

Maintain the truth lovingly and always love truthfully.
St. John Paul II

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Blessings Reaching Thousands

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe CPO is already in our 19th year! With God's Grace and your tremendous support, we continue to reach thousands of people across the world with the Truth of Jesus Christ and our beloved Catholic Church.

One grateful person recently had this to say:

Catholic Parents OnLine does such important work educating Catholic parents on what the Church needs from families in our time. The catechetical work of Fr. Altier and CPO's educational films are top-notch, and the alerts given parents about misguided sex education curricula, especially the "safe school" lies, has been a sadly needed blessing.

I'm sure you will enjoy the outstanding articles included in this newsletter. Please be sure to share them with your family and friends.

I hope to see you at our annual CPO Lenten Retreat coming soon. This year's theme is: *The Passion of Jesus and the Compassion of Mary* featuring Father Robert Altier. The Retreat will be held on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at the Church of Saint Agnes in St. Paul, Minnesota. For more information and to register, please see the flyer on the back cover. This event is growing in numbers each year and seating is limited, so register early!

Let us continue to keep our Catholic Church, the clergy and all families in prayer, and thank you for your continued support.

God bless you and yours,
Colleen Perfect
President, Catholic Parents OnLine



Patty Altier, Colleen Perfect and Terese Jensen at the 2016 Minnesota Catholic Home Education Conference & Curriculum Fair.



Joe Kolles and Fr. Altier

Amoris Laetitia: Four Cardinals' Dubia

BY FR. ROBERT ALTIER, CPO SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Our Lady appeared to a nun in Akita, Japan in 1974 and gave to this nun several messages which have all received full approval from the local bishop and from the Vatican. The messages tend to be rather dire, but for our purposes, we note that Our Lady said that there would come a time when bishop would oppose bishop and cardinal would oppose cardinal. We are watching that unfold before our eyes. However, we now have a situation that is even worse, where we have four cardinals seemingly in opposition to the Pope. We need to be clear that the cardinals are not actually in opposition to the Pope. Instead, they have done something which is very common and very normal: they asked for clarification from the Pope on five issues that are causing confusion and division among bishops, priests and the laity.

The cardinals followed the proper forms of protocol in their request. However, where things became problematic is when the Pope decided not to respond and the cardinals, in turn, decided to go public with their concerns. This is the part of this controversy which makes it different. Some have said that the cardinals have caused a scandal by doing this, others have said the Pope has caused a scandal by leaving things vague and not clarifying them. Some have criticized the cardinals for their actions, others have criticized the Pope for his inaction. One high-ranking priest has even stated that the four prelates could be removed as cardinals because of their actions.

The entire controversy revolves around some statements made in the Pope's recent document *Amoris Laetitia* which have been interpreted in a variety of ways. Because of this, the cardinals have sought clarification so that one interpretation will be accepted and implemented by all. The questions, or *dubia*, deal with the issues of sacramentality and morality. More specifically, they deal with marriage: whether or not people who are divorced and remarried without an annulment of the first marriage can receive Holy Communion, and some clarifications regarding intrinsically evil acts. As we have already seen in several places around the world and here in the United States, there are some bishops who have stated that a person, who is not able to get an annulment, can consult their own conscience and decide whether they can receive Communion. Others have tried to suggest that if other routes fail, a couple in a situation of remarriage can have their first marriage(s) declared to be annulled by a priest in the confessional. This is what is referred to as the internal forum. While the Church recognizes the problems of divorce, adultery, cohabitation, "same sex marriage" and many other situations that are prevalent in our world today, she also realizes that she cannot change her teaching in order to address these situations. There is absolutely a pastoral need

to work with the people who are in these circumstances, but it would be false compassion to tell them anything other than the truth. To do anything less would be tantamount to suggesting that either these people are not worthy to hear the truth or they are not able to accept the truth. Jesus, on the other hand, told us that the truth will set us free. So, why should this matter to me? It comes down to several points.

First of all, there is unity only in the truth with charity. It is a matter of both to clarify this situation so that everyone can be on the same page as we move forward. However, the matter becomes far more grave when we consider the other reasons why this should be important to us. Secondly, it comes down to a question of whether or not marriage is a sacrament. If marriage is just a contract (which is the position of the state as



well as the Protestant churches) then it is only binding as long as the contract is still in force. A divorce would constitute the legal breaking of that contract, thereby setting the parties free to enter into a new contract with someone else. If marriage is a sacrament wherein God unites the two so that they are one until death, then no power on earth, including the Church, can declare that this bond is

dissolved. (An annulment can be given by the Church based on substantial evidence that would show that the Sacrament of Marriage did not occur, i.e., God did not make the two of them into one.) This would not allow for a priest in the confessional to absolve the parties nor would it allow for the couple to decide for themselves if they think their first marriage was valid or not.

Third, and even more grave, is the question of whether or not Sacred Scripture is the divinely inspired Word of God. If the Bible is the Word of God, then it cannot be set aside, as Jesus taught. If it is not the Word of God, then it is just a collection of wise or sacred teachings that may have been fitting and true at one time or in one culture, but are no longer applicable to us because our circumstances are very different. At issue here is the question of whether the teaching from Matthew 19 and Mark 10 is true and, therefore, binding. Added to this is another very serious issue of whether or not the doctrines and Tradition of the Church are binding. For 2000 years the Church has taught the exact same thing regarding marriage; can this change? Do we have to maintain the same thing just because it has always been taught this way? If it is okay to say that we do not have to believe in this teaching anymore, then what other teachings can we disregard? If it is okay for persons in a marriage that the Church would look at as objectively sinful to use their own conscience to decide whether or not they can receive Communion, then why can other people who are doing gravely sinful things not invoke this same

privilege? Finally, and most grave of all, is the question of *Who is Jesus?* If Jesus is God, and He is the One Who said that marriage is for life, then there is no discussion. God has spoken and we cannot change that. If, on the other hand, we can disregard His teaching, then we are saying either that He is not God or that God is not perfect because He is changeable. If we can disregard His teaching on marriage, can we also disregard any of the Ten Commandments or some other doctrine that we do not like personally? As you can see from what has just been said, the questions the cardinals have raised, while serious in themselves, have even more serious consequences depending upon the answers. If the answers are positive to each of the questions, then we remain in the unity of the truth. If the answers to any or all of them are negative, then not only do we find ourselves in the situation of formal heresy, but each of the above issues comes into play along with it. Worse than that, chances are that a schism would also ensue. So, amid all of the arguing among the pundits as to how things were done or if they should be done in another way, we need to pray that the truth will prevail and that our unity in Christ of truth and charity will bring us back to a place of peace and stability. ✦✦✦

Whatever Happened to Sin?

BY FREDERICK BLONIGEN

It was Pope Pius XII who said, *The greatest sin of our time is the loss of a sense of sin.* How profoundly ironic that, at a time when the world is immersed in unprecedented sin, evil, and moral corruption, many appear oblivious to this overwhelming reality. The one thing almost no one wants to talk about, including many clergy, is sin. It is almost as though the word *sin* has been removed from the Catholic lexicon.

One of the most common complaints today among faithful Catholics is the generally poor quality of homilies at Sunday Mass. The problem is not the delivery or style of homilies but their lack of substance, their failure to address the critical issues, especially moral issues, of our troubled times. When is the last time your pastor even mentioned the evil of contraception, let alone explained the Church's opposition to it? Except for an occasional inclusion in the prayers of the faithful, when is the last time you heard an impassioned homily condemning abortion as the greatest evil of our time and the sinfulness of voting for politicians who support such unspeakable evil. And then there are the issues of homosexuality, so-called homosexual marriage, and transgenderism. What bishop or priest have you heard address these issues and clearly explain why they are fundamentally opposed to Catholic doctrine and why they seriously undermine the Biblical understanding of marriage and the family? There is clearly something seriously deficient in catechetical formation when, as polls reveal, as many as sixty percent of Catholics believe there is nothing wrong with homosexual "marriage."

The sexual revolution of the 1960's, described by the renowned Catholic philosopher Peter Kreeft as the single most destructive revolution in human history, has caused untold physical, emotional, moral, and spiritual damage to mankind, including countless members of the Catholic Church. The failure of our spiritual leaders to boldly but charitably articulate the clear, reasonable, and beautiful teachings of the Church on all aspects of human sexuality and to strongly condemn violations of these teachings is in itself a sin of omission. When the shepherds do not preach the truth, the sheep are scattered. Evidence is plentiful for one to see. Visit any local evangelical Protestant church on a given Sunday and you will find a large number of ex-Catholics in the pews. While there can be a variety of reasons for Catholics to leave the Church, it is most assuredly

true that ignorance of the teachings of the Catholic Church is a significant factor. Truly, many don't even know what they are leaving! But the fact that evangelical ministers are often not afraid to address the *hard* issues of our day and to bring the wisdom of God's inspired Word to bear on these issues is undeniably an important reason why ex-Catholics compose a sizeable percentage of evangelical Protestant congregations. People are hungry for the truth and when they are not fed in their own churches they look elsewhere.

The statistics on weekly Sunday Mass attendance in the United States are alarming. On any given Sunday, only about twenty-five percent of Catholics attend Mass. That means that three-fourths of those who identify themselves as Catholics do not worship God as part of their parish community even one hour per week. To describe such numbers as a spiritual disaster is an understatement. It does not make much sense to focus on missionary work outside the Church until we have re-evangelized those within the Church. And yet despite these dreadful numbers, when is the last time you heard your parish priest or permanent deacon preach about the grave sin of missing Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation? Have parishioners been told that missing Sunday Mass requires them to go to the sacrament of Penance before they receive Christ in the Eucharist?

Of the many idols and false gods of our time one of the biggest is sports. Athletic competition and sports in general are in themselves good and worthy of our time, but not when they become the center of our individual life and family life and not when attending sporting events or practices replaces our Sunday obligation to give God the praise and love He deserves. When America was still a Christian nation, it was an unspoken rule that sporting events were not to be scheduled for Sunday morning. But no longer is this true. In today's secular America, marathons at 7:30 am on a Sunday morning (at the very time most Christians should be in church) is now the norm. After all, you have to do something on Sundays to entertain yourselves. And, of course, the religion called the *National Football League* has to include two or three hours of endless pregame analysis and tailgating before the big noon kick off. No time on Sunday for God when you could be watching the Vikings take on the rival Green Bay Packers.

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How to Raise Children (Not!)

BY JULIA BLONIGEN

Forty-five years as a speech-language pathologist and as many years as an observer of family life and society: it's been long enough for me to interact with hundreds of well-behaved children; and with (thank heavens) only some of what are best called *poorly-behaved* children. As I look back now with the wisdom of older age, it strikes me that *well* in the term *well-behaved* has greater meaning than meets the eye. It's more than just one side of the naughty or nice dichotomy. The well-behaved child, it has become apparent to me, has a much better chance of becoming a *well* adult. Well mentally, physically, spiritually, emotionally, socially. And the poorly-behaved, poorly controlled, misbehaving child is more likely to be poor in spirit, health, mind and body, manners and virtues, as an adult. Herein may lie an (some may say *the*) answer to our timely question, "How did we get so bad as a nation?" with its road rage, rudeness and crudeness, sexual innuendos, epidemic of illegal drug use, lazy employees, heartless bosses, snippy clerks, and lying politicians. How did we get here? It was the result of adults raising and teaching children according to principles and rules *antithetical* to the Ten Commandments and precepts of Christianity and the Catholic faith.

These rules I submit to you now in the form of thirteen teaching principles. Follow some, follow many, or follow all. The result will be children who are, accordingly, per the negative comparative/superlative: bad, worse, or the worst adult members of society. On the brighter flip side: try to avoid some, avoid many, or avoid all. The result is likely to be children who are instead good, better, or the best adult members of society at large and of the Catholic Church. As the Devil and my un-favorite politically-correct neutered waitrons might say as you embark on the task of ingesting this menu of moral madness: *ENOY!*

13 PRINCIPLES PROVEN EFFECTIVE IN RAISING MODERN CHILDREN

1. Teach them to be disrespectful of authority and authority figures. This should begin as soon as the child is a preschooler so they learn early on that parents, caregivers, adult neighbors are not the authority and that they can do whatever they want without suffering consequences. Once they begin school, this foundation has already been laid and can easily be transferred to the elementary and high school teacher, principal, religious educator. By adolescence they will be able to ignore any authoritarian figure, whether employer or police officer. This will help them be able to break laws regarding speeding, curfew, alcohol and other drugs, since it is only some authority figure they don't like anyway (or who they feel doesn't like them) who is telling them what to do, pushing them around, and pushing their opinion on them.

2. Teach them to be dishonest and treat the truth as negotiable. It may be good to give plenty of examples by your own behavior and speech that *little white lies* are okay when necessary to save your own skin, do what you want without getting caught or manipulate others for your own benefit. If any twangs of guilt should surface in this regard, they will be able to argue that *it's better to lie than hurt someone's feelings*. This they can prove by providing the example that you can't be honest and tell someone their haircut is ugly so you have to lie and tell them it looks nice. This little lie practice places all lying on an equal plane and ensures that their childhood "little lies" will become adulthood "big lies."

3. Teach them that rules are meant to be broken. You can tell them all rules are made up by somebody who is either power hungry or an idiot who wants to spoil everyone's fun. Furthermore, most rules were made "long ago" and don't apply anymore in today's modern world to modern people like us. After all, things change.

4. Teach them that behavior is only against the law if you are

caught. And if caught, principle number two (lying is good) should be put into action. There are so many good ways to teach this without saying a word (following the wise maxim of St. Francis, you may want to *preach always... use words if you must*). You can, for example, speed on the highway, go through stop signs when no one's around, eat a few grapes from the store bin without paying for them, drink and drive, let your thirteen-year-old child drink beer at parties, catch your child smoking weed at home and do nothing about it, cheat on your income tax and brag how much money you saved, and so on.

5. Teach them that the Catholic Church's teachings are *man-made*, have changed, and will change again, so follow only those that you a) agree with; b) make sense to you; c) don't get in your way; d) are easy to follow. Emphasizing the *man* in *man-made*, if the child is female, is a bonus point. The Friday fast is always a good one in this regard. When the Church changed it they surely knew what they were doing! It's a *twofer*: muddies the doctrine vs. discipline thing and weakens self-control. Kids who never learn to give up anything or control their appetites can have an easier time saying yes to drugs, well able to resist the pulls of the *Just Say No* campaigns. So don't do any penance on Fridays, do eat meat on Fridays, do tell them the Pope said it's okay to eat meat on Fridays. Under no circumstances explain to the child the reason for fasting as a penitential act because Christ died on Friday. Don't let the words *discipline* and *doctrine* pass your lips. Know it's never a good idea for anyone to learn to *give up* anything because it may help them learn to control their appetites and temptations for off-limit pleasures later on. Remember, too, *strict* rules such as fasting and pious practices such as the rosary, daily Mass, use of holy water, and stations of the cross are only for nuns and monks locked up in monasteries or religious fanatics on the outside.

6. Teach them that they can do anything they want, there are no limits. Build their self-esteem to the point that they feel they are so wise, so smart, so talented, so skilled, that there is no task, no job, no role in life they cannot master and aren't better at than anyone else. This almost guarantees their development of humility will be prevented. And this is a great way to set them up for feeling like a failure, for eventually they will meet that job, that task, that barrier, they can't master.

7. Teach them that all their positive traits, all their abilities, all their successes, come from *themselves*. Don't bring God into this at all. They should not know that everything good about them comes from God. They should not be taught to give praise to our Lord nor to say thank you to Him for the multitude of blessings He has bestowed on them. This will also be helpful when they are asked to join a Yoga class or engage in centering prayer, for they will be able to focus on something other than God as the *power-giving center*.

8. Teach them that life is all about *choices* and they can make either *good choices* or *bad choices* that may or may not have immediate consequences. Do not, under any circumstance, teach them there are moral absolutes, or that they have no right to choose what is morally wrong or sinful in God's eyes, or that there will be eternal consequences to sinful behavior. This will also assist them in accepting the diversity mantra they are bound to encounter, particularly at school and in the media. Most importantly, it will prevent all but the individual with an extraordinarily strong and sound catechetical formation from evangelizing the faith, for there is no reason to convert anyone else *from* or *to* things that are the same anyway.

9. Teach them that they are the center of the universe, that what they want or desire is most important and more important than the desires or needs of anyone with whom they interact. Selfishness is next to Godlessness, I always say! When someone raised to remain in the egocentric stage goes through life, they have quite an easy time squishing their conscience down to do and get what they want without regard for others. Success in establishing this trait can be seen when such behaviors as backstabbing a fellow employee to get a raise for oneself, getting drunk at the bar on the way home from work, spending lots of money and time away from home to shop, fish, hunt or exercise, or ignoring the needs of others, are second nature (or, better said, the *I'm first* nature).

10. Teach them that feelings should be the basis for decisions and for behavior. Make certain they know that what they feel is more important than what they think, what their mind and intellect tell them. This way whatever fancy strikes them, good or bad, they don't have to even think about whether it's right or wrong. They can just do it and do it NOW. In the public and social arenas, reliance on feelings comes in handy in discussions about topics they know nothing about. They

can start every statement with, *I feel...* and they don't need to research, reason, or explain. They can make choices, provide opinions, and engage in behaviors with no holds barred. If all the children in the country could only be raised like this! Wow! Demagogues and dictators would be in seventh heaven!

11. Teach them that the goal in life is to be successful. Help them to understand that success as a child or adolescent is measured by the grades on their report card, the number of times they score on the basketball team, and the length of their list of extracurricular activities on graduation. Help them to understand early on (so they can start working on it already in grade school) that success as an adult is measured by such important standards as what education and degrees they obtain and from which institutions, how much money they make, how much prestige their career title holds in society, how many bedrooms and bathrooms and square footage their dream home has, the occupation of their spouse, and where they spend their vacations. By no means encourage them to choose a vocation as a religious or believe that old-fashioned nonsense that success is being holy in this life and spending eternity with our Lord in Heaven in the next! That would surely spoil all their fun along the way of life's paths and set them apart from their peers and culture.

12. Teach them that threats will always remain just that: threats. Never follow through. Just threaten. They need to learn that consequences will never be suffered. In the rare cases when the child misbehaves, going, as they say, beyond boundaries, warn them two to three times by saying, *If you don't...I'll...* Then be careful never to actually do the *I'll...* you said would be the **punishment** oops, sorry, consequence. Oh, and I forgot, yelling the threat with all the volume and anger you can muster is even better. That way they get used to ignoring yelling of all kinds, even in cases of emergencies like yelling at them to stop walking into the street because a car is coming. Your anger will also make YOU feel better that you've TRIED to do something about their obnoxious behavior.

13. Teach them Church is only for Christmas and Easter at grandma and grandpa's so grandma and grandpa don't feel bad by knowing their children no longer are practicing Catholics. On a weekly basis, they need to know Church is not a priority. Now sports, that's a priority. And work. And sleeping in. Just be careful not to go once in a while, for that will make you look like a hypocrite. Besides, God may be sneaky and put into the child just a wee bit of grace to let them know He exists and loves them. Don't let God's camel get its nose under the child's soul tent. As a matter of fact, we know that every religious act the child engages in endangers their lack of faith—and soul. Yes, staying away as much as possible is best.

Well. That's it. These easy to follow rules for raising radical children (fit, perhaps, for a sequel to the infamous Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals*) should be enough to assist any parent in doing the right thing in raising kids the wrong way. Be assured it's not a once-n-done job, and there are no guarantees. Effort is what counts. Just one final word of encouragement: the more of these you can instill into the child, the merrier will the Devil be! +++

Mary, Undoer of Knots

BY MARILYN GRUTSCH

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, pray for us.

Mary Most Pure, pray for us.

Virgin Most Prudent, pray for us.

If you are a Catholic, you have probably recited a Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary; and perhaps you wondered why there are so many titles for her. Why not just simply say, *Mary, Mother of God, pray for us?* It may seem as though we are dividing up the person of Mary into dozens of different people; but as we meditate more deeply, we discover that these many facets of Mary help us to know her more intimately and lead us to implore her intercession, in a special way, depending on our unique needs and desires. In my own daily prayers, something that has just naturally developed, is that I call upon a different title of Our Blessed Mother to invoke her intercession for each of my children, with their own unique personalities and situations. From the Divine standpoint, the Spirit is the interior teacher who leads us to the full truth of Christ (John 14:26). But according to St. John Paul II, *...among creatures no one knows Christ better than Mary; no one can introduce us to a profound knowledge of His mystery better than His Mother.*

Everything we believe about Mary is related to Christ's Incarnation and Redemption. To that end, Mary becomes our model of the perfect disciple. Nowhere is this more evident than in her response to the Angel Gabriel, *Let it be done to me according to your word...* Some of Mary's titles are straight out of Scripture, such as *Mary, Full of Grace*; some pertain to our Catholic dogmas, such as *Mary, Assumed into Heaven*; others may describe her experiences in life, as *Mother of our Savior*; while still others, such as *Our Lady of Fatima*, refer to her as she appeared in apparitions. One of the current titles that is becoming more commonly called upon is *Our Lady, Undoer of Knots*.



Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has been among the greatest promoters of this, after becoming captivated with the image and story when he was studying in Germany in 1980. This devotion had its beginnings in the 17th century, when a German priest, Father Langenmantel, commissioned an artist to provide a painting for an altar dedicated to *Our Lady of Good Counsel*, which was also to represent the history of the Langenmantel family. Eighty-five years earlier, this priest's grandfather, Wolfgang Langenmantel, had sought advice from his pastor, Father Rem, in an effort to save his marriage. Even though his wife, Sophia, had planned to divorce him, she agreed to accompany him for marriage counseling with their priest. At the time of their wedding, it had been the custom for the maid of honor to join the arms of the bride and groom with a white ribbon to symbolize their lifelong union. Wolfgang brought this ribbon, which had been yellowed and knotted over the years, and handed it to the priest. Father Rem took their ribbon, raised it up before an image of *Our Lady of the Snows* and began to untie the knots. When the last knot was untied, the ribbon became dazzling white. This was interpreted as a confirmation to all present that Mary had heard their prayer and, by the grace of God, their marriage was healed. She always brings our requests to her Son, Jesus Christ.

Since then, calling upon *Mary, Undoer of Knots*, has become efficacious in resolving marriage and family conflicts. The image of Mary, untying knots in our lives is very powerful and down to earth. Every mom has experienced a child coming to her in frustration for help to untie the knots in shoestrings, which have become tightly entangled as the child struggled on his own in his attempt to loosen them. And what dad, when taking his son fishing, cannot relate to the exasperating plea from the child when the fishing line became hopelessly knotted and stuck in the reel. These *knots* in the painting represent our struggles with sin and discord in our lives. The painting depicts an angel handing the knotted ribbon to our Heavenly Mother, who lovingly unties each one, passing the smooth white ribbon to another angel. Just as God gave us earthly mothers and fathers to help untangle the knots of their children's lives, He also gave us our Heavenly Mother, to whom we can hand over the snarls of our knots. Jesus entrusted His mother to us as He was dying on the cross, *Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!'* (John 19:27).

The confusion of sexuality and disregard for the sanctity and dignity of marriage is more rampant in our times than ever before in history. Could it be that the Holy Spirit has inspired our present day Holy Father to bring this title to the forefront to aid us in the current battle we are waging? This particular image of our Mother, undoing the knots of our sins and confusion, is a beacon of hope for humanity. Let us entrust into her hands the blemished ribbons of our lives.

O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary, pray for us.

Our Lady, Undoer of Knots, pray for us.

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Have you ever heard a homily or sermon that addresses this American obsession with sports or that discusses the grave spiritual consequences of allowing anything or anyone to replace God as the central reality in your life?

What about the post Vatican II phenomenon of the Saturday night anticipatory Mass for Sunday? Have Catholics been told by their spiritual leaders that the Saturday evening Mass is intended for those who, because of work or travel, cannot attend Mass on Sunday? It was never meant to be the weekly norm or in many cases a way to get your Sunday obligation over with early so you are free to spend your Sunday shopping, painting the house, going to athletic events, or balancing the checkbook. There is no time for church services much less for charitable works such as visiting grandma and grandpa in the nursing home. Sunday, as a special day dedicated to the Lord, has been all but lost in the present culture. Are Catholics being encouraged by their spiritual leaders to treat Sunday with the reverence it deserves? Are Catholics being urged to be counter-cultural by not allowing the Lord's Day to become *just another day*—or even the most commercial day of the week?

Living the Catholic faith has never been easy. It is not supposed to be. Christ made it clear that carrying one's daily crosses is a prerequisite for calling oneself His disciple. If the world hates Jesus, it will hate His followers as well. To be an authentic disciple of Christ has always required extraordinary courage. It certainly requires great courage today. On all levels of the Church today, there is a desperate need for courage, especially from our leaders. We need priests and bishops to exercise holy boldness in proclaiming the Gospel and not be afraid to preach the hard truths of our faith with clarity, firmness, and charity. The salvation of countless souls is in grave jeopardy when the shepherds fail to feed their sheep with the saving teachings of Christ. A year ago, Cardinal Sarah, a man of intellectual brilliance, profound faith, and remarkable courage, wrote his widely acclaimed book titled, *God or Nothing*. The central message of his book is contained in that perceptive title. Modern man has a choice to make: either return to God or descend into the darkness and despair of nihilism. May we pray fervently that God will bless our country with spiritual leaders who refuse to be satisfied with the status quo; who, with the courage of the martyrs, are willing to suffer, and if necessary, die for the faith. The days of a Catholicism of convenience and comfort are over. Only heroic Catholics, those who take their faith seriously and truly live for God, will survive our toxic secular culture. Only heroic Catholics can be the leaven for rebuilding the City of God on the ruins of the City of Man.



ARTHUR A. HERKENHOFF AWARD

Art Herkenhoff, a true friend and one of our founding Board members, was a hero in all areas that truly matter: Faith, family and pro-life involvement. Art had enormous courage in proclaiming the Truth of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church, and always exhibited true charity, humility and joy. The CPO Board of Directors chose to present the 2016 Arthur A. Herkenhoff Award to a remarkable woman, Jeanette Meyer. Jeanette is the Executive Director at the Apple Valley Pregnancy Choices LifeCare Center. Several of her accomplishments include: starting a unique Life Coaching program there; helping implement in Minnesota the *Grief to Grace* spiritual retreats for all who have suffered any form of abuse; being a member of the Facilitating Team on *Rachel's Vineyards* retreats. Jeanette has been married to her husband, Deacon Marty Meyer, for 40 years and they have 5 children and 8 grandchildren.



Fr. Altier, Colleen Perfect, Art Herkenhoff family members and 2016 Arthur A. Herkenhoff Award winner, Jeanette Meyer, with Deacon Meyer.

The CPO Board of Directors seeks the names of individuals who would be worthy of nomination for the 2017 - 13th Annual Arthur A. Herkenhoff Award. The persons nominated should exhibit the same qualities, principles and values which characterized the life and person of Art Herkenhoff: Faith, family, pro-life involvement, courage, charity and joy.

Please submit your nomination by October 1, 2017. You may complete the Online Nomination Form at:

www.catholicparents.org/herkenhoff/index.html or contact us at 651-705-5409 and we'll be happy to mail you the form.



The Passion of Jesus and the Compassion of Mary

Saturday, April 1, 2017

8:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Presented by Father Robert J. Altier

Lenten Retreat

sponsored by



The day begins with 8:00 AM Mass at the Church of Saint Agnes, followed by a continental breakfast, and includes three dynamic presentations by Fr. Robert Altier, a delicious lunch, the Rosary and more.

Church of Saint Agnes
535 W. Thomas Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103



Please join us!
Register early, seating is limited.

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Cost is \$25 per person or \$40 per married couple.
Please send check made payable & mailed to:

Catholic Parents OnLine

P.O. Box 130815

St. Paul, MN 55113

Number Attending _____

Number Needing Gluten-Free _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Includes continental breakfast and lunch

Tickets will not be mailed out in advance; name tags will be waiting for you at the registration table after Mass.