



Catholics United for the Faith

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

PLAN TO ATTEND CHRISTMAS/BIRTHDAY DINNER DEC.16

St. Gregory VII Chapter
December, 2007

This Christmas/Birthday “get-together” is an extension of a custom that began as a celebration of Msgr. Alphonse Popek’s December 9th birthday during the time that he was the spiritual director of this Chapter. This tradition has continued since his death in 1986.

There will not be a formal address or “speaker,” but there will be a short time after dinner, for anyone who wishes, to share a fond memory of this holy priest who touched the lives of many during his generous service to Christ’s Church. In addition, we will hear a short report on the “State of the Chapter” from our president, Al Szews, who will also share with the group the story of how we were able to arrange for Fr. Corapi to receive the Msgr. Popek award.

PLEASE JOIN US...

WHERE: KLEMMER’S BANQUET CENTER

10401 West Oklahoma Avenue

WHEN: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

TIME: 5:00 p.m. - Cash bar

6:00 p.m. - Dinner

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YOUR DINNER RESERVATION MUST BE POSTMARKED BY DECEMBER 7

If you plan to attend this dinner on December 16, please fill out the registration form below and mail it to:

Ann Taucher
6235 Walnut Lane, Unit A12
Cudahy, WI 53110

Your reservation must be postmarked by Friday, December 7. Make your checks payable to “St. Gregory VII - CUF” Your dinner selection of BURGUNDY MARINATED SIRLOIN, BAKED CHICKEN BREAST OR BAKED COD ALMONDINE will be made AT THE DINNER.

May Our Lord Jesus bring you much love, laughter and many blessings this Holy Season.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please indicate the number of dinners: _____ Dinner(s) @ \$24 per adult: \$ _____

_____ Dinner(s) @ \$17 per student: \$ _____

and/or Chapter donation: \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

REGARDING THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER

As was done last year, the January/February issue of the Newsletter will be sent to all members (800) by First Class mail, which will cost an extra \$300. Because we will not be using our bulk mail permit for this particular mailing, we are able to include advertising. If you know of any business that might want to advertise through our Newsletter, thus helping with our added cost of postage, please contact us by phone (414-321-9377) or e-mail (cufmil@wi.rr.com).

ARCHBISHOP PELL'S PLAN TO STRENGTHEN CATHOLIC LIFE IN AUSTRALIA

Although the article on the opposite page describes Cardinal George Pell's "Pastoral Plan" to strengthen Catholic life in his diocese of Sidney, Australia, it sounds like an excellent and comprehensive plan for any Catholic diocese. In fact, it appears to be an appropriate template that could be very effective, if implemented, in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. This plan, or something very similar, should be considered before spending the \$105 million dollars the archdiocese hopes to raise to "strengthen Catholic life" in southeastern Wisconsin.

A WARM WELCOME TO BISHOP-ELECT WILLIAM CALLAHAN

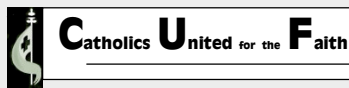
On behalf of the Board of Directors, and the entire membership, The St. Gregory VII Chapter of Catholics United for the Faith would like to congratulate Bishop-elect William Callahan, and offer our support as he assumes his duties as our new auxiliary bishop. We thank the Holy Father for this wonderful appointment, and our many prayers will be with Father Callahan as he is ordained on December 21.

WITH GRATITUDE TO DEREK HARMON FOR OUR "NEW LOOK"

You may have noticed our "new look!" We extend our gratitude to Derek Harmon, a member of our Chapter, who took the time to update the format of this newsletter ~ and to help this newsletter editor become familiar with a new computer, and learn to use a new program. We hope the result is more "user friendly!"

JUDIE BROWN, NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN LIFE LEAGUE TO SPEAK

Judie Brown will be the keynote speaker at a "RALLY FOR LIFE," co-sponsored by Pro-Life Wisconsin and Citizens for a Pro-life Society, on Saturday, January 12. It will begin with a Mass at 9:30 a.m. at Three Holy Women-St. Rita's Church, 1601 N. Cass St. After Mass the group will witness at the Affiliated abortion center in downtown Milwaukee, and return to a noon luncheon at the church where Judie Brown will speak. The cost of the luncheon is \$25/adult (\$12/child 12 and under) and requires an advance reservation, which can be made by calling Pro-Life Wisconsin at 262-796-1111, or 1-877-GOD'S WILL.



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Book of the Month: The Bronze Bow

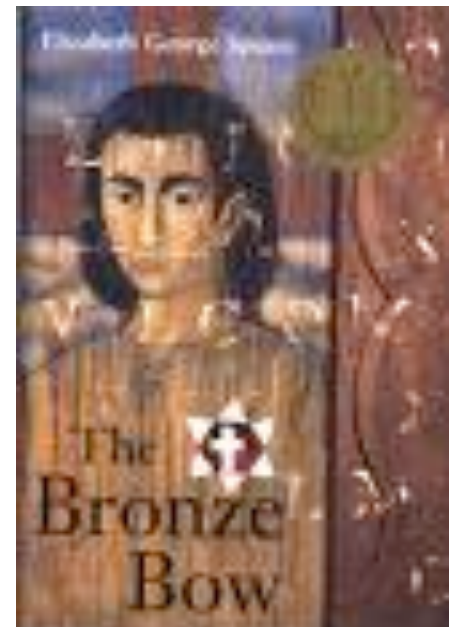
Author: Elizabeth George Speare

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin 1961, 1989

"After witnessing his father's crucifixion by Roman soldiers, Daniel bar Jamin is fired by a single passion: to avenge his father's death by driving the Roman legions from the land of Israel...In nearby Capernaum a rabbi is teaching a different lesson. Time and again Daniel is drawn to the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, only to turn away, disappointed by Jesus's lack of action in opposing the Romans."

The author won the 1962 Newbery medal for this magnificent novel of Daniel's journey from blind hatred to his understanding of love. Check it out for the child on your Christmas list.

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



Catholic Life Sydney's Pastoral Plan ready for implementation in 2008

By Michael Gilchrist

October 2007

Cardinal George Pell has reviewed the draft Pastoral Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney (see July AD2000) and suggested a number of small alterations. The final version of the Plan was presented to clergy on 17 September and is to be implemented by Cardinal Pell in 2008.

Bishop Julian Porteous, who has overseen the fine-tuning of the Plan through to its finalisation, says that it 'recognises that evangelisation must be the first priority of the Archdiocese of Sydney'.

Overall the Plan 'is aimed at 'strengthening Catholic life' with a positive thrust' as it seeks 'to strengthen the spiritual, pastoral and welfare work of the Archdiocese.'

The Plan focuses especially on parish life, and the need to strengthen catechesis associated with the sacraments and encourage parishes to be more 'missionary'. Parishes, Bishop Porteous emphasises, 'cannot just continue to provide basic services without serious efforts to strengthen faith, especially among those who have been non-practising, yet still seek the sacraments.'

Marriage and family

Here, the nurturing and strengthening of marriage and family is a key priority if the faith is to be revived in parishes.

To this end, the Archdiocesan Marriage and Family Office, in consultation with the Catholic Education Office, is to develop a program of marriage preparation for senior secondary students and review all marriage preparation programs to ensure their clarity of Church teaching by December 2008.

In regard to education, Bishop Porteous refers to the recent pastoral letter of the bishops of NSW and the ACT (*Catholic Schools at a Crossroads*, see September AD2000) as expressing 'a concern that while Catholic education has been strongly sought after, the results in

terms of young people embracing their Catholic faith are very poor.'

The Sydney Plan notes that the bishops in their pastoral letter 'encourage all those involved to dedicate themselves to ensuring that our schools 'are truly Catholic in their identity and life'; that they be 'centres of the new evangelisation', and 'enable our students to achieve high levels of Catholic religious literacy and practice!'

The Plan, says Bishop Porteous, 'seeks to strengthen the Catholicity of our schools' while 'Catholic tertiary education is also asked to examine the Catholicity of their presentation of the faith'. The implementation of the Plan, he adds, 'will provide an opportunity to examine how our Catholic tertiary institutions can be more effective in this area.'

The Australian Catholic University is by far the largest provider of trained Catholic teachers, hence its role is pivotal in any renewal of Catholic education. Its theology and religion curriculum courses will need close monitoring in light of deficiencies identified in recent years.

The final draft of the Plan includes the following requirements for Catholic education as a means of effecting renewal:

* Catholic institutions engaged in education will review every five years their effectiveness in achieving the mission of proclaiming the Catholic faith.

* Catholic educational institutions are to ensure that the Magisterial teaching of the Church is faithfully transmitted.

* Catholic educational institutions are to express in their mission statements a commitment to the magisterial teaching of the Church by March 2009.

* Lecturers at Catholic tertiary institutes who teach on matters of faith and morals should meet the requirements of Canon Law and the Australian requirements of the document, *Ex corde ecclesiae*.

* At the beginning of their term of office Directors in the Catholic Education Office, School Principals, Assistant Principals and Religious Education Co-ordinators will make a Statement of Commitment as an expression of their ecclesial obligations.

* Catholic Education has to develop in those they teach a clear sense of the contribution they can make to society by living and being witnesses to their faith.

The question of the Catholic identity of all social welfare activities has also been a key issue considered in the Plan with all agencies to be asked to examine the clarity of their Catholic identity and their expression of this identity in their works.

The finalised Plan includes reference to the role of overseas clergy, with programs in place to make them welcome and assist them to settle into the archdiocese.

Liturgy

The need for authentic Liturgy is another area of priority with provision for 'ongoing formation on Church teaching in relation to the celebration of the Mass and Sacraments' and 'regular workshops for clergy, liturgical ministers, teachers and catechists to inform them of recent liturgical documents'.

Parish Priests are 'to encourage those involved in sacramental programmes and the RCIA to undertake courses in formation provided by Archdiocesan agencies.'

Among the processes listed for 'effective implementation' the Plan calls for Cardinal Pell 'to designate an auxiliary bishop, with professional help, to oversee and monitor the implementation of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan in parishes and agencies'. This will be based on an implementation booklet that includes a time line for priorities in the coming year to be produced annually.

Overall, no stone is left unturned in the Plan's comprehensive coverage of Catholic life in the archdiocese.

Reprinted from AD2000 Vol 20 No 9 (October 2007), p. 3

St. Gregory VII Chapter

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If you do not want to receive
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a mailbox. We will pay for its
return.

May your Christmas
Be filled with
The joy of Christ’s Birth
And your New Year
Blessed with His peace.

Please join us for dinner
Sunday, December 16th