



Catholics United for the Faith

Affirming Authentic Catholicism in Milwaukee

St. Gregory VII Chapter
Jan.-Feb. 2021

The "Afternoon of Recollection," scheduled for Feb. 21, has been canceled

Due to the continued threat of Covid-19 infections, and after consultation with Fr. Kubicki, we realized it would be prudent to cancel our annual "Afternoon of Recollection." The majority of our members who would look forward to another inspiring and excellent talk by our dear friend, Fr. Kubicki, are in that group of people for whom the Covid-19 infection is most dangerous. Attendance would most likely suffer, reducing the pleasure and effectiveness of Father's effort.

In his December/Christmas, 2020, newsletter, he revealed that, "Unfortunately, on November 28 I tested positive for Covid-19: I am now one of the many victims of this virus on the Rosebud Reservation. I am working to stay positive and to use my time in recovery and quarantine to pray in solidarity with the many who are suffering much worse symptoms than I am." (He has recovered and is well.)

In the newsletter, he went on to explain that the virus has hit South Dakota hard, as one out of every 900 residents in the state has died of it and one in every 6.5 residents of the Rosebud is either actively sick with it, or has recovered from it. But he added that, "Amid this spreading pandemic and its catastrophic impact on the struggling local economy, St. Francis Mission continues to move forward...We face many new expenses: we did not budget for them, but, to satisfy the most crucial needs of the people we serve, we must meet them." If anyone is interested, and able, to send a donation or would like to send a note to Father, the address is: Fr. James Kubicki, S.J., St. Francis Mission, P.O. Box 499, St. Francis, SD, 57572. Phone is 605-747-2361. Please keep Fr. Kubicki and the Mission in your prayers.

"If You Must Talk About Race, Be Gracious" by Rodney Stevens, Wall Street Journal

(Dec. 29, 2020) America is still obsessed with race, and these days people seem to see only strife and injustice. But as the American anthropologist Ruth Benedict once wrote in her journal, "The trouble with life isn't that there is no answer, it's that there are so many answers." I grew up in the 1960s in a small South Carolina town. Trust me, today's America is nothing like it was then. And even under segregation, the marginalization was not total. My father was a plumber, my mother a school librarian. We were treated kindly. The local shopkeepers wanted our business, but they also wanted to avoid trouble from the few who believed wholeheartedly in racial segregation. The segregation wasn't uniform. One doctor had a separate waiting room; the other didn't. Ditto for the town's two dentists. Once the 1964 Civil Rights Act outlawed separate facilities, things opened up very quickly.

Many of the authors, commentators and journalists who spend all their energy thinking and talking about race today fail to acknowledge how much has improved with regard to race in this country. There are countless successful black Americans today - doctors and lawyers, entrepreneurs and academics, journalists and artists, compassionate politicians and famous Hollywood actors. Their numbers will keep growing as long as we remember six things: *First*, every life matters. Mine is not one cell more or less valuable than anyone else's. That this idea has to be debated or defended is lunacy. *Second*, racism still exists but it is no longer systemic. Those who claim that racism is everywhere today are delusional. *Third*, we tend to think too highly of our individuality. My color, weight, sex and sexual orientation are four of the least interesting things about me. I am a Southerner and love Southern food. Now *that* is interesting. *Fourth*, policemen have to be held accountable for their actions, as is being done more and more. *Fifth*, do what law enforcement officers ask you to do. Obviously that won't solve every problem because policemen are humans, not angels. But that's part of life. Simply doing what the people in blue ask you to do would drastically reduce needless confrontations, injuries and deaths. *Sixth*, if you must talk about race, be gracious and respectful. Discussions about it shouldn't be antagonistic - one's race isn't a choice, after all - but for some reason many popular figures insist on making the subject as unpleasant as possible. Genuine insight generally doesn't make you angry and anxious. It make you smile, and generates gratitude.

Mr. Stevens is a writer and life-coach in Columbia, S.C.

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Catholic Schools Are Beating Covid "Main Street," *Wall Street Journal*, by Bill McGurn

(Feb. 2, 2021) "Amid all the pain and disruption, a year of coronavirus has given America a new respect for those working to keep daily life as normal as possible, from the frontline nurse to the Amazon delivery man. Near the top of this honor roll is an especially unsung hero: the Catholic-school teacher. The National Catholic Education Association reports that its schools boast a total enrollment of 1,626,291. In ordinary times their teachers do an extraordinary job, especially for their poor and minority students. As Justice Sonia Sotomayor once said, "Catholic schools have been a pipeline to opportunity" for people like her – poor, Latina, raised by a single mom. Since the Covid-19 outbreak, Catholic-school administrators have moved heaven and earth to keep their classrooms open to new generations of Sotomayors. 'The science is clear that there is no substitute for in-person learning, especially for poor and minority children most at danger of falling behind,' says Tom Carroll, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Archdiocese of Boston. 'Across the nation, the Catholic school approach is to stay open wherever we are allowed.' It's been a roller coaster. During the first days of the lockdowns, many Catholic schools closed forever because of a cash crunch. Kathy Mears, the NCEA's interim president and CEO, reckons that Covid forced the closure of 107 Catholic schools, though an exact number is difficult because in many cases other factors were also involved. But a funny thing happened after the shutdowns. Once moms and dads realized that the Catholic schools left standing were staying open through the pandemic, they began moving children out of public school. It's not been enough to stave off the 6.4% drop in national enrollment the Catholic schools have seen since Covid-19 hit, but it does highlight that these schools are among the few real alternatives parents have today. 'I can date the change in Massachusetts,' says Mr. Carroll. 'We were facing a drop of more than 5,000 students. But when the three teachers unions in the state announced they wanted a delayed opening and remote learning, our phones started ringing off the hook.' Alas, not everyone can afford the Catholic option even though the tuitions they charge are relatively modest. Just as significant, Catholic schools prove you can keep classrooms open while keeping Covid-19 at bay, which gave teachers unions another reason to resent them. The good news is that Covid-19 has heightened awareness that too many kids are held in education limbo by public-school systems that cannot put their students first because they are hostage to the unions. Take the three largest public-school systems. In New York, Catholic schools have been operating safely since the fall, while the teachers unions continue to fight returning to the classroom. Mayor Bill de Blasio's latest is that he doesn't plan to reopen public schools fully until September. Ditto for Chicago. Here again students are back in their Catholic schools. But public school parents are out of luck: The Chicago Teachers union has defied orders to return to class. Los Angeles is home to the nation's largest Catholic school system, with more than 70,000 students - 78% of them children of color. Its situation is different because Gov. Gavin Newsom's restrictions on school openings also apply to religious schools. But some Catholic schools have received waivers, and as soon as case rates fall below the state restrictions, almost all plan to reopen immediately...During the pandemic, America's Catholic schools are providing a similar lifeline to hundred's of thousands of children who would otherwise be out of class and losing ground. [President Biden] has never fought for school choice, but in 1997 then-Sen. Biden did declare on the floor that the plight of children 'presently caught in a failed public school' was leading him to re-think his opposition to vouchers. Perhaps now, with so many public-school systems leaving their students in the lurch, would be a good moment for another reconsideration. Don't parents deserve the option of a school that will put their children first?..."



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Book of the Month: "Anti-Catholic Myths Debunked"

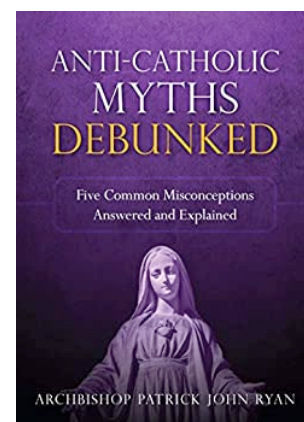
Author: Archbishop Patrick John Ryan

Publisher: Sophia Institute Press, 2016

"Five Common Misconceptions Answered and Explained:

Many good people reject the Catholic Church for what they consider to be her absurd teachings. In these pages, Archbishop Patrick John Ryan shows that these souls are mistaken – not in condemning absurd teachings, but in believing those teachings to be Catholic. Archbishop Ryan considers the most common charges levied against Catholicism, showing that not only are those scorned doctrines *not* Catholic, they're also condemned by the Church! Here are just a few of the common misconceptions that are corrected in this book: That the Church claims to endow her priests with the power of forgiveness – a power reserved to God alone; that Catholics believe inanimate objects (such as relics) can perform miracles; that Catholics pray as well to statues, images and relics, offering them worship that belongs to God alone; and many more surprising charges!"

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



Archbishop Aquila...Backs Call for "Catholic" Biden To Be Denied Communion

By Dorothy Cummings McLean
The Wanderer, Dec. 17, 2020, p. 3B
www.thewandererpress.com

DENVER (LifeSiteNews) Archbishop Samuel Aquila of Denver has given his public support to Archbishop Charles Chaput, OFM Cap., and his declaration that former vice president and ardent abortion supporter, Joe Biden "should not receive Holy Communion."

On Saturday, December 5, Aquila tweeted a statement by Chaput and then added his own thoughts. Chaput stated in the journal *First Things*, regarding Biden's promotion of permissive abortion laws: "Mr. Biden has said that he will continue to advance those same policies as president, and thus should not receive Holy Communion. His stated intention requires a strong and consistent response from Church leaders and faithful."

Aquila, answering Chaput's call, wrote: "Archbishop Chaput speaks the truth for the salvation of souls. The scandal & confusion are real & when we don't treat the Eucharist with love & reverence our faith is weakened in the real presence."

In his *First Things* essay, Chaput wrote about the disagreements and soul-searching among American bishops when public figures who identify as Catholics "publicly and persistently diverge from Catholic teaching on issues like abortion." The archbishop stated that he didn't think denying Holy Communion to public officials "was always wise or the best pastoral course." However, he also didn't think the bishops should just maintain silence regarding their high-profile co-religionists' blatant disregard for Church teaching.

Moreover, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) made it clear in its July 2004 to then-Car-

dinal McCarrick that politicians who support permissive abortion or euthanasia laws should be told by their pastors not to present themselves for Holy Communion if they persist in their formal cooperation with evil. If the politicians do so anyway, they should not be given Holy Communion.

"This decision, properly speaking, is not a sanction or a penalty," the CDF declared. "Nor is the minister of Holy Communion passing judgment on the

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person's subjective guilt, but rather is reacting to the person's public unworthiness to receive Holy Communion due to an objective situation of sin."

Chaput noted that this statement is still in effect. He also explained that both politicians who flout Catholic teaching and bishops who do not correct them cause scandal.

"Public figures who identify as 'Catholic' give scandal to the faithful when receiving Communion by creating the impression that the moral laws of the Church are optional. And bishops give similar scandal by not speaking up publicly about the issue and danger of sacrilege," the archbishop wrote.

Chaput reproduced sections of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* that explained the meaning of scandal: "an

attitude or behavior which leads another to do evil." The person who gives scandal becomes "his neighbor's tempter." The Catechism notes that scandal can be brought even by laws and institutions, and that these can make it almost impossible for Christians to live a faithful life.

The next part of the archbishop's essay seems to be a reproof to the recently promoted cardinal archbishop of Washington, D.C., Wilton Gregory, who has declared his willingness to give Holy Communion to the nominally Catholic Joseph Biden. Chaput wrote:

"When bishops publicly announce their willingness to give Communion to Mr. Biden, without clearly teaching the gravity of his facilitating the evil of abortion (and his approval of same-sex relationships), they do a serious disservice to their brother bishops and their people.

The reason is obvious. By his actions during the course of his public life, Mr. Biden has demonstrated that he is not in full communion with the Catholic Church.

THE WINTER - SPRING - FALL SCHEDULE: 2020-21

- February 21** AFTERNOON OF RECOLLECTION, by Fr. James Kubicki, S.J. (at Sacred Heart Church)
CANCELED
- March 21** TO BE ANNOUNCED
- April 18** TO BE ANNOUNCED
- May 16** TO BE ANNOUNCED
- September 19** TO BE ANNOUNCED
- October 24** MSGR. POPEK AWARD DINNER---Recipient: Bishop Thomas Paprocki
- November 21** TO BE ANNOUNCED
- December 12** MSGR. POPEK BIRTHDAY/CHRISTMAS LUNCH
- January 16** TO BE ANNOUNCED



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

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this e-Newsletter, please type

“Unsubscribe”

at CUFMIL@wi.rr.com and we
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This Newsletter is not published in
June, July or August.

February 21

“Afternoon of Recollection”

has been canceled