



Catholics United for the Faith

Affirming Authentic Catholicism in Milwaukee

St. Gregory VII Chapter
September, 2013

Fr. John Yockey to discuss "True Marriage" on Sunday, September 15

FR. JOHN YOCKEY, who writes a monthly column on scriptural and moral matters for the *Catholic Herald* and is pastor of St. Jerome Parish in Oconomowoc, will discuss "True Marriage" at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 15, at St. John the Evangelist Church in Greenfield. Additionally, Fr. Yockey is a member of the Archbishop's College of Consulters and a representative on the Archdiocesan Council of Priests (ACP). He is also a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus and a past board member of Catholic Memorial High School.

Born in 1944, Fr. Yockey grew up in West Allis and graduated from St. Lawrence Seminary High School in Mt. Calvary. He entered the Cistercian Order at Our Lady of Spring Bank Abbey (on Oconomowoc Lake) and was ordained a priest at the Abbey in 1970. He completed his M.A. in Theology and Ph.D. in Religious Studies at Marquette University, and joined the faculty of St. Francis de Sales Seminary College in 1973. He was incardinated as a priest of the Milwaukee Archdiocese in 1979. When the seminary closed, Fr. Yockey moved to the local Sacred Heart School of Theology, where he taught from 1981 until 1983. He then accepted a position as assistant professor of moral theology at the Washington (D.C.) Theological Union where he taught for nine years.

Fr. Yockey has been blessed to give retreats and days of recollection, along with workshops on such topics as the formation of an adult Catholic conscience and the role of the Church in moral decision-making, especially in the area of social, sexual and biomedical ethics. **Please come and bring a friend to hear FR. JOHN YOCKEY discuss:**

"TRUE MARRIAGE: ARE WE BIGOTS?"

WHERE: St. John the Evangelist Church Hall

8500 W. Cold Spring Road, Greenfield

(enter from north parking lot)

WHEN: Sunday, September 15

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

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PLAN TO ATTEND THE MSGR. POPEK AWARD DINNER WITH BISHOP HYING ON OCT. 27

In the event that you have lost or misplaced your registration flyer for the Chapter's **Annual Msgr. Alphonse Popek Award Dinner**, a copy is enclosed for your convenience. Please join us as we honor **Bishop Donald J. Hying**, who, as have previous recipients, exhibits the same zeal for the priesthood, leadership of the laity, and fidelity to the Magisterium as that shown by Msgr. Popek. Prior to being named auxiliary bishop, Bishop Hying served as rector of St. Francis de Sales Seminary from 2007 to 2011. He was appointed rector by then-Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan.

Bishop Hying, ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee on May 20, 1989, and ordained the seventh auxiliary bishop for this diocese on July 20, 2011, has greatly honored our Chapter by accepting this award. Please come and bring a friend to hear **Bishop Donald Hying** discuss, *"The Urgency of the New Evangelization."* The dinner will be held at the **Clarion Hotel and Conference Center**, 5311 South Howell Avenue. For information call Ann Taucher at (414)-768-9718, or Al Szevs at (414)-321-9377, or visit cufmilwaukee.org

The September, 2013, Prayer Intentions published by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

During September, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has asked that we pray for two intentions: 1) **Value of Silence**. That people today, often overwhelmed by noise, may rediscover the value of silence and listen to the voice of God and their brothers and sisters; and, 2) **Persecuted Christians**. That Christians suffering persecution in many parts of the world may by their witness be prophets of Christ's love. For information regarding the activities of **The Apostleship of Prayer**, please visit: apostleshipofprayer.org

Beware of Federal Common Core standards being brought into our Catholic schools

As you see in the article on the opposite page, the problem of Common Core educational standards is not "just a public school problem." Unfortunately, the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) has established the "**Common Core Catholic Infusion Initiative (CCCII)**", which "provides resources to design and direct the implementation of Common Core within the culture and context of a Catholic school curriculum." This is tragic in many respects, but an obvious result might be that when parents discover that the Catholic school is offering the same academic program as the public school, many parents will opt for the **free** public school, and more Catholic schools will close. Please note that **Dr. Duke Pesta**, a faculty member at UW-Oshkosh and leading opponent of Common Core standards, will speak at our **November 17 CUF** meeting. Mark your calendar for this important talk. In the meantime you might want to read Phyllis Schlafly's July, 2013 newsletter article, **Backlash Against Common Core** at: <http://www.eagleforum.org/publications/psr/july13.html>

Plan to attend these upcoming activities in our diocese:

- 1) The **Rosary Evangelization Apostolate** will host a "Rally for Peace and the Family" on Saturday, Sept. 7, at State Fair Park. Speakers will include Jesse Romero and Fr. Larry Richards. The cost is \$12 per person. Visit: <http://heartsunited2013.org>
- 2) The September "**All-Night Vigil of Reparation**" will be at St. John the Evangelist, 8500 W. Cold Spring Road. It will begin with Mass at 8 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 6, and conclude with 5 a.m. Mass on Sept. 7. For questions, call 414-254-2790.
- 3) A "**National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children**" will be held on September 14, at 3:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Cemetery. Special guests include **Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz** and **Bishop Donald Hying**. Visit: AbortionMemorials.com

"Catechetical Corner"

Question: Can you name the seven *Corporal Works of Mercy*?

Answer: 1) Feed the hungry, 2) Give drink to the thirsty, 3) Shelter the homeless, 4) Clothe the naked, 5) Visit the sick, 6) Visit the imprisoned, and 7) Bury the dead.



Catholics United for the **F**aith

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Book of the Month: "*The Judge*"

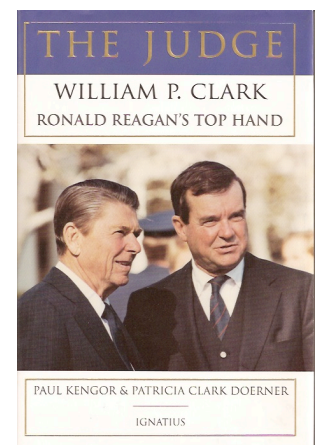
Authors: Paul Kengor & Patricia Clark Doerner

Publisher: Ignatius Press, 2007

"The most important biographical record of the Reagan years - from the Reagan governorship to the 40th President's period in the White House - had not been written, until now: it is the story of Ronald Reagan's indispensable man, confidant, and single most important advisor: William P. Clark, known to many as simply The Judge..."

Reagan biographers such as Edmund Morris and major publications like the *New York Times Magazine* and *Time* all agree: Bill Clark was Ronald Reagan's single most trusted aide, perhaps the most powerful national security advisor in American history. His close relationship with Reagan allows special insight into the President as well as other close friends from the earliest Reagan years: Lyn Nofziger, Cap Weinberger and Bill Casey. Also...Nancy Reagan...Margaret Thatcher...[and] the saintly Pope John Paul II..."
(Editor's note: Many readers may know that Judge William Clark died on August 10, 2013, at age 81.)

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



"Common Core: A Threat to Catholic Education"

Editor's note: The following letter by Eagle Forum president, Phyllis Schlafly, was mailed in August to key members of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in the United States concerning the implementation of the Common Core education standards in public and private schools, including Catholic schools. It was printed in Crisis with permission of the author.

Your Excellency,

I write today to share with you our significant concerns about a troubling development in our Catholic schools and to seek your prayerful guidance about this issue. Under the guise of reforming the nation's failing public schools, President Obama's Department of Education offered states \$4.35 billion in stimulus funds in a grant competition called Race to the Top in 2010. In order to compete for the funds, let alone receive them, states had to agree to adhere to the only set of national academic standards then under development by a private organization funded largely by Bill Gates.

Governors of cash-strapped states were only too eager for the opportunity to supplement their budgets regardless of the quality of the standards. In fact, the standards were not even completed until after the grant applications were due. As a further inducement to apply for the funds, states were offered waivers of the Bush era No Child Left Behind law and were also warned that failure to adopt the new standards could cost poor districts their Title 1 funds. One must wonder why allegedly superior academic standards necessitated such underhanded tactics. The new national standards for Math and English Language Arts, called Common Core, were adopted by forty-five states giving an appearance of national unanimity. This façade crumbles once you know the standards were approved not by the people of these 45 states or their elected representatives but by governors and state boards of education officials. Neither the state legislatures nor the voters ever knew about this radical change in their children's education until this spring (more than two years after they were adopted).

As the standards began to be implemented during the 2012-13 school year parents noticed disturbing changes in homework, textbooks, and tests. Suddenly, Euclidian geometry was displaced, children were instructed to add in columns from left to right, and "conceptual" math replaced fundamentals. In language arts, "close reading" strategies forced students to read texts "in a vacuum"

or without the encumbrance of what was deemed "privileged information." Furthermore, classical literature was dramatically reduced in favor of reading "informational texts" like computer manuals. The stated goals of the new standards, in both Math and English, is to make students "college and career ready" by focusing on "21st century skills." Although Common Core was designed specifically to address public school failings, the standards are impacting Catholic schools as well. Many Catholic schools have decided to adopt the Common Core in a misguided attempt to remain "competitive." This rationale

"My...request is that you investigate the dangers of Common Core"

makes little sense as Catholic schools have long enjoyed a superior academic record to the public schools. This is due not only to a faith-filled learning environment and the dedication of good teachers, but because they have had the freedom to employ time-honored teaching methods only sporadically seen in the public schools. With a tradition that includes Cardinal Newman, St. Anselm, and Thomas Aquinas why would we ever consider adopting the latest public school fad in education?

Catholic educators who propose to "adapt" the Common Core to the Catholic model forget the purpose of Catholic education. The mission of the Catholic school is to prepare students for eternal life with God while its secondary goal is to prepare them for temporal work. They accomplish this by pursuing Truth and by seeking to acquire Knowledge for its own sake. In contrast, the goal of Common Core is the narrow training of students to become mere functionaries educated solely for earthly success. Catholic educators should be leery of any standards that create automatons rather than humane individuals. In the United States Christians in general, and the Catholic Church in particular, have been under siege over the past five years. In light of the HHS mandate, the IRS targeting of faith organizations, the active promotion of gay marriage, and other federal efforts designed to dismantle moral society we cannot remain complacent as this administration takes aim at our children...the Church should be particularly cautious about

accepting anything at face value from this federal government. Clear Church teaching on the principle of subsidiarity demands that we guard jealously the local control of our children's education...In addition to a long list of academic worries with Common Core we have additional privacy concerns related to the onerous data collection requirements that are part of the system. The idea behind the federal data collection mandate is to track students from pre-school through their careers so as to determine whether the standards are succeeding in making students "career ready." While the initial goal may be laudable, there are serious concerns about maintaining the privacy of minors. The federal government has proposed gathering over 400 personally identifiable data points on each student, and whereas that information could have previously been considered "safe," the federal government's changes to FERPA in January, 2012 now make it possible for school officials to share private data without parental consent. Once unscrupulous school officials realize they can sell private data to the highest bidder all privacy will be in jeopardy.

The threat posed by Common Core to the Catholic schools comes as they struggle to compete against public charter schools, home schooling, and other innovative models of education. Sadly, Catholic Schools can no longer count on welcoming the children of the parish as many parishioners no longer feel obligated to send their children to parochial schools. As our Catholic schools search for ways to attract new students, they would do well to reject the servile training model of the public schools rather than seeking to imitate it. My humble request is that you investigate the dangers of Common Core to Catholic education. Please consider the concerns of a growing number of parents around the country. More than a dozen state legislatures have now taken some action to review, defund, or repeal Common Core now that parents and legislators have learned the details of this program. In April, Indiana became the first state to suspend Common Core led by the efforts of two Catholic school mothers. Your sheep ask for the protection of their shepherd. Your sheep are asking to be fed. The laity needs to hear from the bishops on this very important issue.

A well known Catholic. and author of more than 20 books, *Phyllis Schlafly* is the founder and president of *Eagle Forum*.

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Catholics United for the Faith

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

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Join us October 27
Bishop Donald J. Hying
will receive Msgr. Popek Award

Come and bring a friend to hear

Fr. John Yockey, Pastor
St. Jerome Parish, Oconomowoc
Discuss

“True Marriage: Are We Bigots?”

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