

CHRISTOPHER CHECK TO PRESENT, "LEPANTO: THE BATTLE AND THE POEM", ON MARCH 25...

CHRISTOPHER CHECK is the Executive Vice-President of the Rockford Institute, a not-for-profit organization which promotes and defends the personal virtues and cultural principles without which Christian Civilization cannot thrive. He graduated from Rice University in 1987 with a B.A. degree in English Literature and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. After serving in Okinawa, Korea, Japan, the Philippines and the Persian Gulf, he was promoted to Captain in 1992. His decorations include the Joint Service Commendation Medal, The Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, and the National Defense Medal. He resigned his Commission in 1993 to join the Rockford Institute. As a Non Government Observer (NGO) representing the Rockford Institute, he has served as an advocate for life and the traditional family at United Nations World Summits, Conferences, and Preparatory Sessions on Population, Women, Human Settlements, and Food.

CHRISTOPHER CHECK lectures widely on topics in military and Church history. His writings have appeared in CHRONICLES, and THE FAMILY IN AMERICA, published by the Rockford Institute, and also in NATIONAL REVIEW, THE AMERICAN ENTERPRISE, THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, THE CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, THE WASHINGTON TIMES, and THE CHESTERTON REVIEW. His television and radio appearances include programs on National Public Radio, Wisconsin Public Television, the BBC, Radio Free Europe, and the Business Radio Network. He is an award-winning commentator for Northern Illinois Public Radio, and he has spoken at the National Press Club.

PLEASE COME AND BRING A FRIEND TO HEAR CHRISTOPHER CHECK DISCUSS:

"LEPANTO: THE BATTLE and the POEM"

Read the poem at <http://www.bartleby.com/103/91.html>

WHERE: BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH HALL
South 41st Street and Oklahoma Avenue
(Enter parking lot from South 40th St.; use door at SE corner of Church)

WHEN: Sunday, March 25

TIME: 2:00 p.m. – Program
1:45 p.m. – Rosary

CELEBRATE THE FAITH 2007: CATHOLIC HOMESCHOOL CONFERENCE AND VENDOR FAIR ON APRIL 27, 28...

The 2007 Catholic Homeschool Conference will be held on Friday evening, April 27 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and on Saturday, April 28, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Tommy G. Thompson Youth Center, 640 South 84th St., located at the North end of State Fair grounds. The conference is sponsored by the Greater Milwaukee Catholic Home Educators (GMCHE), a non-profit corporation registered in the State of Wisconsin.

The keynote speakers are Rev. Ray Gawronski S.J., a former faculty member at Marquette University, frequent guest on EWTN, and author of "A CLOSER WALK WITH CHRIST: A Personal Ignatian Retreat," and Holly Pierlot, author of "A MOTHER'S RULE OF LIFE." Fr. Gawronski is currently on the faculty of the St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver, Colorado. Rita Munn and Maureen Wittmann will also speak. Programs for children include a concert by "The Donut Man," Rob Evans, a popular singer-songwriter of Bible story songs for the young. Admission is \$35 for adults, \$45 for couples, \$10 for teens, and \$1 for children ages 3 through 12. Come and enjoy a great variety of high-quality vendors selling curriculum and educational materials in all subject areas, plus religious gifts, used books, and spiritual resources for Catholic family life. The pre-registration deadline is April 7. For more information call

Margherita Schroettner at 414-731-6356.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS WILL BE HELD AT MAY MEETING...

The election of officers for the Board of Directors will be held at the May meeting. Anyone interested in being on the ballot, or suggesting nominees, should contact Larry Schmidt at 414-774-2824, Gene Slaske at 414-353-3856, or Peggy Hamill at 262-786-1693.

CELEBRATE THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA WITH BISHOP DAVID ZUBIK ON MAY 12...

"HEAVEN'S PEACE PLAN," an all day event with Most Reverend David Zubik, the Bishop of Green Bay, will be held at St. Stanislaus Church, located at South 5th Street and Mitchell Street in Milwaukee, on Saturday, May 12. Check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m., and the day will close with a Mass, celebrated by Bishop Zubik, at 5:15 p.m. The event is being sponsored by the Rosary Evangelization Apostolate and the Worldwide Apostolate of Fatima/USA, and will include: five different talks on "Heaven's Peace Plan," adoration of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day, Eucharistic Rosary and Holy Hour, Mass, and the opportunity to go to confession. The registration fee of \$15 includes lunch. Children under 12, priests, and religious are free. Checks can be made out to the "Rosary Evangelization Project" and mailed to: P.O. Box 305; Oak Creek, WI 53154. Or visit www.rosaryea.org and click on May 12 event for registration form and promotion flyer. For questions, call 414-570-4389.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION TO THOSE WHO SO GENEROUSLY RESPONDED TO OUR REQUEST...

We thank those of you who responded to our recent request that you tell us whether or not you want to continue receiving the Chapter Newsletter. Thank you for your contributions and for the names and addresses of new people who want to be put on the mailing list.

There are still a few people who have not returned the envelope indicating whether they want to continue to receive this mailing. We will try to keep as many of these people on the list as we can, but we do need to reduce our mailing costs. If you have not notified us, and want to be included in our mailings, please let us know.

MARKETING EXECUTIVE, MR. CHUCK ALLISON, TO DIRECT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS...

According to a full-page article in the February 22, 2007, issue of the CATHOLIC HERALD, Mr. Chuck Allison, a member of St. Rita Parish in Racine, has been named director for Catholic schools for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. His appointment was effective March 1. Prior to 1994, Allison was a marketing and business development director for SC Johnson company in Racine. He resigned in 1994 to start his own consulting firm. According to the article, Allison's primary function will be to provide visionary leadership and direction to the Archdiocesan Office for Schools.

BOOK OF THE MONTH: ROOTS OF THE REFORMATION by Karl Adams

Most Protestants understand the Reformation from only one perspective. As a Catholic, Karl Adams gives an historically sensitive and accurate analysis of the causes of the Reformation that stands as a valid and sometimes unsettling challenge to the presuppositions of Protestants and Catholics alike. ROOTS OF THE REFORMATION is a powerful summary of the issues that led to the Reformation and their implications today.

<http://www.chresources.com/proddetail.php?prod=2523>

REPRINT:

Vatican Backs 'Call to Action' Excommunications

Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz' threat to excommunicate members of dissident groups in his diocese has led to some conversions.

BY TOM McFEELY

Contributing Editor

December 24- January 6, 2006 Issue

Posted 12/19/06 at 9:00 AM

LINCOLN, Neb. — Rome has spoken. Will Call to Action members listen?

In a Nov. 24 letter to Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz of Lincoln, Neb., Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re confirmed the validity of Bishop Bruskewitz's 1996 legislation that mandates excommunication for Catholics in his diocese who belong to the Call to Action organization.

“The judgment of the Holy See is that the activities of ‘Call to Action’ in the course of these years are in contrast with the Catholic faith due to views and positions held which are unacceptable from a doctrinal and disciplinary standpoint,” said Cardinal Re, who is prefect of the Congregation of Bishops. “Thus to be a member of this association or to support it is irreconcilable with a coherent living of the Catholic faith.”

Speaking to the Register Dec. 11, Bishop Bruskewitz said one main objective of singling out Call to Action and the other groups was to call their members to repentance and to return to obedience to the Church.

Another central objective, Bishop Bruskewitz said, was to ensure that “other people wouldn't be lured by the incorrect or inaccurate advertisements of these groups.”

Said Bishop Bruskewitz, “These were groups that were, in some measure at least in this part of the world, subtly trying to lure Catholics into their web.”

Bishop Bruskewitz doesn't anticipate that many Call to Action members will renounce their memberships because of Cardinal Re's letter.

Said the bishop, “My impression is there is a general hatred of Catholic doctrine and Catholic discipline among large numbers of them.”

Call to Action was formed in 1978 in Chicago, with the aim of challenging the bishops' authority and of overturning Church teachings in a variety of areas, including contraception, homosexuality, priestly celibacy and the ordination of women.

From its outset, the organization has served as a national forum for prominent Church dissenters such as Swiss theologian Father Hans Küng and American theologian Father Charles Curran. Both priests have been formally censured by the Vatican.

And while the secular media frequently seek out Call to Action leaders for comment, the group has never been able to attract broad support from everyday Catholics. According to Call to Action's website, it currently has only 18,000 members, out of a total U.S. Catholic population of over 69 million.

When the organization announced in early 1996 that it planned to start a chapter in Nebraska, Bishop Bruskewitz responded decisively.

On March 19, 1996, he formally warned Call to Action members living in his diocese that they faced *latae sententiae* (automatic) excommunication if they retained their memberships after May 15 of that year.

Bishop Bruskewitz's "extra-synodal legislation," which was later confirmed by a diocesan synod, applies to members of Call to Action and Call to Action Nebraska. It also applies to members of 10 other groups: Planned Parenthood, Society of St. Pius X, Hemlock Society, St. Michael the Archangel Chapel, Freemasons, Job's Daughters, DeMolay, Eastern Star, Rainbow Girls and Catholics for a Free Choice.

The Hemlock Society works to legalize physician-assisted suicide, and Planned Parenthood and Catholics for a Free Choice both support legal abortion.

Job's Daughters, DeMolay, Eastern Star and Rainbow Girls all are affiliated with the Masons. The Society of St. Pius X and St. Michael the Archangel Chapel both oppose certain reforms of the Second

Vatican Council.

“Membership in these organizations or groups is always perilous to the Catholic faith and most often is totally incompatible with the Catholic faith,” said an announcement published March 22, 1996, in the diocesan *Southern Nebraska Register* newspaper.

Dissenters

Other dissenting organizations were quick to publicly oppose the Vatican. Voice of the Faithful repudiated the Church’s action on Dec. 12.

Cardinal Re’s Nov. 24 letter was written partly in response to a challenge to the 1996 diocesan legislation by Call to Action Nebraska member Jim McShane.

McShane, a retired professor of English literature at the University of Nebraska, wrote to Cardinal Re last February asking for an authoritative judgment on the matter.

Cardinal Re told Bishop Bruskewitz that he could inform McShane “that the Holy See considers that Your Excellency’s ruling in the case of ‘Call to Action Nebraska’ was properly taken within your competence as pastor of that diocese.”

After the Vatican letter was disclosed publicly in early December, McShane told the Register that he still rejects the validity of Bishop Bruskewitz’s 1996 legislation.

According to McShane, Cardinal Re’s letter appeared to be based on inaccurate, “third-hand” information about Call to Action’s objectives and beliefs.

“Am I expected to act on this?” McShane said, when asked if he would reconsider his Call to Action membership. “I don’t think so.”

McShane cited his experiences as a civil rights activist in the 1960s as justification for his continuing refusal to acknowledge Bishop

Bruskewitz's authority.

But Canon lawyer Pete Vere, author of *Surprised By Canon Law: 150 Questions Laypeople Ask About Canon Law*, said Call to Action is an unsuccessful attempt to promote the out-of-date perspectives that prevailed among 1960s-era social activists.

"It's really a museum piece," said Vere, 32. "It doesn't speak to my generation of Catholics."

From a canon law perspective, Vere said, Bishop Bruskewitz was always on solid ground. Cardinal Re's letter simply confirmed that the 1996 legislation was a legitimate exercise of a diocesan bishop's legislative authority.

Vere said the letter also upholds the accuracy of Bishop Bruskewitz's conclusion that Call to Action membership is incompatible with authentic Catholicism, not only in the Diocese of Lincoln but in all Catholic dioceses everywhere.

Said Vere, "Morally, I don't know how one could continue as a member of that organization and still maintain that one is a good Catholic."

Conversions

Still, the 1996 legislation has already had positive results in the Diocese of Lincoln.

"Some of the groups have simply folded their tents and gone away," Bishop Bruskewitz said. "We've had some very wonderful conversions — people who had mistakenly thought they could belong to some Masonic organizations and still be Catholics left the Masonic organizations. Some people who had been associated with the priestly Society of St. Pius X, which is the schismatic group associated with Archbishop [Marcel] Lefebvre, have abandoned that and have returned to communion with the Church."

Said Bishop Bruskewitz, "So there have been some salutary effects

from the legislation that was enacted.”

Bishop Bruskewitz said that he did not take action against Call to Action and the other dissenting groups in hopes of influencing other bishops to follow his lead.

“I’ve received many words of encouragement and many promises of prayers and many words of gratitude from other bishops because of what I’ve done,” said Bishop Bruskewitz. “But I don’t intend to take care of anything except the Diocese of Lincoln, and I don’t intend to tell other bishops what to do or how to do it.”

*(CNS contributed
to this report.)*

*Tom McFeely is based in
Victoria, British Columbia.*

