



# Catholics United for the Faith

*Affirming Authentic Catholicism in Milwaukee*

St. Gregory VII Chapter  
October, 2010

## FR. ERIC NIELSEN WILL DISCUSS CATHOLIC MINISTRY AT UW ON OCT. 17

Rev. Eric Nielsen has served as the Executive Director of the St. Paul University Catholic Center, at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, since 2006. Fr. Nielsen is a native of Oshkosh and is the oldest of seven children. He received a Civil and Environmental Engineering degree from UW-Madison, and felt called to the priesthood while working as an engineer. He was ordained a priest in 1995. On October 1, 2008, Fr. Nielsen was joined at St. Paul's by a co-pastor, Fr. Eric Sternberg, who grew up in Prairie du Sac and was ordained a priest in 2005.

As Fr. Nielsen said in a recent news letter, "Without the ministry of St. Paul's where else would the over 10,000 Catholic students at UW-Madison have the opportunity to hear the Church's teaching on sex and marriage? Where would they have the ability to receive the Sacraments in the middle of campus life? Where would they be able to have a large community of students to learn from and share their faith with at Bible studies, retreats, service trips, large group events and cookouts?" Mass is offered at St. Paul's at 9:00 am, 11:15 am, 6:00 pm, and 9:00 pm on Sundays, and 12:05 pm on Monday through Friday. There is also a 9:00 pm candlelight Mass on Wednesdays, and a 5:00 pm Mass on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Reconciliation is available for a half hour before each Mass. Visit St. Paul's website at: [www.uwcatholic.org](http://www.uwcatholic.org)

Please join us, and bring a friend, to hear Fr. Eric Nielsen discuss:

### "CATHOLIC MINISTRY AT UW-MADISON"

WHERE: Blessed Sacrament Church Hall

South 41<sup>st</sup> Street and Oklahoma Avenue

Enter parking lot from S. 40<sup>th</sup> Street

WHEN: Sunday, October 17

TIME: 2:00 p.m. ~ Program

1:45 p.m. ~ Rosary

### In This Issue

Page

- 1 **Fr. Eric Nielsen to discuss UW ministry**
- 2 **Book of the Month: "Saints and Heroes" by Andrew Lang**
- 2 **Contact CUF**
- 3 **"Bishop Vasa says... USCCB Cannot Impinge on Bishop's Authority"**



## REV. JOSEPH L. CUNNINGHAM TO RECEIVE 2011 MSGR. ALPHONSE S. POPEK AWARD

Congratulations to Rev. Joseph L. Cunningham who has accepted the Chapter's Twenty-third Annual Msgr. Alphonse S. Popek Award for the year 2011. This award is given every year to a priest who exhibits the same zeal for the priesthood, leadership of the laity and loyalty to the Magisterium as that shown by Msgr. Popek. We thank Fr. Cunningham for being our 2011 recipient, and we look forward to the award dinner, next year, on OCTOBER 9. Please mark your calendar now!

## JOIN FR. DON HYING IN HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS ON 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Please consider joining Fr. Don Hying, Rector of St. Francis de Sales Seminary, to offer a Holy Hour for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, for our seminarians and for the seminary. The Holy Hour is held at St. Francis Seminary in Christ King Chapel every second Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m. The hour concludes with coffee and cookies. The event is sponsored by the St. Francis de Sales Seminary, "Roses for Our Lady," and the Vocations office of the Archdiocese. If you have questions, or need information, call Mary Wdowczyk at 414-482-1778.

## PRO-LIFE WISCONSIN'S ANNUAL AUCTION DINNER TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 16

Pro-Life Wisconsin's 2010 Annual Auction Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 16, at the Marriott West, W231 N1600 Corporate Court, Waukesha, WI 53186. The Silent Auction and Hors d'oeuvres will begin at 5:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Oral Auction. The cost is \$50 per person, or \$47.50 per person for a group of 10 or more. **Archbishop Jerome ListECKi** will give the opening invocation. **Matt Bowman**, legal counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund, will give the keynote address. He will discuss what Pro-Life Wisconsin and the Alliance Defense Fund have done together in the past 18 months – from the Madison Surgery Center victory, to the revelation that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security had performed a terrorism assessment of Wisconsin pro-lifers, to the open records request revealing that abortionist Caryn Dutton was leaving UW-Madison, and heading for Harvard. Pre-registration is required to attend the dinner; please call 262-796-1111.

## HAVE YOU GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO BECOMING A MORE ACTIVE CUF MEMBER?

Please give us a call if you think you might want to become a more active member of our CUF Chapter. We have board meetings once a month (during the school year from September to May) on Thursday evenings at the SzeWs home in West Allis. If you would like to attend a board meeting, just to see what we do, call our president, Al SzeWs (414-321-9377), and arrangements can be made. If you are interested in some other activity of the Chapter, that can be discussed, as well. We would love to have you! Give us a call.

## "PAPAL SPOKESMAN SAYS THE POPE'S TRIP EXCEEDED ALL EXPECTATIONS"

According to an article by Edward Pentin, in the October 10-23, 2010, issue of the *National Catholic Register*, the British press scored Pope Benedict's four-day state visit to Britain as "very successful." "His presence brought out an estimated 500,000 people in Scotland and England as well as countless others who heard his messages in the media and on the Internet. It defied predictions and vastly exceeded expectations." The article also pointed out that "The government and the Vatican were particularly delighted with how well it had gone. Vatican spokesman Father Federico Lombardi said it had been a 'wonderful visit' and above all, a 'spiritual success'...An important factor in the visit's success was the chance for the British people to see what the Pope was really like, as opposed to his media-concocted image. They were won over by his shyness, deep humility and childlike innocence – as many in the Vatican predicted they would be. But they were also impressed by his courage and his willingness to speak his mind...This was a truly historic visit designed to help bring reconciliation between Church and state and between Catholics and Anglicans. Half of all the nation's parliamentarians turned out for the Pope's speech in Westminster Hall, where St. Thomas More...was condemned." (p.5)



**Catholics U**nited for the **F**aith

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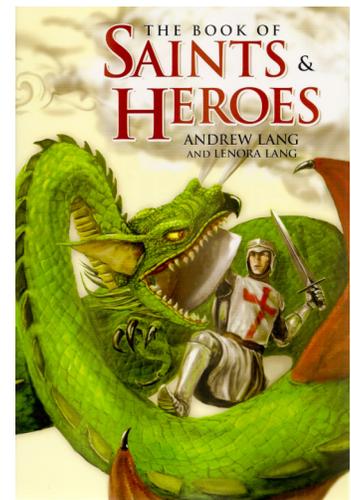
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## Book of the Month: "Saints and Heroes"

**Author: Andrew and Lenora Lang**

**Publisher: Sophia Institute Press, 1912 & 2006**

"The first Christians to visit Europe and the British Isles met pagans who told tales of fairies, talking beasts, and other wonderful things. To these marvelous stories, they soon added new ones about the Christian saints. Some were true, others improbable, and many simply fantastic. In the ones we include here...you'll see St. George fight the dragon, and you'll read about the fierce wolf St. Francis of Assisi converted. But many of these stories have in them scarcely a wave of the fairy wand. So you'll also find here true tales of great saints such as St. Louis of France, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Francis Xavier, and St. Elizabeth of Hungary – souls marked by courage, kindness and piety."



"These marvelous legends and exciting true stories of Christian saints and heroes will provide many hours of delightful reading to believers and non-believers alike!"

Contributors of \$12 or more to the Chapter per year are entitled to discounts on all books displayed at CUF meetings.

# "Bishop Vasa says...USCCB Cannot Impinge On A Bishop's Authority"

***The Wanderer*, October 7, 2010, page 1**  
**Washington, D.C., LifeSiteNews**

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Washington, D.C. (LifeSiteNews) ~ The authority of the Catholic bishop within his own diocese trumps the national bishops conference and "no bishop has an obligation" to adopt the conference's documents, stated Bishop Robert Vasa of Baker, Ore., in a landmark talk.

"Such documents do not become normative for a particular diocese unless the bishop, either explicitly or implicitly, recommends them," he told the 2010 InsideCatholic Partnership Award Dinner on September 16. Catholic bishops who boldly promote life and family in their dioceses have often been condemned for acting more strongly than the national conference of bishops (USCCB), for example by refusing Communion to pro-abortion politicians. Similarly, pro-life and pro-family advocates have long complained that conference statements are vague and confusing, even misleading.

According to Bishop Vasa, statements from bishops' conferences necessarily tend to be "flattened" and "vague," allowing certain teachings to "fall by the wayside through what could be called, charitably, a kind of benign pastoral neglect." While some call this compassion, "in truth, it often entails a complicity or a compromise with evil," he explained.

"The harder and less popular teachings are left largely unspoken, thereby implicitly giving tacit approval to erroneous or misleading theological opinions."

"I fear that there has been such a steady diet of such flattened documents that anything issued by individual bishops that contains

some element of strength," he said, "is readily and roundly condemned or simply dismissed as being out of touch with the conference or in conflict with what other bishops might do." This matter has often come up in the realm of life and family issues. For example, during the 2008 political campaign, Bishop Joseph Martino of Scranton, Pa., was forced to assert his episcopal authority within

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his diocese after a liberal group used the USCCB document on voting (*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*) to argue that Catholics can vote for a pro-abortion candidate. "No USCCB document is relevant in this diocese," he insisted, telling them they should have discussed his own pastoral letter in which he insisted that Catholics must vote pro-life.

Likewise, while the USCCB has allowed distribution of Communion to pro-abortion politicians - contrary to a letter sent to them by Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger at the time of their deliberation - numerous bishops, such as Archbishop Raymond Burke, when he was in St. Louis, have forbidden it. According to Bishop Vasa, pastoral documents "are open to a broad range of interpretation and misinterpretation...A charge could be brought that such documents are intentionally vague and misleading." "While I have had an occasional suspicion of this myself, it would be a serious defect of charity on my part to speculate about whether this is actually the case," he continued. "I

would say that the vagueness, whether intentional or not, has occasionally been a cause of concern and even consternation." While he says the conference is "both practical and desirable" for communication and joint efforts such as liturgical translations and disaster relief, Bishop Vasa noted there is "room for concern about the tendency of the conference to take on a life of its own and to begin to replace or displace the proper role of individual bishops, even in their own dioceses."

"It is easy to forget that the conference is the vehicle to assist bishops in cooperating with each other and not a separate regulatory commission," he added. Further, he noted that "there may also be an unfortunate tendency on the part of bishops to abdicate to the conference a portion of their episcopal role and duty." Compared to the "flattened documents" that often result from "the search for consensus," statements from individual bishops he said, "are often stronger, bolder, more decisive, and thus more likely to be criticized as harsh and insensitive." Gentle appeals have their place, he stated, "but when constant appeal produces absolutely no movement toward self-correction, reform, or conversion, then reproof and correcting, become necessary."

"At some point, there needs to be a bold resistance to the powers of the world in defense of the flock," he continued. "The fear of offending one contemptuously dissident member of the flock often redounds to a failure to defend the flock. It can redound to a failure to teach the truth."

"Fortunately, courage is contagious," he noted, pointing to the examples of courage provided by prelates such as Archbishop Raymond Burke, and Bishops Joseph Martino, Thomas Tobin, Thomas Olmsted, and Fabian Bruskewitz. "These men all encourage you and they encourage me as well."

## ***THE 2010-2011 SCHEDULE of EVENTS:***

- October 17      **CATHOLIC MINISTRY AT UW-MADISON** , by Fr. Eric Nielsen
- November 21    **FROM ADAM TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH – A QUESTION OF AUTHORITY**, by Jerry Schmutte
- December 12    **MSGR. POPEK BIRTHDAY/CHRISTMAS DINNER**
- January 16      **THE DARK SIDE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY: INTERNET, CELL PHONES AND SOCIAL MEDIA**, by Eric Szatkowski
- February 20     **ADDRESSING HISTORICAL ISSUES – THE CRUSADES**, by David Archibald
- March 13        **AFTERNOON OF RECOLLECTION**, by Fr. James Kubicki, S.J.
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- October 9 (2011)    **MSGR. POPEK AWARD DINNER**, Fr. Joseph L. Cunningham, Recipient



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

If you do not want to receive  
this newsletter, please print

“Refused”

on the front and drop it in  
a mailbox. We will pay for its  
return.

Come and bring a friend  
to hear  
**Rev. Eric Nielsen, Executive Director**  
of St. Paul University Catholic Center  
discuss:

“Catholic Ministry at UW-Madison”

Sunday, October 17  
Blessed Sacrament Church Hall  
South 41<sup>st</sup> St. and Oklahoma Ave.