



# Catholics United for the Faith

Affirming Authentic Catholicism in Milwaukee

St. Gregory VII Chapter  
April, 2017

## Fr. Luke Strand will present "Vocations in the Heart of the Church" on April 9

Fr. Luke Strand is the "Director of Vocations" for the Milwaukee Archdiocese. He was born and raised in Dousman, Wisconsin, and attended the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh before entering St. Francis de Sales Seminary in Milwaukee, where he was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese in 2009. After three years of priestly service at Holy Family Parish in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, he became the Director of Vocations.

In addition to his work as Vocation Director, Fr. Strand has joined the Faculty at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary as Vice-Rector and Director of Formation. He is also the Advisor of College Seminarians, and is a regular speaker at youth and young adult events. Fr. Luke's brother, Fr. Jacob Strand, is also a priest of the Milwaukee Archdiocese, and his brother Fr. Vincent Strand, S.J., is a priest in the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus.

Please come and bring a friend to hear Fr. Luke Strand present an engaging and important discussion regarding vocations and the Church.

### "Vocations in the Heart of the Church"

WHERE: St. John the Evangelist Church Hall

8500 W. Cold Spring Road

(enter from north parking lot)

WHEN: Sunday, April 9

TIME: 2:00 p.m. ~ Meeting

1:45 p.m. ~ Rosary

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## Mark your calendar for our "Msgr. Alphonse Popek Dinner" with Fr. Boquet on Oct. 1

We are pleased to announce that our 2017 "Msgr. Alphonse Popek Award Dinner," honoring Fr. Shenan Boquet, president of Human Life International (HLI), will be held on Sunday, October 1, 2017. As we previously mentioned, since Fr. Boquet joined HLI in 2011, he has traveled nearly a million miles to over 60 countries working with bishops, Church leaders, priests, etc., so we were happy to find him home, and available, on October 1. Mark your calendar now!

## Attend UW-Madison's "St. Paul Catholic Center's 8th Annual Spring Wine Fest" May 5

This 8th Annual Spring Wine Fest, on Friday, May 5, will be held at the Monona Terrace & Convention Center, located at One John Nolan Drive, in Madison, 53703. Wine and beer tasting will begin at 6:00 pm, opening prayer and dinner at 7:15 pm, program at 8:45, closing prayer at 9:15, and a live big band and swing dance at 9:30 pm. The cost is \$60 per person, or \$200 for a group of four. The mission at the St. Paul Catholic Center is unlike any other in the area - providing sacraments, outreach, and impactful, comprehensive Catholic formation to thousands of university students, preparing graduates for a lifetime of faithful witness. Readers may recall that the director at the St. Paul Catholic Center, Fr. Eric Nielsen, is a priest of the Madison diocese, and was the speaker at our Msgr. Alphonse Popek Dinner in October of 2016. Do recall that the St. Paul Center is building a new facility, which is nearing completion.

**This newsletter will not be published in June, July or August, and possibly, May.**

## The April, 2017, Prayer Intention published by Pope Francis

During April, Pope Francis has asked that we pray for: **Young people.** That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life. For information regarding the **Apostleship of Prayer**, contact Fr. James Kubicki, S.J. at 414-486-1152, or visit: [apostleshipofprayer.org](http://apostleshipofprayer.org)

### **Christifidelis newsletter excerpt by Philip Gray, continued from page 3**

CUF will remain an autonomous non-profit Catholic apostolate. It will have its own employees, records, etc. It is a membership organization, and that will not change. In contrast, the SJF is not membership-based, and that will not change. Our mission will not change. What will change, in a win-win for both apostolates, is that we will share office space, expenses, and develop protocols that will allow immediate referrals and sharing of information. Currently, CUF's research database, developed during my time with Information Services, seems intact. It contains over 8,000 general research points, and about 20,000 specific, client related contacts. For the immediate moment, I am involved in hiring a canon lawyer for the SJF, and two staff for CUF. The two staff for CUF will be an Information Specialist, and an Administrative Assistant. And, we are renovating office space in this large building to accommodate CUF and build its infrastructure. Our library is currently located in space that could be better used for offices, and new space is being renovated to accommodate the library in a central location. I hope to have all the pieces in place by the end of May. Many CUF members are also donors to the SJF and will hopefully read this newsletter with renewed hope. If you are one of those people, you will also receive a letter from me, mailed on CUF letterhead, explaining this affiliation. If you are a CUF member and a donor to the SJF, please continue to donate to the SJF. We are not a membership organization, and rely solely on donations to exist. For this affiliation to work, The Saint Joseph Foundation must remain stable and financially solvent. In closing, I offer one more observation. Our culture is in a significant decline. Our Church is also in a moral decline. Without entering into any debate on ecclesiastical politics, it is evident that the mission of the Church is not doing as well as it should. Recent studies published by a number of people show a decline in Catholic formation and a disintegration of morality based on the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes. In 1968, H. Lyman Stebbins began a movement that became a light in darkness, and gave wandering sheep a safe pasture. In 1984, Chuck and Terry Wilson built a wall around that pasture to defend the gathered sheep. Today, these two great apostolates are under one roof, and will work closely again to continue being a light in our darkening time and a wall of protection for those under siege. I am grateful for each of you. Your prayers and financial support build that protective wall used by so many. Please know we keep you in prayer. God bless you all; St. Joseph keep you.

Philip C.L. Gray, JCL

President

(P.S. Philip Gray spoke at this Chapter's November 22, 2015, meeting at St. John the Evangelist Parish.)

### **Catechetical Corner: What do our guardian Angels do for us?**

**Answer:** According to the *Baltimore Catechism Three* (#223) "Our guardian Angels pray for us, protect and guide us, and offer our prayers, good works and desires to God."

**C**atholics **U**nited for the **F**aith

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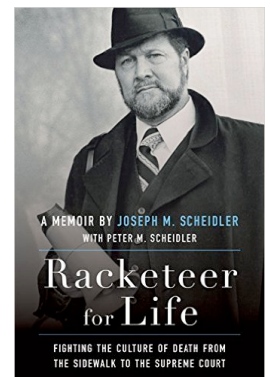
### **Book of the Month: *Racketeer for Life***

**Author: by Joseph M. Scheidler**

**Publisher: TAN Books, 2016**

"*Racketeer for Life* explains how a former Benedictine monk and journalism professor was drawn into pro-life activism and describes his part in the history of the pro-life movement in the United States. Conversations, protests, and battles with clinic directors, doctors, politicians, judges, media personalities, and other pro-lifers are woven together in this engaging account of the efforts of Scheidler and other activists to publicize the horrors of abortion, influence legislation, and, ultimately, to save lives. Pro-life work has taken Scheidler around the globe. He's crossed paths with some of the most famous leaders in recent decades, from President Ronald Reagan to St. John Paul II. Join sit-ins at abortion clinics, take part in rallies, listen to heated debates, and sit in a federal courtroom with one of the most dedicated warriors in the fight for the unborn as he shares his energy, wit, and faith in this engaging memoir."

Contributors of \$12 or more per year to the Chapter receive discounts on books displayed at CUF meetings, and receive the Newsletter by First Class Mail.



## **"Like Sheep Without a Shepherd, What are the Laity to Do?"**

**Excerpt by Philip C.L. Gray, JCL**  
**March 19, 2017, p. 4**

On 4 February 2017, the Board of Directors of Catholics United for the Faith unanimously voted to affiliate by amendment of by-laws to The St. Joseph Foundation. On that same day, the Board of Directors of The St. Joseph Foundation voted unanimously to accept the affiliation and the fiduciary duty to re-invigorate the mission of our sister apostolate. What does that mean? Please let me explain.

In response to the widespread dissent against *Humanae vitae*, and the scattering of the faithful like sheep without a shepherd in the late 1960's, H. Lyman Stebbins founded Catholics United for the Faith (CUF) in 1968 with the mission to defend the Teaching Office of the Church. Simply put, Mr. Stebbins knew that the bishops and pastors of our Church had not stepped up to defend the Truth against those who were spreading heterodoxy and dissenting from *Humanae vitae*. In fact, many who signed the dissenting documents against Pope Paul VI's landmark encyclical were bishops and professors of theology in ecclesiastical institutes and seminaries. Mr. Stebbins knew that the laity must take a stand, not unlike the "country Christians" who opposed the Arian Heresy, or the Japanese laity who kept the faith for centuries after the last priest was killed by the Emperor. He chose a name for his apostolate to reflect his vision - to unite Catholics in a stand for Truth. To pursue his vision, he developed a strong national office where research on a host of issues took place, and information was given to those who sought the truth. Over the years, CUF members and chapters championed the true Faith on many issues.

Our own founder, Chuck Wilson, was a friend of Mr. Stebbins. Chuck was involved with CUF very early in its his-

tory, and would often travel to New York and use CUF's library for research. As the '70's turned into the '80's, and the war on orthodoxy progressed, a need was seen for an apostolate that would assist the faithful in defending and vindicating their rights under Canon Law. While CUF focused on the Teaching Office of the Church, and the need for proper formation, there was a great need for an apostolate to help the faithful defend their rights under the law of the Church. Chuck and Terry Wilson rose to the challenge and founded The St. Joseph Foundation (SJF). Though the two

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apostolates were not affiliated in law, they were considered sister apostolates. For a time, the Presidents of each apostolate sat on the Board of Directors of the other. And, after a period of financial difficulty, the Board of CUF offered to merge with the SJF in the late '80's. CUF recovered and the merger was not necessary. For my part, I served as Vice President of CUF, Director of Information Services, and Director of Membership and Development. During my tenure at CUF from 1998 to 2001, my staff developed a program that would answer an average of 800 client questions each month posed to us about the Catholic faith. Membership rose to almost 11,000, and its chapter program was in a period of growth. During this time, there was a renewed working relationship with the SJF. People who called CUF with questions often had specific issues in their parish or diocese. If it involved a violation of rights, we made immediate referral to the SJF. In like manner, many people who approached the SJF only had questions, not canonical issues.

They were referred to CUF. Regrettably, when I left CUF in late 2001, Information Services began a decline and the close relationship between the two apostolates began to fade. Unfortunately, CUF has struggled over the past decade to maintain its apostolic outreach. By 2015, its membership had dropped below 3,000. CUF sold its real estate holdings as well as its publishing arm, Emmaus Road. Its library was given away. All but one staff member left when Emmaus Road was sold. With decreasing membership and no infrastructure, the Board of Directors began considering dissolution. When I heard about the matter, I asked to speak with CUF's Chairman, David Rodriguez. We met in early 2016, and at his invitation, I developed a proposal to re-invigorate the mission of CUF. The St. Joseph Foundation is stable. We have a full infrastructure, a balanced budget, and a growing apostolic outreach. I proposed that the CUF Board of Directors move to amend their by-laws to make the Board and officers of the SJF the *ex officio* Board and officers of CUF. I offered that our 3700 square foot office and library could be used as CUF headquarters. With my experience, I could train a new staff to reinvigorate the mission of CUF. On 4 February 2017, it all happened.

At a very practical level, this is beneficial for both apostolates. With CUF moving into our offices and sharing expenses, it frees up enough of our revenue to hire a canon lawyer. I have already begun that process. It also means that the two apostolates will have the same kind of interaction that was originally shared between our founders, and between the two offices during my tenure at CUF. It is important to understand that CUF is not becoming part of the SJF. This is not a merger. This is an affiliation, in which the governing leadership is shared.

**Continued on page 2...**

**THE SPRING – FALL – WINTER SCHEDULE:**

- April 9            **VOCATIONS IN THE HEART OF THE CHURCH, by Fr. Luke Strand (St. John Church Hall)**
- September 17    **THE WORLD OF G. K. CHESTERTON, by Dr. James (Duke) Pesta**
- October 1        **MSGR. POPEK AWARD DINNER**
- November 19     **TO BE ANNOUNCED**
- December 10    **MSGR POPEK BIRTHDAY/CHRISTMAS DINNER**
- February 18     **AFTERNOON OF RECOLLECTION, by Fr. James Kubicki, S.J. (at Sacred Heart Church)**
- March 18        **TO BE ANNOUNCED**
- April 15         **TO BE ANNOUNCED**



**Catholics United for the Faith**

*To Support, Defend and Advance the Efforts of the Teaching Church*

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Join us on Sept. 17  
“The World of G.K. Chesterton”  
Dr. Duke Pesta

Come and bring a friend to hear

**Rev. Luke Strand,**  
Director of Vocations  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
Present:

**“Vocations in the Heart of the Church”**

Sunday, April 9  
St. John the Evangelist Church Hall  
8500 W. Cold Spring Road