



DEFEND LIFE

Promoting the Culture of Life and Fighting the Culture of Death since 1987

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Dr. Janet Smith On The Crisis In The Catholic Church Today

On Thursday January 11, Dr. Janet Smith gave a presentation in Springfield Virginia as part of the Defend Life lecture series. The focus of that talk was on the current crisis in the Catholic Church today. With the undeniably questionable proclamations that have been coming from the Vatican as of late, no one can reasonably deny that there is deep systemic trouble, even internal rot that is weakening the faith of millions and the credibility of the Church's moral voice.

She started her talk by stating its title: "The Crisis In The Church". She also said that while not everyone needs to know all the details, we all must be aware of what is generally happening. She then stated to the audience that if anything that she was about to say threatened their faith, to ask God to delete it from their brains. I will now exercise my editor's prerogative by interjecting my opinion that if anyone's faith is threatened by hearing the truth of what is happening, then their faith was never solid and may have in fact been based upon other things than Our Lord. One will never know if their faith is sufficient for salvation if it is not tested from time to time. Indeed, if someone does sense themselves wavering because of



Dr. Janet Smith

such revelations, they need to do some serious soul-searching regarding their own faith and not flee the testings of the same.

She posed three questions to the audience:

- 1. Where are we?**
- 2. How did we get here? (what Smith believes is the most important question)**
- 3. What do we do about it?**

She said that for her, things began with the sexual abuses perpetrated by Theodore McCarrick, a former cardinal who has since been reduced to the lay state. Smith had been aware of some sexual misconduct starting in the 1980s by reading the Wanderer

and other publications. However, she had assumed that if she knew about it, then the nation's bishops knew and were taking corrective action. It was after the McCarrick debacle that she realized that the bishops were covering up the abuses – or attempting to cover up.

After that, she started doing some research, consulting others who had been examining these matters for several years. She learned that much of the sex abuse issues originated from the seminaries. Many of these seminaries in the past produced corrupt bishops, who (among other things) tend to promote their like-mined colleagues.

Moving onto more current scandals, she brought up the Pachamama scandal, with the idol even being brought into St. Peter's. Also mentioned was the deformation of the John Paul II Institute, where the thought of John Paul II was replaced with modern social science. The thought of John Paul II is no longer welcome in the Vatican.

She moved onto different kinds of corruption: doctrinal, financial, political, moral, liturgical. Regarding financial corruption, she mentioned a building scandal in London, where a Cardinal had been accused of money

laundering. A lot of money laundering goes on.

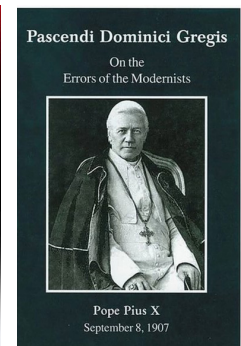
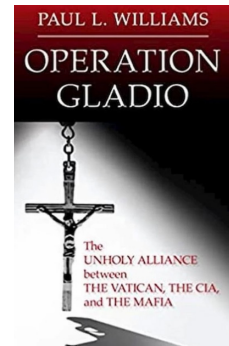
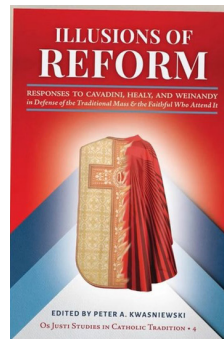
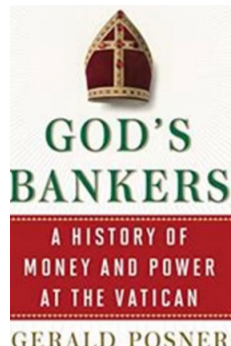
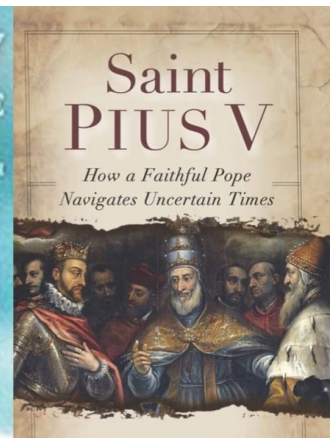
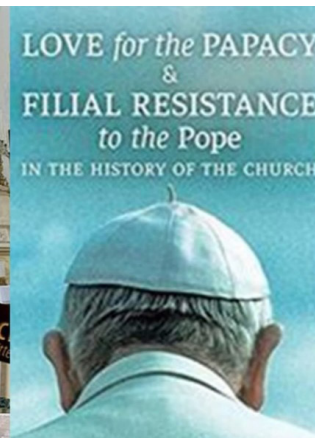
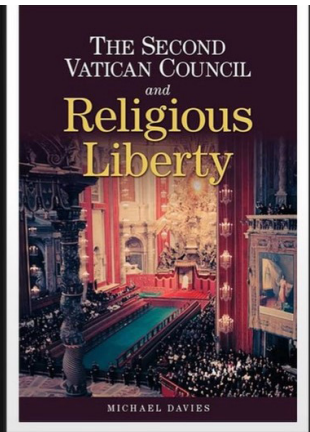
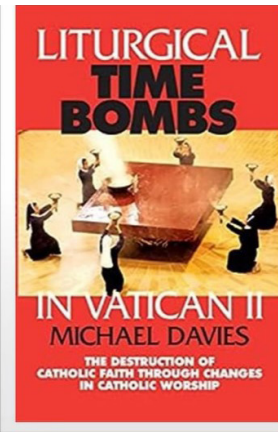
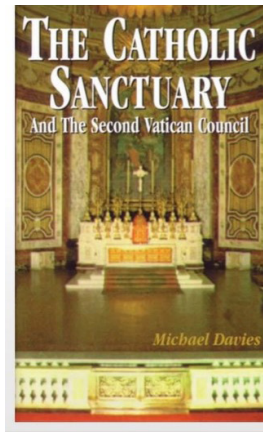
Smith revealed that she is a devotee of the Traditional Latin Mass, and finds Traditionis Custodes to be troubling in the extreme, as do many of us. She marveled at the number of young people, with their many children, who attend the Latin Mass. While acknowledging the superiority of the Traditional Latin Mass over the Novus Ordo Mass, she noted that the Novus Ordo Masses are becoming more reverent.

She then paused to give another outline of topics on which she hoped to touch:

1. **Modernism**
 - a. **Modern philosophy**
 - b. **Masons**
 - c. **Communists**
2. **Vatican bank**
3. **China**
4. **Vatican II**
5. **Liturgy**
6. **Sex abuse**

A lot of doctrinal confusion goes back to modern philosophy and the so-called “enlightenment” that completely rejected revelation as a source of wisdom. Adherents to this philosophy reject Scripture and Tradition as so many myths. Friedrich Nietzsche then came along and said that even reason will not matter as people have different reasonings, leading to belief in no objective reality. He went so far to claim that reason serves human passions.

Others believe there is no spiritual world at all. Only physical matter exists. Of course such people are at a loss to define things such as friendship, since friendship is not a material object. Then there is relativism, holding that there is no such thing as truth. Smith mentioned that this philosophy was present to such an extent in one



Suggested readings

of her college classes that one of her classmates had difficulty ascribing to the truth of his own existence.

We can see the impact of this uncertainty of truth when we hear people speak of “my truth” or “what I choose to believe about religion”, making no place for objective truth.

Smith then moved onto Masonry and its inroads into the Church. Masons at the highest levels of the organization have as their aim the destruc-

tion of the Catholic Church. Many on the lower levels of the organization have no idea of the evil mindsets of those on the higher levels. There are 33 degrees of levels.

Communists and Masons work hand in hand for the Church’s destruction. In the early part of the 20th century, a woman named Bella Dodd became a Communist and was instrumental in

See **CHURCH CRISIS**, page 9

Effort to Defeat Abortion Amendment is Underway

Editor's preface: The article below touches upon a matter that is of the utmost importance to the protection of babies in the State of Maryland. We ask that you read it in its entirety and act upon it.

As pro-life citizens of Maryland *should* know by now, the so-called “Right to Reproductive Freedom” Amendment will be on the ballot in the November 2024 election. If it receives a majority vote for passage, it will enshrine in the state constitution the rights to engage in abortion, all kinds of sexual perversion, etc. It will be next to impossible to pass any kind of legislation that would at least restrict the butchery of tiny children.

Efforts are afoot to garner negative votes on this amendment. During the January 14th March for Life Kick-Off Rally, held at the Knights of Columbus Rosensteel Council in Silver Spring, we heard about two of them that go hand in hand.

We first heard from Sheila Wharam, director of Memorares for Maryland. The website for this organization is memorares4maryland.org. It is a prayer effort, whereby people will commit to praying three Merorares per day for the defeat of this amendment. Those participating are asked to go to the website and post the number of Memorares actually prayed, along with their initials. The site is keeping a running tally of the Memorares prayed to date.

Ms. Wharam started her talk by pointing out that “reproductive freedom” as stated in the amendment is not defined nor limited. Therefore, in addition to the evils mentioned above, it could permit polygamy, prostitution, pedophilia, transgender mutilation of minors, almost anything. She gave a



Deborah Brocato

brief history of the Maryland constitution. It was written in 1776, with forty-two rights written into the Constitution. This abortion amendment, if passed, would be article 48.

She mentioned that in addition to praying for the amendment's failure on election day, that someone would take it to court and have it struck from the ballot. It violates section 14 of the constitution that states that any subsequent amendment may only deal with one subject. Because the amendment is not limited to pregnancy termination, it fails the “one subject” stipulation. It should not be on the ballot.

This amendment would allow for unsafe abortions, treat unborn babies as medical waste and curtail religious rights. Because it talks of “reproductive freedom of individuals”, that could be a child. It would bolster the legal standing of the 2021 health curriculum that introduces children to the idea that they might be transgender. In Montgomery County, if a misguided child says they want pronouns not consistent with their biological sex, the teachers must comply and may not reveal the matter to parents. The amendment provides for abortions



Sheila Wharam

“any time, any where, any method”; that would include the back-ally abortions.

Wharam reminded us that we pro-lifers have little political clout in this state, but we have Mary as an intercessor before Jesus.

Deborah Brocato, Chair of Health Not Harm MD, next spoke to the audience. A pro-life lobbyist for Maryland Right to Life, she and others formed Health Not Harm MD (hereafter referred to as HNH for brevity's sake) for the express purpose of defeating the “Reproductive Freedom” amendment. That website is healthnotharm-md.org.

After introducing HNH and its structure as a ballot initiative committee, she informed us that the pro-abortion legislature would have the population believe that the proposed amendment is solely about abortion and to prevent attacks on abortion “rights”, but that is not the case. This amendment is in fact part of a nationwide effort to make abortion the law of the land. In other states, similar amendments have passed in Califor-

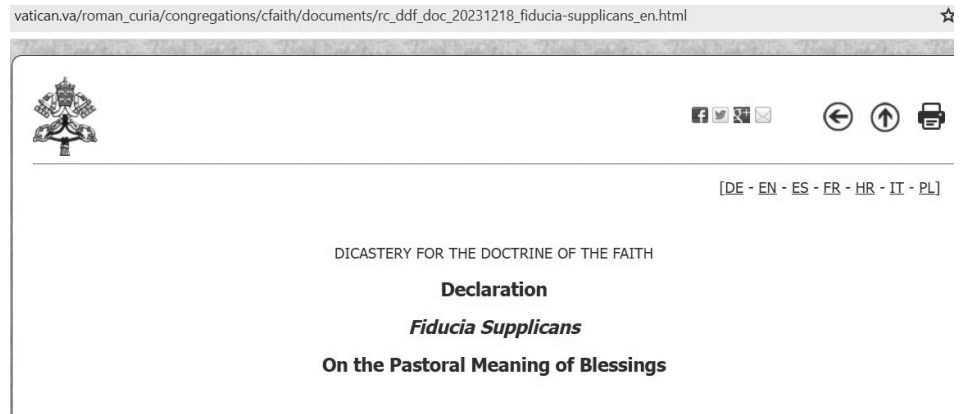
See DEFEAT ABORTION, page 11

Fiducia Supplicans And The Pro-Life Movement

On December 18, the Vatican published a document called *Fiducia Supplicans*. Many people assume that it was written by Pope Francis. In reality, it was written by Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernandez, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith. However, Pope Francis had to have approved it, else it would not have been published on the Vatican website. The English version can be found at <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2023/12/18/0901/01963.html#en>

Most of the Catholic online community is quite abuzz regarding this document, claiming that it opens the door to gay marriage. Regrettably their claims have solid basis. While on one hand it states that gay marriage cannot happen, it does call for the “blessing” of gay couples. If the reader will go to paragraph 31 of the document, he/she will see that allowance announced, very plainly with no ambiguity whatsoever.

Many people hold that the document calls for the blessing of gays as individuals. The problem with that claim is twofold. First, prior to the document, any individual could always obtain a blessing for the grace to amend their life. There would have been no need to write a special document for that. Secondly, the document in paragraph 31 states, “Within the horizon outlined here appears the possibility of blessings for couples in irregular situations and for couples of the same sex”. Simple logic dictates that one cannot bless any kind of union without blessing the nature of the relationship that defines that union: in this case, a perverted sexual relationship.



Fiducia Supplicans on Vatican site, note the URL

To stage a “blessing” of a homosexual relationship is blasphemy in that the sacramental of a blessing is held in mockery, in contempt of its intended purpose to facilitate the spiritual welfare of the recipient(s) of the blessing. It is also sacrilege in that the blessing is being used to validate the mortally sinful situation.

Simple logic dictates that one cannot bless any kind of union without blessing the nature of the relationship that defines that union: in this case, a perverted sexual relationship.

The clergyman conferring such a blessing also incurs guilt of cooperating with the mortal sin of the gay couple. In Catholic moral theology, we see nine recognized ways of cooperating with such sin. They are:

1. Counsel: Giving advice or

- direction to the evil-doer;
2. Command: Ordering or inducing another to commit sin;
 3. Consent: approving of the sin, before or after its act;
 4. Provocation: Inciting or urging one to commit sin;
 5. Praise or flattery: Inciting or urging one to commit sin by praise;
 6. Concealment: helping one to commit sin by offering to conceal the crime;
 7. Partnership: Sharing the fruits of another’s sin;
 8. Silence: Not speaking out when we should, or not acting to prevent sin when obliged;
 9. Defending evil: Attempting to justify the evil actions of others.

A blasphemous blessing of gays would facilitate their sin by way of consent and/or flattery. Thus any priest or bishop blessing a gay couple will share in the guilt of the perverted relationship.

So now we come to the direct ramifications that *Fiducia Suppli-*

cans would likely have on our efforts to eradicate abortion. First, let us be clear that direct harm to our pro-life efforts will occur unless this document is consigned to a dung hill. Consider that homosexual conduct, like abortion and contraception, are direct violations of *Humanae Vitae*, released by Pope Paul VI on July 25, 1968. Because it is a papal writing, it can be found on the Vatican website, and is a document with which all Catholic pro-life activists should be familiar.

In the 50+ years in which we've been waging this war for a culture of life, we should now have come to an understanding that when you have one facet of disobedience against *Humanae Vitae* in full swing, other facets are present as well. If ever there was a truly valid "seamless garment" in Catholic moral theology, obedience to God's laws regarding marriage, sexuality, and procreation would be it. However, there are those who oppose

abortion, but seem to have no real issues with contraception and/or homosexuality. That disconnect is a serious weakness in the pro-life movement and might prove to be crippling. Ironically, the enemies of the culture of life seem to have a better intuitive grasp of that truth, albeit from warped perspectives. That's why pro-aborts support pro-gay initiatives, and vice versa.

Fiducia Supplicans talks specifically of blessings for gay couples. Is it that much of a stretch to conceive of attempts to bless other associations that commit crimes against *Humanae Vitae* – like abortion practices? Paragraph 31 cites, in an attempt to justify blessing gay couples, "all that is true, good, and humanly valid" in those associations. There are abortion mills that also perform actual beneficial services in their practices, such as delivering live babies and other typical ob/gyn services. Might these actual services, good in and of themselves,

be used to justify a blessing for an abortion practice?

To date, several gay-coddling clergy, including the notorious Fr James Martin S.J., have used *Fiducia Supplicans* to "bless" gay couples, affirming them in their mortal sin and greasing the skids to their eternal damnation (should they die before repenting). These clergy still are in good standing with the Church hierarchy, unlike Bishop Strickland and Father Altman. What has also been compromised is the Church's ability to speak with a cohesive voice against the evils of homosexuality and other perversions.

Now the precedent has been set – both in word and in deed. How will the Church's voice against abortion be weakened? If *Fiducia Supplicans* is not combatted, it will be just a matter of when and how faithful Catholics will be left on our own to fight for a culture of life.



CABRINI Movie Coming Friday, March 8

Frances Cabrini was born in 1850 in a small village outside of Milan, Italy. She was the youngest of thirteen. Nine of her siblings died in infancy. She grew up on a dirt farm where the soil was so poor it was almost impossible for her father to grow anything to feed his large family.

Her health was so frail that she was denied entry to the religious order she wanted to join. Instead, she traveled to Rome, starting her own order, intending to send missionaries to China. When she met Pope Leo XIII, he convinced her to go to the West instead where Italian immigrants were in dire need of everything imaginable. She arrived on the shores of New York City in 1889 with 6 of her nuns.

The following morning, they went to see Archbishop Michael Corrigan at Saint Patrick Cathedral. The crusty Irishman told her that a mistake had been made and the orphanage they were to run simply did not exist. But if they hurried, they had time to catch the 3 PM ship back to Italy.

Mother Cabrini stubbornly refused to return. Reluctantly, Corrigan sent them to a church in southern Manhattan where the teachers and students utilized the nave during school days as there was no other space.

Soon, Corrigan realized what a gem Cabrini was. There was a lush area atop the Palisades (steep cliffs) on the Jersey side of the Hudson just north of where the George Washington Bridge was later built. The problem was it had no water. Cabrini told the well driller exactly where to drill and they struck water. That was the first of her many miracles.

But her biggest miracles were the 67 schools, hospitals, and orphanages she founded on 3 continents and her 23 trans-Atlantic voyages. In 1946, she was canonized by Pope Pius XII. She was the first American ever to be canonized a Saint. **Mark Friday, March 8 on your calendar right now!**



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*February 14, 2024 Anno Domini
Feast of Saint Valentine of Rome*

Dear Friend of **DEFEND LIFE**,

Friday, January 19 was my **51st March for Life**. It snowed 3 to 4 inches the night before so sadly many of the buses coming from nearby locations such as Christendom College, John Paul the Great High School and even not so close Franciscan University were cancelled. Many of the bus companies have a clause in their contract that enables them to cancel during emergency weather conditions. Even with all the snow and ice and sub-freezing temperatures, there were about 20,000 Marchers. But more about that in a moment.

The night before the march, there was the amazing **Vigil Mass at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception**. That church is the largest and one of the most beautiful churches in North America. It was packed with marchers so many of whom had come many hundreds of miles. Bishop Michael Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia preached beautifully to the thousand attendees.

Afterwards I personally distributed hundreds of flyers on the **Garland 9**. The Garland 9 are those prisoners of conscience who are now incarcerated at a jail in nearby Alexandria, Virginia awaiting sentencing soon. These heroes could be facing up to **11** years in federal prison for violating **FACE**. Most noteworthy among them is **Joan Andrews Bell**, who spent years of her life in jail offering up her sufferings *for the babies*. Visit the website **Garland9.org**. All the information you need to know about these heroes is right there. For instance, you can learn how to write polite letters to the judge urging her that these prisoners be released **on time served**.

After that I went by Metro to the Westin Hotel where the March for life had its headquarters. In the Expo area, I was able to see a plethora of wonderful pro-life organizations, many of which I had never heard about. They are doing great things around the country and world to end the killing of innocent preborn babies. When leaving, I was intercepted by **Ann Scheidler**, the wife of the late **Joe Scheidler**, my mentor and best friend. Everyone should read or listen to Joe's amazing autobiography **Racketeer for Life: Fighting the Culture of Death from the Sidewalk to the Supreme Court**. Ann who has 7 children, 27 grandchildren, and now has 5 great-grandchildren, travels **85** miles between Chicago and Aurora, Illinois to help two days a week at the Pro-Life Action League office. She also serves as Chairman of the Board of the Thomas More Society which is doing so much to protect the rights of Pro-Lifers.

Friday morning, I made it over to historic snowbound Constitution Hall where Priests for Life was having a prayer service and Mass for those who were soon to March. Speakers included Bishop Joseph Strickland, Mark Houck, Alveda King and Frank Pavone. **What do Bishop Strickland and Frank Pavone have in common? Both are PRO-LIFE heroes and both were sadly fired by Pope Francis.**

And then it was over to the Mall for the March, helping to carry 3 large banners Larry Cirignano had ingeniously attached to PVC pipe frames he had made. Here are some of the great leaders I saw at my 51st March:

- **David Bereit**, founder of 40 Days for Life, and one of PRO-LIFE's most inspirational speakers and very best organizers
- **Bishop Joe Coffey**, the ubiquitous Auxiliary Bishop for the Military. No acting Bishop in America is more actively PRO-LIFE. How blessed we were to have him living here in the Baltimore area before he returned to his beloved Philly several years ago.
- Along the line of March, I ran into **Chris Bell**, co-founder of Good Counsel Homes. Good

Counsel provides free residential care for homeless pregnant mothers and their newborns in New York City and North Jersey. Chris is also the husband of Joan Andrews Bell, one of the *Garland 9* who is presently incarcerated in Alexandria, Virginia. **Does the fact that Chris's wife Joan is in jail impede his PRO-LIFE efforts at Good Counsel? No way!**

I always ask persons where they are from? Here are the states I saw represented at this year's March despite treacherous sub-freezing weather: **Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Arizona, California, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Tennessee, District of Columbia.**

All the speakers at the march were outstanding, including PRO-LIFE hero Congressman **Chris Smith** from New Jersey who was elected along with Ronald Reagan way back in 1976. And then there was Congressman **Mike Johnson**, the new GOP Speaker of the House from Louisiana who spoke at the March. I paraphrase his remarkable words. *My mother was divorced 7 times. After the last one, she had a fling with a man in California. I was conceived in that fling but my mother **Chose Life**. And that's why I'm here speaking to you today.* And the crowd **ROARED!!!**

On Saturday we had a table at the **O'Connor Conference for Life** at Georgetown University. We gave away about 18 of our powerful PRO-LIFE T-shirts to students who promised wear them right then, allowed us to take a picture of them, and then promised to wear them at least 1x a week on their campus. There were 300 college students present. It was also the 25th Anniversary of that annual conference named after John Cardinal O'Connor who was an alum of Georgetown. It always comes on the heels of the March for Life. Retired **Cardinal Sean O'Malley** of Boston gave an excellent keynote speech.

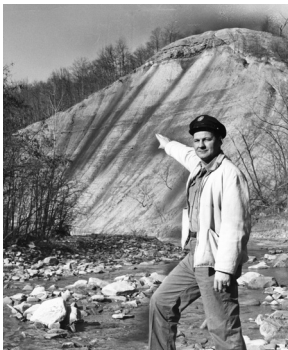
Congratulations to a remarkable small group of Georgetown PRO-LIFE students who have kept this amazing conference going for **25 years** on *one of the most hostile Pro-Abortion Catholic campuses in America*. Special thanks to Georgetown students **Luke Anderson** and **Elizabeth Oliver** who were so helpful to us.



A Story About My Beloved Wife Mary Lou

One spring day, fearless 9th grade Mary Lou and a girlfriend from Notre Dame Academy rode their bikes from East Cleveland, Ohio to Mount Baldy in nearby Euclid, Ohio. **Mount Baldy** is a slate formed **145** foot cliff. There was a near mile-long winding walking path that allowed walkers access to the top of Mount Baldy. After spending some time atop the cliff, Mary Lou told her friend that she was taking a **shortcut** back down to where they had left their bikes. She was planning to support herself from face of the cliff and small trees growing out from the face of the cliff. Suddenly, portions of the face of the cliff which was primarily slate, began to dislodge. And then the tree Mary Lou had grabbed began to uproot. Mary Lou, hanging on for dear life, yelled to her friend to go to a nearby house atop the cliff to get help. Unfortunately, nobody was home. **Then suddenly, a black man appeared atop the cliff equipped with a rope.** He lowered it to her, told her to grab it, and then, pulled her to safety atop the cliff. **And just as suddenly, he vanished!**

There can only be one explanation. Heaven had sent an Angel or Saint to rescue Mary Lou.



Long Live Christ Our King!

Jack Ames

Jack Ames, P.E., Director

Enclosure

One Family's International Adoption Story

By Diane Bodner Duhig

Steven and I entered our house, flipped on the TV, and hung up our coats before sitting in front of the television. Julie Andrews soon appeared, on top of a mountain, exclaiming, "SEVEN CHILDREN!" I smiled, astonished, and replied, "I hear you, Sister!"

What were the odds that *The Sound of Music* would be playing on the channel to which our television was set, and coming to that scene, just as we returned from our visit to the office of Baltimore Catholic Charities, to hear why we should consider adopting a sibling group of seven children from the Philippines?

I think, if I'd been asked at that time (and I wasn't), I would have expressed certainty that Steven would – surely – soon wake up and veto that idea. I was certainly counting on it. It was my hope that our eventual family size would exceed the number 7, possibly by a factor of 1 or 2, but I could not believe that we would have the fortitude and wisdom to go from zero children to seven without pausing to catch our breath.

Well, that was in March 2004. Now, in 2023, that our active parenting has diminished where we are at best parents *emeriti*; we can look back on our adventure with wonder and humor and a sense of, "That went too fast to be difficult, didn't it?" (Please duck as my husband hurls an object at whoever dares to voice such a thought.)

Why did we adopt seven children at once? Because my husband forgot that his role was to object. Instead, and surprisingly, he actually warmed to the idea before we ever met or spoke to these children destined to become

ours. He told our friends and relatives that this particular sibling group constituted roughly one-quarter of the entire orphanage caring for them, and our adoption could result in children currently living on the streets finding a home. And, while, as I have had reason over the years to remind myself, I have a perfectly adequate voice capable of forming vehement objections, deep down I knew that whether we adopted one child or one hundred, my husband would only have stomach for the process one time. I drew deep breaths many times, as I reminded myself that it would go against my deepest desire to push for a smaller sibling group. Somehow, during all that deep breathing, time flew, and we found ourselves flying to the Philippines to claim our children, in June 2005.

Of course, it was not all smooth sailing. One thing people looking to adopt internationally are warned repeatedly is that such adoptions rarely proceed without some kind of hitch. They are just too complicated. One is dealing with a different nation and its laws regarding travel and adoption, a different language and many different customs, the possibility of political and international considerations suddenly springing up to thwart adoptions by Americans, not to mention discrepancies with legal documents which might cause our State Department to slam the figurative adoption book shut.

So, we indicated formally by June 2004 that we wanted these children. A month or two later, as an adoption by friends fell apart because of resistance from the biological father, I began sensing that we would suffer the same disappointment. In our case, it was a call from

Catholic Charities that our children would not be eligible for international adoption because of discrepancies in the legal documents of the seven children. The wedding dates of the biological parents and the name of the birth mother did not show consistency across the children's birth certificates. I suggested a lawyer could be hired in the Philippines, and these discrepancies could be resolved in that country's courts? We would happily pay to retain the lawyer.

The social worker snapped that my role in this process was *not* to be the lawyer that I was at my job, and that I needed to accept the adoption agency's decision that these children were unadoptable. Ultimately, however, my prayer to the Blessed Mother (which went roughly along the lines of, "Surely, if it is your Son's will that we parent these children, you won't be overcome by a few typos, will you?"), as well as the prayers of priests and friend much closer to the Lord than your author, resulted in a reversal by September. I received another call some six weeks later to tell me that if we still wanted the children, the adoption was back on. The orphanage had sent its best troubleshooter to the provinces to track down the birth parents and get them to sign the necessary legal corrections to the erroneous birth certificates.

The story is of course much longer than this, but publishing constraints require that I assure the reader that we brought all seven children home on June 15, 2005. During the most recent couple of years, we remained an empty nest, but we are relishing the temporary return of our youngest daughter as she plans for her own next adventure.

To be continued.

CHURCH CRISIS, from page 2

placing in seminaries approximately 1100 young communists. With the help of Archbishop Fulton Sheen, she returned to the Church. She claimed that from that group, there were about 4 highly-placed cardinals. Consider that recently the Pope claimed that communism may not be incompatible with Catholicism (directly contradicting Pope Pius XI).

Smith recommended to our reading a papal encyclical by Pope St Pius X called “Pascendi Dominici Gregis”, “On The Errors Of The Modernists”. Pius X called modernism the “syllabus of all heresies. He ordered that all in positions of teaching and spiritual authority to take his prescribed Oath Against Modernism. After 1967, they stopped taking that oath. After Vatican II, dissenters gained control of the universities in the 1960s and 1970s. The professors, etc. simply were not faithful people. She mentioned as an example Charles Curran, who taught at Catholic University of America. He publicly dissented from *Humanae Vitae* and led scores of priests to do the same. Under Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI there was some improvement in that picture.

Smith then moved onto financial corruption. Apparently Vatican banks were established when the Church was relatively impoverished. The banks were unregulated, not having to follow the leads of other European banks. After 10 years, all their records were destroyed. That is to say, no one has no idea how the Vatican banks disbursed their funds. Some involved in these shady deals met shady fates.

Along the lines of financial corruption, the Vatican was under the belief that Communism could be combatted by cells of fascists

throughout Europe. Much of this is described in the book “God’s Bankers”. To fund these cells, they set up a money-laundering scheme with the CIA. They started to sell drugs to inner-city poor populations to support these fascist cells. Smith said that so far this account has not been refuted.

Moving onto political corruption, Smith brought up the saga of Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities is very much involved in illegal immigration. They may well be the agency that has brought the most into the United States, providing them housing, clothing, etc. Editor’s comment: While Smith reported that Catholic Charities received enormous amounts from the government, I know that “enormous” means millions of dollars granted to the Catholic Charities locales located close to the Texas-Mexico border. Many of these immigrants are children unaccompanied by parents and are probably being sex-trafficked.

There is also the deal between the Vatican and Communist China. Now the bishops over there are largely selected by the Communist government while the Vatican turns a blind eye towards the faithful Catholics being persecuted over there. And yes, Theodore McCarrick had his hand in that mess.

Then Smith moved onto liturgical corruption. What we now know as the *Novus Ordo Mass* is actually a far cry from the actual mandates of Vatican II. Vatican II said that Latin should be present in the Mass, along with Gregorian chant. Vatican II said nothing about turning the altar around or removing the communion rail. During the council, Archbishop Annibale Bugnini was appointed to a commission that was tasked with writing a new liturgy that corresponded to Vatican II stipulations. They didn’t. Bugnini, a secret Ma-

son at the time, removed anything that had to do with the Mass being a sacrifice, a reenactment of Calvary.

People got the impression from Vatican II that the Church’s teachings were “up for grabs”, subject to change. Rather, they were caught up in what was informally dubbed “the spirit of Vatican II”. See the slide that details a few snippets of erroneous thinking emanating from the “spirit of Vatican II”. Roberto De Mattei wrote several books detailing some background behind the council while Michael Davies wrote of some of the aftermath. See the pictures for the books in question.

Moving onto sexual corruption, there was talk of a married priesthood. In the following 20 years, over 20,000 heterosexual men left the priesthood, planning to return as married men. That meant that a larger percentage of those remaining were homosexual. Thus seminaries became a breeding ground for homosexual priests and eventually bishops. When they got to be bishops, they appointed their cronies to high places. They still do so today.

Smith then gave a brief history into the modern popes. She largely praised both John Paul II and Benedict XVI while acknowledging some errors that they made. She then went onto the manner in which Francis was selected as pope. A group of bishops known as the Saint Gallen Mafia plotted to make Cardinal Bergoglio the pope. One of their members, Bishop Danneels, admitted the same.

Smith’s final segment to her talk could be entitled, “what to do now?”. She suggested home schooling, charter schools. There are excellent Catholic colleges: Christendom, for example. We need to double down on our faith lives, to increase our holiness to help others. Pray for and support the good clergy.

The Death Peddlers: War on the Unborn

By Father Paul Marx, O. S. B.,
Ph. D.

Review by Robert Dow

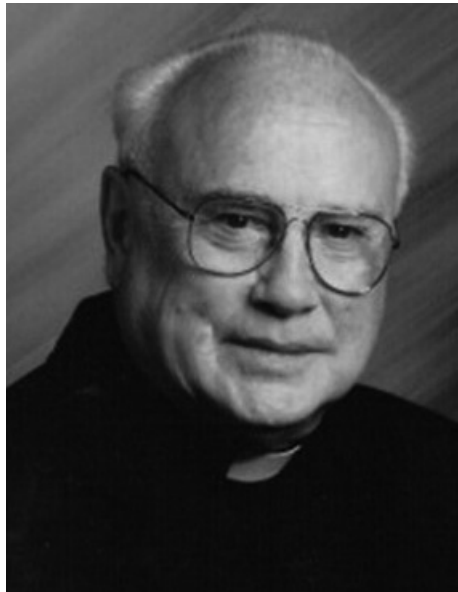
“And the serpent said to the woman, **No, you shall not die the death!** “For God doth know that on what day so ever you shall eat thereof **your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.**” *Genesis 3:4-5*

These four lies of the talking snake – the oldest lies in the oldest book - deceived our First Parents; have been retold throughout sixty centuries of human history in some way, shape, or form; and were once again re-echoed at the three day “Therapeutic Abortion: A Symposium on Implementation” conference – hereafter “the symposium” – held at the Los Angeles International Hotel beginning on Friday January 22, 1971 two years to the day before “the Supremes” - as Joe Scheidler was so fond of calling them – issued their infamous 7-2 *Roe vs. Wade* decision sanctioning unborn murder as the law of the land.

“The Death Peddlers: War on the Unborn” is Father Paul Marx’s written account and summary of the symposium. This book review will read differently than earlier ones that I’ve reviewed for *Defend Life* since it is a present-day review of a fifty-two-year-old symposium summary.

Remember *Roe vs. Wade* had not yet happened and would not even be argued until autumn of the following year – a year after the October 1971 publication of “Death Peddlers.”

Since Father Paul Marx writes to sound the alarm, he often quotes the enemy at length with minimal com-



**Fr. Paul Marx, Founder of
Human Life International**

mentary. Other times his own summaries are reduced to brief notations of the agenda item discussed with no further remarks. As such rather than comment on Father’s elegant Shakespearean writing style or his adaption of Greek tragedy techniques to mid-twentieth century American prose, I shall focus much of my review on little known but relevant information which were it not for “Death Peddlers” would by now have faded away into historical oblivion over these past five decades.

To do Father’s work justice my review shall be lengthy and divided up into three parts submitted for publication in this and the following two subsequent issues of *Defend Life*.

This first part shall be the medical side of the symposium, part 2 shall be legal, and part 3 shall be about the money and how they hoped to make all abortion forever free.

In spite of Original Sin having entered visible creation this fallen world of ours remains good, for it was created by God. If this good

world of ours seems cruel it is only because of the untold evil that can hide within the hearts of men.

Stalin once said, “one death is tragic. One million murders is statistic.” The symposium certainly proved Stalin right. The aborted babies were relentlessly dehumanized throughout the conference. The casualties of the unborn from year to year, from county to county, and even from hospital to hospital reduced their once promising lives to cold, cruel, and heartless numbers. Were it not for the fact that these children’s deaths were often entered onto the new and mysterious medium of magnetic tape and archived away somewhere, today there might be no proof that these children ever even existed.

In spite of the declared purpose of the 1971 symposium – that is to more effectively implement “therapeutic abortion” in California; in spite of all of California’s leading Mad Doctors present; in spite of one MD gruesomely describing in deadly detail the various methods of doing abortion; no one actually admitted to personally performing abortions although everyone knew that they were all abortionists - telling!

The medical terminology used at the conference -oops, I meant “the Symposium” was also telling. Conference speakers diligently hid behind and scrupulously attached the word “therapeutic” to “abortion” as if “therapeutic abortions” were “lawful and good”. The MD hype – but not their actual words – suggested that “therapeutic abortions” to be some sort of magical medicine that would restore a woman to perfect health and keep her alive indefinitely - perhaps forever.

[Note: For purposes of canonical sanction – namely excommunication and/or irregularity – the Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church has always regarded as irrelevant the reasons for the abortion and the methods used to destroy the baby. Such sanctions automatically fall upon all those who contribute to the direct murder of an unborn child.]

As today's pro-lifers can now attest, the cumbersome tongue-twisting term of "post-conception family planning" never quite caught on. Neither did the feminist favorite "abortion-at-will". "Child spacing" a term coined by Margaret Sanger fell into disuse some forty years ago. Few neo-pagans wanted to space out large families. Most just wanted fewer children. Although the NFP movement did briefly revive the term with the model spaced-out family consisting of one of each – a boy, a girl, an accident, and a surprise!

With the smoldering of the two Germanies still fresh in the American mind, hardline in-your-face eugenic terms were never used. Yet the much softer-sounding buzz phrase of "enhancement of the quality of society" was accepted with neither Holocaust Survivor nor paper clip Nazi so much as raising an eyebrow in objection.

In addition, one post-abortive mother who participated in a panel show-casing "abortion graduates" complained that Mexican-Americans were far too "baby-minded."

One conference presenter, like a vampire who drops his guard and reflects at a Halloween party, tired of using pro-abort terminology such as "the fetus" and "the abortus" went all in and began to speak of "the unborn baby."

In part 2 in the upcoming March/April Defend Life issue I hope to review the legal side of the confer-

DEFEAT ABORTION, from page 3

nia, Michigan, Ohio, and Vermont. During this election cycle, New York will also have a similar measure on their ballot. There are legislative efforts to pass this in ten other states.

The fact is that with or without this amendment, abortion is completely legal in Maryland, thanks to the 1992 measure that passed. Many of us still recall that battle. What is now at stake is loss of parental rights, decreased safety standards, increased health care costs, loss of conscience protections. She reemphasized Ms. Wharam's point that this measure is not just about abortion.

Brocato reviewed prior abortion-related measures that have passed since the 1992 ballot battle: measures allowing twelve-year olds to seek medical care, to allow certain non-physicians to perform abortions, requirements that all insurance providers pay for abortions. Transgender surgery is now covered.

If this measure passes, pro-abortion forces will go after pro-life pregnancy centers, claiming they are giving out misinformation. In California, where a similar measure did pass, pregnancy centers have been sued for providing the abortion-reversal pill. Recall that in 2009, attempts were made to coerce pregnancy centers into

providing abortion information. Consider that court battles would financially drain pregnancy centers as they subsist on private donations, not tax dollars as does the abortion industry.

providing abortion information. Consider that court battles would financially drain pregnancy centers as they subsist on private donations, not tax dollars as does the abortion industry. HNH crosses ideological and party lines. One common area of concern across the political spectrum is parental rights. This measure would be an upheaval of the family as it has always existed. Parents are now being sued for simply asking about long-term consequences of transgender surgery and drugs. Consider that youngsters committing crimes are treated as juveniles because they don't understand long-term consequences of their criminal actions. Why are they presumed to understand long-term consequences of irreversible procedures?

When this amendment was going through the legislative process, pro-life legislators tried to add minimum age and parental consent provisions; they were rejected. They tried to specify "woman" instead of "individual", and "abortion" instead of "reproductive freedom"; they were likewise rejected. If this measure passes, it will be harder for pro-life organizations to exist in Maryland.

This measure must be opposed with all intensity. So what can we do? Of course we must pray. Go to the HNH site and look under the "take action" tab. Donate. It will take money to print information, to mail it, for TV and radio ads.

Spread the word about both organizations. Consider what you can do between now and November. At the date of this writing, that time span is a mere nine months; it will be even shorter by the time you read this article.

Both talks can be watched at <https://www.facebook.com/wach/100064415301037/268267066068431>

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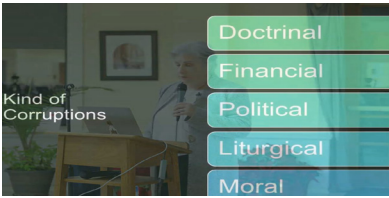
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