



# Catholics United for the Faith

Affirming Authentic Catholicism in Milwaukee

St. Gregory VII Chapter  
March-April-May, 2021

## Plan to hear Hugh Owen discuss Creation vs. Evolution on Sept. 19

After having to cancel this meeting with Hugh Owen because of the COVID -19 restrictions, we have been able to re-schedule the meeting for this September. Again, Mr. Owen is the convert son of Sir David Owen, the first secretary general of the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

Mr. Owen directs the Kolbe Center for the Study of Creation which provides a forum for Catholic theologians, philosophers, and natural scientists all over the world who defend the traditional Christian doctrine of creation as the only firm foundation for a culture of life.

Hugh Owen and his colleagues have participated in conferences on creation and evolution at major academic centers in Europe, including a conference at Gustav Siewerth Akademie in Germany, which received the explicit blessing and encouragement of Pope Benedict XVI. Mr. Owen's presentation will deepen your faith in the wisdom and goodness of God and in the perfect harmony between natural science and divine revelation. He is also a member of the recently-founded John Paul II Academy for Human Life and the Family. Come, and bring a friend, to hear Hugh Owen discuss,

### “Creation vs. Evolution”

WHERE: St. John the Evangelist Parish Hall  
8500 West Cold Spring Road  
Greenfield, WI 53228 (Enter from North Parking lot.)

WHEN: Sunday, September 19

TIME: 2:00 p.m. ~ Program

1:45 p.m. ~ Rosary

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## Annual Msgr. Popek Award Dinner, with Bishop Paprocki, is re-scheduled for Oct. 24

After canceling the Annual Msgr. Alphonse Popek Award Dinner last year because of COVID-19 restrictions, we ask you, this year, to please help us honor Most Reverend Thomas Paprocki, Bishop of Springfield, Illinois, on Sunday, October 24. Bishop Paprocki has been a fearless and faithful voice in public support of Church teaching. In a June, 2019, *National Catholic Register* article by Matthew Benson, Bishop Paprocki responded to the recent passage of Illinois Senate Bill 25, which declared abortion a “fundamental right,” and Illinois House Bill 40, which legalized taxpayer funding of abortion. He cited Canon 915, and Canon 916 in his statement that, “all Illinois Catholic lawmakers who voted for either of these bills are not to present themselves to receive Holy Communion in the diocese of Springfield, without first being reconciled to Christ and the Church.” His public announcement also stated that he is a canon lawyer, and that he consulted with other canon lawyers throughout North America before issuing this decree. God bless him.

In the *National Catholic Register* article, Bishop Paprocki concluded, “I’m concerned for the salvation of the souls of these politicians who are voting and promoting legislation that is gravely sinful,” he said. “But I’m also as a shepherd of souls concerned about the scandal that they are giving to other people who, if we don’t respond appropriately, they’re looking at this saying, ‘Well, the bishops are not saying anything. So I guess it’s maybe not that bad.’ And that’s very scandalous, not only for the politician to be doing that, but also for the bishop’s inaction, in a sense. And, what kind of message is that giving?” In Bishop Paprocki’s case the message is unambiguous. In today’s culture, it is also heroic and desperately needed.

## Rep. Chuck Wichgers named Pro-Life Wisconsin's "Legislator of the Year" on April 22

Congratulations to State Representative Chuck Wichgers, who was honored by *Pro-Life Wisconsin* as the "Legislator of the Year" at its April 22, 2021, "Living Courage Awards Dinner." Chuck grew up in Muskego and currently resides there with Michelle, his wife of 24 years. They have eight children and one grandchild. Rep. Wichgers is the son of Dirk and Terri Wichgers, longtime supporters of *Catholics United for the Faith*. Dirk has been a member of this Chapter's Board of Directors for more than 20 years. Of course, we are all very proud of, and grateful for, Chuck's work in the Legislature.

As a staunch supporter of the right to life, Rep. Wichgers explained that he is honored to be chosen as "Legislator of the Year," but compelled to share the honor with "my father and mother who faithfully served God and the pro-life community by raising 13 children with absolutely no regrets! They now enjoy a growing list of over 70 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. My parents' pro-life witness to trust in God's plan for them inspires me to recognize and defend the God-given dignity of every human life, from conception to natural death, in my capacity as a state legislator in Madison."

### **The Wall Street Journal reports: "High Court To Review Limits on Abortion"**

WASHINGTON – In a 5-18-21 article, The *Wall Street Journal* reported, "The Supreme Court said it would consider the legality of a Mississippi abortion law that sought to ban the procedure after 15 weeks of pregnancy, a case that gives the justices an opportunity to revisit precedents protecting abortion rights... 'The fact that the justices decided to take the case indicates a willingness of at least five of them to revisit existing precedent,' said University of Chicago law professor Geoffrey Stone, who has written extensively about the history of the Supreme Court's abortion rulings. 'The only reason to hear the case would be to do that.'... University of Notre Dame law professor Carter Snead, a member of the University Faculty for Life, said he hoped the court would 'finally end its failed and constitutionally unjustified experiment as the nation's ad hoc abortion regulatory body of last resort.' Mr. Snead, a former faculty colleague of Justice Barrett's who publicly advocated for her confirmation, said the court should renounce Roe and other precedents that have 'undermined the rule of law, broken our electoral politics and resulted in a staggering number of lives lost.'... The Supreme Court will consider the case during its next term, which begins in October..." Please pray for a pro-life decision.

### **Catechetical Corner: Is it enough to belong to God's Church in order to be saved?**

"It is not enough to belong to the Church in order to be saved, but we must also keep the Commandments of God and of the Church." (*Baltimore Catechism Three*, No. 1125, St. Benedict Press, TAN Books, 2010)

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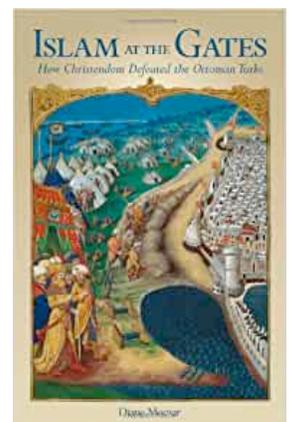
### **Book of the Month: *Islam at the Gates***

**Author: Diane Moczar**

**Publisher: Sophia Institute Press, 2008**

"Historian Diane Moczar (author of *Ten Dates Every Catholic Should Know*) pulls back the curtain on one of the most important acts in the drama of Muslim aggression against the West: the 500-year-long siege of Europe by the Ottoman Turks. Tracing the rise of the Turkish people from wandering Asian tribe to mighty pan-continental empire, *Islam at the Gates* chronicles the heroes and villains, the battles and atrocities, the tragic errors and timely miracles, that marked the Ottomans' incursions from Europe's borders to the very heart of Christendom; and then, by the grace of God, their eventual repulsion and final defeat..."

Solid history and dramatic narrative make *Islam at the Gates* a moving look at Europe's long struggle against the Turks. But the author's shrewd Catholic outlook also makes it an edifying one. Had these events unfolded just a little differently, Christian civilization might have been conquered by the sword of Allah. If we fail to learn the lessons of history, Dr Moczar warns, the West may yet fall."



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.

## “Catholics Supporting Abortion Should Not Present Themselves for Holy Communion”

*The Wanderer*, May 13, 2021, p. 3A

SAN FRANCISCO (CNA) – The archbishop of San Francisco, Salvatore J. Cordileone, released on May 1, 2021 a pastoral letter about the worthiness required for the reception of Holy Communion in which he insisted that any Catholic cooperating with the evil of abortion should refrain from receiving the Eucharist. “It is fundamentally a question of integrity: to receive the Blessed Sacrament in the Catholic liturgy is to espouse publicly the faith and moral teachings of the Catholic Church, and to desire to live accordingly,” wrote Cordileone. “We all fall short in various ways, but there is a great difference between struggling to live according to the teachings of the Church and rejecting those teachings.”

The letter, issued on the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker and at the beginning of the month honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary, comes on the heels of growing media coverage regarding whether President Biden should be admitted to Holy Communion within the Catholic Church. Contained within his letter was a section specifically for Catholic public officials who advocate for abortion. “You are in a position to do something concrete and decisive to stop the killing,” he said. “Please stop the killing. And please stop pretending that advocating for or practicing a grave moral evil – one that snuffs out an innocent human life, one that denies a fundamental human right – is somehow compatible with the Catholic faith. It is not. Please return home to the fullness of your Catholic faith.”

Both *The Washington Post* and the AP published articles earlier that week which highlighted debate about whether Biden, a staunch promoter of abortion and funding for abortion but also a Catholic, would be asked to refrain from reception of the Eucharist. According to the longstanding teaching of

the Church outlined by the archbishop, formal cooperation and immediate material cooperation with evil, such as cooperation in the evil of abortion, precludes one from receiving Holy Communion. “The Church’s teaching and discipline on worthiness to receive Holy Communion has been consistent throughout her history, going back to the very beginning,” the archbishop noted. “The teaching of our faith is clear: Those who kill or assist in killing the child (even if personally opposed to abortion), those who pressure or encourage the mother to have an abortion,

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**“...the science is ‘clear’...A new, genetically distinct human life begins at conception.”**

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who pay for it, who provide financial assistance to organizations to provide abortions, or who support candidates or legislation for the purpose of making abortion a more readily available ‘choice’ are all cooperating with a very serious evil,” stated Archbishop Cordileone. “Formal cooperation and immediate material cooperation in evil is never morally justified.”

The archbishop quoted St. Paul’s teaching in *First Corinthians* to explain the danger of receiving Holy Communion while cooperating with grave evil, an act long hailed in the Church as unworthy: “Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself” (1 Cor.11:27-29). He also included the testimony of early Church Father St. Justin Martyr who taught that, “No one may share the Eucharist with us unless he believes what we teach is true; unless he is washed in the regenerating waters of baptism for the remission of his sins, and unless he lives in accordance with the principles given us by Christ.” The debate about President Biden and Communion hit a new high when *The*

*Washington Post* published a story and tweet that described President Biden as “very Catholic,” sparking an impassioned response from Catholic leaders. The archbishop’s own response addressed the importance of witnessing to the truth about the grave evil of abortion. “For decades now Western culture has been in denial about the harsh reality of abortion. The topic is swathed in sophistries by its advocates and discussion about it is forbidden in many venues. In the case of public figures who identify as Catholic and promote abortion, we are not dealing with a sin committed in human weakness or a moral lapse: This is a matter of persistent, obdurate, and public rejection of Catholic teaching,” he penned. “This adds an even greater responsibility to the role of the Church’s pastors in caring for the salvation of souls. It is my conviction that this conspiracy of disinformation and silence is fueled by fear of what it would mean to recognize the reality with which we are dealing. The right to life itself is the foundation of all other rights. Without protection of the right to life, no other talk of rights makes sense,” he said, noting that the science is “clear” on when this life begins. “A new, genetically distinct human life begins at conception.” Archbishop Cordileone was careful to emphasize that “abortion is never solely the mother’s act. Others, to a greater or lesser degree, share culpability whenever this evil is perpetrated.” He noted that his responsibility as pastor and shepherd of souls required him to be clear on the both the gravity of abortion’s evil and the reasons why a person who procures, assists, or promotes abortion in any way cannot receive Holy Communion unless they first repent and are absolved in Confession. “Speaking for myself,” he said, “I always keep before me the word’s from...Ezekiel...I tremble that if I do not forthrightly challenge Catholics under my pastoral care who advocate for abortion, both they and I will have to answer to God for innocent blood.”

**THE FALL- WINTER - SPRING SCHEDULE: 2021-2022**

- September 19 **CREATION vs. EVOLUTION**, by Hugh Owen (at St. John Church hall)
- October 24 **MSGR. POPEK AWARD DINNER---**Recipient: Bishop Thomas Paprocki
- November 21 **TITLE TO BE ANNOUNCED**, by Philip Gray, President-CUF International (at St. John)
- December 12 **MSGR. POPEK BIRTHDAY/CHRISTMAS LUNCH**
- January 16 **TO BE ANNOUNCED**
- February 20 **AFTERNOON OF RECOLLECTION**, by Fr. James Kubicki, S.J. (at Sacred Heart Church)
- March 20 **TO BE ANNOUNCED**
- April 17 **TO BE ANNOUNCED**
- May 15 **TO BE ANNOUNCED**



**Catholics United for the Faith**

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

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This Newsletter is not published in June, July or August.

Come and bring a friend to hear

**Hugh Owen, Director**  
Kolbe Center for the Study of Creation

“Creation vs. Evolution”  
Sunday, September 19

St. John the Evangelist Parish Hall  
8500 W. Cold Spring Road  
Greenfield, WI 53228