



Catholics United for the Faith

Affirming Authentic Catholicism in Milwaukee

St. Gregory VII Chapter
March, 2017

Author Norman Fulkerson will discuss the life of Colonel John Ripley on March 19

Norman Fulkerson has devoted the last 32 years of his life as a volunteer for the *American Society for the defense of Tradition, Family, and Property* (TFP). He is an Associate Editor and writer for TFP's *Crusade Magazine*, which has a circulation of 130,000. His writings have also appeared in the illustrious fifty-year-old Brazilian periodical, *Catolicismo*, the Australian magazine *Quest*, and the Polish periodical, *Polonia Christiana*.

His articles on heroism highlight the selfless sacrifice of outstanding members of the Armed Forces who have "gone above and beyond the call of duty." In October of 2009 he published his first book, *An American Knight*. This first and only biography of the legendary Marine Corps Colonel John W. Ripley, received praise from several Medal of Honor recipients and former Marine Corps Commandant, Gen. Carl E. Mundy. In 2010 *An American Knight* received a Gold Medal for Biographies from The Military Writers Society of America. Please Come, and bring your friends to hear Norman Fulkerson's narration of a truly Catholic role model.

"Col. John W. Ripley: The Model of a Chaste Warrior for Members of the Church Militant"

WHERE: St. John the Evangelist Church Hall (enter from north)
8500 W. Cold Spring Road

WHEN: Sunday, March 19

TIME: 2:00 p.m. ~ Meeting
1:45 p.m. ~ Rosary

In This Issue

Page

- 1 Norman Fulkerson on Col. John Ripley
- 2 Book of the month: *An American Knight*, by Norman Fulkerson
- 2 Contact CUF
- 3 "Three things the Pope can't say" by Phil Lawler



"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 frequently pay for use of an auditorium, for the stipends we give to our speakers when appropriate, travel expenses for speakers when necessary, the annual postal fee for the "Bulk Mail Permit," and the costs involved with the annual "Msgr. Popek Award Dinner." Again, without your generosity we could not continue our mission to "Affirm Authentic Catholicism in Milwaukee." Our Board members (all volunteers) and Chapter members are most grateful for your support! If you have questions, or would like to attend a meeting of our Board of Directors, do not hesitate to contact us at 414-321-9377.

Election of officers for 2017-18 will be held at the April meeting

The annual election of officers will be held at this April meeting. The candidates are: **President**, Al Szews; **Vice President**, Jerry Schmutte; **Secretary**, Nancy Kormanik; and **Treasurer**, Ann Taucher. For questions, or to submit nominations, contact the Nominations Committee Chairman, **Larry Schmidt**, at 414-774-2824. Nominations can also be taken from the floor at the time of the election. The Officers, and the Newsletter Editor, are ex officio members of the Chapter's Board of Directors, which meets monthly, on a Thursday evening, at the home of Al and Margo Szews, 12223 W. Ohio Avenue, and includes coffee and dessert (except during Lent) after the meeting.

The March, 2017, Prayer Intention published by Pope Francis

During March, Pope Francis has asked that we pray for: **Support for Persecuted Christians.** That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church. For information regarding the **Apostleship of Prayer**, contact Fr. James Kubicki, S.J., Director, at 414-486-1152, or visit: apostleshipofprayer.org

Thank you, Fr. Shenan Boquet, for accepting the 2017 Msgr. Alphonse Popek Award

It is with great pleasure that we congratulate Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, president of Human Life International (HLI), and thank him for graciously accepting the 2017 Msgr. Alphonse S. Popek Award. He was ordained in 1993 as a priest of the Houma-Thibodaux Diocese in Louisiana. Since joining HLI in 2011, Fr. Boquet has traveled nearly a million miles to over 60 countries working with bishops, Church leaders, priests and seminarians, and has given hundreds of talks on issues ranging from the dignity of the human person and the nature of marriage, to social justice and moral theology. He has been a guest on EWTN, Catholic Answers Live, Ave Maria Radio, and other national and international media outlets. His writings have appeared in LifeSiteNews, LifeNews, Catholic Online, and more. The date of the fall dinner will be announced in April.

Plan to attend the 2017 "Institute on Religious Life" Meeting April 21-23 in Mundelein

The 2017 IRL meeting, "*Fatima – An Urgent Call to Prayer, Conversion and Consecration*," will be held at the Conference Center of the University of St. Mary of the Lake (the Mundelein Seminary) on April 21-23, and is co-sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima, USA. Speakers will include Rev. Andrew Apostoli, C.F.R., who will discuss "The Urgent Message of Fatima: A Return to Gospel Life" on Saturday morning, and Rev. Brian Mullady, O.P., who will present "The Rosary as the Compendium of the Gospel" on Saturday afternoon. The Saturday afternoon program will also include Rev. Dwight Campbell, the pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Kenosha. Per person, "One-day" registration rates are: Friday - \$60 (includes dinner); and Saturday - \$45 (includes lunch). The Saturday evening banquet, at which Mr. and Mrs. Richard Guzior will receive the Pro Fidelitate et Virtute Award, is \$90 per person. The commuter rate for all three days is \$230 per person (no housing). For questions visit IRL.com or call (847) 573-8975.

Catechetical Corner: How can Catholics increase their concentration at Mass?

Answer: According to Fr. James Kubicki, speaking at our Feb. 19 "Afternoon of Recollection," there are five commonly used methods to help focus our attention at Mass: (1) *Read the scripture readings* ahead of time, (2) *Always have an intention* for the Mass, (3) If you can, find a Mass that includes the *Sanctus Bells* at the consecration, bringing attention to the Eucharist, the "source and summit of the Christian life," (4) *Use a missal*, maybe something similar to the *Magnificat*, and, (5) *Dress appropriately*; it will help put you in the right frame of mind.

Catholics United for the Faith

St. Gregory VII Chapter Officers and Board Members

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Book of the Month: *An American Knight*

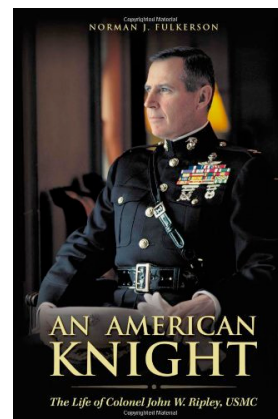
Author: by Norman Fulkerson

Publisher: American Society for the Defense of TFP, 2009

"This first cradle-to-grave biography of Colonel John W. Ripley provides readers with the complete story about a great man who is considered by Marines, such as General Carl Mundy, former Commandant of the Marine Corps, to be on the same level as legends Chesty Puller and Dan Daly.

Colonel Ripley is most commonly known for his heroics in Vietnam during the Easter Offensive of 1972, where Colonel Gerald Turley ordered him to "hold and die," in the face of over 30,000 North Vietnamese and 200 enemy tanks. John Ripley proceeded to blow the Dong Ha bridge, preventing the enemy from crossing. He unhesitatingly obeyed and earned the nation's second highest honor, the Navy Cross. *An American Knight: The Life of Colonel John W. Ripley, USMC* narrates his early life and the influences which shaped his personality."

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.



"Three things the Pope can't say"

By Phil Lawler

<https://www.catholicculture.org/commentary/thecitygates.cfm?id=1383>

December 5, 2016

Within the Catholic Church, the authority of the Roman Pontiff is considerable. But even papal authority – and especially papal infallibility – has its limits. The Pope speaks with authority when he sets forth the deposit of the Faith, explaining – in union with the college of bishops – what the Church has always and everywhere believed. Anyone who understands the nature of the Petrine power should recognize that, even when he speaks on questions of faith and morals, there are some things the Pope cannot say. For instance:

1) The Pope can't say that $2+2=5$.

Nor can he repeal the laws of logic. So if the Pope makes two contradictory statements, they can't both be right. And since every Pontiff enjoys the same teaching authority, if one Pope contradicts another Pope, something is wrong. Thus if *Amoris Laetitia* contradicts *Veritatis Splendor* and *Casti Connubi* – earlier papal encyclicals, which carry a higher level of teaching authority – the faithful cannot be obliged to swallow the contradiction.

2) The Pope can't tell you what you think.

He can, within certain limitations, tell you what you *should* think. But he cannot, simply by the force of his authority, change your mind. Fr. Anthony Spadaro, a close adviser to Pope Francis, insists that *Amoris Laetitia* is perfectly clear. "The Pope leaves no room for doubt about the teaching of the Church," he claims. Even if that statement came directly from the Pope himself (which it does not, obviously), it

could not be authoritative. If you have doubts, then evidently there is room for doubt; not even the Pope can gainsay that fact. Ideally the Pope and his surrogates would help you to remove those doubts, rather than suggesting that doubt implies disloyalty.

3) The Pope cannot teach authoritatively by dropping hints.

On the most controversial issue discussed at the last two meetings of the

"Pope Francis carefully avoided making the sort of authoritative statement that would command the assent of the faithful."

Synod of Bishops, *Amoris Laetitia* is vague, allowing for radically different interpretations. Father Spadaro and Cardinal Schonborn and the Argentine bishops can all make a compelling argument that they know what Pope Francis had in mind – especially because the Holy Father himself has endorsed the Schonborn and Argentine interpretations. But what the Pope *had in mind* does not carry the same weight as what the Pope *actually wrote*. And that is especially true when there is such abundant evidence that the Holy Father *deliberately* left the questions unresolved:

* The Pope avoided addressing the question directly in his apostolic exhortation, left the clearest evidence of his intention in an obscure footnote, and then later told reporters that he didn't remember that footnote.

* He endorsed the Argentine bishop's interpretation in a private letter, and the Schonborn interpretation in an airplane interview. Obviously neither was a formal statement of the teaching magisterium.

* He declined to answer the *dubia* submitted by four cardinals.

* And the Italian Archbishop Bruno Forte – a noted theologian, whose sympathies are generally with Pope Francis, and who played a key role in drafting the first report of the Synod on the Family – reported that Pope Francis had cautioned against clarity. The Pope, Archbishop Forte revealed, said: "If we speak explicitly Communion for the divorced and remarried, you do not know what a terrible mess we will make."

By now it should be clear that in *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis carefully avoided making the sort of authoritative statement that would command the assent of the faithful. We cannot be expected – much less commanded – to accept a new "teaching" that the Pope has chosen, for his own reasons, *not* to make.

* * *

Phil Lawler is editor of Catholic World News, the first English language Catholic news service (which he founded in 1995) operating on the internet, and the author or editor of a dozen books on religious and political topics. From 1993 through 2005 he was editor of the monthly magazine, *Catholic World Report*. He has also served as editor of *Crisis* magazine. In 1986 he became the first layman to edit *The Pilot*, the Boston diocesan newspaper.

THE WINTER – SPRING – FALL SCHEDULE:

- March 19 **THE LIFE OF COL. JOHN RIPLEY, by Norman Fulkerson (at St. John Church Hall)**
- April 9 **VOCATIONS IN THE HEART OF THE CHURCH, by Fr. Luke Strand (St. John Church Hall)**
- May 21 **TO BE ANNOUNCED**
- September 17 **THE WORLD OF G. K. CHESTERTON, by Dr. James (Duke) Pesta**
- October 15 **MSGR. POPEK AWARD DINNER**
- November 19 **TO BE ANNOUNCED**
- December 11 **MSGR POPEK BIRTHDAY/CHRISTMAS DINNER**
- January 21 **TO BE ANNOUNCED**
- February 18 **AFTERNOON OF RECOLLECTION, by Fr. James Kubicki, S.J. (at Sacred Heart Church)**



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

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this e-Newsletter, please type

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at CUFMIL@wi.rr.com and we
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Join us on April 9
Fr. Luke Strand
“Vocations in the Heart of the Church”

Come and bring a friend to hear

Norman Fulkerson,
American Society for Defense of Tradition, Family & Property
present

**The exemplary life of Colonel John W. Ripley,
“An American Knight”**

Sunday, March 19
St. John the Evangelist Church Hall
8500 W. Cold Spring Road