

# MANCIPIA

October 2006

THE REPORT OF THE CRUSADE OF SAINT BENEDICT CENTER



## TO FRIENDS OF THE CRUSADE:



Br. André Marie, M.I.C.M., Prior

### RELIGION AND POLITICS: TWO THINGS WE DON'T TALK ABOUT.

There is no salvation outside the Church, not for individuals — and not for societies. This is a summary of Catholic ecclesiology and social teaching, all in one. Pope Pius XI said, in *Quas Primas*, that “Men must look for the peace of Christ in the Kingdom of Christ.” And it is because that message went largely unheeded — Hamish Frasier called that encyclical “the greatest non-event in the history of the Church” — that we live in the geopolitical hell which presently engulfs the world. We can’t say we weren’t warned.

Pius XI instituted the Feast of Christ the King in order to memorialize the true teaching on our Lord’s social Kingship. In the traditional calendar, the feast falls on the last Sunday in October.

To those who say that Christ’s Kingdom is not of this world and, consequently, religion and politics must be separated, Pius addressed these strong words: “It would be a *grave error*, on the other hand, to say that Christ has no authority whatever in civil affairs since, by virtue of the absolute empire over all creatures committed to him by the Father, all things are in his power.”

After saying that our Lord’s dominion extends over all men, believers and non-believers, the pope goes on: “Nor is there any difference in this matter between the individual and the family or the State; for all men, whether collectively or individually, are under the dominion of Christ. *In him is the salvation of the individual, in him is the salvation of society.* ‘Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given to men whereby we must be saved’“ (Acts 4:12).

Michael Davies, in his brief study, *The Reign of Christ the King*, summarizes the Church’s traditional social doctrine: “The Church’s teaching is that the State has an obligation to render public worship to God in accord with the teachings of the True Church, the Catholic Church, and positively to aid the Catholic Church in the carrying out of her functions. The State does not have the right to remain neutral regarding religion, much less to pursue a secular approach in its policies. A secular approach is

by that very fact an anti-God and an anti-Christ approach. This unequivocal teaching was summarized very clearly by Pope St. Pius X, who, in his encyclical *Vehementer Nos*, condemned the principle of the separation of Church and State as ‘an absolutely false and most pernicious thesis.’”

A Christian social order can be established in our republic, in as much as the Kingship of Christ has existed in nations not ruled by monarchs. In the period roughly contemporary with that of our War between the States, there was a Catholic republic in Ecuador headed by Venerable Gabriel Garcia Moreno, a man called “the greatest Catholic statesman since the Middle Ages.” (Our Lady of Good Success, in her seventeenth century revelations to Blessed Mariana of Jesus, prophesied him as a “truly Catholic president” who would receive the palm of martyrdom.) Moreno’s motto was to the point: “freedom for everyone and everything except sin and evil.” The 1930’s Austrian republic of Pius XI’s close collaborator, Engelbert Dollfuss, provides another example. Antonio Salazar’s Republic of Portugal is yet another.

“It would be a grave error, on the other hand, to say that Christ has no authority whatever in civil affairs since, by virtue of the absolute empire over all creatures committed to him by the Father, all things are in his power.”

— Pope Pius XI

What would it look like if we had a Catholic America where Christ ruled as King? Eventually, we would see these among the manifold changes:

The replacement of the establishment clause in the first amendment with a declaration that our Lord Jesus Christ is King of this land, and the Catholic Faith its religion.

The constitution would state that all power is from God, not from the people (this is true no matter how leaders are chosen). This is the most fundamental papal teaching on the matter of politics.

*continued on page 7*

## FOUNDER'S COLUMN



Br. Francis, M.I.C.M.

### THE CHALLENGE OF FAITH: A MEDITATION ON OUR LADY

All religions claim to bring us to God; but Christianity not merely claims, but actually has brought God down to us. — The difference is the Blessed Virgin Mary.

All the distinguishing marks of Christianity reflect Our Lady's image: the Mass, the Sacraments, the ideal of purity, the beauty of family life, chivalry and the elevation of womanhood, the sanctification of body and soul, and the nobility of the meek and humble. I see the image of Mary in these, and in thousands of other Christian values.

It is only through Mary that the mystery of the Blessed Trinity was clearly revealed, and that the revelation was made understandable and lovable. The complete revelation of the secrets of God had to await her personal advent. A girl must be her own revelation. — No message or figure will do.

Mary is the universal mother of the life of grace, and Eve is the mother of the life of nature in us.

Without Mary, there is no Incarnation and no ultimate and satisfactory answer to the question: Why did God create anything at all?

Ideals are ideas that we think about; Mary is the ideal who thinks about us.

All the virtues of Christianity subsist in Mary and become

personal. She says of herself: "I am the Immaculate Conception," and we say of her: "Thou art our life, our sweetness, and our hope."

Love of Mary, is love by Mary, is predestination. Those who are not attracted by Mary have hearts made for hell.<sup>1</sup>

What could arouse every thought, value, or emotion in us, more than the very notion of a Virgin-Mother!

Seeing Mary, with the eyes of faith, with God in her arms is the essence of all orthodoxy — All heresy is in the beclouding of this vision.

From the first verse of Scripture Mary is dawning: we call her God's masterpiece of creation. The world as a creature must give credit to its Maker, and can only do so fully when Mary takes the center. Then, every existing entity acquires a new value, serving as background for her.

We call Mary the Mirror of Justice — that is, the perfect image of the Eternal. The eternal Father delights to contemplate His resemblance in a daughter; the eternal Son, in a mother; the eternal Spirit, in a spouse. These most intimate relations to the Godhead constitute the fullness of grace. No mere creature could be more God-like. The daughter is immaculate; the mother is intact; the spouse is glorious. For a mind, once elevated by grace to the contemplation of such qualities, to descend lower is the beginning of apostasy.

<sup>1</sup> St. Louis de Montfort taught that not to have devotion to Mary is a sign of reprobation. This is the sense intended by Brother Francis.

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# SAINT BENEDICT CENTER NEWS

## BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL 2006



Mrs. Christine Bryan (Sr. Célie Marie, M.I.C.M., Tert.)

Three years ago a leap of faith was made: to offer wholesome family entertainment to a world gone crazy and see if it would strike a “chord.” Conceived as a fundraiser for the school they operate, the Richmond Blueberry Fiddle Festival is organized by the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Their efforts are joined by those of students and parents, with major support as well from many volunteers associated with St. Benedict Center.

On August 12, the nearly one thousand people who came to Richmond, NH, for the fourth annual outdoor Fiddle Festival, were provided with a day of recreation on a level somewhat different from that of the average small-town fair. The headline musical group was the Future Famous Fiddlers, composed of our own Immaculate Heart of Mary school students and siblings (thirty of them this year) who sang, danced, and fiddled in a delightful noontime performance. Different music classes are taught at the school during the year, and rehearsals for the performers are held during summer vacation. An in-depth look at the festival can found at [www.blueberryfiddlefestival.com](http://www.blueberryfiddlefestival.com).

Those who contributed time and labor to help make this event successful include: Alice Cormier (Sr. Mary Elizabeth, M.I.C.M., Tert.), who baked twenty large blueberry cakes and Theresa Baker (Sr. Mary Joseph Theresa, M.I.C.M., Tert.), who spent months collecting raffle items from area merchants. She has many stories of their genuine pleasure in contributing “something for the sisters.” The raffle has been the largest fundraiser of all the departments of the festival. All of the school children participate by selling tickets, with the Bednar family alone selling over eleven hundred of them. There are many interesting stories of the children’s experiences in contacting people from all over the county and beyond to see if they’d be interested in helping a traditional Catholic school by buying a raffle ticket.

This year, there was a new master of ceremonies, Nick Pangaro, who made a gift of his time and did a great job hosting. Two stages were erected to help the musicians and singers acoustically and to give the crowd an easy view of the shows. All the performers entertained free of charge.

Much more could be said regarding the labors and self-sacrifice of those involved in making the festival a success. Maybe these contributions are equal to those connected with any fiesta put on by a group or parish, however, this one is unique in that it is held on municipal property while having a visibly Catholic flavor. Not all of the performers, however, are from the Saint Benedict Center community. There were three talented acts

from local artists as well, who were happy to participate.

Except for the obvious difference in atmosphere, the regular missionary work of the brothers and sisters in their bookselling can be compared to the providential contacts made with total strangers, non-Catholics, lapsed Catholics, or otherwise, regarding the Faith during the festival. Hundreds of Miraculous Medals were distributed to attendees, some of whom asked for extra medals to give to friends or family members. Moved by the Catholic atmosphere surrounding the festival, one visiting couple expressed a desire to return to the sacraments. They said that just taking in everything around them was a visible reminder of what they used to possess.

At this time, the profit from the festival, although doubling each year, is still a small portion of what is needed to run IHM School. Nevertheless, the festival does provide a base of support upon which the sisters will continue to build. The potential is certainly there for a major financial supplement, so long as there are blueberries in August, ice cream, hot dogs, hamburgers, and hungry people who enjoy wholesome entertainment.

The festival is held each year on the second Saturday of August. The whole event is offered to our Lady as a gift, as is the entire school, and, while hoping that the event generates needed funds, those involved know that there is much more to the story.



The Blueberry Man and two happy festival attendees

# KELLY'S FORUM

## CONFERENCE 2006



Mr. Brian Kelly, Editor

**T**hursday, August 17: One hundred and thirty friends filled St. Joseph's Hall to attend our sixth Third Order Leadership Workshop, which launches each of our annual conferences. The Leadership Workshop, as the name implies, is for the more dedicated supporters of the Cru-

sade of Saint Benedict Center and their guests. Some came from as far away as Arizona, Wisconsin, and Maryland. Three speakers addressed the attendees. First, Brother André Marie gave an inspirational exhortation stressing the essential role of our crusade in the Mystical Body as "influencers," our need to become reservoirs first before we can be effective aqueducts, our need to be formed as well as informed, our need for vocations, and the dangers of too much activism without a spiritual life. Brother Lawrence Mary, an M.I.C.M. tertiary from Wisconsin, told his own story about how he came to know the Center over twenty years ago and how his family matured as Third Order members, ultimately giving one of their daughters as a professed Slave of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1987. That daughter, Prioress Sister Marie Thérèse, spoke on Sunday about family life as a garden for vocations. Guest speaker, Dr. Patrick Flanagan, provided a lively and informative account of the culture war directed against the Catholic family and morals in the medical profession.

These annual pre-conference gatherings provide a more relaxed atmosphere, where friends new and old can get acquainted or reacquainted. The brothers and sisters made themselves very approachable throughout the day, as did the speakers and veteran Third Order leaders, all making for a re-

freshing *Mancipian* camaraderie. And, then, at five, there was a delectable chicken dinner, paid for by the Third Order. Tertiary Brother John Marie Vianney (Bob Carbone), who chaired this year's conference, and Tertiary Sister Elizabeth Maria (Mrs. Carbone) took care of the catering. Dinner was served by our youth group in association with other Third Order volunteers. Hymns to Mary and the community Rosary put a serene ending on a blessed day.

The total attendance of two hundred and thirty-six people at our Tenth Annual Conference was much more encouraging than last year, but still short of the three hundred who came for our first SBC Confer-



Mr. Gary Potter

ence. All of the activities that surrounded the talks were very well orchestrated. These included the liturgical ceremony of the Masses and confession, the youth performance and soiree on Saturday night, the lay-apostolate booths, and, of course, the meals. Everyone, including the first-timers, was delighted. No one went home unsatisfied, except in the sense that they were hungry for more — more knowledge, more lasting supernatural friendships, and more spiritual nourishment.

The conference speakers all kept to the theme "Catholic Friends and Family: Christening Society," each one focusing on a particular aspect of that common mission. Always happy to get away from — the belly of the beast — Washington, DC, Mr.

Gary Potter, veteran MC extraordinaire, welcomed attendees and opened SBC Conference 2006 by introducing our superior, Brother Francis. At the age of ninety-three, Brother seemed exceptionally vigorous this year. Looking over the audience that had come from near and far, he noted that we, this "Catholic America in miniature" ought to be, in these trying times "a prize and consolation to each other."

Mr. Potter has the task every year of getting the conference off to a good start with his well-merited honorary position as the first and only speaker on Friday night. With a topic that could give his penetrating mind an ample range from which to draw practical and formative lessons, Gary's *The Adven-*

*continued on page 5*



Some of the attendees at our tenth annual conference



Dr. Robert Hickson

*tures of Discipleship* was a stirring speech. One cannot be an effective lay apostle if one hides behind the traditional Mass, he stressed. We all have to translate our faith into action. It is our duty to undo the damage we have done to ourselves and to our children by feeding into this insatiable consumer society that has despoiled two generations of what ought to have been their Catholic inheritance. And we cannot give up hope. Quoting Bishop Bossuet, Gary noted that the height of faith is to “hope when there is no ground for hope.” Nor does it matter for our own salvation who is “winning” on this side of eternity — “winning isn’t everything, doing our duty *is*.”

Saturday morning, after holy Mass and breakfast, Dr. Robert Hickson addressed an eager and rested audience about a topic of tremendous importance in the work of restoring Christendom: *The Vow and the Catholic Family: Implications of an Irreversible Promise*. Utilizing the insights of G.K. Chesterton from his book, *The Superstition of Divorce* (written two years before he became a Catholic), Dr. Hickson examined the meaning of the vow, as to its sacredness, honor, irreversibility as a bond, and Christian roots. Chesterton, he said, considered the vow as “the lynchpin of Christendom,” which in its glory had become “a civilization of vows.” In modern times, with the chivalry of the freely-embraced vow being supplanted by the cold and pragmatic “contract,” no word is any longer rooted in permanence. “Rending negations” are the paradoxical “standard,” Hickson poignantly observed, “breaking what ought not to be broken; joining what ought not to be joined.”

Mr. Joseph Kung, founder of the Cardinal Kung Foundation, followed with a very informative presentation of the actual state of affairs of the Catholic Church in China. With heart-rending pathos, the nephew of the late Cardinal Kung chronicled the ongoing persecution of the underground Church in China, which is the only Catholic Church in China.

He devoted the second part of his talk to highlighting the main events in the life of his heroic uncle who suffered thirty-two-and-a-half years in Communist prison. “[Help me] to rescue this suffering member of the Church,” Mr. Kung pleaded. As far as current events in the Church are concerned, this speech has information no *Mancipia* reader can afford to be without.

Next, Father Lawrence Smith, who came all the way from Wisconsin, sang the praises of the Blessed Virgin Mary in his lively and enthusiastic laudation: *Causa Nostrae Laetitiae, Our Blessed Mother as the Model of Joy in the Catholic Home*. He also offered Mass each day, delivered sermons, and heard confessions for the conference attendees.

John Sharpe, president of IHS Press and an active duty naval officer, spoke with authority as he tackled the issues of manly virtue and justice in war according to the Catholic principles of St. Thomas Aquinas and other doctors of the Church. His brilliant and lucid analysis of what kind of enemy aggression justifies the use of military force, and how justice, prudence, and fortitude are to be employed (assuming we have these habits) to the achievement of the end, was most enlightening. As the Church teaches, he stressed, the end must be the common good.

Father Nicholas Gruner, who also provided the sacraments for the attendees, delivered a wake-up call for everyone to live the message of Fatima in their family life without compromise.

*continued on page 7*



Mr. John Sharpe



Mr. Joseph Kung and Fr. Nicholas Gruner

# 2006 SBC Conference available on MP3 CD or Cassettes

## LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE TALKS

BR. ANDRÉ MARIE M.I.C.M. "Crusade Update: The latest news on where we are going and what we are doing"  
 BR. LAWRENCE MARY M.I.C.M., Tert. "Third Order Members, Their Families & Vocations"  
 DR. PATRICK FLANAGAN "Physician, Heal Thyself. The Culture War in Medicine"

## ROYAL PLAZA CONFERENCE TALKS

GARY POTTER & BR. FRANCIS M.I.C.M.  
 Conference Opening and Closing Remarks, St. Augustine  
 Institute Graduation, and Third Order Induction Ceremonies  
 GARY POTTER

"The Adventure of Discipleship"

DR. ROBERT HICKSON

"The Vow and the Catholic Family: Implications of an  
 Irreversible Promise"

MR. JOSEPH KUNG

"The Persecuted Catholic Church in China"

FR. LAWRENCE SMITH

"*Causa Nostrae Laetitiae*: Our Blessed Mother  
 as the Model of Joy in a Catholic Home"

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"War, *Vir*, and Virtue: Repairing the Breach Between  
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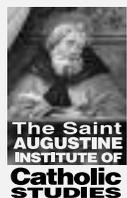
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## RELIGION AND POLITICS: TWO THINGS WE DON'T TALK ABOUT.

from page 1

Marriage would be declared to be indissoluble and (*as if it needed to be said*) exclusively between one man and one woman.

Abortion would be outlawed, and the sale of contraceptives also.

A lot will have to happen to make all this possible, and it will likely be implemented very gradually, as Dollfuss attempted to do in Austria. For instance, the above changes would happen one at a time and in reverse order. Besides the grace of God, we will need enough of our countrymen to convert to the authentic Catholic Faith to bring about our Lord's full Kingship here. For that to happen, the bishops, lower clergy, and faithful will have to believe and profess all the truths of the Faith, including that no one at all can be saved outside the Catholic Church. An elite of clergy, religious, and faithful will have to live the interior life and an authentic liturgical piety. All the while, it will take Catholics with fortitude to combat the corporal and spiritual degenerates who would oppose Christ's reign — those *inside* and outside the Church.

As Joseph de Maistre pointed out, we must not repose our hope in a written constitution (we haven't used the one we have now for decades!), but in men who have formed their consciences according to the teachings of Holy Mother Church. We can begin by getting to know the teachings of the popes in this matter and impressing them on our children. (See the From the Houstops Publications ad on page two for a list of recommended books.)

Where Christ is King, Mary is Queen, and since she is the "Dawn" who precedes the coming of the "Sun of Justice" — as the Immaculate Conception heralded the Incarnation — she must pave the way for Christ's rule. October, the Month of the Holy Rosary, is a queenly Marian preparation for Christ's Kingship. That's the way it happens in the Church calendar and that's the way it will unfold in time. With the grace of God and the weapon of the Holy Rosary, we will clear the way for Christ the King!

*Cor Jesu adveniat regnum tuum. Adveniat per Mariam!*



## CONFERENCE 2006

from page 6

Stressing the urgency of the maternal and appealing admonitions, that Our Lady said this is the devil's "final battle," and that her Immaculate Heart is our last hope, the "Fatima priest" was faithful to his mission as one of Mary's strongest advocates.

C. Joseph Doyle, president of the Catholic Action League, capped off a Saturday of informative and provocative talks with a forthright siege upon what he called the "multi-faceted assault" of "anti-natal feminism" and pro-sodomite activists. Entitling his talk, *The Neo-Pagan Assault on Gender and the Traditional Family*, Mr. Doyle demonstrated how the moral degeneracy of our day originated with contraception, "the suicide pill of the western world," as Pat Buchanan called it. When the use of contraception gained popularity between the two world wars, Pope Pius XI was quick to condemn it as a sin against nature, even "vicious" and "depraved." As always, Mr. Doyle had everyone's fixed attention. A friend of the Center for the past

thirty years, Mr. Doyle is often a guest on radio talk shows and television news when these media call for an opposing voice to counter anti-Catholic activism of any sort. He is in the trenches every day.

The final day of the conference featured three speakers: Brother André Marie, Brian Kelly, and Sister Marie Thérèse. Using St. Augustine as a model, Brother spoke eloquently of true Catholic friendship, what it actually means, and what is its end. Brian Kelly explained to the audience how we can pattern our lives as members of the Mystical Body after the liturgy of the Mass in its yearly cycle and its Ordinary prayers, and Sister provided the final touch to a magnificent weekend of lectures with her own beautiful reflections on how to cultivate a garden for vocations, not only to the religious life, but to parenthood, the teaching profession, and other fields where Catholic values are so desperately needed.

## EXTRA ECCLESIAM NULLA SALUS

Ex Cathedra: "There is but one universal Church of the faithful, outside which no one at all is saved." (Pope Innocent III, Fourth Lateran Council, 1215.)

Ex Cathedra: "We declare, say, define, and pronounce that it is absolutely necessary for the salvation of every human creature to be subject to the Roman Pontiff." (Pope Boniface VIII, the Bull *Unam Sanctam*, 1302.)

Ex Cathedra: "The most Holy Roman Church firmly believes, professes and preaches that none of those existing outside the Catholic Church, not only pagans, but also Jews and heretics and schismatics, can have a share in life eternal; but that they will go into the eternal fire which was prepared for the devil and his angels, unless before death they are joined with Her; and that so important is the unity of this ecclesiastical body that only those remaining within this unity can profit by the sacraments of the Church unto salvation, and they alone can receive an eternal recompense for their fasts, their almsgivings, their other works of Christian piety and the duties of a Christian soldier. No one, let his almsgiving be as great as it may, no one, even if he pour out his blood for the Name of Christ, can be saved, unless he remain within the bosom and the unity of the Catholic Church." (Pope Eugene IV, the Bull *Cantate Domino*, 1441.)

### CALENDAR NOTES:

- Christ the King Novena, Saturday, October 21 to Sunday, October 29. Please see the Third Order Manual for the novena prayers.
- 2007 Saint Benedict Center Conference, August 17 to 19, 2007. Please mark your calendars and plan on coming!

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## MANCIPIA October 2006

## THE REPORT OF THE CRUSADE OF SAINT BENEDICT CENTER

Of interest:

**2006 Conference.** We would love to see you at our next conference! See the article on page 4 to understand why.

**Fiddle Festival.** Learn about one of our more colorful apostolates that also happens to be an annual

fundraiser for Immaculate Heart of Mary school. Page 3 contains the details.

**Religion and Politics.** Why would anyone want to talk about anything else? Find out what some of the brightest lights of the church had to say about this on page 1.



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