



Catholics United for the Faith

Affirming Authentic Catholicism in Milwaukee

St. Gregory VII Chapter
April, 2009

FR. JOHN BELMONTE S.J., PRINCIPAL OF MUHS, TO SPEAK APRIL 19

Fr. John Belmonte, S.J., has been the principal of Marquette University High School for the past five years. Under his leadership, new and exciting courses have been put in place at “Marquette High,” and a new chapel has been constructed. Many Catholics are happy to know that the new chapel has a permanent altar, kneelers and a visible tabernacle. In recent years, Fr. Belmonte has been able to hire a few young faculty members who have added a new dimension to the religious education program at the school.

Fr. Belmonte, S.J., was born in Chicago, and graduated from Arlington High School in Arlington Heights, Illinois, in 1981. In 1985, he graduated from Marquette University with a Bachelor of Arts degree and joined the Society of Jesus. He completed his theological studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, and graduated magna cum laude in 1995. In 1997, he completed a Licentiate in Sacred Theology, with a concentration in Sacred Scripture, from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 1999, Fr. Belmonte enrolled in a doctoral program in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Loyola University in Chicago, which he completed in 2006. From 1999 to 2004, Fr. Belmonte was the Director of Pastoral Ministry at St. Ignatius College Prep in Chicago, Illinois.

JOIN US AND BRING A FRIEND to hear **Fr. John Belmonte, S.J.**, discuss:

**“SOWING SEEDS: PERSPECTIVES ON RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION IN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS”**

WHERE: Blessed Sacrament Church Hall

South 40th St. and Oklahoma Avenue

(enter door at SE corner of Church)

WHEN: SUNDAY, April 19

TIME: 2:00 p.m. – Meeting (1:45 p.m. – Rosary)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS TO BE HELD AT MAY MEETING

The annual election of officers for the Chapter will be held at the May meeting. Anyone interested in being on the ballot, or suggesting nominees, should contact Larry Schmidt at 414-774-2824. The positions are president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

BISHOP MARTINO REFUSES COMMUNION TO PRO-ABORTION POLITICIANS

According to the April, 2009, issue of *The Catholic World Report*, Bishop Joseph Martino, Bishop of Scranton, Pennsylvania, has issued an order that, “Those whose unworthiness to receive Holy Communion is known publicly to the Church must be refused Holy Communion in order to prevent sacrilege and to prevent the Catholic in question from committing further grave sin through unworthy reception.” The directive was conveyed by the diocesan chancellor, James Earley, on February 26. Although the official notice did not mention anyone by name, the article noted that, “it is impossible to overlook the fact that on the same day, February 26, the Scranton diocese also posted an open letter from Bishop Martino to Pennsylvania Senator Robert Casey, in which the bishop - for the second time - reminded the Catholic lawmaker of his moral obligation ‘to oppose abortion and other clear evils.’” (p. 17)

In This Issue

Page

- 1 Fr. John Belmonte to discuss: “High School Religious Education”**
- 2 Book of the Month: “What Is the Bible?”**
- 2 Contact CUF**
- 3 “Vatican Unhappy with Obama Picks”**

U.S. BISHOPS' COMMITTEE ON DOCTRINE CALLS "REIKI THERAPY" A SUPERSTITION

According to "Guidelines for Evaluating Reiki as an Alternative Therapy," published March 26 by the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Doctrine, "...a Catholic who puts his or her trust in Reiki would be operating in the realm of superstition, the no man's land that is neither faith nor science." An article in the April 12 edition of the *National Catholic Register* explains that Reiki therapy is "an alternative medicine originating in Japan, [and] is unscientific and inappropriate for use by Catholic hospitals, clinics, and retreat centers and people representing the Church." The article points out that "there is a radical difference between Reiki therapy and the healing by divine power in which Christians believe...For Christians, the access to divine healing is by prayer to Christ as lord and savior, while the essence of Reiki is not prayer but a technique that is passed down from the 'Reiki master' to the pupil." The guidelines conclude that Reiki therapy "finds no support either in the findings of natural science or in Christian belief." Unfortunately, Reiki is being promoted in the Milwaukee area. The guidelines are available at <http://www.USCCB.org/dpp/doctrine.htm>

"MEET AND GREET" RECEPTION FOR LEONARDO DEFILIPPIS ON APRIL 29

Catholic actor and producer, Leonardo Defilippis, will be making a special visit to Milwaukee on Wednesday, April 29, at 7:00 p.m at St. John Vianney Parish in Brookfield. His visit, hosted by The Greater Milwaukee SJV Drama Project, will publicize his new play, *Vianney: Cure of Ars*, which is scheduled for performances in the Greater Milwaukee area from September 8th to the 12th, 2009. The play will coincidentally make its debut in "The Year of the Priesthood," officially declared by Pope Benedict XVI. Leonardo's nation wide performances will supplement this celebration and encourage vocations under this humble saint's patronage. To attend the "Meet and Greet," kindly RSVP to Christie at (262) 253-4078. Desserts and refreshments will be served. For information about the play, visit <http://www.vianneydrama.com>

WHO WAS ST. GREGORY VII?

Over the years we have often been asked "Who was St. Gregory VII and why was this CUF Chapter named for him?" Gregory became the 157th Pope in 1073. His first act as pope was to confront Emperor Henry IV, who had ignored the decisions of the Synod of Rome. Gregory also threatened to excommunicate anyone who opposed such decisions and decrees. Henry accepted the challenge and provoked an uprising in Rome. Gregory called a council in Rome which approved and promulgated the famous *Dictatus Papae*, a clear and explicit synthesis of his concept of power. That is, divine power, which operates in the world through the Church, is the source of both spiritual and temporal power, not vice versa. Henry, who wanted to overturn divine law was excommunicated. He was immediately abandoned by all his subjects whom the pope had freed of their obligation of obedience and loyalty. There was little for Henry to do but reconcile himself with the pope. Authentic Catholicism was important to Gregory - as it is to our Chapter.



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Book of the Month: "What Is the Bible?"

Author: Henri Daniel-Rops

Publisher: Sophia Institute Press, 2006

"Written especially for average Catholics, who often find the Bible intimidating, *What Is the Bible?* makes sense of the sprawling scope of Sacred Scripture. With patience, clarity, and great learning, beloved popular scholar Henri Daniel-Rops sheds light on the Bible's divine origins, its structure and content, its rich layers of meaning, and its place at the heart of Catholic doctrine and worship."

The author, Henri Daniel-Rops, was a French scholar who wrote more than seventy books of theology. He died in 1965. This book was originally published in 1958 as volume 60 of a Catholic Encyclopedia edited by the author.

Contributors of \$12 or more to the Chapter per year are entitled to discounts on all books displayed at CUF meetings.

Vatican Unhappy With Obama Ambassador Picks

By Edward Pentin

Newsmax.com, Thursday, April 2, 2009

As Barack Obama continues to focus on his political base and push through policies that are anathema to the pro-life movement, he is having difficulty finding a suitable candidate to represent his administration at the Vatican.

According to Massimo Franco, author of *Parallel Empires*, a recently published book on U.S.-Vatican relations, the Obama administration has put forward three candidates for consideration but each of them has been deemed insufficiently pro-life by the Vatican. One of the few conditions the Vatican places on diplomats accredited to the Holy See is that they hold pro-life views in line with Church teaching.

Franco says the administration is now looking for a professional diplomat rather than a political appointee because finding an authentically pro-life candidate within the Democratic Party is proving impossible. The task is further hampered by the administration's desire to reward individuals who gave donations to Obama's campaign.

Since the U.S. opened formal diplomatic relations with the Vatican 25 years ago under President Reagan, all ambassadors have been political appointees and pro-life Catholics of varying degrees, even under the Clinton administration.

However, in view of the absence of qualified Catholic candidates, insiders say another option could be for the administration to choose a non-Catholic pro-life candidate rather than a Catholic whose record on pro-life issues is

at odds with Church teaching. "There may be room for such an appointment and it could be a good choice," said Franco, "but at the moment I can't imagine it happening." The post of U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See has been vacant since January 19, when Harvard law

"...the Obama administration has put forth three candidates...each has been deemed insufficiently pro-life by the Vatican"

professor Mary Ann Glendon left the position. Commentators say that unless an appointment is made by mid-April, the Obama administration could face the embarrassing possibility of having no ambassador in place when the president visits Italy in July for the G8 summit. That would make any encounter between Pope Benedict XVI and President Obama not impossible but unlikely.

In the short time he has been in office, President Obama has pushed through or proposed a raft of policies that have greatly disappointed members of the pro-life movement, and raised serious concerns in the Vatican. These include proposing to rescind conscience rights of physicians and others, especially in the context of abortion; permitting U.S. government funding of

organizations sponsoring abortion provision around the world; nominating an aggressively pro-choice Catholic, Kathleen Sibelius, to the Secretary of Health and Human Services; and allowing federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research.

Two weeks ago, the administration said it would formally endorse a U.N. statement calling for the worldwide decriminalization of homosexuality, a measure that former President George W. Bush had refused to sign and that the Vatican also opposed. A week earlier, the administration said it would endorse radical international guidelines on HIV/AIDS, which call for criminalizing critics of homosexuality. The president of the Vatican's Academy for Life, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, criticised Obama's embryonic stem cell decision as a "victory of politics over ethics." Archbishop Raymond Burke, the American head of the Church's highest court, the Apostolic Signatura, said in a recent interview the appointment of Sibelius was "the source of the greatest embarrassment" because of her pro-abortion record, and that she "should not be entrusted" to the job.

To help clear up some of these disagreements, a meeting between the Pope and the President is seen by some as a matter of urgency, particularly in view of Obama's campaign pledge to build consensus between both sides of the pro-life debate. Failure to do so will confirm what some Vatican officials already suspect of Obama: that his talk of reaching out to all sides was empty talk, designed to deceive.

St. Gregory VII Chapter
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Catholics United for the Faith

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

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a mailbox. We will pay for its
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Come and bring a friend
to hear

Rev. John Belmonte, S.J.
Principal, Marquette University High School

discuss,

**“Perspectives on Religious Education
in Catholic High Schools”**

Sunday, April 19

Blessed Sacrament Church Hall
South 40th St. and Oklahoma Ave.