have they not taken away my life rather than poison so many of these little ones? If I could buy back those evil books and pictures by shedding my blood, I would shed every last drop of it.”

Another custom of Father de Montfort consisted in building a Calvary scene on the highest point overlooking a town once a mission was completed. At Pontchateau, when he announced his determination of building a monumental Calvary on a neighboring hill, the idea was enthusiastically received by the inhabitants. For fifteen months between 200 and 400 peasants worked daily without recompense. The finished Cross was over fifty feet tall! On the day of dedication, the order came from the king that the whole scene should be demolished, and the land restored to its former condition. The Jansenists had convinced the king that a base for a British invasion was being erected, and for several months 500 peasants, watched by a company of soldiers, were compelled to carry out the work of destruction. Father de Montfort was not disturbed on receiving this humiliating news, exclaiming only: “We had hoped to build a Calvary here. Let us build it in our hearts. Blessed be God!”

### Great Friend of the Cross

From the start of his missions, Father de Montfort gathered together the sick and suffering into what would come to be called the Friends of the Cross. In his first assignment at Poitiers, the sick and suffering would meet under his direction, led

*“Never will anyone who says his rosary every day be led astray. This is a statement that I would gladly sign with my blood.” —Saint Louis de Montfort*



Because of his great influence in the Vendée region, the descendants of those Saint Louis de Montfort instructed would rise up to resist the horrors of the French Revolution. Their battle emblem was the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

in prayer by a blind woman. At their first meeting, he took a rough cross made of two simple pieces of wood and placed it on the wall of the chapel, stating for all to hear, “Behold, your one and only rule.”

In his *Circular Letter to the Friends of the Cross*, he captures in words his superb imitation of Our Savior that he spread throughout France:

“Friends of the Cross, you are like Crusaders united to fight against the world... Be brave and fight courageously... Evil spirits are united to destroy you; you must be united to crush them. The avaricious are united to make money and amass gold and silver; you must combine your efforts to acquire the eternal treasures hidden in the Cross. Pleasure-seekers unite to enjoy themselves; you must be united to suffer. You call yourselves ‘Friends of the Cross.’ What a glorious title! I must confess that I am charmed and captivated by it. It is brighter than the sun, higher than the heavens, more magnificent and resplendent than all the titles given to kings and emperors. It is the glorious title of Jesus Christ, true God and true man. It is the genuine title of a Christian.”

### Slave of Mary

One year before his death, he was so consumed with love and the presence of Our Lady, that he experienced a type of Transfiguration before a

Statue depicting Saint Louis de Montfort offering his *Treatise on True Devotion to Mary* to Our Lady as Queen of All Hearts, Chapel of the Missionaries of the Company of Mary (Montfort Missionaries), Rome, Italy.

congregation in La Rochelle to whom he was speaking. This is how one of his first biographers describes the scene:

“It came to pass that as he was speaking, there shone down upon him, as of old on the face of St. Stephen, a reflection of the glory of his transfigured Lord. All of a sudden, his worn and wasted face...became luminous. Rays of glory seemed to go forth from it...so that even they who were used to looking at him knew him only by his voice.

“He stood there before them all, this true-hearted herald of Mary’s name, and they saw his glory, the glory given by the ‘Father of lights’ to them who love and serve the Mother of His Son.”

With Father de Montfort’s passing, he was given a humble tomb beside his parents at Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre. By the time of his death he had been kicked out of all but two dioceses, France having more than 170 at the time. As he predicted during his life, the devil did all in his power to keep the prolific writings of this great priest from spreading.

### True Devotion

Over a hundred years later, someone rummaging through a box of old books happened upon a manuscript titled *Treatise on True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin*. *True Devotion to Mary* soon spread



Courtesy of Felipe Baranciaran

far and wide, translated into dozens of languages and inspiring countless Catholics to follow the sublime path outlined by this humble priest. Renewed interest and deep spiritual renewal would eventually propel Father de Montfort to be recognized as a great saint and Doctor of the Church, canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1947.

In this spiritual masterpiece, Saint Louis de Montfort shows the idea of spiritual slavery through the Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary as the means for bringing about the kingdom of Our Lord Jesus Christ on earth.

Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira gives a moving summary of this most important aspect of Saint Louis de Montfort's spirituality:

“Saint Louis de Montfort proposes that the faithful consecrate themselves freely to the Blessed Virgin as ‘slaves of love,’ giving her their bodies and souls, their goods, both interior and exterior, and even the value of all their good actions, past, present, and future, so that Our Lady might dispose of them for the greater glory of God, in time and in eternity. In exchange, as a sublime mother, Our Lady obtains for her ‘slaves of love’ the graces of God that elevate their intellects to the most lucid understanding of the highest themes of the Faith, that grant their wills an angelic strength to rise freely to those ideals and to conquer all the interior and exterior obstacles that unduly oppose themselves to them.

“The ‘slavery of love’ is, then, for all the



Table used by Saint Louis de Montfort to write *True Devotion to Mary*.

faithful that angelic and supreme liberty with which Our Lady awaits us at the threshold of the twenty-first century, smiling and attractive, inviting us to her reign, according to her promise at Fatima: ‘Finally, my Immaculate Heart will triumph.’”

Speaking to our days, Saint Louis reassures us of the certainty of this triumph: “I feel more than ever inspired to believe and expect the complete fulfillment of the desire that is deeply engraved on my heart and what I have prayed to God for over many years, namely, that in the near or distant future the Blessed Virgin will have more children, servants and slaves of love than ever before, and that through them Jesus, my dear Lord, will reign more than ever in the hearts of men.”

Three hundred years after his death, the great Saint Louis de Montfort continues his fight for Mary's reign by interceding for us in our daily struggles. Keeping our eyes on the prize, may his words echo in our souls as we pray daily that Our Lord hasten the victory for His Mother's triumphant reign:

“The Holy Spirit, finding His dear Spouse present again in souls, will come down into them with great power. He will fill them with His gifts, especially wisdom, by which they will produce wonders of grace. My dear friend, when will that happy time come, that age of Mary, when many souls, chosen by Mary and given her by the most High God, will hide themselves completely in the depths of her soul, becoming living copies of her, loving and glorifying Jesus? That day will dawn only when the devotion I teach is understood and put into practice. *Ut adveniat regnum tuum, adveniat regnum Mariae*: ‘Lord, that your kingdom may come, may the reign of Mary come!’” ■



Top: The tomb of Saint Louis de Montfort, where his remains were moved after his canonization. Left: Interior of the Basilica of St. Louis de Montfort in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre.



# AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA<sup>®</sup>

MARCH/APRIL 2016

PROGRESS REPORT

## Catholics Defend the Virgin Mary Against Satanic Attack in Oklahoma

BY JAMES BASCOM

Faithful Catholics from several states gathered in front of City Hall in Oklahoma City on December 23rd for a rosary rally of reparation organized by the American TFP and its America Needs Fatima campaign. Demonstrators urged Mayor Mick Cornett to revoke the permit his office issued to a satanic group which would allow them to desecrate a statue of the Virgin Mary on Christmas Eve in front of Saint Joseph's Old Cathedral.

Showing their great love for God and His Blessed Mother, demonstrators recited the Holy Rosary and sang hymns such as *Hail Holy Queen Enthroned Above*, *Immaculate Mary* and *God Bless America*. Dozens of banners and signs expressed the sentiments of rally participants. "Revoke the permit—Satan has no rights," read one sign. Others stated: "Keep It One Nation Under God," and "Sacrilege is not free speech" and "I will defend the pure and holy name of Mary with my life."

Kansas State Senator Steve Fitzgerald, who drove from Kansas to Oklahoma City with his wife for the rally, spoke eloquently about the urgent need to stand firm and defend Christian civilization—like a new Battle of Lepanto—against the attacks of darkness. Francis Slobodnik, director of America Needs Fatima's national rosary rally office, addressed the assembly, saying, "We can't give the Holy Family any better gift at Christmas than to defend the honor of Our Lady. That is the greatest gift."



Left: Bold signs sent a clear message to those passing by that attacking the Blessed Mother is unacceptable. Above: Locals stopped to express their gratitude to the TFP volunteers for protesting.

TFP Student Action and America Needs Fatima volunteers held a large banner bearing a quote from Proverbs 31:28, "Her children rose up, and called her blessed." And at the center of the reparation rally was a beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima, flanked by two TFP members in ceremonial habit.

At intervals the faithful chanted: "Why are we here? Reparation. Reparation. Reparation." They also called Mayor Cornett to "Revoke the permit. Revoke the permit. Revoke the permit."

Over 47,000 people called, signed petitions or wrote personal letters to halt this public attack against the Mother of God.

**Reparation. Reparation. Reparation.** The following day at 3:45 pm, Christmas Eve, TFP volunteers and other faithful

Catholics joined a peaceful and legal rosary rally of reparation organized by local activist David Homeney. It took place on the sidewalk across the street from Saint Joseph's Old Cathedral, mere feet from the spot where the satanic sacrilege took place. Some parishioners of Saint Joseph's parked their RVs on the street adjacent to the planned spot, physically blocking the Satanists' view. Directly above the Satanists was a parking garage from which hung a giant cloth banner of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on the outside wall.

As the TFP volunteers approached the church on foot, a man claiming to represent the parish approached and rebuked the TFP volunteers for coming, claiming that the Satanists were only interested in publicity. He refused to allow any of the Catholics to



Above: From a nearby parking garage, local men held a large banner of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Right: As large vehicles blocked the view of the sacrilege, Catholic men knelt and boldly prayed Our Lady's rosary.

gather on the public sidewalk adjacent to the church, even though it is public property.

A local Knight of Columbus who joined the rosary of reparation revealed that his council had been told NOT to attend any public rally in defense of Our Lady. But he felt he needed to attend anyway: "These things [the satanic sacrilege] happen because Catholics do nothing," he said.

**The Unspeakable Happened**

At 4:15 pm, several Satanists showed up. Their leader, a convicted sex offender, was dressed in a mock Catholic cardinal's cassock with satanic symbols worn around his neck. After putting some cinderblocks on the sidewalk to serve as a pedestal, he brought out what appeared to be a statue of Our Lady of Lourdes and placed a rosary around the statue's neck.

The Satanists proceeded to cover the statue with a powdery substance and what appeared to be fake blood. With their hands and the statue covered in "blood," they "prayed" an anti-rosary. The whole Satanic sacrilege lasted less than thirty minutes.

The group of forty TFP volunteers and faithful Catholics from Arkansas, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Kansas, and Texas was predominately young and male, and they prayed Our Lady's Most Holy Rosary with masculine Catholic vigor. When the Satanists began their

verbal attack against the Blessed Mother, the whole group of Catholic men increased the volume of the rosary in perfect unison, completely drowning out the satanic blasphemies. The rally concluded with TFP volunteers singing the Marian hymn *We Want God*.

**Part of a Broader Trend**

Public Satanism is on the rise in America. In 2014 Satanists tried and failed to organize a public black mass at Harvard University. However, a public black mass was successfully held at the Oklahoma City Civic Center later that year. Satanists recently inaugurated a statue to Satan in Detroit, Michigan. Four months ago, a "church" dedicated to Lucifer opened in Spring, Texas.

CNN broadcasted a sympathetic documentary about the lives of Satanists and their practices, and many mainstream media outlets such as *Time Magazine* have published favorable articles about them.

The claim that the Satanists simply want attention is superficial and optimistic. Such an assertion implicitly denies that Satanic hatred exists or could exist. The hatred on display in Oklahoma City is not only real, but part of a broader trend, and with a specific purpose. It is the cutting edge of a cultural revolution that seeks to erode Americans' horror for the occult and to banish



Satanists covered a statue of Our Lady in fake blood as part of their macabre ritual.

Christianity from the public square.

Our Blessed Mother was publicly insulted. God was publicly offended. A public insult requires a public response and public reparation. If Catholics do not react to public insults against the Faith, they can invariably expect more frequent and more violent public attacks in the future.

**The Big Double Standard**

The secular left parrots the Satanists' claim that their goal is simply to have all religions treated equally. This is a boldfaced lie. The Left ignores or even celebrates attacks against Christians, yet vigorously denounces attacks against, for example, Islam.

When someone left a severed pig's head on the front step of a Philadelphia mosque, Mayor-elect Jim Kenney called on Philadelphians to "join me in rejecting this despicable act and supporting our Muslim neighbors. The bigotry that desecrated Al-Aqsa mosque today has





Catholics protest in front of the city hall in Oklahoma City after the city's mayor granted a permit allowing Satanists to publicly desecrate a statue of the Virgin Mary.



no place in Philadelphia.” The Oklahoma City sacrilege inspired no such indignation. “Secularism,” therefore, is merely political cover to support the persecution of Christianity while defending politically correct religions such as Islam or Satanism.

It is no coincidence that public Satanism is rising in tandem with homosexual “marriage” and abortion. The link between them is a strong one. Satanism and the anti-family movement share a delirious hatred for Catholic morality and God’s design for the family. Homosexuality is widely seen by Satanists as a “sacred” act, and many famous Satanists such as Alistair Crowley were homosexual. Former Satanist Zachary King, who performed satanic rituals inside abortion clinics, affirmed that Satanists see abortion as a type of “sacrament.”

### Growing Persecution

Such diabolical hatred for God and the family, if not stopped, will lead to an outright religious persecution. This can already be seen thanks to court-ordered homosexual “marriage.” Americans faithful to Christian morality have suffered persecution and even jail time due to their beliefs. Public Satanism will contribute to ever more public hatred for Christianity—especially against the Catholic Church.

Every violent crackdown on Catholicism—from the Roman persecutions to the French Revolution, Cristero War, and the Spanish Civil War—was contemporaneous with a propaganda campaign of mockery and derision for Catholic beliefs, the Saints, the Seven Sacraments, the Blessed Mother and the Holy Mass. Such all-consuming hatred

for the Catholic Church did not then, and will not now, remain in the form of desecrated statues and blasphemous plays. Like so many other times in Catholic history, if Catholics don’t react, it may spill over into violence. Catholics may once again be thrown in jail and Churches may be burned down by angry mobs thanks to the tacit support of the “neutral” state. Unless denounced and rejected by the majority of Americans, the sacrilege in Oklahoma City is a harbinger of violent persecution.

We must pray and act so that America will fend off this new form of religious persecution and legally and peacefully fight to truly be “one nation under God.” ■



## Rosette Delivery

On October 1, 2015, the feast day of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, thousands of miniature roses were delivered to honor her and ask her favor. In the form of a wreath, the roses were placed at the foot of the saint’s tomb where she was first laid to rest. Later, the wreath was brought before her relics in the Basilica dedicated to her, where America Needs Fatima members prayed for the special intentions of each ANF member who sent his or her rosette. ■





# Rally Captains Needed to Lead a Public Rosary for God's Marriage



The traditional family and the very notion of God's marriage as the union of one man and one woman is being confused, attacked and undermined. America Needs Fatima is spiritually fighting back by organizing 3,000 rosary rallies on Saturday, March 19, 2016. Our goal is to ask God and the Blessed Mother to strengthen and save our families. Please join this spiritual offensive by becoming a Rally Captain and leading a public rosary for God's marriage in your town.

For more information on how to conduct your rally, please contact our Rosary Rally Central office at

**(866) 584-6012. Call today!**



## Our Readers Write...

### Sacred Heart Picture

My husband, Gerald, received your picture of the Sacred Heart in the Spring of 2015.

He immediately loved it. I framed the picture and he kept it on his table next to him when he was sick. He had a great devotion to the Sacred Heart. He died on July 2, 2015 at the age of 96, only six days after his birthday. Your

photo gave him so much comfort. Now, I will keep this photo myself, as it was always next to him when he said his daily prayers. God bless you!

*I. D., Manchester, N.H.*



I can't thank you enough for including me in America Needs Fatima. I was cleaning and organizing my apartment and threw out your mailer in order to make room for my work area. The next day, I was drawn to the dumpster to try to find something else and realized I had discarded this important document of Faith. I retrieved it, opened it, and saw for the first time this beautiful enthronement of yours to the Sacred Heart. I have courage now.

*S. M., Costa Mesa, Calif.*

### Fatima Calendar

Thank you so much for my 2016 Fatima calendar. I just love it, and it sure picks me up just to see her beautiful face!

*A. R., Carthage, N.Y.*

I write with great appreciation and gratitude for the thoughtful gift of the 2016 America Needs Fatima calendar. I also appreciate your message and faithfulness to the authentic Catholic teachings and promotion of Marian devotion.

*Fr. E. S., Winchester, Va.*

Thank you for my calendar. I pray the rosary many times a day; there is so much to pray for. Thanks for all you do to keep Mary in our lives.

*T. G., Via Email*

The calendar is beautiful! I will put it where everyone can admire Our Lady. She looks at you with such feeling. I hope it will get my family back to church. Thanks for all your prayers.

*M. B., Metairie, La.*

This calendar came with wonderful timing. It was like a gift from heaven. My husband has been diagnosed with cancer and right now is having a very hard time. It was a real inspiration to get this

at this particular time. A sign of hope! Thank you.

*E. O., Dracut, Mass.*

### The Glories of Mary

I want to thank you for sending the book *The Glories of Mary*. I own and read many books on Mary, but this one is a treasure. Thank you!

*I. D., Cumberland Center, Me.*

I received your book, *The Glories of Mary*. I plan to read it because it comes at a time I am seeking to be more like Jesus and to be more open to His desires for me and the world. Maybe this is why I received this book now. Blessings for you all and may your prayers and devotion to Mary help the homeless and helpless of the world.

*M. R., Shoreline, Wash.*

I am almost finished reading *The Glories of Mary*—and when I am finished, I am going to pass it on to my daughter to read! It is very inspirational.

*C. D., Chicago, Ill.*

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

*F. M., Fresno, Calif.*

Send us your feedback by writing to us at [Crusade@TFP.org](mailto:Crusade@TFP.org)



# 2015 Christmas OPEN HOUSE *Spring Grove, Pa.*



## *Silent night, holy night. . .*

Each year, hundreds of people make the trip to Spring Grove, Pennsylvania, for the Christmas Open House. Some live nearby and others far away, but in such a gathering, all know there was room made for the Christ Child.

New friendships were made amid an impressive display of Christmas treats, while hot spiced cider and gift raffles added to the joy of the season. The reenactment of the true story of Saint Nicholas left quite an impression on both young and old. Carols and music filled the air as friends old and new delighted in the true Christmas spirit. A band and choir presentation concluded the event. A local woman remarked, "I'll definitely be back next year!" ■



# Saved from Hell by the *Stabat Mater*

BY SAINT ALPHONSUS DE LIGUORI (ADAPTED FROM *THE GLORIES OF MARY*)

In his book *The Glories of Mary*, Saint Alphonsus de Liguori relates an impressive story about the power of one of the most beautiful prayers ever written, the *Stabat Mater*, a prayer to the Sorrowful Mother.

In the city of Cesena, in the beautiful Emilia-Romagna region of Northern Italy, there were two men who were great friends. One of them was named Bartholomew, while the name of the other is unknown. They were also great sinners, leading a life far from the precepts of the Gospel and the Ten Commandments.

Despite his wickedness, Bartholomew had acquired (probably when younger), the habit of daily reciting the *Stabat Mater* in honor of Mary's sorrows.

One day, as he recited this prayer, he suddenly had a vision in which he and his friend were immersed in a lake of fire. Then, he saw the Blessed Mother, who, taking him by the hand, pulled him out of the fiery pit saying: "Because of the prayer you said daily to me, I have prayed to my Son for you. He is ready to forgive you, if you are ready to ask pardon of Him."

Then the vision vanished.

Soon after, Bartholomew received the dire news that his friend had been shot and killed. He now had no doubt that what he had seen was true.

Leaving the world and all its temptations behind, Bartholomew entered the order of Capuchins, led a life of austerity and virtue and died a saint. ■

## The STABAT MATER



At the cross her station keeping  
stood the mournful Mother weeping,  
close to Jesus to the last.

Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,  
all His bitter anguish bearing  
now at length the sword had passed.

Oh, how sad and sore distressed  
was that Mother highly blessed,  
of the sole-begotten One!

Christ above in torment hangs,  
she beneath beholds the pangs  
of her dying, glorious Son.

Is there one who would not weep,  
whelmed in miseries so deep,  
Christ's dear Mother to behold?

Can the human heart refrain  
from partaking in her pain,  
in that Mother's pain untold?

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,  
she beheld her tender Child  
all with bloody scourges rent.

For the sins of His own nation,  
saw Him hang in desolation,  
till His spirit forth He sent.

O sweet Mother! fount of love!  
Touch my spirit from above,  
make my heart with thine accord.

Make me feel as thou hast felt;  
make my soul to glow and melt  
with the love of Christ, my Lord.

Holy Mother! pierce me through,  
in my heart each wound renew  
of my Savior crucified.

Let me share with thee His pain,  
who for all our sins was slain,  
who for me in torments died.

Let me mingle tears with thee,  
mourning Him who mourned for me,  
all the days that I may live.

By the Cross with thee to stay,  
there with thee to weep and pray,  
is all I ask of thee to give.

Virgin of all virgins blest!  
Listen to my fond request:  
let me share thy grief divine;

Let me, to my latest breath,  
in my body bear the death  
of that dying Son of thine.

Wounded with His every wound,  
steep my soul till it hath swooned,  
in His very Blood away;

Be to me, O Virgin, nigh,  
lest in flames I burn and die,  
in His awful Judgment Day.

Christ, when Thou shalt call me hence,  
be Thy Mother my defense,  
be Thy Cross my victory;

While my body here decays,  
may my soul Thy goodness praise,  
safe in paradise with Thee. *Amen.*

# Boys Embrace Chivalry at TFP Fall Camp

BY JOHN RITCHIE



In one of the largest Call to Chivalry camps yet, both boys and fathers showed great enthusiasm for the wonders of Christian civilization.

Pop culture tells us that happiness is found in money, pleasure and prestige. We are told not to pursue those lofty ideals of honor, heroism and sacrifice. However, at the 2015 TFP-Louisiana Call to Chivalry Fall Camp a new generation of boys has embraced the virtues of Chivalry with great enthusiasm.

From November 20-25, 2015, dozens of boys between the ages of 12-18 participated in the 5th annual TFP Fall Camp in the wilderness of the Ozarks in Arkansas. Housed in log cabins nestled on the edge of the Buffalo River, the young men arrived with their fathers for an action-packed fur-lough of adventure.

As the fathers spent time trout fishing in the crystalline waters of the Buffalo River, the boys jumped into boats and were ferried across the river to begin their challenging ascent into the mountains.

The Call to Chivalry camp is not just about fun and games. Above all it teaches young men how to stand up for their Faith in our hostile and un-godly culture.

The opportunity to defend the rights of God in the public square presented itself during the camp. A U.S. District Judge ruled that the traditional Christmas nativity violates the First Amendment. Responding to this offense against the Infant Jesus, camp participants eagerly traveled to Mountain



The statue of Our Lady of Fatima presided over the medieval games and banquet.

Home, Arkansas, to conduct a peaceful and prayerful protest right in front of the Baxter County Courthouse, where the nativity was removed.

After several days of intense activity, the boys were ready for the medieval games and banquet. Meanwhile, in one of the log cabins, a group of fathers gathered for a talk about the military Saints and Martyrs of the early Church: Saint Sebastian, Saint George, Saint Maurice and many more.

As the sun set over the bluffs, the rosary procession commenced, winding its way to the dining tent for a grand medieval banquet. Feasting on fresh trout, wild boar and a host of sumptuous side dishes, the boys found it hard to “save room” for dessert—a castle cake constructed to resemble the Krak de Chevaliers. The name literally translates as the “Castle of the Crusaders,” making it a fitting finale for this Call to Chivalry Camp. ■





# FIGHTING ABORTION AT ITS CORE:

## A Call for a Return to Order



**O**n the occasion of the 43rd annual March for Life, the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) joins the legions of Americans nationwide who oppose the continued slaughter of innocents through abortion.

For those of us who have long fought this important battle, we know that it is not only abortion that we protest. Connected to the abortion issue is a web of other nefarious practices that make up what has been aptly called the “culture of death.”

### Being Consistent

If we are to be consistent with the pro-life ethos, we must oppose all kinds of sexual immorality that conspire against marriage and the family. As Pope Pius XII declared, “Marriage alone safeguards the dignity of husband and wife and their good estate, and is of its nature the only guarantee of the children’s well-being.” To defend life we must uphold the sacred covenant of marriage.

We must also oppose contraception. It denies the primary purpose of marriage,

which is procreation. Defending life includes opposing homosexual vice and the shameful efforts to elevate this barren link to the status of life-giving marriage. Finally, when life is disregarded in its beginning, it is also attacked at the end as can be seen in the insistent promotion of euthanasia.

### A Missing Core

All these opposing efforts must be an essential part of a successful pro-life struggle. However, it is one thing to fight against a culture of death, and it is yet another to replace it with a different culture.

If we are to win this great battle, we must especially focus on restoring that vital core of values and principles that are incessantly attacked by our culture. We must play an active part in the restoration of this core lest it be lost.

For when this core is missing, things fall apart. Big government or big media are then not needed to destroy our moral values, institutions and our Christian roots. We actually help them do it. When there is no core, we ourselves

open the doors, which allow a hostile culture to come charging in, undermining the family, morality and even economy. We ourselves initiate the processes whereby we start losing our freedoms, the economy comes unraveled and the faith is destroyed in the souls of men. All this happens when there is no core and things become soulless.

Our society and culture become ever more soulless because people are caught up in what might be called the “frenetic intemperance” of our times. People come to desire everything immediately and effortlessly.

As a result, we have a culture that leads people to resent the very idea of restraint, especially sexual restraint. It further leads people to scorn the spiritual, religious, moral and cultural values that normally serve to order and temper society. Without this core, our society is heading for disaster.

### Order: The First Need of the Soul

What is now being destroyed in society is a core of orienting principles that is called order. Russell Kirk said it best



*Above:* Thousands of flyers were handed out as countless Americans made their way up Capitol Hill. *Left:* The TFP Holy Choir of Angels Band played music and marched in the below-freezing weather.



Above: Despite the bad weather, Americans showed up in great numbers to reject the sin of abortion. Right: TFP members in ceremonial habit carried the statue of Our Lady of Fatima during the march.

when he said: “Order is the first need of the soul.”

“Without order, one cannot be free,” continues Kirk. “Freedom, justice, law or virtue are all extremely important but order is the first and most basic need.”

If the pro-life movement is to be truly effective, it must represent a return to order. Around the unborn child, we must raise a bulwark of order as our best defense against the aggressive culture of death.

When this framework of order exists, the influence of important institutions like family, community and Church can naturally serve as braking mechanisms that put society in balance and facilitate the practice of virtue.

When there is order, it gives rise to “permanent things” such as those norms of courage, duty, honor, justice and charity that protect and give dignity to all life. It creates a society which owes its existence and authority not to markets or politicians—but to God Himself.

### A Return to Order

Thus, we need a framework of order, but not just any order. There are all sorts of

movements that promise order: socialist order, ecological order, and so many others that promise order yet fail to deliver it.

That is why we must return to order. We don’t have to invent an order. It already exists. It is nothing new. It is a social order that comes from our human nature itself, valid for all times and all peoples.

It is a social order that is not imposed; it cannot be regulated, stimulated or legislated into existence. It relies upon those natural regulating institutions inside society that always emerge when men resolve to unite in search of the common good. It is firmly based on the orienting principles of natural law, the Ten Commandments and rooted in the social institutions of family, community and faith. And although it applies to everyone, the Church is its best and most secure guardian.

### The Best Expression of this Order

The best expression of this order is found in what can be called an organic Christian society—that same order that gave rise to the West. This organic Christian society is a return to our distant roots. It is where we came from. It is a society that historically existed in Christendom. It involves returning not to an historical past but a return to a core of ordering principles that brought us so many of the institutions that are now fading—rule of law,

representative government, traditional family and subsidiarity.

What is needed is a Christian society. When an order is Christian it multiplies the possibilities of our action because we include God and His grace in partnership. The Christian ideal brings with it notions of charity, justice and dignity that simply did not exist in other civilizations. This makes it easier to practice virtue—especially the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance—and lays the foundation for true progress, freedom and prosperity—not only for Christians but also non-Christians.

### A Framework of Order Is Needed

As we march for life all over the country, let us remember that our efforts need a framework of order that gives them support. The unborn child needs a bulwark of order as a defense against a hostile culture. Once born, the child needs order, which is the first need of the soul. We need a social order since without this order there can be no freedom, justice, law or virtue.

When disorder rules, all can be justified in the name of an unbridled license to do whatever one wants. Every restraint is thrown off and a culture of death becomes possible. Our goal must not only be an offensive against this culture of death, but also a return to order. We need to go back to the core. With the help of God and the Blessed Mother, such a return is not only necessary but possible. Let us march and pray so that we, like the prodigal son, may soon return to the Father’s house. ■



Bagpipers in full regalia showed the determination needed in the fight against the culture of death.



# Dire NEWS

BY BENOIT BEMELMANS

A tragedy has occurred, a fisherman has drowned. His companions have recovered his body and now bear it on a stretcher to his house. A veteran seaman knocks on the widow's door to break the tragic news.

Around the body of the unfortunate sailor, fishermen's wives and children gather, serious and pensive, as they discuss the details of the accident. Leaning on the low wall that separates the villagers from the house, one of the men gazes at the sand piles, shovel and bucket, while thinking of the fatherless child who left them there.

In this fishing village, children and adults are accustomed to facing life as it is, without illusions. Earth is a "valley of tears," says the *Hail Holy Queen*, and these people learn it early. Still, such an outlook does not hamper good cheer, play, fun and dreams.

Beyle's painting depicts a society that does not run from sacrifice and pain, but accepts, confronts and overcomes it. Death is indeed hard, but the people face it with serenity. They have faith, and the happiness of eternal life is the consolation of pious men and women of such faith.

In the background, boats rest on the sand and the sea is now calm. Life goes on. . . .

Picture: *La Mala Noticia* by Pierre-Marie Beyle, 1898 (Facamp Museum, France)

