



DEFEND LIFE

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

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Bishop Strickland, Stripped of His Diocese, Leads Rosary Outside the USCCB Meeting

On Saturday, November 11 2023, Bishop Joseph Strickland was relieved of the see of Tyler, Texas. By all accounts, he was a true bishop looking out for the welfare of his flock. He upheld the Traditions of the Church concerning marriage, sexuality, family life, and of course abortion. He also upheld the rights of Catholics to attend the Traditional Latin Mass.

Just hours after his removal, he interviewed with John-Henry Westen of LifeSteNews during which he stated his belief that he “threatened some of the powers that be with the truth of the gospel” and “if you want it [truth of the gospel] to change, then I’m a problem”. To date, the Vatican has provided no reason for Strickland’s dismissal.

He also mentioned that “Jesus is the face of truth. He doesn’t morph into a different being than He was when He died on the cross and rose for us.” We know, of course, that there are those within the Church who want to do precisely that. For instance, there are many bishops in Germany who announced that they will bless same-sex unions. Of course, to do so would be cooperation with mortal



Bishop Strickland leads rosary outside the USCCB meeting

sin; such cooperation would be its own mortal sin.

An important aside regarding that last point. Some reading this Defend Life newsletter might question what that has to do with abortion. The answer is that abortion and homosexuality both stem from the same rotten root: disregard for God’s teachings on human life, sexuality, marriage and family life, especially as they are pronounced in Casti Connubi and Humanae Vitae.

As Strickland was ejected from the Diocese of Tyler, he left behind

a diocese in relatively decent shape: quite a few seminarians and generous donations coming in. Young men do tend to be attracted to the priesthood where the Faith is proclaimed courageously and unambiguously.

Bishop Strickland is receiving some support from other stalwart prelates. Bishop Athanasius Schneider, auxiliary of Astana, Kazakhstan, stated, “The one charge that is now sure to secure severe punishment is the careful keeping of the traditions of the Fathers...The de-

position of Bishop Joseph E. Strickland signifies a black day for Catholic Church of our day.” See <https://onepeterfive.com/bishop-schneider-responds-to-the-deposition-of-his-brother-bishop-strickland/>

Cardinal Gerhard Muller, himself dismissed from his position as Prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, said of Strickland’s dismissal “What is being done to Bishop Strickland is terrible, an abuse of the divine right of the episcopate.” See <https://roratecaeli.blogspot.com/2023/11/cardinal-muller-on-stricklands-sacking.html>

Archbishop Vigano too has lent his support to Bishop Strickland.

Abortion and homosexuality both stem from the same rotten root: disregard for God’s teachings

He began his remarks by stating “The removal of His Excellency (arch) Bishop Joseph Strickland, especially after the failure to ambush him with the Apostolic Visitation, appears as a cowardly form of authoritarianism which in no way fits with Bergoglio’s rants about welcoming and inclusiveness.” For the rest of his statement, see <https://anglican.ink/2023/11/12/statement-by-archbishop-vigano-following-the-dismissal-of-archbishop-joseph-strickland-by-pope-francis/>

We hope more bishops will stand with Bishop Strickland.

During the week of November 13 – 17, the US bishops held their bi-annual meeting in Baltimore. Bishop Strickland was also in Baltimore, but did not attend the meeting. On Tuesday night, he joined Jack Ames of Defend Life and other pro-life activists for dinner at Chiapparelli’s in Baltimore’s Little Italy neighborhood. He gave a brief talk about his life.

He grew up in a small Texas town, within the Diocese of Tyler. He and his five siblings were taught the Faith by their mother (his father was a convert to the Faith). From her, he learned that the Catholic life revolved around Our Lord in the Eucharist, and it permeated his early life.

“It’s all about Our Lord in the Eucharist”. He spoke of how it permeated his early life as he grew up in a small Texas town, within the Diocese of Tyler. He and his five siblings were taught the faith by their mother.

As his faith in the Eucharist and in Mary’s influence deepened, that is when he started speaking out as a bishop. He was hearkening back to July 2018 when the USCCB held their meeting in Baltimore to ponder the sex abuse crisis in the clergy and Theodore McCarrick’s crimes in particular. Only Strickland pointed out that the abuse was homosexual in nature. He then brought up the problem of Father James Martin being allowed to promulgate his pro-gay beliefs with the apparent blessings of bishops.

Speaking of his recent ouster as Bishop of Tyler, he said that the Eucharist and Our Lady are his anchors in the storm in which he finds himself, said Bishop Strickland at dinner Tuesday evening. Of any such

trial that we may similarly face, he said “Never let this take your hope and joy. The world hated Jesus. What are we worried about, if the world hates us?”

The next day, Wednesday November 15, Bishop Strickland led a Rosary outside the Marriott Waterfront Hotel, where the bishops were meeting, at noon. Several hundred Catholics joined him in prayer. As he prayed, he thanked the people for their support of him, but asked them to turn that support to supporting our Catholic faith, praying for Pope Francis and the clergy, that any heart that is distant from the Sacred Heart of Christ, especially among our hierarchy, that they may be drawn

We hope more bishops will stand with Bishop Strickland.

closer to the Sacred Heart of Christ through the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Bishop Strickland closed the Rosary by blessing the attendees with a relic of Pope St Pius X and invoked his intercession. He asked that St Pius pray for the bishops of the world, that they guard the Deposit of Faith, to shy away from worldly concerns and to embrace with vigor the truth of Jesus Christ. Videos of both events can be found on Defend Life’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WeDefendLife> and at <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/bishop-strickland-rosary-rally-conference-catholic-bishops/>

Gear Up to Fight the Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment

On November 7, 2023, Ohio citizens voted by a 55-45 ratio, to enshrine in their state constitution so-called “reproductive rights”. This, of course, is thinly-disguised language for license to slaughter one’s own unborn child. Several other states have also passed pro-abortion amendments for their constitutions.

Ohio had a heartbeat bill on their books that had kicked in after Dobbs, greatly reducing abortions there until a federal judge halted that. Had issue 1 not been passed, eventually the ban would have been reactivated and babies saved.

The pro-abortion forces are focusing on this strategy in the wake of the Dobbs decision of 2022. They have noticed the drop in abortions since that ruling – that is to say, they have noticed that babies have escaped the scalpels of their donors and want to ensure the flow of blood money into their coffers.

Maryland is one of the most pro-abortion states in the United States. Because of that, many abortionists, particularly late-term abortionists, are setting up shop here and are drawing in numerous women from surrounding areas who are intent on killing their unborn children. The Maryland state legislature, along with the governor, are rabidly pro-abortion.

Still the pro-abortion forces in Maryland are not satisfied. Last session they were successful in putting forth a proposed amendment to the state constitution that, if passed, will enshrine abortion into our state constitution. If that happens, there will be no chance of passing any kind of restriction on abortion, as such attempts would be deemed unconstitutional.

The amendment is called “Maryland Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment”. It goes even further in language than did the SB 162 measure of thirty years ago. SB 162 limited abortion to “viability”. Granted, it was just lip service to what the pro-aborts deemed “viable”, but with this constitutional amendment, even that flimsy language is non-existent.

If one ignores the obviously pro-abortion slant of Ballotpedia, one can get a somewhat decent synopsis of the bill at [https://ballotpedia.org/Maryland_Right_to_Reproductive_Freedom_Amendment_\(2024\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Maryland_Right_to_Reproductive_Freedom_Amendment_(2024)). The key thing to note is that we want a “no” vote to that amendment. At this time, we don’t know what number this matter will be assigned on the ballot.

As you read through the piece on Ballotpedia, you will notice that

several other states have already passed amendments: California, Vermont, Michigan. The webmasters will probably update it to include Ohio.

They cite the Dobbs decision as the motivator behind the pro-abortion effort to amend state constitutions. Among other things, it proves that elections matter, even if the candidates are not canonized-saint material. Our participation in the upcoming elections will matter – each and every vote will count.

As of this writing, I am unaware of any state-wide plan to defeat this amendment. There is, however, a prayer campaign started, and that involves praying the Memorare three times a day. Visit Memorare4Maryland.com for more information and to commit to desperately-needed prayer.



Sister Deidre Byrne Addresses Prayer and Fasting Meeting

On October 28, 2023, the last day of the 31st International Week of Prayer and Fasting occurred in the main chamber of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC. Sister Dede Byrne gave one of the addresses that day. Due to the acoustics of the Shrine, which were full of reverberation, it was hard to make out much of Sister's talk. I can make out snippets of what she said from my recording.

One of her earlier statements was to point out that in this rapidly decaying world, we need Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament now more than ever. She then gave a brief sketch of her life, beginning by crediting her parents for instilling their faith in Sister and her siblings. Her mother raised eight children and her father worked seven days a week, yet they found time to go to daily Mass. Her parents were her first teachers of the Faith, as is God's plan for all families.

During high school, she attended daily Mass. Sister is a physician, so she brought her medical knowledge to bear when she pointed out that after we eat, the food stays as food for about three hours. Thus, when we receive Holy Communion, we may very well be walking tabernacles for a few hours afterwards, and we might expect miracles during that time.

After detailing how she came to understand that adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is key to contact with Our Lord, she pointed out the sad fact that over 70% of those professing to be Catholic do not believe in the Real Presence. They don't believe the Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Our Lord.

"The more you spend with Jesus, the more you will experience



Sister Byrne speaking before an audience

His love, and the power of His love." She then closed with the prayer to St Michael the Archangel.

Later, Bishop Robert Baker, Bishop Emeritus of Birmingham,

**The more you spend
with Jesus, the more you
will experience His love**

celebrated the closing Mass. He started his homily by stating that "every good thing that happens in a parish begins with Sunday Mass. All the spiritual benefits start with Sunday Mass." He quoted the Vatican II bishops who stated that "the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life." Because that day happened to be the Feast of Sts

Simon and Jude, he remarked that the graces from the Eucharist carried them through their evangelism and martyrdom. The Eucharist is the presence of Jesus, the life of God in our souls. We are aiming for heaven, and the Eucharist is our foretaste of heaven, our source of hope that we will be one day in heaven.

The website of the International Week of Prayer and Fasting is iwopf.org. There you will see the goals of this organization. Among them are conversion of all people and to build a culture of life. Under the "learn" submenu towards the bottom are various categories of topics. Within each are recordings of presentations. Some are accessed only with subscriptions, but others are free. I would imagine that at some point, Sister's talk, along with others from this 31st week, will be available on that site.

Ora et la Labora

Saint Ignatius Loyola once admonished, “pray as if everything depends on God, and work as if everything depends on you.” These words still hold true today – all of them.

There are troubling indications that while pro-life people embrace the first part of Ignatius’s admonition, the second part slips their minds. They are fond of quoting Matthew 17:20, as it says of Jesus casting out a demon, “this kind is not cast out but by prayer and fasting”. They overlook the fact that even Jesus actually had to rebuke the demon to get it to leave. They erroneously claim that prayer alone will suffice to rid the world of abortion, rebuking those who understand that we need to engage the evil.

What I now say is not applicable to those who cannot take up action against the evils of abortion, homosexuality, etc, owing to physical infirmity or pressing needs of family members. However, such is not the case for most people with whom I have come into contact. I speak of a stubborn, knee-jerk rejection of pro-life activism as a principle. I have, for over twenty years, come up against this mindset time and again. Many, maybe most, of these people simply are too frightened and/or lazy to exert the tangible effort to proclaim the truth against evil. Time and again, they have bristled at the mere suggestion of praying in front of an abortion mill.

Recently, I have seen this

pseudo-pietism in play regarding the injustice that Bishop Strickland has endured. All this discussion has occurred on social media. While no one would ever question the need for prayer and intercession for all involved in that matter, some have bristled at the very thought of speaking out against that injustice. Not only do they erroneously believe that prayer is all we can do, they believe that is all we should do – in other words, no action whatsoever should be taken but eschewed.

Again, the words of Ignatius come to mind. If we pray for an end to abortion, are we willing (notice that I said “willing”, not “able”) to be used by God to answer our own prayers? If not, we needn’t bother to pray for we are actually nullifying our prayer by refusal to act. This is a question with which some of us must grapple. We cannot be afraid to ask that of ourselves, and even each other.

For those who want to couple their prayer with activism, they may simply not know where to begin. This Defend Life newsletter will give valuable suggestions – either this current issue or in previous issues that can be found archived on the Defend Life website. Some ideas are:

- Participate in the Face the Truth tours that happen every July. If you can’t do the entire week-long tour, just come out one day, or even one stop on a given day.

- Pray at your local abortion mill. At many mills, there is already a prayer campaign in place under the auspices of 40 Days for Life. Visit 40daysforlife.com for more information.
- Alternatively, there are abortion mills where there are already pro-lifers giving witness to life. The Baltimore Planned Parenthood on Howard Street is one such place. They are short on people and can always use the help.
- Election season is drawing near rapidly. Find a decent pro-life candidate for office and support him or her. Suggestion: please give support directly to the candidate, not through the political party.
- Also on the upcoming election ballot is the so-called “right to reproductive freedom” amendment that needs to be defeated. Details of this are discussed in another article in this issue.
- Volunteer at a pro-life pregnancy center to assist young ladies who want to give birth to their children.

This list is by no means exhaustive. We remember that prayer and personal holiness are crucial to the establishment of the Culture of Life. However, they cannot be considered sufficient. We are both spirit and body, so we must act in both realms.



DEFEND LIFE

*Proclaiming the Culture of Life and
Fighting the Culture of Death since 1987*

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*December 8, 2023 Anno Domini
Feast of the Immaculate Conception*

Dear Friend of **DEFEND LIFE**,

Oh how time flies especially as we become older. Here we are once again. Christmas 2023 is rapidly approaching. First, I want to wish you and your loved ones the most joyful and blessed Christmas season ever. Even with all the turmoil including **The Holy Land** itself, we still have so much for which to be thankful.

Again this year, we have been blessed by several donors who wish to remain anonymous who have offered us a **\$15,000** matching grant. In simple terms, that means anything you give between now and **December 31** will be matched **\$ for \$**. For example, **\$100** becomes **\$200**, **\$250** becomes **\$500**, **\$500** becomes **\$1000** and so forth. So please give and give generously. In deciding how much to give, please remember this, **Almighty God is never outdone in generosity!**

\$ for \$

Here are some of what **DEFEND LIFE** did in **2023** to deserve your support:

- Sponsored **17** different speaking events featuring **8** different speakers.
- Sponsored **2** different speakers at Catholic University of America which we are praying will become the most PRO-LIFE Catholic university in America.
- Participated in the John Cardinal O'Connor Conference for Life at Georgetown University for the **15th** year
- Published and distributed **25,000** copies of **DEFEND LIFE**, one of the very best publications in our entire PRO-LIFE movement.
- Arranged for 2 speakers at the March for Life kickoff supper.
- Organized our **23rd Annual Maryland Face the Truth Tour**.
- Organized a Van Mass at a **Maryland Abortuary**.
- Gave away about **200** of our beautiful PRO-LIFE T-shirts including nearly **100** to college students
- Along with the late **Jay Walton**, resurrected **Baltimore County RITL**.
- Arranged again for Christmas Caroling at Union Station in Washington, DC **which is scheduled** Tuesday, December 19 from 5 to 7 PM.
- Organized **2** Rosary's, led by **recently fired Bishop Joseph Strickland** on November 14-15 outside the hotel where American Bishops were meeting, plus a dinner in **Little Italy** where Bishop Strickland spoke eloquently.



Mark Houck



Frank Pavone



Michael Hichborn



Maggie Ferrara



Janis Clarke



Reggie Littlejohn



Monica Miller



Bishop Strickland

My Beloved Wife, Mary Lou Ames Mother of 6 • May She Rest in Peace

It was Saturday, October 7, the Feast of Our Lady of Lepanto. I sensed Mary Lou was close to death but my wonderful step-daughter Debi Pumphrey, a retired nurse, urged me to go to the **Rosary Coast to Coast** closing event in DC. I had promised my great friend Larry Cirignano I would lead **the 4th Glorious Mystery, The Assumption**. Our Eucharistic Procession began at beautiful Saint Peter Church, atop Capitol Hill where many of our Catholic Congressmen begin their day attending Holy Mass. Near the Supreme Court, we merged forces with a Men's March led by Father Stephen Imbarrato. It had begun at the nearby **Planned Parenthood Abortuary**. Also **uninvited** was a handful of Pro-Aborts equipped with extremely powerful megaphones. They chanted loudly, crudely and unceasingly. Their volume seemed to become even louder when we later prayed the **Divine Mercy Chaplet** and the **Rosary**. I told Father Imbarrato **we are seeing the Face of Hell!**



My timing was perfect. Very soon after returning to Baltimore, Mary Lou, my wife of **43** years, went **gloriously** to her Eternal Reward.

Let me tell you more about **ML** as her twin son **Denis** loved to call her. She was an only child. Her father and mother had divorced. Her mother had custody. Her mother was essentially an agnostic. She worked hard and had **2** jobs. These were the **WWII** years and that was the norm.

When Mary Lou came home from public elementary school, her mother was away at work. Mary Lou would walk the streets of her apartment-dominated neighborhood. Unfortunately, only one young girl lived nearby. **Most kids were boys**. On several occasions, Mary Lou was beat up by some of these boys. When sharing this with her absentee mother, her mom told her to courageously fight back and added **give them a punch from me**. Soon, **ML** was turning into a **hellion**. Her mother had to do something. She decided to send her to a Catholic school not for her Faith but for **discipline** which was then a wonderful hallmark of Catholic Schools. Soon Mary Lou was not only behaving properly but she was hearing altar boys recite their Latin Mass responses after school. Her Catholic faith also began to flourish. In her high school, she went to the Academy of Notre Dame in Cleveland. Her faith flourished even more there. More on that to follow in our January-February 2024 issue.

Long Live Christ Our King!

Jack Ames

Jack Ames, P.E., Director

Enclosure

Combating the Population Decline

Saint Teresa of Calcutta once said, “How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers.” While some utilitarians scoff at that statement, other utilitarians are no longer quite so inclined to sneer.

While many areas of the United States (such as the state of Maryland) are literally hell-bent on increasing legalized child-slaughter, other areas of the world are starting to wake up to the harm abortion is causing them. Quite a few nations have started to realize what the dearth of children will do to their social and economic well-being. They understand that the reduced population will mean less workers in their

economies, less personnel in their militaries, etc. They are beginning to see that their aging populations will need support that simply won’t be there.

Over the years, several nations have started to offer incentives to families to have and rear children. Among them are France, Italy, Japan, Russia. Even China, infamous for its draconian one-child-per-family regulations, is now considering such subsidies to correct their disastrous blunders. See <https://money.com/government-pays-have-a-baby-low-birth-rate/> for more details.

Last year Vladimir Putin issued a decree that a mother would be awarded the equivalent of \$16,400 to

a mother who bore and raised ten or more children. Again, this is a measure that was designed to combat the declining birth rate and population.

Many of these countries have focused on financial incentives, such as cash bonuses to women having a certain number of children, women below 25 giving birth, as well as liberalized leave policies for both mothers and fathers. Work-at-home policies have also been put into place. However, by and large, there is been not much focus on eliminating legalized child-slaughter. However, there is one exception of which we now know.

RT.com informs us that the Rus-

Book Review

The Day Is Now Far Spent

by Robert Cardinal Sarah, published by Ignatius Press, 2019

By Olga Fairfax

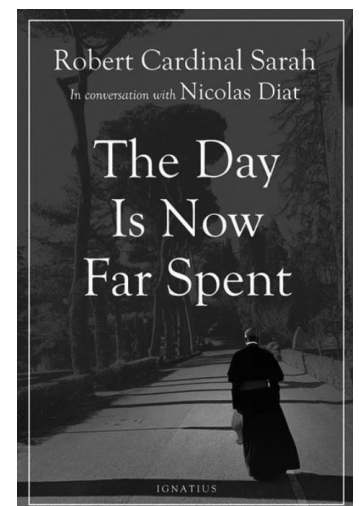
About five years ago a friend showed me an interview of Cardinal Sarah in conversation with Nicolus Diat. I was magnificently impressed. He was a modern-day prophet who has since died.

Part One of this book details the crisis of faith, the priesthood, and the Church. Sarah understands and articulates the big picture like few priests in the world today. Sarah details so well the hatred of man and the hatred of life, and asks the question where the world is headed. The chapter on Europe’s crisis is hard reading. It’s where America is headed.

The poet Yeats wrote that “the center cannot hold”. With the dissolution of the bedrock of civilization (the family), only optimistic fools would bet on the survival of civilization. But nothing is impossible with God!

I have not seen a wedding announcement in at least a year, and that was a travesty between two males. Jesus weeps! The chapter called the Funeral March of Decadence gives little hope for the world. America: weep for your children!

I like the last chapter called God Opens His Hand. But as one wag asked, “God bless America? Why should He?”



sian Duma is considering abortion limitations put forth by the Russian Orthodox Church. Duma member Veronika Vlasova proposed them. For one thing, they would require that if a woman attempted an abortion, she would have to get consent from her husband. If she's a minor, at least one parent would have to consent. Currently abortions there are banned after twelve weeks; the deadline would be reduced to eight weeks. Rape victims can now abort up to twenty-two weeks, but that would be reduced to twelve weeks. Granted, those measures aren't perfect, but they are a great deal better than what exists in Maryland today. See <https://www.rt.com/russia/586009-church-abortion-limits-proposal/>

The woman, under these measures, would have to go through mandatory pre-abortion counseling and would have to view an ultrasound of her child. After that, there would be a "contemplation period" of one week instead of the current forty-eight hours. Again, while these measures are not outright bans on abortion, they will save some lives.

One population group that doesn't have a problem with population decline is Muslims. While the average non-Muslim woman has less than two children, an average Muslim mother will bear close to three children. They are also, by and large, anti-abortion. Readers, that means that Muslim women have 150% more children than do non-Muslim women. Many are concerned about radical Islam and its anti-Christian ways. Are they concerned enough to stop aborting their children and allowing them to be born?

We as Christians also know that the more children we have, the greater number of souls there will be who will enter heaven and adore our Lord. How will we defend them?

Let's Hear From You!

The readers of this **Defend Life** newsletter have been hearing about the efforts and exploits of pro-lifers, both nearby and nationwide. However, we know many of you are engaged in your own active pro-life apostolates.

Some of you might be in front of your local abortion mills, praying and/or sidewalk counseling. Many might have been doing so for many years while others are just getting started. How did you get started? What inspired you to take that first step? What have you learned from your efforts?

Others might be volunteering for your local pro-life pregnancy center. There, volunteering takes many forms, such as interacting with the mothers in need, or collecting and organizing goods that the moms might need. Again, what motivated you to get involved? What have you learned from your experiences that might be helpful to other pro-lifers?

The importance of political activism cannot be overestimated. Are there any who are lobbying in Annapolis on an ongoing basis? What have you learned from doing so? Have you organized or participated in grass-roots petition drives? Have you worked for pro-life candidates in any level of government?

Some of you might be active in church-sponsored pro-life committees. What activities have helped motivate your parishes at large to pay attention to building a Culture of Life? How involved are your parish priests? Do you take advantage of **Defend Life's** periodic lectures?

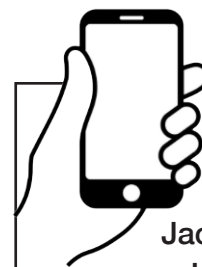
Perhaps you've taken part in the July **Defend Life** Face the Truth tours. When did you do so? Do you

go every year? How have your interactions with the public gone?

Have you participated in local prayer efforts at the abortuaries during 40 Days for Life campaigns? Often a silent witness of prayer can be enough to dissuade an abortion-minded woman from going through with her planned abortion.

Defend Life is most interested in hearing from you, so that we can all benefit from each other's experiences. Perhaps through such exchange we can network together and share resources and increase our scope of influence. It just might be your account of your own activism that will inspire and motivate another pro-life person to take an active part in building a culture of life.

Please feel free to send accounts of your pro-life activism to the Editor of Defend Life newsletter for possible inclusion in future editions of the newsletter. Email delivery is preferred. Either send your accounts in the body of the email or attach a Word document to the email
JanetBaker01@comcast.net.



When you receive automatic phone calls from Jack Ames, you must say HELLO or HI or just anything to trigger the recording.

November 1st the Feast of All Saints in the Month of the Poor Souls

By Robert Dow

Since the death of St. Stephen marking the beginning of the persecutions of the early Church, the Church has venerated both the souls and the remains of Her Holy Martyrs. St. Stephen, the first martyr, was stoned to death by the Jews provoking the irritation of Caesar, because as Saul and his fellow Jews very well knew, it was not given to them to put anyone to death.

When Nero ascended Caesar's throne and soon afterward set Rome ablaze in 64 A. D., persecutions of Christians became sanctioned by the Roman World Order. Nero would martyr St. Peter who to this day remains the longest reigning pope with a pontificate of thirty-three years. About to be crucified, St. Peter cried out that he was unworthy to die like his Lord. Roman soldiers all too eager to make sport of Peter's last request crucified him upside down instead! The next thirty-two popes who succeeded St. Peter all died as martyrs.

During the next two and a half centuries while history awaited Constantine to issue the Edict of Milan in 313 A. D., some eleven million Christians would die for the Faith. These Christian martyrs were of both sexes, came from every walk, rank, and station in life, and would range in age from as young as three to well over one hundred years.

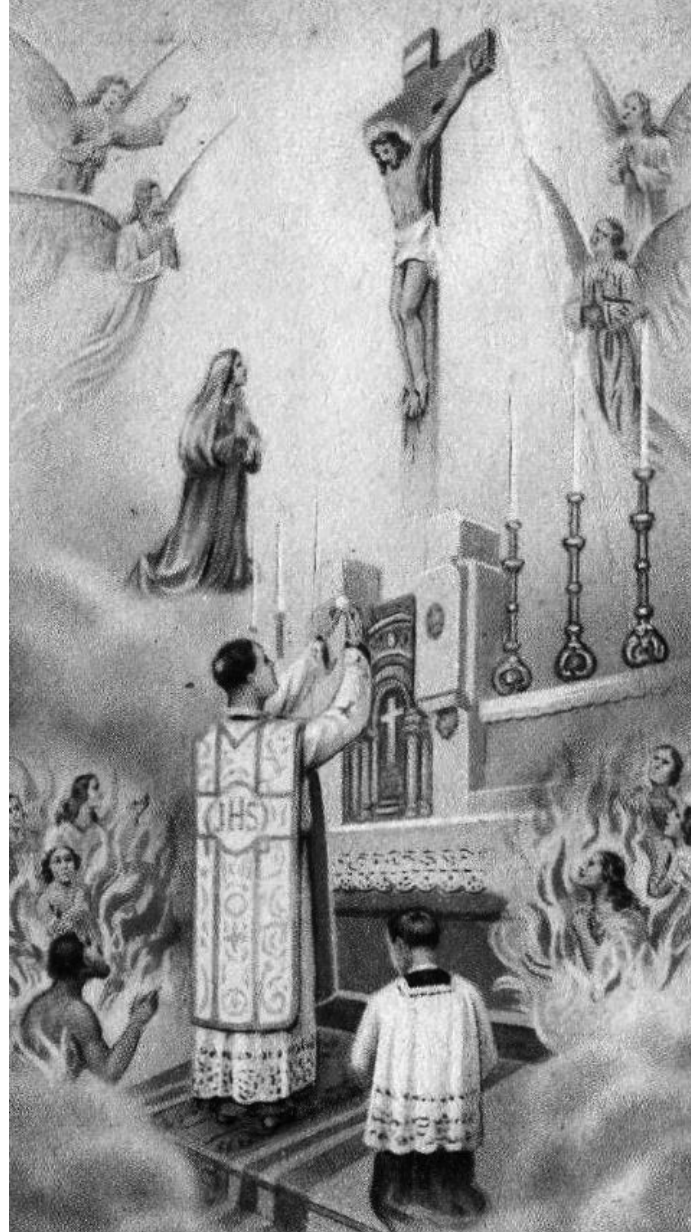
Under pagan Roman law, an individual must have the use of reason in order to be put to death as a Christian. Thus, women with child were not martyred until after giving birth:

a mercy that the guillotine-happy French revolutionaries and their bastard offspring the blood-thirsty, modern-day communists both denied to such mothers.

After the Edict of Milan which among other things made Christianity the official religion of the Empire, Christians who venerated the martyrs also began to venerate other holy people who died natural deaths.

It was during those years that the Church first established the Feast of All Saints originally on May 13th – which centuries later would mark the first apparition of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal in 1917. To suppress pagan celebrations of the dead especially amongst the Celts, the Church moved the feast of All Saints from May to November 1st.

We must clarify, the Feast of All Saints does not mean that all who die go to Heaven. Contemplate the



billions on earth at the time of the Flood and how only Noe and his family survived in the Ark! Rather, All Saints Day honors all the faithfully departed who are now in Heaven even though we on Earth know not who all those souls are.

Among us ordinary mortals few

of us who are saved go straight to Heaven. Martyrs do. Baptized children who have not attained reason do. Sinners who die on their deathbeds immediately after Baptism do.

Most other good Christians who die are detained in Purgatory before going to Heaven. Ninety-five years from now or before that time if you should die sooner good Christian, you dear Christian could find yourself in Purgatory. How long will you be detained there?

Some very holy but less than perfect Christian souls have a light purgatory of only hours or days on the threshold of Heaven with pain of loss of God but with no pain of fire. Even for these souls, time passes much slower in Purgatory than it does here on Earth.

Everyone else in Purgatory also suffers fire – the same fire that torments the damned. Such fire makes the worst conflagration on Earth appear as painted fire by comparison. Yet even among the souls in purgatory who border Hell and who are there until the Last Day, Purgatory and its flames are endured with joy. The Holy Souls all have God’s assurance of eternal salvation – something we here on earth do not have.

The Holy Souls in Purgatory are very dear to Our Lord no matter how great were their sins during life. Any sacrifice that we offer Our Lord on their behalf consoles Him.

Moreover, dear reader, Our Lord looks upon any relief that you might obtain one suffering soul as relief that you obtained for Him thus lessening the pains of His Passion and Death.

The souls in Purgatory cannot help themselves. They depend on us to relieve them by fasting, by praying the Rosary, and by having Masses offered for them.

Although the Poor Souls cannot help themselves, they do pray for and help those on Earth who remember them. Their first intention is that we go straight to Heaven and avoid Purgatory altogether, after which they concern themselves with our earthly well-being.

Due to the prayers of Our Lady, none of the souls in Purgatory suffers as much as they deserve. Our Lady also promises to deliver from Purgatory all those who were devoted to Her while on Earth. Looking down from Heaven after Her Glorious Assumption, the Mother of God beheld untold multitudes of souls suffering in Purgatory and without saying a word glanced at Her Divine Son whereupon all Purgatory was immediately emptied!

When any priest even a fallen priest prays, “May the souls of the Faithfully Departed through the Mercy of God Rest in Peace, Amen.” All souls in Purgatory receive some relief.

More Prayer Warriors & Sidewalk Counselors urgently needed at Baltimore’s Planned Parenthood, Maryland’s Largest Death Camp



**Contact John Roswell
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JohnRoswell@msn.com**



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stripped of his diocese

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Sheila Wharam
Memories for Maryland




Deborah Brocato
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