



# Catholics United for the Faith

Affirming Authentic Catholicism in Milwaukee

St. Gregory VII Chapter  
December, 2018

## Plan to attend the annual Christmas/Birthday Luncheon on Sunday, Dec. 9

Our annual “Christmas/Birthday” get-together is an extension of a custom that began as a celebration of Msgr. Alphonse Popek’s December 9<sup>th</sup> birthday during his time as Spiritual Advisor of this Chapter. The tradition has continued since his death on December 16, 1986. There will not be a formal address, or “speaker,” but there will be a short time after lunch, for anyone who wishes, to share a fond memory of this holy and dedicated priest who touched the lives of many during his generous service to Christ’s Church. In recent years, the Board of Directors has moved this annual event to a luncheon, rather than an evening dinner.

If you plan to attend this luncheon on December 9, call Al Szews at 414-321-9377, or email at, [aszews1@wi.rr.com](mailto:aszews1@wi.rr.com) Please let us know if you plan to come so we can reserve the correct number of places. For less than \$20, you can choose ½ Wood Roasted Chicken, Pork Tenderloin Medallions, Pecan Crusted Sea Bass, or you can select from the restaurant menu.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH ON SUNDAY, DEC. 9

WHERE: Open Flame Restaurant and Bar

5081 South 108<sup>th</sup> Street

Hales Corners, WI 53228

WHEN: Sunday, December 9

TIME: 1:00 p.m. – Lunch

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## Kudos to Bishop Paprocki for explaining the Pope's “capital punishment” CCC change

Pastoral Letter of Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, Sept. 16, 2018: “On August 2, the Holy See announced that Pope Francis has revised the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* with regard to capital punishment... indicating that, ‘the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person...’ The key question in the debate is whether this change in the Catechism has overturned the doctrine that the Church has taught for centuries, whereby it is justifiable for legitimate governmental authorities to impose the death penalty under certain specified conditions...The issue, then, is whether the revision in the Catechism is a change in doctrine. I would argue that the revision in the Catechism with regard to capital punishment is not a change in doctrine, but a change in prudential judgment, which allows more latitude for the faithful in their interpretation and application of this new passage than would be the case if an actual change in doctrine were being proposed...Pope St. John Paul II recognized these distinctions when he amended paragraphs 2266 and 2267 of the Catechism in 1997 to read... ‘the cases in which the execution of the offender is an absolute necessity are very rare, if not practically nonexistent.’ In this way, Pope St. John Paul II affirmed the long-standing doctrine but introduced his prudential judgment that the cases where the death penalty is absolutely necessary are ‘practically nonexistent...’ The word ‘inadmissible’ implies, I think, a prudential judgment, not a doctrinal pronouncement on faith and morals.”

*Merry Christmas from your friends at Catholics United for the Faith.  
May Our Lord bring you much love, laughter, and many blessings,  
during this Holy Season, and always.*

## May God bless Bishop Robert Morlino of Madison, who died Nov. 24 at age 71

The According to the *National Catholic Register*, EWTN and CNA, Bishop Morlino had suffered a “cardiac event” while undergoing medical tests on Nov. 21. We will miss this wonderful and faithful bishop, who was the recipient of our **Msgr. Popek Award** in 2014. “Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.”

### “Thank you!” for your kind and generous contributions to the Chapter!

Needless to say, this CUF Chapter could not do any of what we see as our mission without the financial help of those who support us, and **we sincerely thank you** for that. We have expenses that most people probably do not see, such as printing and mailing costs for the monthly newsletter, the \$100 fee we pay for use of an auditorium, the stipends we give to our speakers when appropriate, the travel expenses for speakers when necessary, and the costs involved with the annual “**Msgr. Alphonse Popek Award Dinner.**” Because of your generosity, we can continue our mission to “**Affirm Authentic Catholicism in Milwaukee.**” We are most grateful for your support! If you have questions, or would like to attend a meeting of our Board, do not hesitate to contact **Al Szews** at 414-321-9377.

### Catholic columnist, George Weigel, comments on the abuse crisis in the Church

George Weigel’s November 9, 2018, column, “**Roots of Catholic anger,**” included a comment by his friend Kenneth Woodward, longtime religion editor of *Newsweek*. Referring to the Pennsylvania grand jury report that “sent Catholic anger through the roof this summer,” Woodward pointed out that, “the way Pennsylvania attorney general Josh Shapiro presented the report – and the way it was often described in the press – made it easy to assume that the grand jury had unearthed three hundred new clerical abusers, when in fact most of the abuse covered in the report occurred in the last century and roughly eight out of 10 of the alleged abusers are dead. It was easy to overlook the good news in an otherwise disheartening report – namely, that since the U.S. bishops established stringent new procedures for handling allegations of sexual abuse in 2003, only two priests from the seven dioceses studied have been accused.” Weigel further explained that, “The ‘narrative’ of an ongoing, widespread, and unaddressed rape culture in the Catholic Church in the United States is false...it is essential that Catholics understand that a lot of the awfulness that is going to keep coming out – both in terms of abusive clergy and malfasant bishops – was in the past.” (Weigel’s column is distributed by the *Denver Catholic Register*.)

### Catechetical Corner: Is it really a Mortal sin to skip the Sunday Mass obligation?

**Yes.** According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2181, “...the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.” (Note: “Grave” and “Mortal” have equal meaning.)



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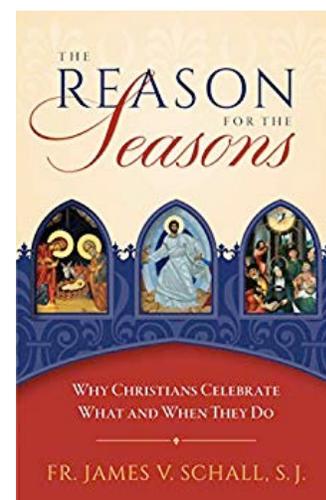
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### Book of the Month: *The Reason For The Seasons*

**Author: Fr. James V. Schall, S.J.**

**Publisher: Sophia Institute Press, 2018**

“We can’t be joyful without knowing why we should be joyful. That’s why celebrated Catholic author James V. Schall, S.J., ~ the thinking man’s priest ~ presents these short but powerful chapters on the most important and joyful feasts of the Church’s liturgical year. With Fr. Schall as your guide, you’ll come to understand more deeply the point of each celebration. You’ll learn truths about the feasts that will awaken you to real joy, as you consider Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, All Saints’ Day, and All Souls’ Day, as well as the End Times that we encounter in the last Sundays of the liturgical year...In any one of these discussions, you’ll find never-ending causes of insight into what we are and who God is. Together, this powerful and delightful book affords you an enormous opportunity to consider anew the great truths of our Faith handed down to us by our beloved Mother Church ~ truths that each year are celebrated in her Feasts.”



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.

# ***“How the US bishops should have responded to Vatican hijacking their meeting on abuse crisis”***

**By Peter Kwasniewski**

***LifeSiteNews, Nov. 16, 2018***

November 16, 2018 (LifeSiteNews)  
It was with the proverbial whimper that the recent USCCB meeting in Baltimore went out. The hoped-for and indeed expected bang was thwarted by forces without and within. The Vatican commanded a halt to the United States bishops taking steps about the clerical abuse crisis and its episcopal component. In a particularly obnoxious example of the Peronist “style” of this papacy, the intervention – apparently known only to Cardinal Cupich, papal confidante and *de facto* head of the USCCB – canceled out subsidiarity, interfered with the legitimate jurisdiction of bishops, and cynically stepped on the very synodality that bishops were forced to vote for in last month’s rigged Youth Synod.

In this move, we saw an egregious return to the ultramontanist behavior of treating bishops as if they were vicars of the pope, rather than true shepherds who rule their own dioceses in Christ’s name and by His authority. The pope certainly has universal jurisdiction, but individual bishops do not rule on his behalf or by his leave. They rule by a right proper to themselves, which can be removed for bad behavior, but is otherwise inviolable, immediate, and non-transferable.

Put simply, bishops **must** rule their dioceses; they cannot pass the buck to someone else. They, and not the pope, are officially and normatively in charge of their particular portion of Christ’s Church. To act otherwise would be running away from the sheep and letting the wolves take over. Sadly, it would seem that the wolves have long since moved in and set up shop. It was disappointing, to say the least, that the U.S.

bishops were not able to muster the courage to remind the Vatican of a few basic truths of ecclesiology enshrined in canon law, Church tradition, and (just saying) the documents of the Second Vatican Council. There were forces within, too, that sabotaged the effectiveness of this plenary meeting. The attempt to frame a respectfully earnest request for all the McCarrick documentation was torpedoed by bureaucratic filibuster and the soft mockery of semi-lavender prelates. Thanks to

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**“That is our job: to save our own souls and the souls of the faithful entrusted to us, feeding them with sound doctrine, pure morals, and a truly *sacred* liturgy.”**

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the leftward-leaning tilt of the pushiest high-ranking members of the American episcopacy, the apparent lack of desire in the conservative minority to stand up to them, and the perpetual self-doubting hesitations of the greater number, the U.S. bishops as a whole could not agree on so much as an initial approach to the disciplining of abusive, complicit, unresponsive, or incompetent bishops. It was a very expensive, time-consuming way to say: “We don’t know what we’re doing; we’re not sure where we’re going; and what’s more, we’re content to leave things as they are, as long as we get to act as errand-boys for the pope.” How different a world it would be if a number of U.S. bishops had stood up and said: “We’re tired of this liberal, confusing, autocratic, Machiavellian, and destructive leadership in the Church, and all its poms and works. We’re tired of official theology that contradicts magisterial doctrine. We’ve had enough with the cover-up behind McCarrick, and in general, with

all the hypocrisy and corruption exposed by Vigano, whose testimonies have not only not been refuted, but have ended up being vindicated by all the attempts to respond to them (which is why the sound of crickets still predominates). We’re done with playing bellboys to a super-bishop rather than taking responsibility for our own flocks, individually and corporately. And most of all, we’re thoroughly sick of an endless stream of unsolicited rambling Vatican documents thick with sociologese and thin on the radical demands of the Gospel. From this point on, we could care less about exhortations, letters, sermons, press conferences or curial blather. We have more important and more urgent things to do, like teach catechism, feed the hungry, celebrate the sacraments worthily and beautifully, support marriages and families, bring non-Catholics into the one true Church, reach out to people who are lost and wandering in the wasteland of modernity – and above all, **save souls**. That is our job: to save our own souls and the souls of the faithful entrusted to us, feeding them with sound doctrine, pure morals, and a truly **sacred** liturgy. So, unless you send us a pithy *ex cathedra* definition *de fide et moribus* with a tiara on top and a side of anathemas, we’re done wasting our time on the combination UN-EU that today’s Vatican has become. We’ve got several lifetimes of work to do just cleaning up our own act, the mess in our own backyard.” Now **that** would have been a plenary meeting to remember! Perhaps, if things keep getting worse, we may see something of this scenario play out, after all; stranger things...have happened in the 2000-year history of the Church.

**THE WINTER-SPRING-FALL SCHEDULE:**

- December 9** MSGR. POPEK BIRTHDAY/CHRISTMAS LUNCH
- January 20** TO BE ANNOUNCED
- February 17** TO BE ANNOUNCED
- March 17** AFTERNOON OF RECOLLECTION, by Fr. James Kubicki, S.J. (at Sacred Heart Church)
- April 15** TO BE ANNOUNCED
- May 19** TO BE ANNOUNCED
- September 15** TO BE ANNOUNCED
- October 13** TO BE ANNOUNCED
- November 17** 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 Sunday, January 20  
To be announced

Come and bring a friend to the

**Annual Msgr. Popek  
Christmas/Birthday Luncheon**

Sunday, Dec. 9  
1:00 p.m.

Open Flame Restaurant and Bar  
5081 South 108<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hales Corners 53228