



Notre Dame de Lorette Catholic Women's League

CATHOLIC
and **LIVING IT!**

April 2023



Palm Sunday

Sunday before Easter. Celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Observed with palm branches, parades, and celebration.



Maundy Thursday

Thursday before Easter. Commemorates the Last Supper. Often observed with foot washing, stripping of the altar, and overnight prayer vigil to keep watch with Jesus in the garden.



Good Friday

Friday before Easter. Most solemn day of the church year. Observes the day Jesus was crucified. Observed by praying the Stations of the Cross and three hours of silent prayer while Jesus was on the cross.



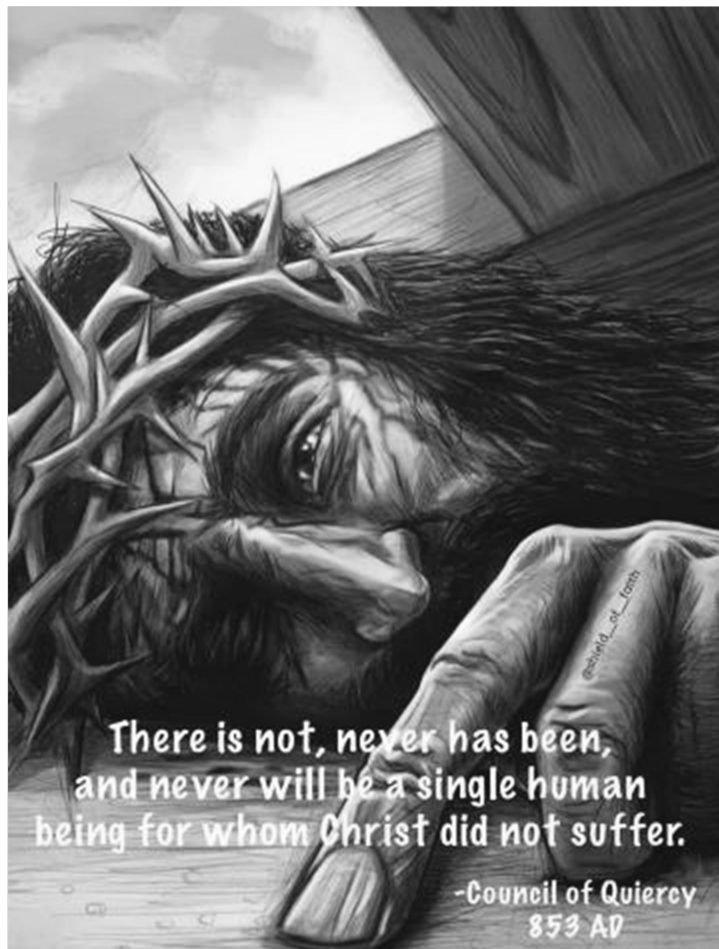
Holy Saturday

Saturday before Easter. Observes the day Jesus was in the tomb. This is a day of somber reflection, reflecting on what we'd miss in a world without Jesus.



Easter Sunday

Hallelujah! Christ has risen! This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Sing hallelujahs and celebrate with great joy.



Our Spiritual Advisor
Fr. Jorge Mario de los Rios Londoño

Our Members
Lacey Bernardin, *Past-President*
Megan Bernardin
Lynne Bernier
Susan Bernier
Irene Bialek
Valerie Bonnefoy, *Chair*
Jacqueline Bouchard
Lindsay Bouchard
Jolene Capina
Maryse Chartier
Lucille Chay, *President*
Crystal Chernichan
Monica Chernichan

Rolande Chernichan
Jaquelyne Cournoyer
Patricia Danylchuk
Adrienne Dennison
Suzanne Desmarais
Janine Durand-Rondeau
Gisèle Falk
Yvette Gregoire
Constance Haas
Chisom Omuruzua Ibeme
Monique Jeanson, *Chair*
Sue Johannesson
Monique Johnson
Delaney Kolowca
Heather Kolowca
Nettie Lambert
Marie McCall

Madelyn McConnell
Kathleen Messner
Suzanne Moore, *Treasurer, Chair*
Carol Mravinec
Mary-Ann Novak
Agatha Olayiwola
Jennifer Opara
Marcia Poirier, *Secretary*
Jennifer Poitra
Marie-Ange Prevost
Mae Ross, *PPC rep*
Faith Suttorp
Jaclyn Suttorp
Iris Swiderski
Joanne Touchette
Marilyn Toutant
Sr. Anna Marie du Sacré Coeur de Jésus

Lucille's Letter



Dear Sisters in The League & Fr. Mario,

Happy spring! I know the temperatures have been below seasonal normal (in fact, it's been downright cold in the mornings) but, just as surely, I know and believe that the weather will soon be warm. Isn't that a little like our Lenten journey or like the passion and resurrection? The days and weeks of Lent are spiritually like the dying days of winter but we know and believe that Christ will rise from the dead on Easter Sunday and make life worthwhile forevermore!

Please hand in your C & S order forms as soon as possible if you have not already done so. You will receive your gift cards by the end of the month.



fee. Lunch and banquet (optional) costs are yours.

A reminder that we will be doing highway clean-up on Saturday, May 27th. Mark your calendars!



The Lorette community wide garage sale will be held on June 10th. Suzanne has graciously offered to set up a CWL table at her house. This is a win-win for everyone. We can make a few extra dollars for the CWL coffers and we can each get rid of household items we've been meaning to let go of. As you do your spring cleaning, please keep this in mind and set aside those items that could be sold at the garage sale. We will discuss this in more depth at our next meeting.

Suzanne delivered 135 bras that we collected to Christine Nnadi, who will bring them to Nigeria for free distribution. Christine was delighted to receive the shipment and cannot wait to go 'home' with the bras that she continues to collect yearly.

As I write this message, Lacey remains in hospital. Please continue praying for her speedy recovery.

Have a very meaningful Triduum and Happy Easter.



PLEASE JOIN US

CWL 34TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, NDL

LUCILLE CHAY 204-266-0154

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12 AT 6:15 PM CT

NOTRE DAME DE LORETTE PARISH (MASS) AND HALL

We will be celebrating the 34th Anniversary of the NDL Parish Council at our next general meeting on April 12th. This celebration will be preceded by Holy Mass at 6:15 pm. Our council will pay for chicken but you are asked to bring a salad or dessert to share. We will be handing out several service pins that evening as well as having Fr. Mario, Suzanne, Mae and Agatha share their experiences and photos

from their recent visit to the Holy land. Our provincial president, Crystal Reiter will be joining us for this event. I sincerely hope that many of you are able to attend this fun evening of camaraderie and fellowship.

At the anniversary dinner, we will be doing a collection for Development and Peace based on the CWL 1% program. This program asks us to set aside 1% of the costs of all luxury purchases for the year for the benefit of D & P.

The diocesan AMM is being held in Beausejour on April 29th. Joy Smith and Susan Penner will be our guest speakers.

Both of these ladies have very important messages

to share. Our council will pay your registration

THE 1% PROGRAM

STRONG WOMEN
BUILDING STRONGER
COMMUNITIES



Lucille Chay

2023 Pope's Intentions

For a culture of peace and non-violence

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.



April 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

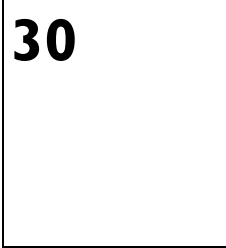
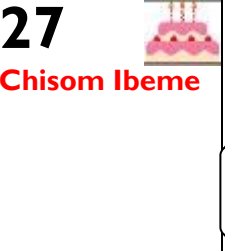
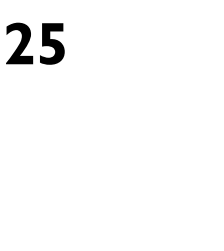
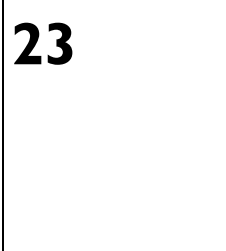
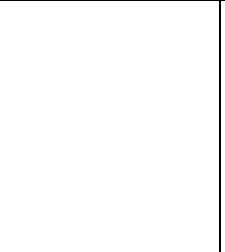
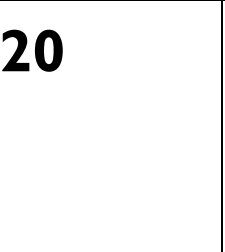
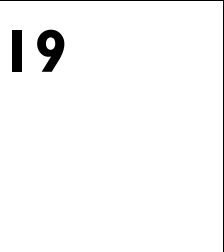
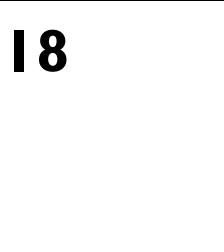
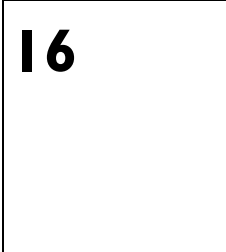
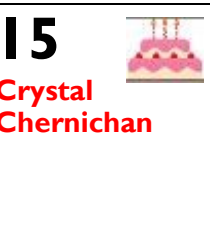
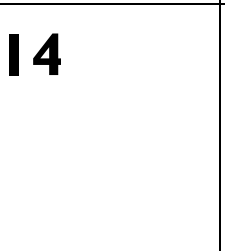
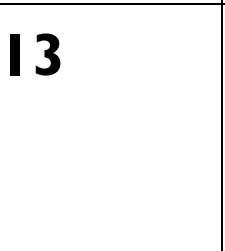
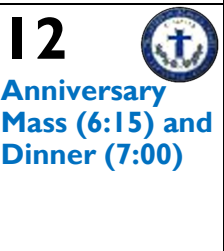
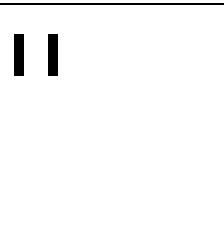
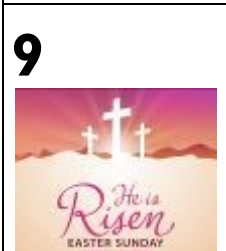
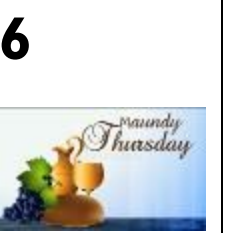
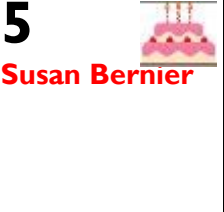
Fri

Sat

Three important scenes of Our Lord's life took place on mountains. On one, He preached the Beatitudes, the practice of which would bring a Cross from the world; on the second, He showed the glory that lay beyond the Cross; and on the third, He offered Himself in death as a prelude to His glory and that of all who would believe in His name. —[Ven. Fulton Sheen](#), from his book *Life of Christ*

The Cross of Christ forces you to make up your mind. You can be indifferent about anything else, but you cannot be indifferent about the Crucifixion. You can stand immobile before a cross as a kind of charm, but you cannot help but feel involved when you look at a Crucifix. —[Venerable Fulton J. Sheen](#) from his book *Remade for Happiness*

Mae & Gil
Ross




Whoever is imbued with a lively faith in Christ present in the tabernacle, whoever knows that a friend awaits here constantly—always with the time, patience, and sympathy to listen to complaints, petitions, and problems, with counsel and help in all things—this person cannot remain desolate and forsaken even under the greatest difficulties. He always has a refuge where quietude and peace can again be found. —[St. Edith Stein \(Teresa Benedicta of the Cross\)](#) from the book *Communion with Christ*

Sometimes the only way the good Lord can get into some hearts is to break them. —[Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen](#)



The Archdiocese of Winnipeg 34th Annual




Public Way of the Cross




LET US WALK TO
CALVARY WITH MARY
inspired by John 19: 25-27



Good Friday
April 7, 2023
Gathering 9:00 AM

**Our Lady of Victory
Memorial Parish**
249 Arnold Ave
 Our Lady of Victory
 @olvwinnipeg

**Office of Youth and
Young Adult Ministry**
 @OYYAMWinnipeg
 @OYYAMWinnipeg
 @OYYAMWinnipeg

Where “The Passion” Got Its Name—Dr. Edward Sri

Have you ever wondered why Christians described the events leading up to Jesus’ death on Good Friday as “the Passion” of Christ?

Clearly, it is fundamental to our faith. Why would we read the Passion story three times during Holy Week if it wasn’t?

In this article, you will learn the powerful reasons we call Christ’s suffering and redemption of us his passion.

On a basic level, the English word “passion” is derived from the Latin word *passio*, meaning suffering. The expression thus came to describe the afflictions Christ endured for our sins on the last day of his life.

In our modern era, the word has gained an additional meaning. In English, *passion* can describe an intense feeling or emotion. According to Webster’s dictionary, *passion* means “a strong feeling of enthusiasm or excitement for something.” Along these lines, people sometimes describe themselves as doing something passionately—with all their heart, with full commitment, drive, and purpose.

That sense also comes into play as we understand Christ’s determination to give his life for our sins. He is not a passive victim, taken by surprise and forced to endure a horrific death. He is the one who said to the Father, “Not my will, but yours, be done” (Luke 22:42), and he chose to drink the cup of suffering to the last drop, all for the sake of our salvation.

Pope Benedict XVI takes us even deeper. In his encyclical letter *God Is Love*, he describes Christ’s passion in the context of passionate love. But here we must be clear: He is not talking about a fallen, human passionate love, which on its own can be a kind of intoxication in which we are swept away by our emotions, romantic feelings, and sensual desires. Such a love is inward-looking, focusing primarily on one’s own feelings and desires—on what I get from the other person. Such a self-centered love cannot endure.

God does have a passionate love for his people. He is “a lover with all the passion of a true love,” Pope Benedict says. But his passionate love for the human family expresses itself in a higher form of love, expressed by the Greek word *agape*—a total, committed, sacrificial love. *Agape* love is outward-looking, seeking what is best for the other person and willing to suffer and sacrifice for that person’s good.

One More Nail

He lay there on the wooden beam, stretching out His hand
Knowing that it had to be, just as God had planned.
The soldier knelt beside Him and looked into His eyes
Expecting as he hammered, to hear His painful cries.

But there were no frightened screams or agonizing wails,
Only deafening silence, as he hammered the first nail.
His Mother stood nearby Him, reaching out her hand,
Knowing that it had to be, just as God had planned.

Through tears she gazed upon her Son, and looked into His eyes,
And as the soldier hammered, she held back her cries.
From her Son there were no screams, or agonizing wails,
So she too stood in silence, as he hammered one more nail.

And there were John and Simon, their heads held in their hands
Not knowing that this had to be, just as God had planned.
In their despair, they looked into His sad and swollen eyes
And as the soldier hammered, they could not withhold their cries.

But from Him they heard no screams, or agonizing wails,
And so they knelt in silence, as he hammered one more nail.
And others gathered ‘round the cross, raising up their hands,
Cheering what they thought, could not have been what God had planned.

And with disdain, they looked into His bloody, beaten eyes,
And as the soldier hammered, they cheered with joyful cries.
But from this criminal they heard, no agonizing wails,
And so they too fell silent, as he hammered one more nail.

And as I touch this barren cross, with weak and trembling hands,
I know that it all happened, just as God had planned.
I am too shamed to gaze into His kind and loving eyes,
Because I too hold that hammer, when my sinful nature cries.

And yet He doesn’t punish me, I hear no screams or wails,
Instead He silently forgives each time, I hammer one more nail.
Cynthia Martinez St Pierre

Think about how *agape* love is seen most perfectly in God’s love for us. Even though we turned away from God in sin and even though, according to justice, we have been separated from God and have a debt to pay for our sin, God’s passionate love drove him to become one of us and pay that debt on our behalf. So much did God love us that he did not want us to remain separated from him forever. He sought us. He became one of us and died for us so that we could be reunited with him.

Think of the Passion of Christ as the sufferings Jesus endured for our sins. Think of it as his passionate determination to reconcile us to himself. And with Pope Benedict XVI, think of it as *the passion of a lover*. God’s passionate love for his people expresses itself as *agape*, for Jesus loves us so much, he is willing to enter our suffering and sacrifice himself for our sins. And he wants our hearts to be transformed by this same perfect *agape* love which he models for us every step of the way from Gethsemane to the Cross.

https://media.ascensionpress.com/2022/02/08/where-the-passion-got-its-name/?utm_source=Klaviyo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NGL%202023%20-%20Content%20%2801GPP4ZV10D1Y9Q48M8WHH4FE0%29&_kx=Dka26rG924Y0iHtM7p5N6CqyD9VfYtnUpM3SSLSCO_o%3D.TcpZhH

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY

March 16, 2023

On behalf of the Honourable Rochelle Squires, please accept this invitation to attend the **Manitoba Human Trafficking Awareness Day** event, presented by the Manitoba Status of Women Secretariat in partnership with the Joy Smith Foundation and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

March 16, 2023 | 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Stuart Clark Garden of Contemplation

Third Floor | Canadian Museum for Human Rights
85 Israel Asper Way, Winnipeg, Manitoba



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Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc.
"those who lead"

MANITOBA GOVERNMENT PROVIDES OVER \$1.5 MILLION IN ANNUAL FUNDING TO VELMA'S HOUSE

Funding will Enable Vulnerable Women to Access Supports, Meals and Services Any Time of Day or Night: Squires

The Manitoba government is providing \$1.53 million in annual operating funding to Velma's House to assist the facility in better supporting sexually exploited adult women, and survivors of gender-based violence in Manitoba, Families Minister Rochelle Squires, minister responsible for the status of women, announced today. (March 16, 2023)

"There is an increasing need for 24-7 safe spaces for vulnerable women in Winnipeg and throughout Manitoba," said Squires. "Our government is pleased to provide this annual funding to Velma's House, so vulnerable women can access supports, meals, services and have a low-barrier place to sleep at any time of the day or night."

Velma's House, a project of Ka Ni Kanichihk, is one of the only 24-7

safe spaces in Manitoba that supports sexually exploited adult women. The facility has operated out of a residential building on Sherbrook Street in Winnipeg since March 2021. However, that location could only serve up to 10 people at a time and was not licensed for overnight services. In October 2022, Ka Ni Kanichihk announced that Velma's House would move to a new Winnipeg location where it would be able to provide 24-7 services to vulnerable women.

"It's so critical that as a society we all work together to address the barriers and inequities that exist. The folks who access Velma's House face barriers most of us cannot imagine – in every facet of their lives. Velma's House is the one place they can go where the doors are always open," said Yvonne (Dodie) Jordaan, executive director, Ka Ni Kanichihk. "Velma's House is Indigenous-led, and the programming and services were developed and continue to be guided and shaped by the community."

Velma's House is open to anyone aged 18 and older who identifies as female including those from the gender-diverse community. The facility is low-barrier, meaning people are treated without judgment, seen for their strengths, and are accepted as relatives. Supports and services are all grounded in culture.

Velma's House provides access to basic needs such as meals, a safe place to rest, hygiene supplies, laundry and shower facilities. Visitors can also access services such as employment counselling, housing support, and assistance navigating the health-care system, Employment and Income Assistance and Child and Family Services.

For more information on Velma's House, visit <https://www.kanikanichihk.ca/velmas-house/>.

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=58451>

It takes a nation to stop': Human trafficking awareness campaign launched in Manitoba

A national human trafficking awareness campaign was launched on Wednesday in Manitoba, with the goal of preventing youth from being lured into the sex trade.

The Joy Smith Foundation, with the support of the Winnipeg Police Service and the Manitoba RCMP, announced the 'See the Trafficking Signs' campaign on Wednesday. The initiative involves educating the public about the typical indicators of someone who is being trafficked, as well as the methods that traffickers use to recruit.

"Human trafficking can occur in any city across this country, and only through education, awareness, information sharing and campaigns like this one, can we protect our youth and those most vulnerable in our community," said Sgt. Andrea Scott with the Winnipeg police's counter exploitation and missing persons unit.

The campaign is being launched across the country with educational signs that provide information on how people can recognize if someone is being trafficked.

'See the Trafficking Signs' also include videos, a website and school programs.

Joy Smith, the founder of the Joy Smith Foundation, noted that this campaign is two years in the making.

"It takes a nation to stop human trafficking," she said.

"There are very young victims; [Traffickers] go after very young victims."

Some of the signs of human trafficking to look out for are:

- A child that has two cellphones;

- A child wearing clothing their family can't afford;
- A child with unexplained cuts and bruises;
- A child with an entirely new circle of friends;
- A child who is dressing and acting differently.

"Canadians can start making a difference today by recognizing the signs of human trafficking and by speaking up," said Sgt. Tara Clelland of the RCMP.

"If you fear that a person is being exploited, contact the police. By knowing the signs and speaking up, you can change the life of a young person."

<https://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/it-takes-a-nation-to-stop-human-trafficking-awareness-campaign-launched-in-manitoba-1.6284455>





Celebratory atmosphere in Landmark for official opening of Hope's Cradle

Written by Judy Peters Sunday, Mar 19 2023, 8:29 AM

A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place Saturday at the Landmark Fire Hall to officially open Hope's Cradle.

Manitoba's first anonymous and safe baby surrender site was officially opened on Saturday at the Landmark Fire Hall. Sheila Braun played a key role in finding a location for Hope's Cradle.

"I read an Instagram post that Susan Penner from Life Culture had posted, and she said that no fire station in Manitoba was willing to install a safe box for babies and infants," Braun says. "And I was very shocked by the statement."

Braun then approached her husband Trevor, a member of the Tache Fire Department, and he connected with Fire Chief Allan Rau who brought the topic before the council for the R.M. of Tache.

And the proposal was approved.

Braun says it was very special to have this site officially open.

"To see a dream become reality, and there were challenges along the way, and we saw many miracles, and here we are today being the second in Canada to say, 'here is a safe location for babies to be surrendered,' and giving both the mother and the baby a second chance."

Although her dream has now become reality, Braun says her work is not done. She plans to stay involved in Hope's Cradle.

"I will probably be involved in the promotional material and now reaching out to family resource centers and the hospitals and just getting the word out," she says. "And looking to see if there's a possibility of a second cradle in Manitoba that we could begin working on."

Provencher MP Ted Falk was one of the

speakers at the opening ceremony on Saturday. He said it was fitting to have Hope's Cradle at the centre of Canada, and hoped that more sites would soon open in other parts of the country.

"Let's start in the centre and work our way out," he suggested.

Falk also mentioned concerns about the federal government and its stance on promoting life for Canadians of all ages.

"You know, we currently have a government that has a culture of death, whether it's end of life or beginning of life," Falk said. "And I'm proud to be part of the Conservative caucus which is the only caucus that allows its members to hold positions of pro-life. I was saddened last week Friday in Ottawa as I sat in my seat, and I heard an NDP MP from Winnipeg challenge the government on not fulfilling their promise of defunding crisis pregnancy centers. And I thought, 'that is just incredibly sad that we want to take away charitable status from pro-life organizations' like Gems for Gems, and that's something we're going to continue to fight."

Mayor Armand Poirier was honoured to participate in the opening ceremony.

"This endeavor further defines our community," Poirier said. "It defines us, who we are, and what we are. Congratulations and thank you to everyone involved in making this a reality. This project was made possible by loving individuals inspired to bring hope to persons experiencing overwhelming circumstances in their lives."

"I'd like to recognize the important contributions of Trevor and Sheila Braun, Susan Penner with Life Culture, Jason Kroeker with the Landmark Fire Hall, Fire Chief Allan Rau and Tache Firefighters, as well as Jordan Guildford, the foundress of Hope's Cradle. A special thanks to the board members, staff and volunteers of Thrifty Treasures whose generosity is manifested here through their significant financial contribution, as well as the numerous other contributors, private individuals and organizations."

"Your commitments are a testimony of generosity, hope and service to our community and beyond that, will stand for years to come," Poirier added. "For anyone overwhelmed by the circumstances of life, know that we are here for you, we are standing sentinel behind this small door with open arms, tender hands, and loving hearts. Hope's Cradle is a place for people seeking hope, support, care, compassion, and relief."

-With files from Adi Loewen



Hope's Cradle Grand Opening, March 18, 2023



Susan Penner, Life Culture; Armand Poirier, Mayor, RM of Tache, Bob Lagassé, MLA Dawson Trail; Ted Falk, MP, Provencher; Jordan Guildford, the foundress of Hope's Cradle.



MLA Bob Lagassé, Rolande Chernichan, National Chairperson of Resolutions and MP Ted Falk discuss politics in wake of National Office's recent meeting with federal government



Instructions for surrendering of baby are posted outside



Inside view of Hope's Cradle drop-off



Trevor & Sheila Braun, Susan Penner, Armand Poirier and Jordan Guildford cut the ribbon



Rolande, Suzanne and Marcia in attendance



Susan discusses her presentation at our upcoming AMM on April 29 with Suzanne

Reasons to Talk About the CWL!

FUTURE

- 16 My Catholic Women's League is active in the present and looks to the future with enthusiasm. For more than 100 years, members have been making a difference nationally and even internationally as a member of World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations. The future needs you.

GOOD WORKS

- 17 Imagine if you knew the great works done by Catholic Women's League members. As social justice activists, we pray and work for family, friends and all people to change current issues and make this world a better place. We hope you will join us!

GROWTH

- 18 The Catholic Women's League has grown to become Canada's largest women's organization. Did you know it meets with government and has an impact on legislation and policy? Help us continue to grow and make a difference.

HEALING

- 19 As Catholic Women's League members, we help to heal injustice through advocacy, illness through prayer, hate with love and loneliness with care. You cannot stay away from the healing process if you are a Catholic woman. Join us today!

HELP

- 20 The Catholic Women's League was formed in the early 20th century to help immigrants arriving in Canada. Members continue to help the most vulnerable across the country. Come and add your helping hands to ours.

HOPE

- 21 Hope is the essence we hold onto during times of adversity and is the beacon of light in the darkness. Anyone seeking refuge and hope can find it in the Catholic Women's League. Members find hope in one another. Join us and be a woman of hope.

HUMANITY

- 22 Love one another. Catholic Women's League members go beyond charitable acts with compassion, love, sympathy and tolerance, seeking out issues of injustice. Come share the love.

HUNDREDS OF RESOLUTIONS

- 23 Over its history Catholic Women's League members have proposed hundreds of resolutions; some become laws, others serve as seeds for change - all serve to educate members. We invite you to discover more!

**Celebrate our 30th anniversary, and
our students!
Célébrez notre 30e anniversaire et nos
étudiantes !**



Join us as we celebrate the first graduates of our relaunched Discipleship Formation Program, along with 30 years of overall ministry!

WHEN: Saturday Apr 29
Doors open 5:00 PM
Dinner served at 6:00 PM
Program at 7:30 PM

WHERE: St. Boniface Cathedral Hall
180 ave de la Cathédrale, Winnipeg MB

TICKETS: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/43688b7c-2b4f-4635-a239-5d0c37fd71afd>

ADULT: CA\$50.00 (11 and older) \$20 counts as a charitable donation
CHILD: CA\$35.00 (2-10 years; under 2, free) \$20 counts as a charitable donation
Table of eight: CA\$360.00

Contact us if you have any questions.
info@catholicway.net

**Mary, Mother of the Church Parish Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

cordially invites you to attend the

ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

DATE: Sunday, April 23, 2023
PLACE: Mary, Mother of the Church Parish Hall
85 Kirkbridge Drive (Fort Richmond – South Pembina Highway)
10:30 a.m.
MASS:
LUNCH: 12:00 noon

GUEST SPEAKER
JIM THIESSEN
TOPIC:
Sleep in Heavenly Peace



Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a national non-profit volunteer organization that builds beds for kids who are sleeping on the floor. There are an estimated 4,000 children who sleep on the floor in Winnipeg.

TICKETS: \$25.00 PER PERSON

Tickets will be sold after all Masses on April 15 & 16, 2023.

DEADLINE FOR TICKETS: April 18, 2023
For tickets contact: **Zinny Deen** – zinobiadeen@gmail.com



Euthanasia Prevention Coalition contest. "Telling Our Side of the Story"

"Telling Our Side of the Story"

The board and staff of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition are proud to invite all of our readers, and friends, to participate in an exclusive EPC creative messaging contest: "Telling Our Side of the Story".

For many years, we have been inundated with euthanasia propaganda portraying life as meaningless, death as freedom, despair as wisdom, hopelessness as courage, the abetting (and suggestion) of suicidal desires as an act of love.

It is high time (and more than time) for us to clean up this mess by "Telling Our Side of the Story"!

We call upon our readers and supporters to submit euthanasia stories that are true, or fictional or any combination of the two. This is the chance to set your heart (and your imagination) free, in both condemning nihilistic death and extolling the beauty of life.

Accepted stories will be published on the EPC blog (and if possible featured in a printed collection). As soon as we have received a sufficient number of contributions, **EPC will award a first prize of \$500**. Future editions of the contest will evolve after the first contest is completed.

Send your story to Alex Schadenberg: info@epcc.ca

For maximum flexibility and creative potential, there will be few rules, and no definite requirements on content, or form.

- Anybody can send any article, story or video (articles that are good or interesting will be published),
- Anyone in the world can participate,
- Author privacy will be scrupulously respected (as desired).

Let us joyfully carry this exciting enterprise into the cultural domain. Join us, today, in "Telling Our Side of the Story"!

If you wish to discuss your ideas, contact Alex at: info@epcc.ca or call: 1-877-439-3348.

Best Regards,

Gordon Friesen
President, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

Hey priests: Empty confessionals, never! Increase the hotspots of mercy, says Pope



Hey priests: Empty confessionals, never!
Increase the hotspots of mercy, says Pope

If people don't come to confession, "read something, pray; but wait," Pope Francis told confessors, emphasizing the importance of this sacrament.

"You must only think about forgiving," Pope Francis told confessors at the Vatican on March 23, 2023. The Pontiff received a group of confessors who had recently participated in a [Course on the Internal Forum](#), a program organized by the Apostolic Penitentiary which helps form those who impart the Sacrament of Confession. Pope Francis emphasized that confessors should always be available to their faithful and warned them against acting as a "psychiatrist."

"May there always be a penitentiary on duty. Always. Empty confessionals, never! *"But,"* you could say, *"the people don't come!"* Read something, pray; but wait, they will come," Francis said.

He urged a "constant presence of a confessor with an open schedule, in every pastoral zone."

In fact, the Pope called for a rediscovery of the importance of the Sacrament of Penance in the Church, especially in light of the Jubilee of 2025. He asked that local Churches' pastoral programs give "a just space" to this sacrament, which "helps the lifeblood of mercy" circulate in the Church's veins.

He outlined also that in a world filled with "hotspots of hatred and vengeance" confessors must "increase the 'hotspots of mercy.'"

Francis insisted that "we are in a supernatural fight," which is especially "virulent" in our time, but Christ's victory is realized "each time a penitent is absolved."

"Nothing distances from and defeats evil more than divine mercy."

Don't get into conversation with the devil or try to be a psychiatrist

Francis also told confessors to be wary of

dialoguing with the devil or treating confession like a talk with a psychoanalyst or psychiatrist, outlining instead what the true mission of the sacrament of penance is.

"Jesus taught us that we should never dialogue with the devil. Never! He responded to the temptation in the desert with the Word of God, but he did not dialogue. [...] One offers what is right for forgiveness and one opens some doors to help [the penitent] move on, but never act as a psychiatrist or psychoanalyst. Please, do not go into these things!" the Pope insisted, speaking spontaneously. "If any of you has this vocation [to mental health care], practice it elsewhere, but not in the tribunal of penance. This is a dialogue that is not convenient to have in the moment of mercy."

The mission of the confessor, the Pontiff explained, is to "welcome everyone without prejudice, because only God knows what grace can work in hearts, at any moment."

"Always look for the door to enter into forgiveness. And when you cannot enter



through the door, enter through the window," he added, suggesting for confessors to inspire at least the desire for repentance.

This desire for repentance, known as contrition, is, as the [Catechism explains](#), a gift from God.

God always forgives

The head of the Catholic Church also asked confessors not to set conditions for forgiveness, because "God does not say, 'Only this...'; he says, 'Everything.' [...] He always forgives more, always!"

"If there is anyone who does not feel up to being a giver of the mercy received from Jesus, do not go to the confessional [to hear confessions]," the Bishop of Rome said.

He lamented for example the fact that a confessor in a papal basilica gave many reprimands and then gave an unfeasible penance. "This is no good. No. Mercy. You are

there to forgive and to offer words so that the person can move forward, renewed by forgiveness," he said.

https://aleteia.org/2023/03/28/hey-priests-empty-confessionals-never-increase-the-hotspots-of-mercy-says-pope/?utm_campaign=EM-EN-Newsletter-Daily-&utm_content=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sendgrid&utm_term=20230329

WHEN, owing to the current media frenzy against priests and bishops accused of improper and even criminal behavior, many are inclined to cringe at the sight of the Roman Collar, just remember this:

If you are a practicing Catholic, we will remember that we saw this collar on the day our children were baptized and confirmed.

This was the collar at the other side of the Confessional when, burdened by sin, we wanted sacramental assurance of God's forgiveness; this is the Roman collar that the Church's qualified witness wore on the day we swore fidelity to our spouse, and this sight should give you some comfort (in fact, much solace) when, at death's door, we are weighed down by infirmity or old age.

It is this collar that brought us the balm of consolation when we lost a loved one. NOT THAT WE OWE OUR PRIESTS ANYTHING.

The point rather is that WE ALL have a stake in THEIR Holiness (or the lack of it). On the day each of them were ordained, we cheered them.

Do not join the mob that jeers now. Instead, pray for them. Warn them when they do wrong. Counsel them when they go astray. Keep them company and assure them they are not alone, for greater than any temptation of the flesh is the test of loneliness and that feeling that comes to priests that they are not cared for.

After all, they are human too, and they take comfort from the thought that we care for them -- enough to hold them up when they are weak, reproach them when they are in error, but ever assuring them that we do not write them off!

2023 THE DIRTY DOZEN LIST MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



Discord, a widely popular communication platform for adults and children alike, consistently fails to address the extensive sexually graphic, violent, and exploitative content on its thousands of private and public channels. Discord's inadequate age verification and moderation procedures means millions of children and teen users are left with near-unmitigated exposure to child sexual abuse material, non-consensual pornography trading, and the predatory grooming that are rampant on its platform.

Demand Discord do more to protect kids:
EndSexualExploitation.org/Discord

2023 THE DIRTY DOZEN LIST MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



Currently, Netflix provides over 300 original productions, ranging from serious dramas, laugh-out-loud comedies, and even animation. Most of Netflix's most popular (and most heavily advertised) original shows are rated TV-MA (mature audiences only) frequently containing graphic sex scenes, nudity, and violence. However, Netflix shows consistently portray literally thousands of instances of gratuitous nudity, graphic sexual acts, and even graphic depictions of sexual assault. Researchers at NCOSE recently looked into 10 of the top original Netflix titles and found that 9 out of 10 featured graphic on-screen sex scenes.

Learn more and take action:
EndSexualExploitation.org/Netflix

2023 THE DIRTY DOZEN LIST MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



OnlyFans exploded in notoriety and profit during COVID-19, as the subscription-based platform known for pornography preyed on widespread financial insecurities and capitalized on youth spending more time online. OnlyFans is set up as a potential "pyramid scheme" incentivizing "creators" to recruit new users - resulting in a flood on social media of false promises of fast cash and fame. Sex buyers and pimps maximize buying and selling people behind the security of a payroll. Yet survivors, whistleblowers, police, and investigative journalists have uncovered child sexual abuse material, sex trafficking, rape videos, and a host of other crimes, making the case clear: OnlyFans is a safe haven for exploitation.

#TimesUp for OnlyFans.
EndSexualExploitation.org/OnlyFans

2023 THE DIRTY DOZEN LIST MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



Visa rightly cut ties with Pornhub in 2020 after public outcry regarding the rampant sex trafficking and child sexual abuse material hosted on the pornography site. However, Visa has since re-initiated a relationship with MindGeek (Pornhub's parent company) and other pornography websites and failed to follow the example of Mastercard in requiring that sites hosting sexually explicit material implement common sense measures to prevent and remove illegal content. Furthermore, Visa also processes payments for brothels and prostitution websites. Visa should live up to its corporate social responsibility principles and stop buttressing the infrastructure of the exploitative commercial sex industry. Visa claims it helps power money movement globally, but that must not include powering the global economy of commercial sexual exploitation.

Call on Visa to stop enabling and legitimizing sexual exploitation!
www.EndSexualExploitation.org/Visa

2023 THE DIRTY DOZEN LIST MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



Referred to as the "front page of the Internet," Reddit hosts more than two million user-created "communities" covering nearly as many topics. Among these "subreddits" are countless non-consensually shared sexually explicit images and videos, child sexual abuse material, and hardcore pornography. Pimps advertise—and sex buyers purchase—people for sex while other predators share tactics on using and abusing victims. Not only does Reddit turn a blind eye to illegal and harmful content on its site, survivor requests to remove images of their abuse go unanswered. Instead of prioritizing people's safety and well-being, Reddit is focused on profits by going public, aiming for valuation of over \$15 billion while continuing to ignore the myriad forms of exploitation that prop up its value.

Demand Reddit rid itself of exploitation!
EndSexualExploitation.org/Reddit


2023 THE DIRTY DOZEN LIST MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



Pedophiles and other predators go to Twitter to trade in criminal content such as child sexual abuse and nonconsensual pornography. The platform is rampant with accounts and posts functioning as advertisements for commercial sex. Twitter fails to adequately respond to its victims, claiming it cannot be held accountable for disseminating illegal material. Twitter has even flatly refused to remove verified child sex abuse material from its site when asked by victims.

Twitter must be held legally liable:
EndSexualExploitation.org/Twitter

2023 THE DIRTY DOZEN LIST MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



Etsy is a global online marketplace known for "unique and creative goods" including handmade and vintage products. Unfortunately, it is also in the business of selling pornographic merchandise, misogynistic and dehumanizing apparel, and sex dolls - including ones resembling children and young teens. Customers complain about unwanted exposure to pornography and sexually explicit/suggestive content through recommendations, some likening this experience to "sexual harassment". Yet Etsy's mechanism for removing such content from search results is highly ineffective and often causes more of this content to surface. Etsy has an ethical obligation to stop profiting from and normalizing child sex abuse and exploitation.

Encourage Etsy to stop selling sexual exploitation!
EndSexualExploitation.org/Etsy

2023 THE DIRTY DOZEN LIST MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



For decades, thousands of families have entrusted their children's hearts, minds, and safety to Kanakuk Kamps—one of the largest Christian sports camps. Tragically, in a deeply troubling array of instances, the safety of children took a back seat to other considerations as decades of child sexual abuse at Kanakuk Kamps have been swept under the rug by the organization. This was and is a violation of trust, and ultimately a failure of leadership. Responsibility, accountability, and transparency must be required of institutions like Kanakuk Kamps if we wish to stamp out child sexual abuse.

Hold Kanakuk Kamps to account for child sex abuse:
EndSexualExploitation.org/Kanakuk

2023 THE DIRTY DOZEN LIST MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



Verisign is a publicly traded U.S. company that provides Internet infrastructure and services and which has exclusive management over the .com and .net generic top-level domains. According to the Internet Watch Foundation's 2020 report, 82% of all websites containing child sexual abuse material were registered on .com and .net domains. While some other registrars and registries are disrupting domains associated with child sexual abuse material, Verisign fails to take meaningful action and instead inhibits attempts to protect children.

Congress must act to hold Verisign accountable. Take action at
EndSexualExploitation.org/Verisign

2023 THE DIRTY DOZEN LIST MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



Google Search drives people to pornography sites when they search for themes of rape, racism, incest, sexual abuse of minors, and other illegally-themed or socially damaging-themed pornography. We've raised this concern with before and have asked Google to surface articles, resources, or commentary on the harms of racist or rape pornography—yet Google Search serves up the exploitation itself.

Learn more and take action:
EndSexualExploitation.org/Google

2023 THE DIRTY DOZEN LIST MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



Kik is a free messaging app popular among young people, and the company claims that a third of American teens use Kik to chat with friends and connect with brands, games, and media. However, the anonymity and ease of connecting with strangers also ranks it among the most dangerous online spaces for children. Kik has high rates of sexually explicit interactions among users—including between adults and minors. Sexually explicit content is rampant in the group chats and law enforcement has been sounding the alarm for years about Kik being a stomping ground for predators, yet Kik hasn't made any substantive improvements to keep kids safe.

Keep kids off Kik!
EndSexualExploitation.org/Kik

2023 THE DIRTY DOZEN LIST MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



Meta may be an updated name and vision for Facebook, but the corporation's extensive harms to children and adults alike remain the same. Meta owns Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp: all of which are consistently under fire as primary places for grooming, sextortion, child sexual abuse materials, sex trafficking, and a host of other crimes and ills. Meta has the potential to lead the tech industry in online safety standards. Instead, Meta is prioritizing new projects and pursuing increased encryption without provisions for child online safety which would aid predators in escaping detection and accountability. Without a commitment to prioritize safety across its platforms, the so-called "metaverse"—where social media and virtual reality meet—will likely unleash new manifestations of sexual abuse and exploitation.

Meta must prioritize safety from sexual abuse and exploitation:
EndSexualExploitation.org/Meta

About the Caritas Dinner

The love of God and neighbour which leads to true Christian charity, care and concern. The annual Caritas Award Dinner honours those who have made outstanding contributions towards others and the fabric of life in Manitoba. The Foundation held the inaugural Caritas Award Dinner in 1979 to honour organizations or individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the well-being of the citizens of the Province of Manitoba, to the Catholic community, or provided exceptional service in support of Catholic values, works and causes. Past recipients include bishops, religious orders, laypersons and other clergy, service organizations and outstanding community leaders.



For the first six years of the Dinner, the proceeds helped to build up the value of the general Capital Fund. Since then, the proceeds of the Caritas Dinner have been used to offset the modest operating costs of the Foundation in order to maximize funds available for grants.

In the course of honoring organizations and individuals who have been exemplars of caring leadership and service in all of Manitoba, the Caritas Dinner has become a time of celebration for Catholics from all dioceses and individuals who support Catholic values. In so doing, the dinner has become the preeminent celebration of the broader community in Manitoba.

The Caritas Award Dinner attendance has averaged 500-750 persons in past years. They represent people and communities of varied walks of life and interests who are united by their desire to foster Catholic values and community improvement for the sake of all Manitobans. The Dinner provides an excellent opportunity for individuals and corporations to support the Catholic Foundation of Manitoba's mission through the Caritas Award Dinner sponsorship program outlined on our website.

Past Award Recipients

Caritas Award Recipients

2022 - Sara Riel Inc.
2021 - Centre Flavie-Laurent Inc.
2019 - Joy Smith
2018 - Catholic Health Association of Manitoba
2017 - Conrad Wyrzykowski
2016 - The Service of Consecrated Men in Manitoba
2015 - The Service of Consecrated Women in Manitoba
2014 - Actionmarguerite, Holy Family Home and St. Joseph's Residence
2013 - The memory of Blessed Nykyta Budka and more than 100 years of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Manitoba
2012 - The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions
2011 - St. Amant
2010 - Most Reverend V. James Weisgerber, Ph.L., S.T.L., D.D.
2009 - L'Arche Winnipeg
2008 - The Sisters of the Good Shepherd and Marymount

2007 - The Catholic Schools of Manitoba
2006 - The Knights of Columbus of Manitoba
2005 - Jaroslaw Barwinsky, M.D., F.R.C.S.C., F.A.C.S, F.A.C.C, F.A.C.C.P.
2004 - The Congregation of The Missionary Oblate Sisters of St. Boniface
2003 - Most Reverend Peter Sutton, O.M.I., D.D. and Most Reverend Reynald Rouleau, O.M.I., D.D.
2002 - The Community of Rossbrook House
2001 - Leo Mol, O.C., O.M., L.L.D., R.C.A.
2000 - Missionaries of Charity Sisters of Winnipeg
1999 - The Misericordia Sisters
1998 - His Grace Archbishop Leonard J. Wall, S.T.D., D.D.
1997 - Pauline Dyrkacz, Céline Houde, Patricia Soenen, Madeline Spence, Elizabeth Willcock, C.M.
1996 - Son Excellence Monseigneur Antoine Hacault, D.D.
1995 - Joseph C. Stangl, K.S.G., C.M.
1994 - Sisters of St. Benedict
1993 - The Society of Mary (the Marianists)
1992 - Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate (Ukrainian Order)
1991 - The Catholic Women's League of Canada, Manitoba Provincial Council, La Ligue féminine catholique du Manitoba, The Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada, Winnipeg Archeparchy
1990 - Roland Couture, C.M., Arthur V. Mauro O.C., John J. Nowosad
1989 - The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
1988 - The Manitoba Clergy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, The Redemptorist Fathers, The Order of St. Basil the Great, The Secular Priests
1987 - The Society of Jesus
1986 - The Oblates of Mary Immaculate
1985 - The Grey Nuns of Manitoba
1984 - Honourable F.L. (Bud) Jobin, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba
1983 - His Eminence George B. Cardinal Flahiff, C.S.B., C.C., D.D.
1982 - His Grace Archbishop Maxim Hermaniuk, C.Ss.R.
1981 - Edwin G. Cass, Joseph Donovan, William English
1980 - Son Excellence Monseigneur Maurice Baudoux, D.D.
1979 - His Grace Archbishop Philip F. Pocock, D.D.

Service Award Recipients

2022 - Sharon Blady
2021 - Karin Gordon & Tom Denton
2019 - Carol Peloquin, snjm & Bo Gajda
2018 - André Blondeau

Charity of Choice

2023 - Artbeat Studio
2021 - Hospitality House Refugee Ministry
2019 - Future Hope Home
2018 - Holy Names House of Peace

<https://www.catholicfoundation.mb.ca/about-the-caritas-award>

Transgenderism: How Did We Get Here?



Three storms have merged to form our recent history of sexual confusion and transgenderism.

TIM STAPLES • 3/31/2023

When I was in the seminary, my spiritual director, Fr. Patrick Brannan, S.J., told me the story of the dean of men dressing down a young Jesuit scholastic for acting in an “overtly effeminate” manner. Fr. Brannan just happened to be walking by the dean’s office when he overheard these words:

“Act like a man. Men don’t act like that!”

That was 1950. That was when our culture had the collective common sense to know the biological fact expressed in Genesis 1:27: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

When it comes to the new trend of “transgenderism,” I don’t think I’m alone in wondering, “How in the world did we get here?” In our modern age, which is supposedly rationalistic and scientific, we have come to a place where sober human beings—scientifically and verifiably “male” or “female,” mind you—are “identifying” as the opposite sex.

When Harry decides he is going to become Sally, anyone daring to attempt to bring Harry to his senses and to accept his God-given gift of maleness is not heralded as being a messenger of truth and mercy; he is demonized. And when you consider the rapidity with which this phenomenon has swept our culture and the readiness of so many people to simply accept something that even on the surface seems patently absurd,

the questions arise of “How?” and “Why?”

I suppose the answer on the most basic level is as old as original sin, but to be more specific, I am going to argue that we are living in a tempest caused by the joining of multiple large storms into a superstorm of heretofore unthinkable proportions.

1. Rejection of God.

Psalms 53:1 (and 14:1) declares in no uncertain terms: “The fool says in his heart there is no God.” As a culture, we in the Western world have largely become fools. We have either rejected God altogether or we have reduced him to a force “out there somewhere” who, if he exists, really doesn’t give two hoots about what we do down here on this tiny blue dot. If he does exist, we live as if he doesn’t, which is essentially a distinction with little, if any, difference.

St. Paul tells us plainly what happens when individuals, peoples, or nations reject God:

For although they knew God they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking and their senseless minds were darkened. . . . Therefore, God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves. . . . Their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural, and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in their own persons the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a base mind and to improper conduct (Rom. 1:21-28).

In his *Confessions*, St. Augustine famously wrote, “Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.” The human intellect is ordered toward knowing the ultimate truth, which is God. Our wills are ordered toward choosing the ultimate good, which is God. If we do not choose to worship God, we will worship someone or something. It may be money, sex, power, prestige, or a hundred other things. But, ultimately, whatever we worship that is not God becomes a sacramental sign of the fact that we have been reduced to tomfoolery.

And so we have . . .

2. The reduction of fully human beings to something less.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines pornography:

Pornography consists in removing real or simulated sexual acts from the intimacy of the partners in order to display them deliberately to third parties. It offends against chastity because it perverts the conjugal act, the intimate giving of spouses to each other. It does grave injury to the dignity of its participants (actors, vendors, the public), since each one becomes an object of base pleasure and illicit profit for others. It immerses all who are involved in the illusion of a fantasy world. It is a grave offense (2354).

The Church declares here that in pornography we have a radical reduction of human beings to the level of sexual objects, and this is mostly women being reduced to objects to be used and abused by men—though today there is an alarming increase of a similar reduction of men as well. But the truth is, once one reduces another human being to an object, there is no end to the evils that will follow.

This reducing of human beings leads to all manner of evil—contraception, abortion, euthanasia, physician-assisted suicide, the “use” of preborn babies for experimentation, and more. The common denominator here is each of these sins reduces human beings to something less than who they are: male and female created in the image and likeness of God with an immeasurable dignity.

You may ask, how does this lead to these other evils? It’s easy to see with pornography. But let’s consider contraception. The purpose of the conjugal act is both unitive and procreative. That is, it aids in bringing about

(Continued on page 15)

the intimate union and mutual perfection of the spouses in marriage as well as the propagation of the species. If either of these ends is purposely thwarted, the act becomes gravely disordered.

Pope St. Paul VI gives us insight into the nature of the “disorder” that arises in contraception in his encyclical letter *Humanae Vitae*. He describes one aspect of the evil of contraception as essentially reducing women to the level of sexual object even in the context of marriage. It does not respect the woman as an integral whole. It reduces her to something less than what she is—“reduce[d] . . . to being a mere instrument for [the husband’s] own desires” (17).

And worse, this reductionism leads to what Pope St. John Paul II called the “culture of death.” This mentality holds that we can eliminate anything—or anyone—that stands in the way of our being able to fulfill our own desires for pleasure without respect for God’s will, God’s plan, or the dignity of the other person or persons involved. So what happens when a baby “accidentally” comes along? Get rid of it!

This mentality leads to all sorts of inane justifications. “I am only thinking of the baby. I am not ready to raise a child!” Isn’t it amazing how people can kill an innocent human being and then say, “It was for his own good. Really, it was!”?

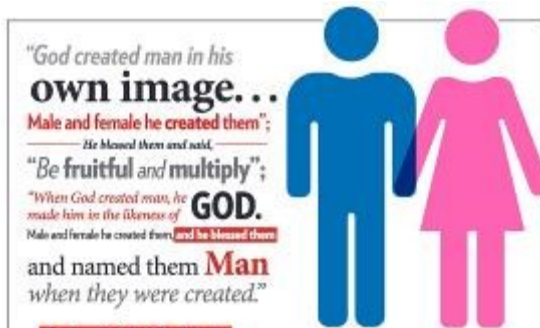
More commonly, the person considering abortion disassociates what is commonly referred to as “the product of conception” from a baby. The baby is radically objectified to the point of considering him to be just so much “biological matter” in the womb. The truth is, millions of babies have been and are being slaughtered for the simple reason that they are an inconvenience.

This reductionist mentality has not only led to the murder of well more than 60 million babies in the U.S. alone since 1973; it has led to all manner of immorality: euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, human cloning, physician-assisted suicide, infanticide, et cetera. All of these sins have at their foundation a reduction of human beings to the level of objects in order to justify all manner of immorality and outright barbarism.

With God out of the picture and man reduced to a mere object, mankind had little protection against a third storm that combines the energy of the first two with its own, to produce a force that has proven devastating to our world in ways that would have been unthinkable just a decade or two ago.

3. Reduced to an inclination

In our modern times, this reductionism has morphed into a particularly odd and dangerous storm. Our culture has reduced human beings not just to the level of an object, but even more, to the level of an inclination. And why not? Once a human being is reduced to something less than what he is, there is no end to the absurdities—and tragedies—that will follow.



The root of this rather odd phenomenon can be traced back before the mania for porn to the creation of the notion of “heterosexual” in the mid-nineteenth century. In fact, I would make the argument that its roots may well have contributed to all of the moral evils mentioned above.

In an article in the magazine *First Things* in 2014, Michael Hannon recounts how, having jettisoned natural-law arguments as too archaic—and, well, Christian—psychologists had to come up with language to communicate the defective nature of homosexual acts. Enter the term *heterosexual*, which was created in the 1860s and first written in the English language, as far as we know, in 1892. *Heterosexual* referred to the “normal” inclination that men are “supposed” to have toward women and vice versa. *Homosexual* was then identified as its immoral opposite.

The problem was, there was no longer a coherent “why” to undergird the condemnation. There is no God, of course, in the post-Christian mindset. The sexual faculty no longer has a God-ordained purpose the thwarting of which is without exception immoral.

Thus, psychologists (it appears unwittingly) introduced to our culture the notion of reducing human beings to the level of an inclination. And there would be no end to the immorality that would follow. Even today, there is no end in sight. After all, a “heterosexual” inclination is just as much an inclination as is a “homosexual” inclination, it would be argued. I mean, you like peas, I like carrots, right?

Inclinations—virtually any inclinations beyond

perhaps those offending the day’s protected class—would not only be deemed morally equivalent, but this odd approach to morality has led to human beings becoming identified with whatever their inclination may be. As a result, it has become common parlance to say that if you have a preponderance of heterosexual tendencies, you are heterosexual, and if you have a preponderance of homosexual tendencies, you are homosexual. And then there’s bisexuality: this person has inclinations in both directions. The list of inclinations and identifications seems to grow daily.

But is your identity determined by inclinations? Can anyone calculate how many inclinations he has had or will have in a lifetime? It is no wonder this notion has led us not just to an “LGBT” movement, but to somewhere in the vicinity of sixteen letters added to the acronym? LGBTIQCAPGNFNB and climbing! (Forgive me if I left one or two out.)

I’ve got an idea, and it’s simple. Will you join with me and refuse to either be identified or to identify any human being as an inclination? And be bold about it! Let us together determine that we will no longer identify ourselves or any human person to be a “heterosexual.” No human being *is* a “homosexual.”

Indeed, let’s join together and proclaim the truth that no human being can be reduced to any one or more of these sixteen letters, or whatever the number of letters ends up being—that represent inclinations or impulses. Each human person who has ever or will ever exist is created, as Genesis 1:27 says, “in his [God’s] own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

Our inclinations and impulses will come and go. I know that if I acted on every impulse I’ve felt in my life, I would be in prison or worse today! A male must act like a male not because he feels like it, but rather because that is who he is. A female must act like a female because that is who she is. To reduce a human being to the level of whatever inclination he or she may be feeling this week, month, or year is nothing less than an outrage. A man is immeasurably more than his inclinations.

So what do we do when we have impulses or inclinations that are contrary to our created nature—as they inevitably will, given our fallen state? If one is a woman? Act like a woman. If one is a man? In the words of that God-blessed Jesuit dean of men: “Act like a man!”

<https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/transgenderism-how-did-we-get-here>

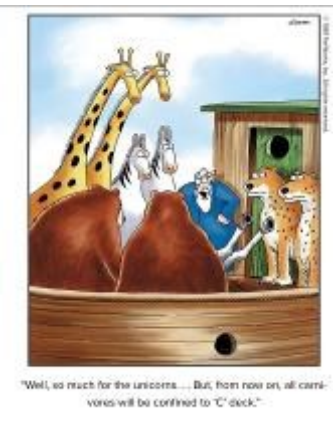


1. Who is revered as the first Pope?
 - a. St. Paul
 - b. St. Peter
 - c. St. Linus
 - d. St. Ignatius of Antioch
2. What is the term for the change of bread and wine into the Body and Blood Christ during the Holy Mass?
 - a. Transubstantiation
 - b. Consubstantiation
 - c. Transformation
 - d. Sacramentalization
3. Who was 'immaculately conceived'?
 - a. The Angels
 - b. Jesus
 - c. The Virgin Mary
 - d. Eve
4. According to the Catholic Church, where do souls who are still in need of purification from minor sins go after death?
 - a. Phoenix in July
 - b. Heaven
 - c. Purgatory
 - d. Hell
5. Which of these heresies maintained that Christ was not truly God?
 - a. Arianism
 - b. Protestantism
 - c. Floroskyism
 - d. Sabellianism
6. What Catholic religious order did Martin Luther belong to before he broke from the church?
 - a. Franciscan
 - b. Dominican
 - c. Jesuit
 - d. Augustinian
7. What does 'catholic' mean?
 - a. Revealed
 - b. Universal
 - c. Ancient
 - d. Apostolic
8. According to Pope Pius XI, and many Catholic scholars before him, is physical or chemical contraception allowed in a marriage?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
9. What is the name of the state of perfect natural happiness that some believe is where the souls of the righteous non-Christians and unbaptized babies go at death? Note: this is an unofficial doctrine of the Church.
 - a. Heaven
 - b. Limbo
 - c. The Elysian Fields
 - d. Hawaii
10. Ordained priests are forbidden to marry on the Roman Catholic Church. Can you ever have a Roman Catholic priest who has been married?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
11. What is the term in the belief that God created the universe from nothing?
 - a. Ex nihilo
 - b. Sola fidea
 - c. Sola scriptura
 - d. Nihil obstat
12. When the children of the Vision of Fatima were beatified by Saint Pope John Paul II, they became the youngest to receive that accolade. Prior to them, who was the youngest Catholic to be beatified?
 - a. St. Therese of Lisieux
 - b. St. Joan of Arc
 - c. St. Margaret
 - d. St. Maria Goretti
13. According to Catholic teaching, does the gift of infallibility prevent the Pope from committing sin?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
14. According to the Roman Catholic Church, which of these is a venial sin?
 - a. Adultery
 - b. Murder
 - c. Cheating on a test
 - d. Performing or procuring an abortion
15. According to Catholic teaching, which of the following is not God?
 - a. The Father
 - b. The Holy Spirit
 - c. The Son
 - d. Mary



I accidentally used my mom's fabric scissors to cut wrapping paper and now the cops are here

And I thought the self checkout at walmart was bad...



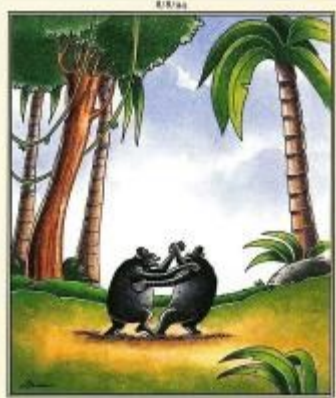
I'm always surprised when heavily tattooed couples have a baby and it comes out blank.



Michelangelo was only 24 years old when he completed the Pietà sculpture



One day you're young the next you're sitting at the edge of your bed like this....



"I'm afraid you misunderstood. ... I said I'd like a mango."

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A GARDENER IF:

- 1 You consider well aged feces a thoughtful gift.
- 2 When you see someone trimming trees, you wonder if you could use a cutting of that.
- 3 You have taken bags of leaves (i.e., other people's trash) off the street to use as mulch.
- 4 You have saved pits or seeds from fruit you liked, in your purse or pocket, to sprout at home. If they sprouted, you were momentarily intoxicated with your godlike ability to create life.
- 5 You hoard yogurt containers, plastic bottles and egg cartons. What? They're useful in the garden!
- 6 You sometimes forget your to-do list because the plants need staring at.
- 7 You think store bought tomatoes are disgusting.
- 8 A sale at the nursery is more exciting than a sale at the department store.
- 9 When you meet someone who likes to garden, you feel an immediate and unbreakable bond with them. You also wonder whether their harvests are better than yours.
- 10 You would not be reading this if it were not about GARDENING!

Laras_Garden_

My friend's dogs think they are going to the vet when in reality they are headed to the park.



EVERY FAMILY HAS THAT ONE KID

when I leave a bag of potatoes in a cupboard for a month:



THEY MUST be Worker Bees



Footloose. Pet goose. Picked a fight with a moose. Cheese. Stiff breeze. Look out there are ten bees!

Just try to look at your shoes the same way again..... You're welcome.



IN CANADA

WE RECYCLE OUR BROKEN HOCKEY STICKS

New research suggests drinking coffee in the morning helps others live longer.



I think we have a pretty good chance this season.

The average hunter is getting older and millennials / Think meat come from stores