



Catholics United for the Faith

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

PAT BENO TO DISCUSS WRITINGS OF FR. GILSDORF ON APRIL 20

St. Gregory VII Chapter
April, 2008

PATRICK BENO is the editor of a “just published” collection of the writings of the late Fr. Richard Gilsdorf, a priest of the Diocese of Green Bay. The title of the book, which carries endorsements from Cardinal Maida, Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., Dr. Charles Rice and James Likoudis, is “The Signs Of The Times – Understanding The Church Since Vatican II.” Fr. Gilsdorf is familiar to CUF members. He received this newsletter for many years and was the fourth recipient of the Msgr. Alphonse Popek Award in 1992. Pat Beno has spent the last three years compiling and editing this collection of Fr. Gilsdorf’s writings.

Pat Beno helped organize and establish the Green Bay Chapter of CUF in 1971 and served as its chairman for about 15 years through the 1980’s and early 90’s. He also attended Fr. John Hardon’s five day Men’s retreats in Illinois for 25 consecutive years, until Fr. Hardon’s death in 2000. In 1999, Pat assisted the three founders of Relevant Radio, and has remained active with Relevant Radio to this day. Pat grew up in Green Bay where he and his wife Joanne (who passed away three months ago) raised five children, the youngest of whom was ordained to the priesthood, for the Diocese of Green Bay, in 2004.

PLEASE JOIN US TO HEAR PAT BENO DISCUSS HIS RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOK:

“SIGNS OF THE TIMES”

“UNDERSTANDING THE CHURCH SINCE VATICAN II ”

WHERE: SACRED HEART PARISH HALL

917 North 49th Street (one block north of Wells St.)

WHEN: Sunday, April 20

TIME: 2:00 p.m. - Meeting

1:45 p.m. - Rosary

FAMILY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AT MARY QUEEN OF HEAVEN ON MAY 25

Families and all their children are invited to attend a SPECIAL HOLY HOUR at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 25, the Feast of Corpus Christi, at Mary Queen of Heaven Church, 2322 South 106th Street in West Allis. The celebration is sponsored by “Families in His Presence,” the Family Eucharistic Adoration Program of the Rosary Evangelization Apostolate. The program will feature special guest, Fr. Antoine Thomas, from Princeville, Illinois. Recent First Communicants are welcome to wear their dresses and suits. For more information, see www.rosaryea.org. Tax deductible donations can be made to: Families in His Presence, P.O. Box 510062, New Berlin, WI 53151. Archbishop Timothy Dolan is the Episcopal Advisor to the Rosary Evangelization Apostolate.

NO “DAY OF SILENCE” AT MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL ON APRIL 25

A FALSE report that Marquette University High School is taking part in the national “Day of Silence” (DOS) has appeared on the internet. It is simply not true, nor has MUHS ever taken part in this activity in the past. The DOS is sponsored by an activist homosexual group, and claims to show support for homosexual students. Many believe, however, it is a push to promote the homosexual lifestyle in our high schools. (Pius XI High School has supported the DOS in the past, and is reported to support this year’s effort. A phone call to the school was not returned.)

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MSGR. POPEK AWARD RECIPIENT, FR. JOHN CORAPI, KEEPS US POSTED

As many of you have already heard, Fr. Corapi is dealing with some health issues that are preventing him from keeping a travel schedule. Because of his illness, we have not yet received the information needed to prepare a registration flyer for the October 12 event. He does keep in touch, and has told us that if he is unable to make the trip to Milwaukee, he will prepare, in his private studio, a DVD to be shown that evening. If that is the case, we will hope to have a supply of the DVD's available for purchase. A registration form will be prepared as soon as we receive the information we need. In the meantime, we ask that you continue to keep him in your prayers.

BISHOP BRUSKEWITZ SPEAKS IN SUPPORT OF ARCHBISHOP BURKE

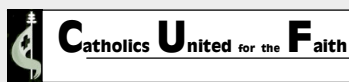
George Neumayr, editor of The Catholic World Report, recently interviewed Bishop Fabial Bruskewitz for an article published in the April, 2008, issue. In one of his questions, Neumayr asks Bishop Bruskewitz to comment on the fact that Archbishop Burke "has written that priests have a duty under canon law to withhold communion from Catholic politicians who support abortion." Bishop Bruskewitz responds:

"The bishops don't have unanimity about that. I would certainly agree with Archbishop Burke on that issue. I would like to see coherence and consensus and collective proclamation. Burke has my complete support. I greatly admire his very learned treatment of this matter. I would never allow any of my priests to knowingly give Holy Communion to pro-abortion so-called Catholics."

MUSLIM BAPTIZED BY POPE BENEDICT XVI LIVES WITHOUT FEAR

In a recent interview published in the April 13 issue of Our Sunday Visitor, Magdi Allam, the prominent Muslim journalist recently baptized by the pope, agreed that his life is "at a high risk." But he responds, "I am aware that if one lives in fear it's like as if one dies every day. I am not afraid of death, therefore I have decided that I will die one time only. I do not want to die every day." It was noted that he arrived for the interview in a black bullet-proof car, escorted by three...members of the Italian military police. One stood behind him throughout the interview at Rome's Foreign Press Club, while the other two guarded the entrance to the room."

The article also noted that Allam, born in Egypt in 1952, "started attending a Catholic school run by nuns at the age of 4" and also "attended Catholic junior and high schools." He said that attending Catholic schools allowed him "to know the reality of the Catholic world from inside, and in a correct way." Regarding his baptism, he said "I consider having received baptism from the pope as the greatest gift that life could have reserved for me."



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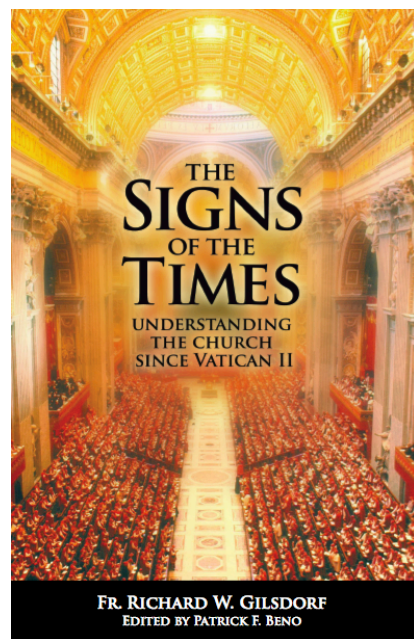
Book of the Month: "The Signs of the Times" Author: Fr. Richard Gilsdorf (editor: Pat Beno) Publisher: Star of the Bay

"The last 40 years have been tumultuous ones for Catholicism. Seminaries emptied, priests and nuns left their vocations, people dissented from basic teachings, and children received poor catechesis. It didn't used to be this way. What happened?"

An unsung hero during his time, the late Fr. Richard Gilsdorf, helps answer such questions by giving a precise and thorough explanation of developments in the Church since Vatican II.

Indeed, no one can fully hope to understand the state of Catholicism today without this important work."

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



Centering Prayer and other spiritualities: are they Catholic?

by Wanda Skowronska

In recent times, some Australian Catholic parishes have become involved in New Age activities with churches advertising 'Centering Prayer' sessions, a type of prayer related to Buddhist meditation, which originated in St Joseph's Abbey, a Trappist monastery in Spencer, Massachusetts.

In the mid-1970s, the director of the monastery, Trappist Abbott Father Thomas Keating, invited Buddhist and Hindu monks to give talks and retreats to the Trappist monks, just at a time when Eastern philosophies were wafting into the secular West on clouds of incense, mantras and marijuana.

Since then, books, courses and retreats using its techniques have proliferated. People who attend are no doubt well-intentioned but have no idea of the origins of this type of prayer, which aims to alter consciousness and unite one with more impersonal forces in the universe.

Christian idea of prayer

Talking about Jesus and Buddha as if they were similar 'good men' ignores the basic teachings of Buddhism and Christianity and shows no respect to adherents of either faith. It ignores the fact that at its core, centering prayer is fundamentally opposed to the Christian idea of prayer which is relational - involving communication with God as a person - and ignores the radically different understanding of God, the distinction between creature and creator, the nature of being and man's ultimate end. In the midst of such attempts to blend east and west, it is disturbing to see naive tolerance of New Age activities under the aegis of Catholic organizations.

Of note is a special project of PALMS, an organisation which has done fine work in training and sending missionaries to various overseas posts. On its current website, however, PALMS describes one of its new ventures called the Fair Trade Coffee Company, which is a café at 33 Glebe Point Road, Glebe, in Sydney, offering coffee and tea to its patrons guaranteed to have been grown and delivered 'free of exploitation.'

The Fair Trade Coffee Company also has a website which describes its laudable ideals of pursuing justice for workers in the Third World: 'When you visit the Fair Trade Coffee Company, you can be sure that every bean of our coffee is certified fair trade, meaning among other things, that every worker involved in producing your cup is paid a fair wage for their work.'

In addition, the site explains that the proceeds of this venture go towards funding volunteer placements in countries such as Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and Kenya in skill exchange programs. One wonders why its best selling coffee is called 'Sacred Grounds'. But this is a minor concern in comparison with the fact that the café's venue is offered to various groups and communities as a meeting place and that these groups are advertised on the website.

“...at its core, centering prayer is
fundamentally opposed to the
Christian idea of prayer...”

Which groups? Certainly not Rosary or St. Vincent de Paul groups. No, there are several advertisements for regular meetings of a 'Psychic and Healing Café' if one goes to the 'Events' icon. On one of these 'Psychic and Healing Café' session links, the description says, 'Elizabeth brings you the opportunity for spiritual and physical healing, every Wednesday and goes on to detail Tarot, Palm and Tea Leaf Readings, Astrology, Energy Healing, Relaxing Head, Neck and Shoulder Massage, and Bush Flower Readings.'

In addition, a 'Buddhist' conference dinner has been advertised as one of the events scheduled at this Centre. While PALMS has high ideals in evangelising and social justice, there would appear to be, to say the least, some cognitive dissonance in working under a Catholic organisation's name and offering a venue for tarot card readings at the same time.

There seems a blithe unawareness that anything to do with (to engage in or materially co-operate with) divination, sorcery and spiritism is absolutely forbidden by the Catholic Church. Meanwhile, is it inappropriate to ask why there are no activity sessions advertised on the website which might show a connection to the Catholic faith?

Are there any nights screening videos of Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II or the great missionary Saint Francis Xavier? Or perhaps a book club offering a reading of Pope Benedict's latest book, *Jesus of Nazareth*? Or perhaps a 'Pro life issues in the Third World' night? Or, perhaps even an outreach to the Glebe community offering the basic truths of the Catholic faith?

A letter from the executive director of PALMS, Roger O'Halloran, has been circulated to young people involved in World Youth Day, asking them to 'come along' and be part of it all at the Fair Trade Café.

While explaining the aims of the café the letter goes on to say 'come and visit us. You will see on our website the various activities in which you might join.'

Surely protection of the young is the responsibility of all? Just as PALMS laudably seeks to protect those in Third World countries from economic exploitation, don't the youth of Australia deserve to be protected from spiritual exploitation and psychic-babble from organic tea leaf readers and spirit channelers?

Surely it is not beyond the bounds of reason to suggest, politely, that psychic activities or ideas have no place on a website sponsored by a Catholic organisation? It is to be hoped that the links will be removed from the Fair Trade's website. Catholics in Sydney have their missionary work cut out for them in warning young people to have nothing to do with psychics, spirit channelers and tarot cards whether in cafes or elsewhere.

St. Gregory VII Chapter

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To hear
Patrick Beno, discuss:
“The Signs of the Times”
Understanding the Church Since
Vatican II

Sunday, April 20
SACRED HEART PARISH HALL
917 N. 49th Street