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It’s been an amazing year! We couldn’t have done it without your prayers and support.

This issue of *The Fatima Crusader* is dedicated to sharing with you an overview of our accomplishments during the past year, along with some of our plans for the coming year.

As you will read in the coming pages, our Rapid Response Team was on the front line of the battle for the Church’s true teachings on Marriage and the Family, making a public witness to these truths, as well as public acts of reparation for their obfuscation by so many modern-day churchmen. Our team also gave a moving witness for Life with our newly restored National Pilgrim Virgin statue at the Ottawa March for Life in Our Lady’s month of May.

We also had a busy schedule of gatherings across the U.S., including a Rosary Rally for the first time in years, two Our Lady’s Army of Advocates conferences, and our first ever Youth Conference.

You will find a taste of what those who were able to attend these gatherings enjoyed, in excerpts from some of our speakers’ presentations.

In addition to holding numerous events, as always, Our Lady’s apostolate published new literature this year – including 3 new Issues of *The Fatima Crusader*, significant updates to some of our staple literature, and many reprints of our prayer cards, leaflets and booklets.

The past year’s accomplishments have only been possible through Heaven’s help and the support of your prayers and contributions. May Our Lady continue to bless us all, and our joined efforts on Her behalf, throughout the upcoming year.
It was a busy year for Our Lady’s Apostolate. We had boots on the ground fighting the spiritual battles against the Faith and the rights of Christ the King.

On May 10, we returned with the newly-restored Canadian National Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima statue to the home city where the work of this apostolate was first begun forty years ago, Ottawa, the capital city of Canada in the Province of Ontario. The beautiful statue’s prominent presence at the well-attended event was most fitting, given the indispensable role of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the unassailable necessity of Her Fatima Message in the present battle for marriage, the family and life in Canada, and throughout the world.
Who would have imagined that after traveling hundreds of thousands of miles throughout the world over the following decades, touching the lives of countless thousands of people, the statue would be publicly seen for the first time after its recent restoration in the same city where it was first housed and entrusted to Father Nicholas Gruner?

In the spirit of Reparation for one of the four sins that cry to Heaven for vengeance, the sin of the slaughter of the innocents, a cohort of Our Lady’s devotees carried this beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima in procession while praying the Rosary and singing Marian hymns under the guidance of several Catholic priests, in order to appease God’s just anger for what has become one of the longest wars in the history of mankind.

Accompanying Fatima Center staff, volunteers and supporters, was a group of students from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Academy in New Hamburg, Ontario and St. Therese’s Academy of Nicholville, New York. Literature on the Message of Fatima and the sanctity of life was distributed throughout the March.

Many people attending the March (and other onlookers) were attracted to the image of the Blessed Virgin. Not a few of the Pro-Life marchers approached to venerate the statue, and chose to spend the remainder of the event marching beside the statue. Still other passers-by were drawn to the striking representation of the Queen of Heaven, and at the March’s conclusion, asked Apostolate volunteers various questions about its origin and purpose.

Canada’s 20th annual March for Life was well attended, with a noticeably higher number of participants than in previous years. People attended not only to protest the outrageous (so-called) legality of abortion in the
country, but also the Canada Summer Jobs decision of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. This unpopular measure requires businesses and organizations who apply for government funding for a summer jobs program to confirm their support for what the government deems to be “constitutional rights” – that is, support for abortion and other anti-Christ laws, in order to receive the funding.

Many attending the event were also present to protest the Trudeau government’s decision to fund overseas abortions.

The March encountered heavy opposition, especially at its beginning, from a much smaller pro-abortion contingent who billed themselves as the ‘Coalition to End the March for Life.’ The satanic dress, symbols and signs carried by the pro-abortionists were ample proofs to indicate the ongoing reality of the spiritual warfare and rampant diabolical disorientation in our day.

As abortion is a prize weapon of satan and one of Russia’s errors – which has now spread throughout the world as Our Lady of Fatima foretold – the powerful prayer of the Rosary is a key weapon of defense for Christians, given by Heaven to fight against this abomination.

It is urgently necessary for Catholics to pray the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary in order to bring about the Consecration of Russia and the subsequent Triumph of Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart and with it, the end of abortion and other grave offenses against human life.

IRELAND – WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

“[W]e are made a spectacle to the world, and to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ’s sake…”

1 Corinthians 4: 9-10

Always ready to fight for the Faith, our apostolate’s Rapid Response Team went to Dublin, Ireland for the World Meeting of Families (WMoF), held August 21 – 26, 2018.

The World Meeting included various presentations by heterodox speakers and pro-“LGBT” activists such as Jesuit Fr. James Martin. “LGBT” volunteers, invited by the hierarchy of the Catholic Church in Ireland, were welcomed with open arms to assist and attend the Meeting.

The Rapid Response Team was on the ground defending the true doctrine of the Church regarding Catholic marriage and the family, reaching out to the misguided WMoF attendees through distribution of thousands of pieces of literature on the true Catholic teaching on the Sacrament of Matrimony, and literature on the Message of Fatima to help guide them to the only solution to the problems in the Church and the world.

In addition to distribution, reparation was made with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered daily, and daily processions with the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima statue while praying the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Daily reports by Rapid Response Team members were posted on our website.

In a talk delivered on Friday evening, August 24, at an event sponsored by The Fatima Center near Dublin, Father Isaac Mary Relyea explained the above scriptural passage from St. Paul in relation to The Fatima Center’s efforts in Dublin.

The World Meeting of Families – which ended with the arrival of the Pope the day after the last talks – unfortunately drew thousands of misguided attendees.

In his talk, Father Relyea made the point that:

While more than a thousand people packed a hall just to hear the pro-“LGBT” priest Father James Martin speak, at the same time, just down the road, only about 400 people attended a 2-day conservative Catholic conference sponsored by the Lumen Fidei Institute, whose agenda was to counteract the vile agenda of the WMoF.

Simultaneously, the best attended of The Fatima Center’s events – daily Mass and Rosary processions of reparation, distribution of literature on Catholic teaching and the Fatima Message to WMoF attendees, and sponsoring Father Relyea’s talk – drew at most 35 people.

Father Relyea noted that in the eyes of the world, those who organized, attended or supported The Fatima Center’s efforts in Dublin in any way, are fools. Why bother having Rosary processions around the grounds on which the World Meeting of Families was being held, repeating the same prayers while holding [rosary] beads? What impact did it make on anyone who either organized or attended the WMoF, or on anyone else?

Father Relyea likened our apostolate’s efforts to those of Noah who was warned 120 years in advance of a coming chastisement from God, and told to build a large vessel in the middle of dry land. How all who heard Noah, or saw what he was doing, must have laughed him to scorn! Noah, however, was not concerned with what his neighbors thought, but only with what God wanted of him. If God wanted him to warn everyone about what was coming and to call them to repentance, while building the ark, then that’s what he would do. He was happy to suffer whatever loss of human respect carrying out God’s Will would entail.

Likewise, 101 years ago, Our Lady of Fatima warned of a coming chastisement and exhorted the faithful to pray, do penance, and make reparation to Her Immaculate Heart in order to save souls. We at The Fatima Center, and all who support our efforts, do what we do, not to gain favor in the eyes of those in the Church or the world, or even to seek to effect a human solution to the problems in the Church and the world. We do these things because She asked us to do them and we know that only She can help us.

It’s not easy to be part of something viewed as a spectacle to the world, or to be considered a fool. But Father Relyea pointed out that if we are
truly mindful of Whom we serve, we will suffer anything sent our way willingly and even with joy.

Besides, our efforts on behalf of Our Lord and Our Lady are never without their consolations. Father became emotional when he noted that despite much persecution in his 19 years as a priest, God regularly lets him know that his efforts are not in vain, that he is reaching people and helping them as God’s instrument to change their lives in His favor.

We will never fully know in this life the number of persons affected by our efforts on behalf of Our Lady during that week in Dublin (efforts made possible by our supporters worldwide). But we do know that our efforts in Ireland to spread the Message of Fatima, to pray the Rosary, and to make reparation through the Masses we offered and processions we had were what She wanted of us. Now it’s up to Her.

As for those of us who support and do this work of spreading the full Message of Fatima, the thing about fools for Christ is that they are almost always happy!

ROME – 2018 SYNOD

Our Rapid Response team arrived in Rome at the beginning of the 2018 Synod on Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment, which began on October 3 and concluded on October 28. The seemingly benign title masked the real agenda of the Synod – promotion of the homosexual agenda within the Catholic Church and an acceleration of the Modernist revolution’s subversion of the Faith.

The 30,000-plus-word working document prepared for the Synod, called the Instrumentum Laboris (IL), was described by author George Weigel as “a bloated, tedious doorstop full of sociologese but woefully lacking in spiritual or theological insight. Moreover, and more sadly, the IL has little to say about ‘the faith’ except to hint on numerous occasions that its authors are somewhat embarrassed by Catholic teaching – and not because that teaching has been betrayed by churchmen of various ranks, but because that teaching challenges the world’s smug certainties about, and its fanatical commitment to, the sexual revolution in all its expressions.”

Translation: The content of the document IL prepared by Catholic churchmen for a meeting of members of the Catholic hierarchy – including the Pope – was not Catholic, but rather a calculated tool of the diabolical New World Order.

Once again, Our Lady’s apostolate was on hand primarily to make reparation for the anti-Catholic, diabolical agenda of the Synod through daily Mass, and daily Rosaries in St. Peter’s Square. Although the original plan was to have also a daily procession with the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima statue, under threat of imprisonment by police, only two processions with the statue were held.
These took place on October 7th, the Feast of the Holy Rosary, and on October 13th, the 101st anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun.

Our focus also included distribution of literature about the Church’s true teaching on the Sacrament of Matrimony, as well as about how to pray the Rosary. We also extended invitations to the public to join Our Lady’s Apostolate in making reparation by participating in the Rosary procession with the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima statue on October 13.

Our advertisements for the October 13 procession – through Facebook, mobile billboard “trotters,” and an Italian newspaper, as well as through our distribution of flyers – resulted in no fewer than 300 people meeting at the appointed time for the procession, with more joining in as the beautiful Pilgrim Virgin statue passed by.

After the October 13th procession, Father Isaac Mary Relyea gave a public talk in Piazza Risorgimento – the public square situated between our apostolate office in Rome and the walls of the Vatican – to those who participated in the procession. As Father Relyea spoke, more pedestrians passing by stopped to hear what Father had to say.

With the ongoing prayers and sacrifices of supporters of The Fatima Center, Our Lady’s Apostolate can continue to be effectively present at similar occasions, making reparation with prayers, processions, and distribution of free materials; spreading the truly soul-saving Message for our times that is Fatima; and providing thousands of other people with the possibility of seeing and admiring the National Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima statue, an exquisite and sacred effigy of the Queen of peace, of families, and of life.
The following was originally printed in May 2009 in Issue 92 of The Fatima Crusader

GENERAL ABSOLUTION

Question: In our parish, at Easter and Christmas, we have a penitential (General Absolution) service where we go up to one of the priests standing around the altar and say, “I’m sorry for all my sins, please forgive me.” I’m very concerned and I have written to our bishop, but I got a very unsatisfactory reply. Can you give a brief explanation, please?

[Father Gruner] First of all, the Pope and the Vatican have said a number of times that that so-called penitential service is not allowed. It should be stopped. The bishops in Canada, I know, have been told to do that, like bishops in the United States and other parts of the world.

The reason for that is the unchangeable Catholic doctrine of Confession. A lot of people think that Confession is not necessary for absolution, but they’re mistaken. That is because Our Lord told the Apostles, “Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained.” (Jn. 20:23)

Now unless the priest is like Padre Pio, who can know your sins before you tell him, the priest does not know whether to forgive your sins or retain them, unless you confess them. Confession is an integral part of the Sacrament of Penance. So, unless you
go to Confession, you are most likely not forgiven your sins.

Now there is one exception to that, and that is when there is danger of death or an emergency. I will tell you what that means: It is not because there is an early Mass and everyone wants to go and watch the television or for some other important thing to be done. The two kinds of exception are as follows: When there is an earthquake or some military danger of death, and there is not enough time to hear individual Confessions, then a priest can give General Absolution without first hearing confessions, in which case he absolves on two conditions:

[1] that the people receiving absolution, first of all, are sorry for their sins, with a supernatural sorrow (not just with natural remorse) which is the most essential part, and firmly resolve not to commit them again,

[2] that they be resolved to fulfill the obligation to confess their sins at the first opportunity.

So without that condition, that you accept that responsibility to confess your sins — it is mortal sins we are talking about — at the first opportunity, the absolution doesn’t work for you. So absolution without Confession is never a possibility. To receive absolution before Confession in the two emergency situations (I outline here, above and below) you still MUST resolve to go to Confession and do so at your first opportunity.

You cannot be given the exception to the rule if there is no danger of death, or one other exception, which I will now also give you.

When I was in the mission years ago, in Italy, there was an old priest, Father Merlot, who was 95 years old. He told me that he had been a missionary in Brazil, and he was on a pastoral visitation route of three years. He’d go from village to village. He’d spend three days in every village. Every day of those three days, he said Mass and then he heard confessions all day long and did nothing else except say his prayers and eat.

Then, after three days, he’d have to leave to go to the next village. And the people in these villages would not see him again until three more years had passed.

They wanted to be confessed, they lined up for Confession. But after three days of confessions, that was all he could hear. So in order to give them the graces of the Sacrament, he gave General Absolution to those he could not confess in those three days.

He did this under certain con-
conditions. It was on the understanding that they would be the first in line when he came back three years later and they would confess their sins then, that he would give them absolution.

But those conditions (i.e. such a lack of priests that penitents would have to wait one year or longer to go to Confession) don’t prevail in North America or Europe, that I’m aware of. And so, General Absolutions are not allowed. Now, if there was a war or an earthquake here, it could happen then. In which case, then, it could be allowed. But other than that, General Absolution is not allowed. And it is not just the whim of the Pope, it happens to be the Divine Will, the institution of the sacrament.

Now all the Pope is doing, and his counselors there, when they rebuke this practice is because they have to, because it is not allowed by the teaching of Jesus Christ and His Church. And if you’ve been in one of those ceremonies, receiving General Absolution without Confession like that, if you had any mortal sin on your soul, consider yourself obliged — because you are — to confess those mortal sins at your first opportunity. And if you don’t, those sins still remain on your soul.

Nothing has changed in the Sacrament of Penance, except some confused people. Sister Lucy says that there are people in high places in the Church, that includes certain bishops and Cardinals, who are confused with a diabolical confusion. She says that in a number of her letters that she wrote in the 1970’s. You can read them in Frère Michel.¹ You can also read it in The Devil’s Final Battle,² in certain passages, as well.

**QUESTION:**
Pope Paul VI wrote the encyclical Memoriale Domini, condemning Communion in the hand. Why have we got it?

[Father Gruner] The Devil’s Final Battle describes how the enemies of the Church have been trying to subvert the Church for 200 years. You have the testimony of both Masons and Communists saying they would do that.

**The Masons Infiltrated the Church**

I can tell you about Father Putti. Father Putti was the founder and editor of the magazine Si Si No No published in Rome, Italy. I met him in 1976. In twelve different issues of this paper, the headline would say, “Cardinal (and he named him) is a Mason.” His article started describing what Cardinal so-and-so had
done, and then he ended the article by saying, “He is a Mason. He joined on such and such a date. His code number is such and such. His code name is such and such,” and he published it to the world.

Now, when Father Putti was threatened indirectly by somebody in the Vatican in a public announcement in the press, Father Putti published the next day in a press release saying, “Up to now, I only released the facts. But if I’m suspended or excommunicated, I will publish the documents.” The very next day, a Vatican spokesman said, “There is no intention of suspending or excommunicating Father Putti.” That was the end of the discussion.

The editor of the L’Osservatore Romano at the time said something against Father Putti’s reputation. He sued him in court and won, and the editor of the L’Osservatore Romano had to pay damages.

Father Putti said these things in public and stood by them. He said, “Before I published them, I brought them to the Holy Office, I showed them the documents, as is my duty in Canon Law. They never said to me, ‘Don’t publish them’; and so I published them.” And he named about twelve Cardinals [as Masons].

One of them he did not call a Mason was Cardinal Garrone. That is why I went to see him. He didn’t call Cardinal Garrone

The great Popes of the past such as Blessed Pope Pius IX, Pope Leo XIII, Pope St. Pius X and Pope Pius XII would not recognize the new liturgy as an authentic Catholic Mass. Indeed, Father Gelineau said that, with the creation of the New Mass, the Roman Rite has been destroyed.
a Mason, but he said at the end of his article:

“Now if Cardinal Garrone had been given a commission by an enemy of the Church, say for example, the head of the Masons or the devil himself, he could not have done a better job of destroying Catholic education around the world.”

I said, “Father Putti, you don’t say that Cardinal Garrone is a Mason, but you certainly imply it.” He said, “That is correct, I do. I don’t have the documents, so I can’t claim that he is. He most likely joined in France. I don’t have access to their documents. But,” he said, “look at his track record. There are lots of other clergy who are Masons who have left them or no longer do anything the Masons want them to do, and I leave them alone.”

But those who were continuing to promote the Masonic agenda in the Church, he was justified in publicly exposing. No one ever gainsaid when he named a Cardinal as a Mason. No one proved him wrong on any one of them. This was in the mid-70’s.

I did tell Father Putti, “Well, if you keep this up Father, you might end up dead one day.” He said, “So much the better. Then I’ll be a martyr. I’ll bypass Purgatory and go straight to Heaven.”

Are there Masons in the Church? There were then, and I expect there still are today. As Father Putti said, as Our Lord Himself said, “By their fruits you shall know them.” (Mt. 7:16) So if they promote Masonic ideals, then it really doesn’t matter so much whether they are a card-carrying member and you can prove it, the fact is they are working for the Masons, and for the devil.

If you don’t know much about Masonry, Father Fahey, a great Irish priest, wrote a lot about Masonry and how they would work against the Church and for the devil. But there are other books on it as well. Leo XIII said that the Masons’ “god” is the devil, that they worship Lucifer in the 33rd degree. Some satanic people will make a distinction between Lucifer and Satan, but it is the same evil spirit.

COMMUNISM INFILTRATED THE CHURCH

However, at the end of the day, they’re not the only ones. Lenin said he would destroy the Church by infiltration. He said that quite publicly. You have the testimony of Bella Dodd, who was a Catholic, who became a Communist, who was converted back by Bishop Fulton Sheen to the Catholic Faith. And she testified in public that she personally sent more than one thousand young men into the seminaries to destroy
the Church from within. And when she was giving her public testimony, she said “Already, some of them are bishops.” And she was speaking in the late 40’s and early 50’s.

So, where did she send them? To what countries?

She was in the United States and she sent them to the United States to corrupt seminaries there, best I know. She was the Attorney General designate of the Communist Party in the early 40’s. In case they ever got elected, she would become the Attorney General of the United States.

But she is not the only one. Manning Johnson gave some similar testimony. You’ll find also a document published by the Chinese Communists, which was published in Cuba, which we have published in our Fatima Crusader Issue #19, outlining it in great detail.

I personally have met a priest who was a Communist. When I was in the seminary in Rome in the 1970’s, he misunderstood my Italian – my Italian has since improved – he misunderstood something I said, so he told me what he was up to. So I didn’t disabuse him of his idea of me; I pumped him for the next six hours for information. These people really exist.

There is a book called AA-1025. Even if the book is in literary form, I think the substance of the book is true. There are various books on the subject.

**Why Is This Happening?**

It is happening because our enemies have a purpose. It just didn’t happen by itself. That is why Our Lady of Fatima came in the first place, to tell us of the danger to the Church and that we had to pay attention, and we really can’t do it all by ourselves.

There are some people who know this and a lot more than what I just said by the dint of their studies. I’m all in favor of them learning these things for themselves, but it is not enough to know the facts. You also have to know the solution, and without Our Lady we can’t do it.

Even many Catholic priests who are traditional or orthodox, I don’t think give enough place to Our Lady’s role in the Church, because they don’t appreciate, as Leo XIII said, all graces come to us from God the Father through the Sacred Humanity of Jesus Christ through the Blessed Virgin to us.

There is not one grace we receive that does not come through Her hands. It has not yet been defined, in technical terms, that She is the Mediatrix of all grac-
es, but it has been taught by the Popes for two hundred years. It could be defined tomorrow, theologically. The people may not be prepared, but it is the teaching of the Catholic Church by the Ordinary and Universal Magisterium.

When you apply the truth of that doctrine, then you realize the central importance of the Blessed Virgin’s role in salvation. You know that outside of God, there is no salvation. St. Paul says in Hebrews 11:6: *No man can come to God unless he believes that God exists and rewards those who seek Him.* Outside the Sacred Humanity of Jesus Christ, there is no salvation. *There is no name under Heaven by which men are saved, except the Name of Jesus.* (Acts 4:12)

Also, there is no salvation outside the Blessed Virgin Mary. You’ll find that proven quite thoroughly by St. Alphonsus Liguori. He quotes many saints on the subject in *The Glories of Mary*. There is a chapter on that. After that, outside the Catholic Church, there is no salvation.

The order of things is: God; Our Lord Jesus Christ in His Sacred Humanity; the Blessed Virgin Mary; then the Church, in that order. The Blessed Virgin is not just for the pious. Everyone must be devoted to Our Lady to save his soul. Being a child of Mary is more important than being a child of the Church, and being a child of the Church is necessary to save your soul.

**What Makes You Catholic?**

Don’t confuse being a child of the Church with the false opinion that to remain as a child of the Church you must obey every command that a priest, bishop, Cardinal or Pope gives you when the command is sinful or outside the God-given limits of authority of the person who commands you.

What makes you a Catholic is, first of all, your belief in the Catholic Faith and holding on to it; secondly, your Baptism into the Church; and third, it is your recognition of legitimate authority. But if a priest, including myself, or a bishop or a Cardinal or a Pope were to tell you to do something contrary to the Law of God, you are not being disobedient if you don’t obey him, because your obedience is first given to God. You must obey God, rather than men, says St. Peter. (Acts 5:29) That is the distinction that many theologians stumble on in practice, but I’m sure they’d all agree with me in principle.

Some people told me recently, “Well, we’re not subject to the
Church or the bishop. We have a Traditional chapel.” I said, “Having a chapel doesn’t make you disobedient. The bishop does not have the right to forbid you to have a Tridentine Mass. That is established in law.” All authority, even the Pope’s authority, is limited. Even God Himself limits His authority. He does that because He is God and because He is reasonable. But certainly, if God's authority is limited, certainly everyone else underneath Him is limited. And that is the whole purpose of the law of the Church: to define who has authority in what matters, and how far.

That is something that needs to be clarified, because it is not somebody saying that you are not Catholic that makes you not Catholic. It is either you not being baptized when you know you should be baptized, not keeping the Catholic Faith, or not recognizing legitimate authority. It is not disobeying this or that command that is beyond the authority of the person giving it. You are Catholic when you obey God, even if you are not obeying men.

The first English martyrs were several Carthusian monks who were martyred under the cloud of “disobedience”. Their superiors in France in the Charter House had told them to submit to Henry VIII. I'm sure the intention of their Superiors was very good, but they weren’t informed. The Carthusians that went to the gallows on May 4, 1535 were disobedient to their immediate superiors. However, they died martyrs and are canonized today for it.

It is important to make proper distinctions. Certainly, they died as Catholics and they died as obedient sons of their founder and obedient sons of the Church, but not to human appearances for those who didn’t study the matter.

Notes:
(3) Thus is confirmed that law of merciful mediation of which We have spoken, and which St. Bernardine of Siena thus expresses: Every grace granted to man has three degrees in order; for by God it is communicated to Christ, from Christ it passes to the Virgin, and from the Virgin it descends to us. Jucunda Semper Expectatione, §5.
Before St. Thérèse died she said: “I will spend my Heaven doing good on earth.” She has brought many souls to the Faith and strengthened the faith of the lukewarm and pious alike.

St. Thérèse, pray for us and send us a rose!

“I will send down a shower of rose petals from Heaven.”...St. Thérèse

You Too Can Send Roses From Heaven
You can help spread Our Lady of Fatima’s urgent Message of Hope and Peace throughout the world, even after God calls you to your eternal reward. You know that millions of souls will be lost if Our Blessed Mother’s requests are not heeded and the Consecration of Russia is not done as She requested.

For the sake of those souls, as well as your own, we beg you to remember Our Lady’s Apostolate in your will.

MAKING A BEQUEST FOR THIS IMPORTANT WORK IS EASY

For more information, call toll-free 1-800-263-8160 or write us at the address found on the inside back cover.

Or e-mail us at info@fatima.org

There is no obligation!
My Immaculate Heart Will Triumph: Purity in Marriage and the Family

By Fr. Michael Rodríguez, Diocese of El Paso, Texas, U.S.A.

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, rule over us, together with the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ, Our King. Kindle in our hearts and families the love of purity, the practice of a virtuous life, a desire to pray the Rosary ever more faithfully, and an ardent zeal for the salvation of souls.

The Immaculate Heart of the most holy Mother of God is at the very center of the Message of Fatima. How magnificent! How marvelous! How munificent on the part of God! This is the Heart that brings our fallen world life, sweetness and hope; indeed, it brings our lost world its Savior!

During Her Second Apparition, on June 13, 1917, Our Lady of Fatima said the following to Lucia:

“[Jesus] wishes to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart. To whoever embraces this devotion, I promise salvation. ... My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God.”

These words of Our Blessed Mother are especially relevant to the “Battle for Marriage and the Family” which is currently being waged throughout the world and the Church. Hus-
bands and wives, fathers and mothers, must look to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for protection and refuge, and it is this same Heart which shall bring holy purity to marriages and families and so lead them to God.

Today, in the year of Our Lord 2018, we are witnessing terrible attacks on marriage and the family, attacks which are even coming from Bishops, Cardinals, and Pope Francis himself! For example, partial teachings on the mercy of God are ultimately false and deceptive, and this is surely the work of the devil. God’s mercy can never be used to tolerate, accept, or give tacit approval to sin; on the contrary, God’s infinite mercy is an urgent call to conversion, i.e. to reject and turn away from sin. Under no circumstances can a Catholic ever approve of the divorced and remarried (a person who, while bound by a valid, marital bond, lives together with a different person [than his or her spouse] in a marital way) receiving Holy Communion. First there must be conversion! Holy Communion—the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ!—urges us all to conversion, holiness, and purity!

During the Third Fatima Apparition, on July 13, 1917, the Blessed Virgin Mary stated:

“I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to My Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays. If My requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world. . . . In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph.”

On June 13, 1929, at Tuy, Spain, in conjunction with a spectacular revelation of the Most Blessed Trinity, Our Lady came to ask (through Sr. Lucia) for the Holy Father to consecrate Russia to Her Immaculate Heart in union with all the Bishops of the world. In what is almost certainly the greatest continual spiritual tragedy of the past eighty-nine years, the Popes have and are disobeying God and His most holy Mother in this critical matter.

This grave state of disobedience on the part of the Church’s hierarchy has infected all areas of the life of the Church: her doctrine, her liturgy, her spiritual discipline, her practices of piety and good works; and now, in 2018, it is wreaking destruction on marriage, the fami-
The present diabolical attacks against the sacredness of marriage and the family are a striking confirmation that Russia has, in fact, spread her errors throughout the world, and even to the highest levels of the Catholic Church!

Perhaps many people don’t realize it, but central to communist ideology is the destabilization and destruction of marriage and the family, especially through feminism, divorce, abortion, and the promotion of sodomy. These are major errors of Russia, and they are direct attacks on marriage and the family.

There is a book titled, The Naked Communist, which outlines communist goals and ideology. This book was written in 1958, by W. Cleon Skousen, a former FBI agent, who based his book on some of the best intelligence of the FBI during its investigation of communist infiltration into the United States. According to this book, the following are some of the goals of communism, i.e. what Our Lady of Fatima calls “the errors of Russia:”

- Break down cultural standards of morality by promoting pornography and obscenity in books, magazines, motion pictures, radio, and TV.
- Discredit the family as an institution. Encourage promiscuity, masturbation, and easy divorce.
- Emphasize the need to raise children away from the . . . influence of parents.
- Present homosexuality, degeneracy, and promiscuity as “normal, natural, healthy.”

In spite of terrible consequences which we are all suffering from due to the continued disobedience on the part of the Popes for the past eighty-nine years, it is equally true, that in the end, Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart will triumph. What is the meaning of this wonderful promise?

We begin by asking what is the significance of Mary’s Immaculate Heart? What does Her Heart contain?

St. John Eudes (1601-1680) teaches that Mary’s Immaculate Heart is a vast sea of grace, a measureless ocean of perfections, and an immense furnace of love (love of God, first and foremost). God knows what He is about in giving us His own Mother, because that which every marriage and family is most in need of is found in superabundant measure in Mary’s Immac-
ulate Heart: the grace of God and the love of God.

Mary’s love for God is absolutely pure. Mary’s pure and complete love of God is the essence of Her purity.

Let us consider the testimony of the Saints. St. John Eudes declares:

“The unique heart of Our Lady never knew any love other than the purest love of God. It never suffered from the multiplicity of superfluous thoughts, aimless desires and vain affections which usually fill and divide the miserable hearts of the children of Adam. Her heart held one thought, one purpose, one will, one intention, one single affection and one desire only: to please God and to fulfill in all things and everywhere His adorable will.” [The Admirable Heart of Mary, p. 108]

St. John Damascene, Doctor of the Church (675-749), the great defender of holy images against the impious Emperor Leo and the iconoclasts, praises Mary: “Thy pure and immaculate heart is always turned toward thy beloved, and is applied only to contemplate Him, to desire Him, to seek Him and to aspire after Him.” [The Admirable Heart of Mary, St. John Eudes, p. 183]

The Immaculate Heart of Mary is at the very center of the Fatima Message; immaculate means without stain, without blemish, completely pure; Mary’s Heart is Immaculate because Her love of God is absolutely pure and undivided. Her heart is set completely and totally on God—this is the defining characteristic of the resplendent Heart which we are to emulate, in order to contribute to its triumph.

This is the Heart to which our hearts, our marriages, and our families must be conformed; a major triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary shall be when Her love of God truly lives and reigns in our hearts, marriages, and families.

And yet sadly, the usual state of our hearts, according to St. John Eudes, is “filled and divid-
ed by superfluous thoughts, aimless desires and vain affections.” One of the worst disordered desires of our miserable hearts is **lust**.

Our Lady of Fatima revealed to little Jacinta, “More souls go to hell for sins of the flesh than for any other reason,” i.e. sins of lust. Beware of lust! for this is the No. 1 plague on our marriages and families. Heaven’s remedy is Mary’s pure Heart, Her unfathomable love of God, Her Heart that is always turned to **God** and only God.

**Lust** is the inordinate seeking of the pleasures of the flesh (venereal pleasure). Of all vices, lust is the most severely punished by God on earth. It was the cause of the great Deluge (Genesis 6) and the cause for the fire and brimstone which destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18-19).

**Chastity** or **purity** is the opposite of lust. Chastity is the virtue that moderates the desire for venereal pleasure according to God’s **Plan**, especially as this Plan is expressed in our state of life; chastity **orders** this desire for venereal pleasure **according to the divine will**.

Chastity is of paramount importance because it is the virtue that helps us to truly love God and neighbor according to God’s Plan.

Married people are called to be chaste. Within the Sacrament of Matrimony, chastity orders the desire for venereal pleasure to the procreation and education of children.

Single people are called to be chaste. In single people, chastity orders the desire for venereal pleasure by abstention until marriage.

Priests and consecrated virgins are called to be chaste. In them, chastity orders the desire for venereal pleasure, by a **complete and total sacrifice**.

Pope Pius XI, in his Encyclical Letter on Christian Marriage, *Casti Connubii* (December 31, 1930), teaches that lust is the most po-

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**Her Heart is a furnace of immense love and reverence for the majesty of God**
tent attack against marriage:
“Unbridled lust . . . is the most potent cause of sinning against the sacred laws of matrimony, and since man cannot hold in check his passions, unless he first subject himself to God, this must be his primary endeavor.”
(No. 97)

Pope Pius XI continues:
“As the onslaughts of these uncontrolled passions cannot in any way be lessened, unless the spirit first shows a humble compliance of duty and reverence towards its Maker, it is above all and before all needful that those who are joined in the bond of sacred wedlock should be wholly imbued with a profound and genuine sense of duty towards God, which will shape their whole lives, and fill their minds and wills with a very deep reverence for the majesty of God.”
(No. 99)

Make special note of this papal teaching!: above all, Catholic husband and wife need “a very deep reverence for the majesty of God,” which will, in turn, lead them to be “wholly imbued with a profound and genuine sense of duty towards God, which will shape their whole lives . . .”

Once again, the significance of Mary’s Immaculate Heart for strong, happy, and holy marriages shines forth: Her Heart is a furnace of immense love and reverence for the majesty of God. Her heart has one thought, one purpose, one will, one intention, one single affection and one desire only: reverence for the majesty of God and to fulfill in all things and everywhere His adorable will.

Given our weak, miserable, selfish, and lustful hearts, how can we imitate more closely Blessed Mary’s Immaculate Heart, and so contribute to its glorious triumph?

I shall conclude by offering three simple ways to emulate the Immaculate Heart of Mary, a Heart wholly imbued with an immense and profound reverence for the majesty of God:

• (1) Devotion to Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart
• (2) Devotion at Mass—reverence for the majesty of God
• (3) Devotion to St. Joseph, and the Holy Family

Devotion to Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart

One form of Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is Devotion to the Immaculate Conception, because this is
what gave origin to Her Immaculate Heart.

St. Alphonsus Liguori, Doctor of the Church (1696–1787), highly recommended the following devotion. He told parents to train their children to acquire the habit of saying three Hail Marys in the morning and evening. After each Hail Mary, he advised that the following prayer be said: “By Thy Immaculate Conception, O Mary, make my body pure and my soul holy.”

May you grow in your devotion to the Traditional Latin Mass. While at the Mass, keep in mind that every beat of Mary’s Heart is directed to God — believing in God, adoring God, reverencing God, praising God, honoring God, thanking God, hoping in God, loving God, and giving God perfect glory. Strive to the same in union with Mary’s Immaculate Heart!

**Devotion to St. Joseph, and the Holy Family**

On October 13, 1917, the Holy Family appeared in the sky during the Miracle of the Sun.

“To the left of the sun, St. Joseph appeared holding in his left arm the Child Jesus. St. Joseph emerged from the bright clouds only to his chest, sufficient to allow him to raise his right hand and make, together

**Devotion at Mass—reverence for the majesty of God**

The Traditional Latin Mass teaches, transmits, and instills profound reverence for the majesty of God. The New Mass does not. The Traditional Latin Mass emphasizes in many ways that the priest must have a most pure mind and heart in order to enter the presence of God and offer sacrifice. This is yet another profound call to conform our hearts to the Immaculate Heart of the Mother of God.
with the Child Jesus, the Sign of the Cross three times over the world. As St. Joseph did this, Our Lady stood in all Her brilliancy to the right of the sun, dressed in the blue and white robes of Our Lady of the Rosary.”  

[The True Story of Fatima, John de Marchi, I.M.C, p. 53]

St. Joseph is the true spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and so his vocation is to protect and defend Her. St. Joseph’s heart was so pure (i.e. set on God alone), that Mary, while She was totally his, could still belong totally to God. The two, Joseph and Mary, were united in a true marriage, so that each might be closer to God with the help of the other. Their closeness to God led to an ever deeper reverence for His majesty.

St. Joseph lived chastely as a perfect virgin in his marriage. Concupiscence was extinguished in Joseph, and his soul shone with brilliant purity when he came into the presence of the Blessed Virgin. It could not be that She should be loved by someone who was not perfectly chaste. We see in St. Joseph a totally purified soul, a soul in which sin has lost its power, a soul that lives only for God.

St. Augustine, Doctor of the Church (354-430), asks, was not St. Joseph completely taken up with unceasing contemplation of his God? How could he sin? In the holy house of Nazareth, there was no place for sin. All eyes and hearts were set on the Son of the living God.

We catch a glimpse of Joseph’s holiness (purity) in the marvelous mystery that Mary is all his, but for this, no less all God’s. In fact, by belonging totally to Joseph, Mary belongs to God even more than before, and it is when She became St. Joseph’s wife that the great mystery for which She was created was accomplished in Her: the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

In Mary, Joseph experienced only God, and Mary experienced only God in Joseph. What an admirable mystery of pure love for God and neighbor! May we be inspired to grow in our devotion to St. Joseph and the Holy Family of Nazareth! [see The Glories of St. Joseph, Traditions Monastiques, pp. 47-49]

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, heart most holy, most pure, and most loving, make the Heart of Jesus, together with Thy rule, triumph in each of our hearts, marriages, and families. Amen.
Opening an orphanage came about as the result of the work of Father Gruner and Our Lady’s Apostolate promoting devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary among India’s approximately twenty million Catholics, which had begun ten years before.

Four years prior to opening the orphanage, Father Gruner opened The Fatima Center’s first mission office in India, distributing rosaries, scapulars and Fatima booklets. In addition to giving away millions of pieces of literature, our staff conducted processions, prayer rallies and all-night vigils which drew hundreds of thousands. Father Gruner had visited the country on at least four separate occasions, bringing the apostolate’s Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima statue to millions of Catholics in India.

It was the successful work of Father and the apostolate that drew the attention of influential Church leaders in India and subsequently led to the invitation to open an orphanage in the Diocese of Hyderabad. The orphanage feeds, clothes, and educates 100 children while providing a rich spiritual resource for the neighboring communities.

Initially housed in an older building, Immaculate Heart Orphanage moved into an entirely new, fully equipped facility in 1999. A few months later, The Fatima Center built and equipped the St. Joseph’s medical dispensary adjacent to the orphanage, which provides health services for the children of the orphanage and three nearby villages.

In the year 2000, the Apostolate built the Convent of the Sacred Heart beside the orphanage, to ensure the safety of the community of nuns who not only care for the orphans and manage the dispensary, but also teach at and administrate St. Paul’s Catholic School nearby.

Over the years, Our Lady’s Apostolate has made many necessary repairs and renovations...
at the orphanage building. A number of years ago, one of the orphanage’s graduates, who had gone on to become a successful businessman, assisted Our Lady’s Apostolate with half the funds needed for a new septic system. At least one of the girls from the orphanage has followed the path of the religious life, entering a convent.
Dozens of like-minded, concerned Catholics gathered in Dallas, Texas from March 9-11, 2018 for “On Borrowed Time: The Battle for Marriage and the Family.” The first of Our Lady’s Army of Advocates conferences hosted by The Fatima Center in 2018, this gathering was one of the best and most successful to date. Attendees commended the practicality, focus, and timeliness of the presentations.
Our excellent speakers presented outstanding talks and workshops on the Message of Fatima and the battle under way in the Church and the world being waged over marriage and the family.

The speakers included: Father Michael Rodriguez (from the Diocese of El Paso, Texas and a member of The Fatima Center Advisory Council of Priests), Father Paul McDonald (from the Diocese of St. Catharines, Ontario, long-time friend of The Fatima Center, and member of The Fatima Center Advisory Council of Priests), Father Isaac Mary Relyea (Franciscan priest, frequent speaker at events hosted by The Fatima Center), Christopher Ferrara (writer and attorney, well known to Fatima Center supporters), Michael Matt (editor of the Remnant newspaper), Elizabeth Yore (acclaimed attorney and international child rights advocate), and others.

The conference also included the daily Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and recitation of the Rosary. Attendees had the chance to approach the various priests present, purchase interesting books and quality sacramentals, and take home helpful Fatima Center literature and other materials, not only for their own benefit, but to help their family members and friends learn more about Our Lady’s crucial Message.

A real and affirming sense of camaraderie was felt at meals and break times, as returning and newly-enlisted advocates in Our Lady’s Army prepared themselves to return to the intensifying battle, and help win Her victory!
On Saturday, June 9, 2018, Our Lady’s Apostolate hosted “Fatima: Our Only Solution” Rosary Rally in Kansas City, Missouri. It was The Fatima Center’s first Rosary Rally in several years.

A Rosary Rally is a one-day event, open to the public and free of charge. The Canadian National Pilgrim Virgin statue of Our Lady of Fatima is present for veneration, and the day includes the recitation of the Holy Rosary and enrollment in the Brown Scapular besides talks on the importance and necessity of Fatima, and significant goings on in today’s Church and world.

Father Michael Rodríguez and Mr. David Rodríguez (Traditional Catholic apologist and radio host), regular speakers at Fatima Center conferences, were the Rally’s two speakers.

The “Fatima for the Next Generation” Conference (September 14-16), hopefully the first of more youth conferences, hosted by The Fatima Center in Grand Island, New York, was designed specifically for teens and young adults. It drew more than 100 young people from across the United States and Canada. Amidst their diverse backgrounds, professional ambitions, and personal interests, all attendees shared a common goal: to grow in knowledge and love of the holy Catholic Faith through the Message of Fatima.

Tasked with presenting the Faith of all time in a manner that addresses the challenges young people face today were terrific speakers such as: Father Daniel Couture, SSPX (District Superior of Canada), Father Isaac Mary Relyea, Father Michael Rodríguez, Dr. Andrew Childs (professor of music and public speaking, Chair of Humanities at St. Mary’s
College in Kansas, writer, and frequent speaker at Catholic Family News conferences), **Matthew Plese** (accountant and Catholic apologist of CatechismClass.com), and others. With the Vatican’s disastrous Youth Synod occurring a month later, this conference was truly a beacon of hope in these profoundly dark and discouraging times. We hope and pray that the young people who attended this conference will be filled with zeal for the souls of their peers and will become missionaries in their respective spheres of influence!

**PHILADELPHIA – OUR LADY’S ARMY OF ADVOCATES CONFERENCE**

Our Lady’s Army of Advocates gathered in the “City of Brotherly Love” from November 9 through November 11, and the true meaning of Philadelphia was realized in the camaraderie all experienced at the conference. Fraternal charity rests in love of God, the source of all charity. And when we come together for the glory of God, under the mantle of His Blessed Mother, the light of love shines in our hearts and expresses itself in our actions.

All who attended experienced the genuine sense of Catholic community and holy purpose, which was aided by truly inspiring talks. These talks were delivered by: **Father Michael Rodriguez**, **Father Isaac Mary Relyea**, **Dr. Brian McCall** (Professor of Law at the University of Oklahoma and editor-in-chief of Catholic Family News), **Suzanne Pearson** (writer and speaker at Fatima Center conferences), **Louis Tofari** (author, instructor, speaker and consultant on liturgical matters of the traditional Roman Rite), and others.

**Father Relyea** and **Father Rodriguez** also provided the sacraments and spiritual counseling. The other speakers offered insight and encouragement for those trying to live the truth in this time of great trial in which Satan is waging his final battle against Our Lady. We who know and love the Fatima Message are all members of Our Lady’s Army, soldiers in arms, with the Rosary as our chief weapon. Let us never lose heart!
The Society of the Child Jesus saves lives and cares for needy children and families through corporal works of mercy and self-help programs that feed both the body and spirit of the poorest of the poor. We also reach out to children and young people around the world with Our Lady’s Fatima Message of hope and peace, promoting piety, purity and faith through devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and encouraging them to follow the example of our patrons, Saint Jacinta and Saint Francisco of Fatima.

**THE POOREST OF THE POOR NEED YOU!**

The Society of the Child Jesus saves lives and cares for needy children and families through corporal works of mercy and self-help programs that feed both the body and spirit of the poorest of the poor. We also reach out to children and young people around the world with Our Lady’s Fatima Message of hope and peace, promoting piety, purity and faith through devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and encouraging them to follow the example of our patrons, Saint Jacinta and Saint Francisco of Fatima.

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The latest episode of the clerical sex abuse scandal that exploded in the press in late August (regarding Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò’s historic 11-page indictment of Pope Francis’ own role—as well as that of 32 other high-ranking Church officials—in the cover-up of the crimes of ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick and other homosexual advocates at the highest levels of the Church) is an appropriate occasion to pause and reflect on how it is we have arrived at this tragic state of Church history.

Needless to say, the homosexual scandal is but a surface indication of the general quagmire of error and corruption that has plagued the Church since Vatican II, but this has largely been the result of years of careful planning on the part of those who sought to harm the Church from within. Our Lady at Fatima warned in 1917—the year of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia—that if we didn’t heed Her requests to procure Russia’s conversion through the daily Rosary and the Consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart, the errors of that nation would spread throughout the world and even into the Church.

Unfortunately, Our Lady’s requests were not heeded and...
thus, Russia did not convert, and as such, the deceptive influence of Communism is alive and at work today within the Church. The “operation of error to believe lying” (2 Thess. 2:10) has truly become the ‘new order’ of the day.

**Corrupt the Young**

What we have especially seen applied in our time is

**LENIN’S STRATEGY FOR STARTING REVOLUTION:**

“CORRUPT THE YOUNG: GET THEM AWAY FROM RELIGION. GET THEM INTERESTED IN SEX. MAKE THEM SUPERFICIAL; DESTROY THEIR RUGGEDNESS.”

According to former Soviet KGB propagandist Yuri Bezmenov who worked for the Soviet Union’s Novosti Press Agency until he defected in 1970, the main methods of subversion used by Marxists in the West were just that, to “corrupt the young, get them interested in sex, take them away from religion. Make them superficial and enfeebled [...] destroy people’s faith in their national leaders by holding the latter up for contempt, ridicule and disgrace [...] cause breakdown of the old moral virtues: honesty, sobriety, self-restraint, faith in the pledged word.”

According to several ex-agents like Bezmenov, the Communists’ primary targets were—and remain—the Catholic Church, the media, our colleges and universities. **YouTube: Yuri Bezmenov Full Interview & Lecture - HQ**

It wasn’t long after Vatican II that we saw a new revolutionary wave of thought sweeping society, epitomized especially by the plague of rock-music and drugs that had set society to a new beat. But it didn’t end there. This corrupt influence of pop-culture would enter the Church and engender what has come to be known as the contemporary “guitar Mass,” an abomination replete with drums, tambourines, microphones and loud-speakers, all of which are used to project rebellious overtones and lyrics to the faithful. The guitar Mass would serve to profane the Mass and set the faithful to the beat of a new gospel, from which would ensue dancing; clapping; women in shorts, tights, with indecent exposure; and also men with earrings, long hair and ponytails—the classic marks of homosexuality.

According to Bezmenov, a group of rock or pop-musicians with a message of ‘social-justice’
candy-coated with popular ‘spiritual’ tunes were actually more helpful to the KGB’s plan of subversion than someone standing at the pulpit preaching Marxist-Leninist doctrine.

Hence it is from this corrupt liturgical fabric woven with the threads of pop-culture (and encouraged most especially by the presence of homosexuals in the Church) that the maggots of sexual abuse have surfaced in our time. “By their fruits you shall know them.” (Mt. 7:20)

No Accident

However, this subversion didn’t happen overnight. It is a well-known and documented fact that the agents of Communism began entering our Catholic seminaries as far back as the late 30s for the purpose of destroying the Catholic Church from within. Well over a thousand such agents had entered the seminaries prior to 1940. The testimonies of ex-communists like Bella Dodd, Anatoliy Golitsyn, and Manning Johnson who had testified before the House Un-American Activities Committee about their conspiratorial activity more than confirm that these agents of the hammer and sickle had been building their forces against the Church with the intent of breaking in and re-indoctrinating the faithful with anti-Church principles.

Their plan was to first absorb Catholic philosophy and teaching in the seminaries so as to give themselves inside access to masterfully communicate and pull Catholic priests away from their traditional roots, so that they in turn would embrace revolutionary principles and become pawns of ecclesial subversion. The Leninist “clenched fist” idea would now be applied in a spiritual way where the “empowerment of the laity” would assist the enemy design to overthrow the Church’s monarchical structure, so that a new sense of democracy and religious liberty could take precedence over juridical rules and
regulations issuing from the Chair of Peter.

**Ex-Communists Speak**

Manning Johnson, a former official of the Communist Party in America, gave the following testimony in 1953 to the *House Un-American Activities Committee*:

“Once the tactic of infiltration of religious organizations was set by the Kremlin … the communists discovered that the destruction of religion could proceed much faster through the infiltration of the Church by communists operating within the Church itself…. The practical conclusion drawn by the Red leaders was that these institutions would make it possible for a small communist minority to influence the ideology of future clergymen in the paths conducive to communist purposes …. The policy of infiltrating seminaries was successful beyond even our communist expectations.”

In the early fifties, Bella Dodd, a former high-ranking official of the American Communist Party, testified before the *House Un-American Activities Committee* concerning the Communist infiltration of Church and State and provided detailed explanations of the Communist subversion of the Church. Speaking as a former insider, she said:

“In the 1930s we put eleven hundred men into the priesthood in order to destroy the Church from within. The idea was for these men to be ordained, and then climb the ladder of influence and authority as Monsignors and Bishops.”

In her public affidavit she also stated: “In the late 1920s and 1930s, directives were sent from Moscow to all Communist Party organizations. In order to destroy the [Roman] Catholic Church from within, party members were to be planted in seminaries and within diocesan organizations... I, myself, put some 1,200 men in Catholic seminaries.”

According to Catholic professor Alice von Hildebrand, who was a friend of Dodd, she said that

> **"WHEN SHE [DODD] WAS AN ACTIVE PARTY MEMBER, SHE HAD DEALT WITH NO FEWER THAN FOUR CARDINALS WITHIN THE VATICAN ‘WHO WERE WORKING FOR US,’ I.E. THE COMMUNIST PARTY."**

Twelve years before Vatican II, Dodd also said: “Right now they are in the highest places in the Church.” She also pre-
dicted changes in the Church that would be so drastic that “you will not recognize the Catholic Church.”

Bella’s prophecy certainly has come to pass. The Church today is but a carcass of its former glory, stripped of holiness and piety, largely because the fathers of Vatican II lent their ears to these red agents who called for “change.” Dodd describes their inside work of:

- Encouraging “the promotion of a pseudo-religion: something that resembled Catholicism but was not the real thing.”
- Labeling “the Church of the past as being oppressive, authoritarian, full of prejudices, arrogant in claiming to be the sole possessor of truth, and responsible for the divisions of religious bodies throughout the centuries.”
- Shaming Church leaders into “an ‘openness to the world,’ and to a more flexible attitude toward all religions.”

Dodd, heartbroken and eventually realizing the terrible and irreparable harm she had done by faithfully and effectively following an order of Stalin, came to the venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen in 1952 and heartfully confessed her conspiratorial doings. Thereupon she expressed to him that she wished to spend the rest of her life in a penitential order of the Church to repair for her dastardly doings, but in his wisdom the bishop rather counseled her that her mission was to remain in the world so that she could testify to the truth and open the eyes of all as to the dangers of Communism lurking in and around the Church. She obeyed, and the Church today is all the more equipped to do its mission because of her!

Consider now the memoirs of an unrepentant Communist agent which were discovered by a Catholic nurse while caring for him following an auto accident he had been in. Unfortunately, he died a short time afterwards without being able to reveal his identity, so that he is known only by a code-name that was assigned to him by the Soviet Secret Police, that being SS 1025. There were 1024 such agents that had gone before him, some of whom became bishops and who could have penetrated to high positions within the Vatican. The agent reveals how he became a priest who later collaborated with progressives at Vatican II to indoctrinate the Council with evil.
Consider the following excerpts from his memoirs:

“We must put it into their heads, and especially priests, that the time has come to seek and work for the merging of all religions. We must, in particular, promote among Catholics a feeling of guilt concerning the ‘ONE TRUTH’ which they claim they alone possess. We must convince them that this attitude is a monstrous sin of pride, and that they must now seek reconciliation with other religions. This thought must be made to grow and be uppermost in their minds….

“We shall speak of man, stress his dignity and nobility. We must transform the language and thinking pattern of every Catholic. We must foster the mystique of the human race…. We shall deify man.

“Once Catholics have accepted this new mystique, we shall tell them to strip their churches bare of statues and ornaments because these things are unessential and abhorrent to their dear Protestant and Jewish brethren. Thus, all symbols of Catholic worship and devotion will go by the board, and when they are gone devotions will go too. Yes, we shall promote an iconoclastic zeal especially among the younger generation. They themselves will destroy that jumble of statues, pictures, vestments, reliquaries, organs, etc. It would be a good idea, too, to spread a ‘prophecy’ that says: ‘You shall see married priests, and you shall hear the Mass in the language of the people.’ This should make our task easier. We shall incite women to assert their right to the priesthood….

“We shall pull down the Crucifix, substitute a table for the altar, and turn it around so that the priest may assume a presidential function. The priest will speak to the people much more
than before. In this manner the Mass will gradually cease to be regarded as an act of adoration to God, and will become a gathering and an act of human brotherhood. All these points will have to be elaborated in great detail and they may take anywhere up to 30 years before they are implemented, but I think that all my objectives will be fulfilled by 1974.” Book: AA-1025: The Memoirs of an Anti-Apostle

Ring any bells? Can we understand why the Church is where it’s at today?

**Does this not confirm that the radical changes that came upon the Church after Vatican II were largely the work of evil agents who had captured key positions in our Catholic churches and seminaries?**

And of course, the enemy plan of polluting seminaries has gone from bad to worse today. Homosexuality is taught as an acceptable way of life in some of our Catholic seminaries and churches. Is it any wonder that seminaries have become hell-holes of heresy and corruption? Sexual abuse is rampant in many seminaries, but what are we to expect when certain Church leaders and even the present pope—who has a history of involving himself with Marxist Liberation Theology — have gone on record as telling gays that “God made you that way”?

Unfortunately, sodomy is the tumor that is spreading the pedophile cancer and destroying our Catholic youth. It is for reason that the enemy has placed much emphasis on infecting the Church with homosexuals.

The Blessed Virgin at La Salette prophesied these very times, saying, “Rome will lose the Faith and become the seat of Anti-christ.” When we consider that many Church officials including key members of Francis’ Council of Nine are gay-sympathizers, it only lends credence to Our Lady’s prophecy.

Whatever shall become of us?

LifeSite News Article: Catholic abuse crisis is likely no accident, but a strategy to ‘destroy Church from within’

Second Vatican Council
You’ve got to defend your children, my friends!

Like Harry Potter – Harry Potter’s from hell! Will everyone who reads Harry Potter or watch Harry Potter movies, have problems with demons? Not everyone, but many - many - do! We now have people getting possessed, and when the exorcist commands “How did you get in?,” the answer is “Harry Potter.” There are real spells in Harry Potter; it’s not fake! Rowling said she received the whole story, she was on the train, within 7-10 minutes the whole seven books were infused into her head. She knew the whole story and wrote it down. Where do you think that’s from, my friends?

You want to see how bad Harry Potter is? Do a Google search; real witches and warlocks that practice satanism, praise and love Harry Potter. They say it’s...
an open door; it’s what brings them the little ones. Where do you get a Ouija Board? Toys “R” Us. I can go on and on about this stuff, but that’s what’s going on: Harry Potter, Pokémon, Twilight. It’s bombarding us! Your children are all obsessed with these things.

I just had a man that I’ve been helping for 10 years, giving him spiritual direction. He brought his children up with the true Faith – the Tridentine Mass and the Rosary every day, spiritual reading. He’s a real man; he leads the family in every way, spiritually too. Now, he’s having problems with his two boys. One of them is about to turn 18. His father had to sit him down because of his disobedience. His father said: “You’ve got your marching orders. You have to leave on your birthday, because you will not follow the laws of my house, or the laws of God.”

He found that this kid had gone to Wal-Mart and gotten a little iPod or something, spent 25 bucks and could get hooked up on the internet. I won’t even tell you what he found on that thing. My whole point is,

**even the good families are going to be attacked!**

**You think the devil’s going to sit back while you’re raising your children and trying to bring them to Heaven with you? No, he’s going to attack!**

And all these things, like with iPads – and I can go on and on – the media is destroying us. You see everyone on their cell phone today. No one knows how to have a conversation. This is all demonic. What’s happening with all these things, like Disney, when the kids get obsessed, I’ve seen teenagers and young adults singing that crazy song from that Disney movie ‘Frozen.’ They’re obsessed, they can’t stop singing it.

What do you think that is? Do you know what these things do to you, to your children? They detach you from reality. They get your children to live in a fantasy land. I gave my friend’s kids some nicknames. One of the girls, who had a little problem with Disney, she wanted a nickname too. She said, “I know what name I want.” I said, “What is it?” She goes, “Princess!” I said, “No way!”
My whole point is, these kids are obsessed. “Father, if I take my kid’s video game away, he’ll start screaming and yelling.” So give him a crack in the head! So what?! If your kid wants to hold fire, you’re going to let him hold fire? No. Our Lord says, “Don’t worry about those who can do harm to your body, but cast your soul into Gehenna.” You parents have to start having a backbone! You don’t let your children govern you; you govern your children! This is the problem!

“Oh, Father, I’m afraid. If I discipline my daughter, she’s going to run away! I won’t have a relationship with her!” So you’re willing to cut off your relationship with God, by committing sins of omission and not disciplining your children and doing what is right, so that you can have this demonic relationship with your daughter, where she holds you hostage? I’m sorry, my friends, but I’m here to tell you that that’s not the way. Sometimes we have to say, just like the Prodigal Son in the parable that he had to leave because he couldn’t live that way in the father’s house. Then he went, he repented and he came back, and the father embraced him.

“Oh, of course, Father. My daughter’s getting married outside of the Church. I’m going to go because Father Bozo told me I had to go and keep the relationship open.” Are you for real? “But you’re the only priest…” I don’t care! “Well how about this, Father? I won’t go to the ceremony by the Justice of the Peace, but can I just go to the reception?” I said, “Are you on drugs?”

So in other words – I use this analogy in my missions all the time – suppose your son says: “Dad, I’ve got my .45 cocked and loaded. I’m going to go shoot Tommy in the head. Come with me, I want you to watch, I want you to witness this.” So the dad
goes, “You know, John, I won’t come with you, but I’ll meet you in the pub and we’ll celebrate after you blow someone’s brains out and commit a mortal sin.”

Your daughter or son is an adulterer or fornicator. You’re going to go celebrate that? What’s wrong with you?! You know what’s wrong? You’re not on your knees, you’re not praying! Because if you’re doing your mental prayer and you’re praying the Rosary, you won’t do those things. Saint Alphonsus says that mental prayer and mortal sin cannot co-exist. You will give up one or the other. I hope it’s the sin.

We see all this stuff in the world; I can go on and on, but the worst part – and this is what really saddens me – is that the communists have infiltrated the Church with the Masons. Bella Dodd testified before Congress – I forgot what year it was – in the 50’s, but she was a communist agent responsible for 1100 men entering the priesthood.

That’s why a lot of these bishops who are heretics and homosexuals are Masons and communists; it’s an old boy’s club.

That’s the way it is, it’s a fact. Talk about this wicked government, and you think our government’s good because Donald Trump’s in there? That’s a joke. Our government pays our bish-
ops off. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops receives over half a billion dollars a year from the good old U.S. government. That’s why the Crucifixes are being taken down in the classroom. That’s why you’re not allowed to pray, that’s why you’re not allowed to be Catholic anymore. The worst thing you can do is send your children to a “Catholic school.” What a joke!

We have now seen the infiltration of the Church up to the very top. It should break our hearts! When we talk about the Pope, it breaks my heart that my father, my spiritual father, is teaching heresy, promoting heresy. Never in the history of the Church has this happened – that a pope promotes adultery, unnatural vices! And what happens? Our Lady of Good Success told us 400 years ago, because She already knew they would hide the Third Secret [of Fatima] from us; so if you want to know a lot of what is in the Third Secret – in my opinion – read the prophecies of Our Lady of Good Success. In one part, talking about the troubles of our times, Our Lady said: “The Sacrament of Matrimony which symbolizes the union of Christ with the Church, will be thoroughly attacked and profaned.” This is where we’re at.

So we look at the family, at what’s happening to the family. Families are broken down. The average person with children, even so-called good Catholics, if you speak to them, they say: “I’m so busy. My son’s in three different sports: lacrosse, baseball, football or basketball. My daughter’s playing soccer.” What the heck’s going on? So you’re running around like a chicken with his head cut off all weekend. Instead of praying, you’re going to all these sports games. What’s happening is that you’re being secularized.

Father Mateo Crawley-Boevey, SS.CC, was a very holy priest and founder of the Home Enthronement of the Sacred Heart. He said this: “You can tell the strength of a nation by the strength of family life in that nation.” What does that tell you? Look at our nation, it’s totally gone.

We can sink a lot lower, and it’s coming; the attacks are coming, more and more. We don’t have our shepherds defending us against the wolves.
I’d rather you listen to a great pope than myself. *Casti Connubii* is an encyclical on Christian marriage written by Pope Pius XI in 1930. I beg you to get it. Read it online, read it – it’s beautiful!

Most people I find, who are married, don’t understand their vocation. Just like today, they say that the crisis in the priesthood is an identity crisis; the priest doesn’t know who he is. It’s not a secret, Who the priest is supposed to be – Christ Crucified, that’s Who he is supposed to be. And that’s the one thing they reject.

Do most married couples know this? So I encourage them, read these documents like the great *Casti Connubii*; read the Council of Trent, the greatest council there’s ever been in the Church. Read the documents on marriage, read the Saints. Pius XII had a message to newlyweds. You can still get that book from Angelus Press. Beautiful!

So Pope Pius XI starts off in *Casti Connubii* like this:

“How great is the dignity of chaste wedlock, Venerable Brethren, may be judged best from this, that Christ Our Lord, Son of the Eternal Father, having assumed the nature of fallen man, not only, with His loving desire of compassing the redemption of our race, ordained it in an especial manner as the principle and foundation of domestic society and therefore of all human intercourse, [...] but also raised it to the rank of a truly and great sacrament of the New Law, restored it to the original purity of its divine institution, and accordingly entrusted all its discipline and care to His Spouse the Church.” …

He goes on: “In order, however, that amongst men of every nation and every age the desired fruits may be obtained from this renewal of matrimony, it is necessary, first of all, that men’s minds be illuminated with the true doctrine of Christ regarding it…” God’s telling you that it’s necessary that your mind, first of all, be illuminated; that God wants to take you from a natural level to a supernatural level, and you need grace for that.

If you want your mind to be illuminated, you need two things: you’ve got to study doctrine, you’ve got to study what the Church has said about marriage, and you need to be on your knees. You have to be men and women of prayer, because that’s how your mind’s going to be illuminated – through the teachings of the Church and wearing your knees out.

When you enter into mental prayer, you enter into a direct
relationship with Christ and He will illuminate your mind. With faith, we don’t have to understand what we believe, but we have to believe it. But we could pray to understand. If you’re married, please pray: “Lord, illuminate my mind.” Get down on your knees every day with your wife. Are you praying as a couple? As an entire family, yes, but just as a couple? Do you pray to be enlightened by the doctrines of Christ, the doctrines that set you free? It’s very important.

“[A]nd secondly, that Christian spouses, the weakness of their wills strengthened by the internal grace of God, shape all their ways of thinking and of acting in conformity with that pure Law of Christ so as to obtain true peace and happiness for themselves and for their families.” That’s the only way you can have true peace. It can’t be separated from the truth. It can’t be separated, therefore, from Christ.

So, you want to be conformed to the laws of Christ. The laws of Christ are not burdensome; they set you free. I argue with so many people. I try not to anymore, but somebody was just arguing with me. I said, “Would you admit that if everyone followed the Ten Commandments, that this would be a happy world?” Even the pagans say, “Yeah, yeah.” So why don’t you start doing it? …

What’s in Amoris Laetitia makes my skin crawl. He [Pope Francis] talks about conscience, he’s telling people, “You’ve got to follow
your conscience,” but he leaves out the fact that you have the obligation to properly inform your conscience. And he tells the priests what we have to do in the confessional. I’m sorry, Pope Francis, but I’ll follow the great Saint Alphonsus who’s the Doctor of morals. I’m supposed to inform that person who’s a fornicator committing adultery that he’s in grave mortal sin, and that he’s going to go to hell, and so is she. That’s real mercy!

Pope Francis is promoting this false mercy. It’s not the mercy of God! Saint Alphonsus Liguori says – listen to this – “The mercy of God sends more souls to hell than His justice....” Whew! Do you hear that? “… because these unhappy ones confiding rashly in God’s mercy, continue to sin and are thus lost. God is merciful, who denies it? Nevertheless, He is also just, and He is therefore obliged to punish those who offend Him.”

He shows mercy to whom? To those that fear Him. That’s in the Magnificat. God pardons the sin, but He cannot pardon the determination to sin. This is false mercy. Saint Augustine warns us about the abuse of God’s mercy. If you go to sin, saying, “I’m going to sin, because I know God will forgive me,” that’s a sin of presumption, too. You say, “I’m going to crucify You, I’m going to nail You to the Cross, and You’re going to forgive me!”

Whoa! You’re playing with fire – literally. God promises that He will never turn away a humble and contrite heart. That’s one of the crises in the Church today, in the confessional. I’m going to be speaking about that at the Catholic Family News conference after Easter. These priests are told that they have to absolve everyone. That’s a lie from hell! You have to delay absolution, sometimes you have to deny it. You have to rip up the vice – that’s true mercy.

How can you promote these people making sacrilegious Communions? You’re the Pope! We’re not supposed to be silent about this! We have a lot to pray for.
IN 2003 THE FATIMA SHRINE IN PORTUGAL ANNOUNCED A CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE FROM OCTOBER 10 – 12. Upon hearing the title of the conference – “The Present of Man - the Future of God: The Place of Sanctuaries in Relation to the Sacred” – Father Gruner made a shocking statement to Andrew Cesanek and me:

“They are going to open the Shrine up to false worship by non-Catholics.”

After making this prophetic statement, he said, “We’ve got to do something,” and immediately took action, contacting Catholic Family News editor John Vennari (R.I.P.) and asking him to attend the conference and report directly to Father regarding the content.

Having no doubt that he was correct in his assessment of the diabolical plans of the Shrine rector and his accomplices, he tasked John with finding out specifically how bold they would be in introducing such an heretical and apostate plan.

It happened that Father and other members of Our Lady’s apostolate were in Fatima when the conference took place. With the help of Mary Sedore (R.I.P.), Father Gruner was leading a group
of pilgrims from North America, while others of us were busy distributing to the Portuguese and other pilgrims visiting the Shrine, the latest version of The Fatima Center publication, *Chronology of a Cover-up*.

*Chronology of a Cover-up* was not a Fatima Shrine-rector-friendly publication, nor something that the enemies of Fatima were favorable to because it unveiled the plot to silence Our Lady of Fatima by silencing some of the most outspoken of the advocates of Her Message.

*These include: Sister Lucy (silenced in 1960); Father Alonso (silenced in 1975, whose extensive 24 volumes on the Message of Fatima were suppressed by not being published, although two were published decades later after extensive editing);* and Father Gruner (silenced in 1989, by means of a campaign viciously maligning his reputation in order to keep people from listening to him about the Fatima Message).

**John’s daily reports confirmed precisely what Father Gruner had predicted.**

The conference itself was an inter-religious event, attended by Anglicans, Hindus, Buddhists, schismatic Orthodox, and others.

A large part of the overall theme of the conference was opening up the Shrine to all religions, which naturally required the hosting Catholic clergy to distance themselves from (if not flatly renounce) the dogma *extra Ecclesiam nulla salus* (outside the Church there is no salvation).

**STOPPING THE PROGRESSION OF THE DIABOLICAL**

Upon receiving this confirmation that his initial assessment of the rector’s plans had been correct, Father Gruner took immediate action. He initiated a public appeal – including a press release, and postal mail campaigns to bishops, priests and apostolate supporters in North America and throughout the world – notifying them of the plans to open the Fatima sanctuary to desecration, and urging Catholics around the world to pray and to protest against this impending outrage.

Under his guidance, The Fatima Center asked all Catholics to participate in a worldwide prayer
campaign – which included collecting pledges of Rosaries – and to help gather signatures on a formal petition to the Pope and all the Portuguese bishops, demanding that such a project be halted completely.

Articles reporting on the heretical talks given at the Congress in Fatima, and the diabolical plans of shrine officials and the Portuguese hierarchy were published in Issue 75 of *The Fatima Crusader*.

The work of notifying and appealing to Catholics worldwide continued for several months, culminating in two large efforts in Portugal:

1. In April of 2004, two staff members from The Fatima Center purchased full page “ad” space in three major newspapers, in which was printed “An Open Letter to the Faithful of Portugal” which included a petition to the Pope and to the Portuguese bishops.

   Father believed that notifying and reaching out directly to Portuguese Catholics would mobilize them to express their outrage on behalf of Her Whom they so lovingly refer to as Nossa Senhora (Our Lady).

   Unfortunately, however, the necessity of Fatima Center staff members using their own names in conjunction with Our Lady’s Apostolate as the publishers of the “Open Letter” led to some difficulty for them.

   After the “Open Letter” was published on April 24, they were followed, harassed, and subjected to frequent attempts at intimidation by Town of Fatima police and by Shrine security guards as they carried out their work on behalf of Our Lady’s Apostolate.

2. Thousands of copies of the “Open Letter,” both in English and Portuguese, were printed and distributed beginning in early May – by hand to pilgrims at the Shrine, and by mail throughout Portugal.

   Father Gruner and Our Lady’s Apostolate were doing everything possible to stop the plans of the Shrine rector and others.

   **THE SHRINE DESECRATION**

Just eleven days after publishing the “Open Letter”, what Father Gruner had been trying to prevent by warning the Catholic world for seven months – the desecration of the Shrine in Fatima by non-Catholics – took place.

Following an approximate 18-hour period of unusual occurrences in Fatima, including a very severe all-night high wind and rain storm, on the next
morning (May 5, 2004) as the bad weather continued, the streets of Fatima and the Shrine sanctuary were uncharacteristically (but fortunately, as I was soon to learn) devoid of pedestrians – pilgrims and residents alike.

Usually there are pilgrims in the sanctuary from very early morning until at least midnight. On this day, the absence of visiting pilgrims prevented them from witnessing the sacrilege that was about to take place.

While walking past the Shrine on my way to the secret location where the Tridentine Rite (Latin) Mass was offered – secret because the priest offering the Latin Mass believed he would be evicted from housing owned by the Shrine, if the Rector of the Shrine found out (which did happen a few years later) – I saw that there was only one person in the Shrine sanctuary who was just passing through on his way to another destination. Looking back on that dark day, I thank God for that.

The day was all but over when I learned what had happened. I was working late that evening in our office there in Fatima. At about 9:30 p.m., the telephone rang. It was one of our helpers in Coimbra, Portugal calling with horrifying news.

On a Portuguese television station a program was being broadcast that showed footage of what had taken place at the Shrine – in the Little Chapel of the Apparitions – earlier that day.

With the full cooperation and at the invitation of the Rector of the Shrine, a busload of about 60 Hindus visited and desecrated the Shrine by performing a Hindu ceremony right on the altar consecrated for the sacrifice of the Mass.

Since it was only 4:30 p.m. back at The Fatima Center’s main office in Fort Erie, Ontario, I immediately called Father Gruner, who was deeply grieved to hear that Our Lady’s shrine had been thus desecrated in spite of all our efforts.

Father lost no time in notifying the Catholic world of what had taken place. Nearing the end of the staff workday at the apostolate in Canada, he asked John Vennari, who was visiting at the time, to post a notice of the desecration that same day on the Catholic Family News website. Later, this same report was posted on the fatima.org website.

Thanks to Father Gruner and Our Lady’s Apostolate, the Catholic world was notified of the desecration, and countless acts of reparation began to assuage the outrage committed against Our Lord and Our Lady. Had we not had a presence in Fatima, it is possible that the terrible act of desecration would never have been brought to light, to the everlasting shame of the faithless clergy who facilitated it.

May Almighty God have mercy on us!
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The Role of Young People in the Church and the World Today

Father Daniel Couture, SSPX

The following is an excerpt of a talk given on Saturday, September 15, 2018, at the “Fatima for the Next Generation Youth Conference” in Grand Island, New York near Buffalo.

What does the Church expect from you?
According to Pope Pius XII, you must know your Faith. He said, “Specific ideas and deep convictions are needed, because they arouse enthusiasm, they arouse the strength of resistance and generosity, while one reaches [accomplishes] little or nothing with distracted, lazy, superficial young people.”

HERE ARE SOME PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS:

The future Saint Francis Xavier, one man – in early 1530 he met the future Saint Ignatius of Loyola studying in the Sorbonne in Paris, and Ignatius managed in a skillful way to make him realize that you have one soul, you better save it. What does it prophet a man to save the whole world, to win the whole world, if he loses his soul? [Matt. 16:26] And Ignatius taught Francis; he gave him a 30-day retreat (now known as
the Ignatian retreat), particularly meditating on the Passion of Our Lord. What struck Francis and what that spark did for him – not just to become a priest, not just to go to Portugal, but to India and to Japan, but what sent him to the altar, to become a saint – is when he meditated on what He [Our Lord] suffered for me. All the Passion is for me. What will I do for Him?

You see with little children, if you give them a coloring pencil and a coloring book, they’ll come back to you in 10 minutes, having drawn something, and say: “Here, that’s for you.” Don’t we have a heart at the sight of all the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ – He, the Immaculate Lamb?

**What are we going to do for Him after seeing what He did for us?**

So Pius XII says we need to have these deep convictions. He said: “Let us again point out the urgent need for a precise, complete catechesis which does not neglect the aid of memory.” You need to learn the Faith, to retain it in your memory, but it’s based on reason. He said: “Tell the young people to have the most organic vision possible of Catholic doctrine. Make them see in Jesus the answer to the strong need which is in them of plenitude, harmony, light in their ideas.”

So, study your faith, read. You have heard during this conference so far lots of books mentioned; so read, study, listen to good talks; learn your faith. I received an email yesterday – from somebody who’s been listening to different sermons and reading catechisms, who said, “Father, how is it that the more I discover the more I want to learn?” Pope St. Gregory the Great speaks about that. Now that we’ve eaten our meal, if they brought all kinds of food you would say, “Thanks, we’re full”. Saint Gregory compares physical food and spiritual food. There’s physical food – when you don’t have it you yearn for it, but after you have it you don’t want it anymore and you walk away from the dining room. Spiritual food at first is not appealing, but when you start biting into it, you say: “Oh, this is great! Can I have more? Can I have more?” And there’s no end because it’s infinite – it’s God.

So, read. Do spiritual reading, doctrinal reading, and read about the crisis in the Church. We have Mr. Weston with us
here at the conference, from LifeSiteNews. We have Catholic Family News. We have good people coming to this conference. They want to give you that food, regularly. The encyclicals – this is something fantastic as John Vennari, I think, started the encyclicals [in Catholic Family News]. Archbishop Lefebvre’s strength was the encyclicals because they [Modernists] can say nothing about that. “Hey, the Pope said this. That’s Catholic; that’s what I believe; that’s our strength at all levels.” So, formation of the mind, formation of the will.

Pius XII again: “No study, no serious application can make someone infallible, let alone young people, who, by their inexperience, are exposed more than adults to the danger of being wrong. It is therefore necessary that a spirit rich in clear ideas should be accompanied by a docile will in the young Catholic.”

He explained that we must have a will strong enough to embrace whatever God’s Will is, and the will of those whom we recognize as superiors. You need to be taught; the priests will teach you and your parents will teach you. Learn; the saints will teach us. We learn from the children of Fatima, when we speak about strengthening the will, it is through the spirit of sacrifice. Little sacrifices – you’re very thirsty, you wait a little bit; it’s hot, you bear it. You say, “I’m going to stick to the end, I won’t fall asleep.” Little sacrifices – be on time; get out of bed when the alarm rings. Little things – do things on schedule, be disciplined. That’s the training of the will, and that is absolutely necessary. And fight your main passions. Find your main defect and fight it.

Padre Pio said the devil wants to steal our will, and it is so true. Listen to a man who fought against himself. His name was Augustine. He knew he had to become a Catholic. “For this to be pure was what I was longing to do; …” He was living with his girlfriend. They had a child. He was 31 or 32, but he was not clean and he felt dirty. “…but as yet I was bound by the iron chain of my own will. The enemy held fast my will, and had made of it a chain, and had bound me tight with it.”

And now he explains: “For out of the perverse will came lust, and the service of lust ended in habit, and habit, not resisted, became necessity. By these links, as it were, forged together – which is why I called it ‘a
"chain’ – a hard bondage held me in slavery, but then I discovered the grace of God.

"But that new will which had begun to spring up in me freely to worship Thee and to enjoy Thee, O my God, the only certain Joy, was not as yet able to overcome my former willfulness, made strong by long indulgence."

So there was a period when the two wills were fighting – like St. Paul – but finally the grace of God overcame.

So, read the lives of the saints. You will find yourselves in the lives of these saints, like St. Augustine. And just one more passage of him, there was this moment when as yet that chain was choking him, he wanted to get free and he did not know what to do and he was with his friend Alypius, and he just had to walk. He was choking; he started to cry and just walked a few steps and he fell on the ground next to a tree and said, "My, God, I want to get free but I can’t." And then he heard the voice, but first he describes something he saw. He says:

"[T]he chaste dignity of continence appeared to me – cheerful but not wanton, modestly alluring me to come and doubt nothing, extending her holy hands, full of a multitude of good examples – to receive and embrace me. There were so many young men and maidens, a multitude of youth and every age, grave widows and ancient virgins; and continence like continence personified, continence herself in their midst: not barren, but a fruitful mother of children. And she smiled on me with a challenging smile as if to say: ‘Can you not do what these young men and maidens can? Or can any of them do it of themselves, and not rather in the Lord their God? The Lord their God gave me to them. Why do you stand on your own strength, and so stand not? Cast yourself on Him; fear not. He will not flinch and you will not fall. Cast yourself on Him without fear, for He will receive and heal you.’"

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and that’s what St. Augustine did. He had a terrible youth and he’s one of the greatest Fathers of the Church.

Let me just finish with a word to continue what Father Collins told us this morning about vocation. Father gave the principles and the dignity of vocation and he spoke about marriage within the context of this crisis we are living in the Church – these scandals by Cardinals, bishops and priests and the Pope. Souls not following the Message of Fatima that are
leading so many others to hell. We have the example of St. Teresa [of Avila] who saw how bad things were, though not as bad as today, but nevertheless, she gave herself totally as a sacrifice. And when Judas fell, someone took his place; Matthias took his place. So when we hear these tragedies of priestly or religious scandal, Our Lady is asking: So who’s going to take their place? It’s like when the angels fell from Heaven – the bad angels – we humans are taking their place. And so it’s very important to understand the need of vocations – not just the beauty of it, but Our Lord is calling.

So, a few practical things: What are the signs of a vocation? First, is having a right intention. “I want to be a priest because I’d like to have a long beard like Father Isaac.” No, that’s not right. Or, “I want to be a Carmelite because I love the veil, so nice; the scapular, so nice.” No, that’s not a right intention. The right intention is: I want to serve God; I feel His calling and I want to give my life to God; I want to save souls – God first. So, number one: the right intention.

Secondly, the intention and the will to be perfect. Jesus said if you want to be perfect, so you must have that desire – but more than a desire, it’s a strong will to seek perfection and religious life. If you make the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, you will be in a state of perfection. So you will have to aim. It doesn’t mean you are a saint, but that you will aim at reaching that perfection. That is why you make a vow. I want to become a saint and I’ll do everything to do that. So, the will to become a saint.

Thirdly, a proper health. Some orders, but every congregation, will ask you for a medical report. Some orders you can enter even if you’re infirm or crippled, but some orders require good health.
And fourth, no impediments. Each congregation has a list of questions – they want to know who you are – and certain things will be an obstacle to enter. If you have debts, for example; or if somebody has already a child outside of wedlock. Well, you’re going to have to take care of your child. Things like this, they will ask questions – the use of drugs; have you lived with a girl or with a guy? And so these are impediments. There are certain things that are considered impediments – the Church has a list of them; you need to check these things.

Another category is about vocations. Understand that there are two general categories of vocations. There are the contemplatives and there are the actives. The contemplatives: You enter a convent or a monastery and you’re not going to do apostolic work. You’re going to be inside and away from the public. You will pray and do whatever they are required to do inside a monastery – make vestments, take care of the cooking, do the administration – whatever they do inside the monastery and pray a lot. So you have the Carmelites, you have the contemplative Dominicans, you have the Poor Clares, you have the Benedictines – these are contemplative orders; also the Franciscans.

The actives are those who teach in a school or take care of orphanages. Or active priests who go around and say Mass and take care of Mass centers and work in schools – these are active vocations. So that’s

**in the garden of God. There are all kinds of personalities and there’s room for everybody.**

And one more point I want to
make, just to clarify your thoughts on this for any of you who are thinking of a vocation. The day you decide to become a nun or to become a brother and you walk in the convent or the monastery, you won’t be a nun or a brother instantly. The first period is called a postulancy. It’s about six months. You’re still in lay clothes and you’re leaving the world behind for six months. Then after about six months you become a novice. That’s when you receive the habit. You become a novice and you receive your religious name at that moment, and that’s for one year or two years depending on the order. And then after one or two years, you’ll make your profession – you make the vows of poverty, chastity, obedience. And then you will do that temporarily every year or every three years for a number of years, after which you make perpetual vows. So, that’s the training.

To become a priest in the Society of St. Pius X takes about seven years – one year of Humanities and six years of the priesthood. It takes time; it’s serious, but what is at stake is serious – saving your soul and working with Our Lord and Our Lady to save other souls.

Pius XII says: “[P]erhaps never before today has the harvest been so abundant. But the workers are few, and consequently unable to go wherever their presence is ardently demanded.”

“Other young people,” says Pius XII, “the vast majority – are called by God to be His co-workers in the procreation of new lives. Let them know the beauty of Christian love; and to prepare them for the formation of an honest and happy family, let them enjoy the joys of unblemished purity.”

The best preparation for marriage is a clean courtship; and we need to talk about virginity. Virginity: There are many couples – not enough – there are still couples arriving on their wedding day both virgins; and that’s something to aim at if you want to get married. You’re going to give yourself to your spouse and only to him or to her. That will be your wedding gift – yourself. And for everyone – those who are thinking of a vocation, something to help you as well – is that in Heaven there are special aureoles, special crowns for virgins – those who have managed to go through life keeping their virginity. There’s a special glory in Heaven; that’s why there is this special category of saints – the virgins.

And so let us conclude with
Pius XII. “Finally,” says the Pope, “it is a goal towards which all young people must strive, whatever their specific vocation. The present hour is truly the hour of the Gospel, since the systems or doctrines that had wanted to do without God have failed, or are about to fail. Everywhere, we need young people of an honest faith, ready to give up the mediocrity, to get out of the equivocation, if they had never fallen there; young people who want the divine life and want it abundantly; young people who, while studying or working, talking, praying and suffering, have in their hearts – like a flame that burns them – the passionate love of Jesus, the love of souls.”

*Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us! Thank you very much.*
Christmas Greetings from the children at the Immaculate Heart orphanage in Hyderabad, India. Children: Carrying on the Catholic Faith into the future.

What are we going to do for Our Lord? We have the example of little children: ‘If you give them a coloring book and pencil, they will come back to you in 10 minutes, having drawn something, and say: ‘Here, that’s for you.’ ” – Father Couture