

Ad Veritatem

Volume 8 Issue 7

St. Thomas More Society of Orange County

JULY 2003

*More understood
clearly that all human
beings are created to
contemplate God.*

Thomas More:
Portrait of Courage
By Gerard Wegemer

JULY MEETING:

WEDNESDAY JULY 16, 2003 NOON

HON. FRANK FIRMAT & A PANEL OF JUDGES & LAWYERS

"THE IGNATIAN EXERCISES"

DETAILS ON PAGE 3

"Ad Veritatem" is Latin for "Toward the truth."



WHO WE ARE

In 1966, the movie *A Man For All Seasons* inspired the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to recognize this film as the Picture of the Year. This was one of the few occasions in the history of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences where the life of a religious figure won the hearts of the motion picture industry's elite. The central figure portrayed in *Man For All Seasons* was, of course, St. Thomas More, the great lawyer, statesman, apologist, husband, father and faithful Catholic. In 2000, St. Thomas was honored as the Lawyer of the Millennium by a secular panel of historians for the British Commonwealth. Shortly thereafter, John Paul II declared St. Thomas as the Patron Saint of Statesmen.

Inspired by a homily given by Bishop Norman McFarland at the 1995 Red Mass of Orange County, 5 "fearless" members of the Orange County bar met shortly thereafter at the law offices of Rutan and Tucker in Costa Mesa. These lawyers all shared the realization that the legal practice takes a severe toll on the personal and spiritual lives of those involved in it and that many in the legal profession had become too focused on the material life with the natural consequence being the de-emphasis on their spiritual life. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the formation of a new organization for lawyers and judges in the County of Orange with its mission being to publicly support and encourage the spiritual development of its members in their Catholic faith. The group chose as its patron St. Thomas More, the greatest lawyer of his time, who was a dedicated husband and father with a deep and profound commitment to his Catholic faith, his profession and his fellow man. Thus the St. Thomas More Society of Orange County was born.

Attendance at the monthly meetings in the early years was sporadic. Our spiritual director, Fr Hugh Barbour, wisely advised us not to worry about numbers because it was more important "to be than to do or say." He encouraged the virtues of patience and perseverance. His sage advice, together with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and St. Thomas More, has led us to our current level of a fourteen member Board of Directors of lawyers and judges and a mailing list for the monthly newsletter of over 970.

The goal of the Society is to inspire and lift up the minds and hearts of the legal community of Orange County to follow the example of St. Thomas More by integrating God in every aspect of their professional and personal lives. The Society seeks to accomplish this goal through inspirational speakers at monthly meetings, this newsletter, the Red Mass, a website, an annual spiritual retreat and other events. The St. Thomas More Society also seeks to provide a haven where those who are committed to their Catholic faith as well as those who are seeking to learn more about the Church, can find fellowship and encouragement in the face of overwhelming media and cultural forces working against that pursuit.

St. Thomas More, please pray for us. ✚

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

David Belz at (949) 347-0447 or email to dbelz@kuhnbelz.com, or
Anne Lanphar at (714) 800-3225 or email to alanphar@firstam.com.
VISIT OUR WEBSITE at www.stthomasmore.net

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AD VERITATEM
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JULY **MEETING**

HON. FRANK FIRMAT & A PANEL OF JUDGES AND LAWYERS

“THE IGNATIAN SPIRITUAL EXERCISES”

WHEN:

NOON

Wed. July 16th

WHERE:

**First American
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2 First American
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FOR DIRECTIONS

CALL (714) 800-3000

COST:

\$10 for lunch

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola is a spiritual heritage offering seekers new ways to rekindle their spiritual selves and their relationship with God. During the last several years, a number of lawyers and judges in Orange County have undertaken this 9 month prayer pilgrimage. At this month's meeting, Hon. Frank Firmat will lead a panel discussion on prayer and contemplation and the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises. The panel members will include Honorable Judge Thierry Colaw, Honorable Robert Gallivan, Laura Knox, Esq., and Michael Pursell, Esq. Please join us for a lively discussion of prayer and spiritual exercises.

For more information, please contact either David Belz at (949) 347-0447 or email to dbelz@kuhnbelz.com, or Anne Lanphar at (714) 800-3225 or alanphar@firstam.com. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!** †

RED MASS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2003

HOLY FAMILY CATHEDRAL

6:30 PM MASS

RECEPTION FOLLOWING

FOR DETAILS, SEE PAGE 17

FIRST THURSDAY MASS

BUSCH LAW PRIVATE CHAPEL

FATHER JOHN HILTZ

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TIME: NOON

RSVP NOT REQUIRED

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! †

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National Catholic Conference

July 12-13 Anaheim



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPLAIN



THE INSTITUTION OF
THE EUCHARIST
Nicolas Poussin
(1640)

PRAYING AT MASS VS OFFERING OF MASS

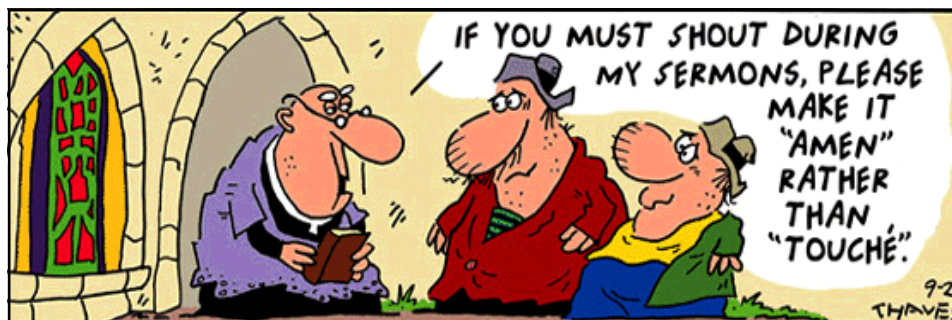
QUESTION: *What's the difference between having the priest pray for you during his Mass, or having him offer Mass for your intentions?*

ANSWER: There is a great difference between these two kinds of prayer on the part of the priest. A remembrance by the priest in prayer at Mass is the equivalent of being remembered in the prayer of the faithful or petitions. This is desirable, since the prayer of the Church is very efficacious or powerful. There are many places in the Mass where the celebrant remembers all the living and the dead, and offers up prayers for specific individuals he wants to remember. The First Eucharistic Prayer or "Roman Canon" even has two places where the priest must pause and silently remember the living and the dead. This is called the memento of the living and of the dead; it's from this practice that the English word "memento" came to mean "a small gift."

When the priest offers or "applies" his Mass for your intentions, this is something different. It means that the Sacrifice itself is being offered by the priest for that specific intention, and you receive the spiritual fruit gained by his offering of the Mass.

The Mass is not "another" sacrifice, for there is only one Sacrifice capable of taking away sin: the once for all sacrifice of Christ on the Cross (Heb. 10:10-15). It is the sacramental re-presentation in time and space, offered by the priest officiating at the altar, of the "once-for-all" sacrifice offered by Christ the High Priest on Calvary (Heb. 7:22-28; 9:11-14).

The priest can choose to offer the Sacrifice of the Mass for a particular intention or several. At Mass, the priest offers to the Father "supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings" through Christ, the One Mediator (1 Tim. 2:1). Like all prayer, this is "good and pleasing to God our Savior" (1 Tim. 2:3). Offering these supplications and petitions at Mass is a much loftier and more efficacious action than simply remembering someone's intentions in prayer. This is why the Church encourages the faithful to have Masses offered for the living and the dead, and priests are called to take this sacramental power seriously, fulfilling their duty with faith-filled love and awe. ✚



CURSILLO: FOUR WITNESSES

ONE DEFINING MOMENT

BY MARIA SCHINDERLE, ESQ.
Director of Human Resource, Diocese of Orange



It was the rocking 1980's, big hair, big clothes with big shoulder pads, big parties and the return to big cars. I had a big job with good law firm, a big house, a great husband and two wonderful little toddlers, a girl and boy. My husband and I thought we were devout Catholics, volunteering big time to our parish and parish school. In 1987, we were invited to attend a Cursillo and I must admit, we knew nothing about what we thought was some secret society with a secret language all its own, including words like "ultreya," "De Colores," "palanca"....

The weekend was a wonderful experience. I did have some close moments and some of the messages of the rollos ("small talks") hit home. It wasn't until Sunday evening, when I heard the words, "Christ is counting on you!" that I began to understand why I had been called. It took about four months for me to "get it," but with the grace of God I did, and I have never looked back. I found that my "big time religion" was missing the main ingredient, a truly personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I am thankful to Cursillo for that gift.

It's amazing when you look back on the last 15 or 20 years and see what God has done to form you for what may be one defining moment of service to Him in a way you never expected. The last several years (especially the last two) have been extraordinary years for me working for the Diocese of Orange and representing Christ's Church in historic moments. I always thought of myself (and still do) as an ordinary gal. With the commitment to the Cursillo method of make a friend, be a friend and bring your friend to Christ, my Cursillo friendship and environmental groups, Cursillo School of Leaders and three very special Cursillo soul mates (and they know who they are), I was given the support, guidance, motivation and humility to be God's instrument in these trying times of scandal, and hopefully forgiveness and an emergence of a holier, humbler Church.

The times I have succeeded it was because of the unceasing love and palanca of the Cursillo community. The times I have failed, I tried to remember that not only is Christ counting on me, but I am also counting on Him.

Well, it's the new millennium and hair is not so big, but the cars are still large. We are still in the same big house, and the kids have grown up, that's for sure. My relationship with Jesus, my best friend, grows deeper each day. With and because of my Cursillo community, I continue to be just that ordinary gal who, like the Gospel song, daily humbly prays, "If you can use anything, Lord, use me." *De Colores, my friends!* †



**THE CONVERSION
OF ST. PAUL**

Caravaggio
(1600)

Cursillo (Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5) Cursillo

A JOURNEY THAT NEVER ENDS

BY COMMISSIONER THOMAS H. SCHULTE
Orange County Superior Court

Nine years ago I had the opportunity to make a Cursillo. Cursillo consists of three days at Marywood in a retreat-like format. Those three days have had a profound effect on my life and I recommend it to any practicing Catholic who has not yet experienced what to me is truly a gift from God. Cursillo brought to me a deeper, more mature understanding of my faith. From that maturity came prayer and from prayer, a closer relationship with God.

Our spiritual life is a journey that begins with our Baptism but that never ends. If your journey has become stagnate and you would like some direction or a new start, consider Cursillo. If you want to know more about how you can live our faith in your everyday life, consider Cursillo. If you want to be surrounded by a community of Catholic Christians who long for holiness, seek to learn more about their Faith, and who want to share that Faith with others, consider Cursillo. Cursillo did all of those things for me as it has for countless other Catholic men and women around the world. Follow in the footsteps of those countless others, including many of our leaders of St. Thomas More Society, Bishop Todd Brown and even our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, by giving three days of your life to God and allowing God to repay you tenfold for your time. ✠



APOSTLE PAUL
PREACHING ON
THE RUINS

*Giovanni Paolo
Pannini
(1744)*

I DID NOT WANT TO GO!

BY ANNE NELSON LANPHAR, ESQ.
*Vice President/Associate Senior Underwriter
First American Title Insurance Company*

I did NOT want to go to Cursillo!

I had successfully put off our friends who kept asking us to go but I had finally run out of excuses *and* Bob wanted to go.

I finally conceded and agreed to attend.

The men go for the first weekend and the women go the following weekend.

When Bob came home from the Cursillo weekend, he had a very happy look on his face. He was wearing a small piece of circular leather with some pins on it that looked like something from a Cub Scout arts and craft project. He would not answer my questions about the weekend which really ticked me off. I remember trying to get him angry but he refused to react to my goading.

Cursillo (Continued on page 12)

THE ROSARY OF THE VIRGIN MARY*

POPE JOHN PAUL II'S APOSTOLIC LETTER *ROSARIUM VIRGINIS MARIAE* IN CONDENSED FORM

The rosary of the Virgin Mary, which gradually took form in the second millennium under the guidance of the Spirit of God, is a prayer loved by countless saints and encouraged by the Magisterium. Simple yet profound, it still remains, at the dawn of this third millennium, a prayer of great significance, destined to bring forth a harvest of holiness.

It blends easily into the spiritual journey of the Christian life, which, after 2,000 years, has lost none of the freshness of its beginnings. The rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christ-centered prayer. It has all the depth of the gospel message in its entirety. It is an echo of the prayer of Mary, her perennial Magnificat for the work of the redemptive Incarnation which began in her virginal womb.

The rosary is my favorite prayer, marvelous in its simplicity and its depth. It can be said that the rosary is, in some sense, a prayer-commentary on the final chapter of the Vatican II Constitution *Lumen Gentium*, a chapter that discusses the wondrous presence of the Mother of God in the mystery of Christ and the Church.

AN AGE SEEKING PRAYER

The West is now experiencing a renewed demand for meditation, which at times leads to a keen interest in aspects of other religions. Some Christians, limited in their knowledge of the Christian contemplative tradition, are attracted by those forms of prayer.

The rosary is distinguished by its specifically Christian characteristics. This is a methodology, moreover, which corresponds to the inner logic of the Incarnation: In Jesus, God wanted to take on human features. It is through his bodily reality that we are led into contact with the mystery of his divinity. Against the background of the words Hail Mary the principal events of the life of Jesus Christ pass before the eyes of the soul. They take shape in the complete series of the joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries, and they put us in living communion with Jesus through—we might say—the heart of his Mother. At the same time our heart can embrace in the decades of the rosary all the events that make up the lives of individuals, families, nations, the Church, and all mankind; our personal concerns and those of our neighbor, especially those who are closest to us. Thus the simple prayer of the rosary marks the rhythm of human life.

NOT OUTDATED, NOT AGAINST VATICAN II

There are some who think that the centrality of the Liturgy, rightly stressed by the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, necessarily entails giving less importance to the rosary.

Yet, as Pope Paul VI made clear, not only does this prayer not conflict with the liturgy, it sustains it, since it serves as an excellent introduction and a faithful echo of the liturgy, enabling people to participate fully and interiorly in it and to reap its fruits in their daily lives.

If properly revitalized, the rosary is an aid and certainly not a hindrance to ecumenism! But the most important reason for strongly encouraging the practice of the rosary is that it represents a most effective means of fostering among the faithful that



FROM
PETER'S
SUCCESSOR,
POPE
JOHN
PAUL
II



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January 2003

www.americancatholic.org

The Rosary (Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7) **The Rosary**

commitment to the contemplation of the Christian mystery as a genuine “training in holiness.” It is more urgent than ever that our Christian communities should become “genuine schools of prayer.”

Meditation on the mysteries of Christ in the rosary is a method based on repetition. This applies above all to the Hail Mary, repeated 10 times in each mystery. If this repetition is considered superficially, there could be a temptation to see the rosary as a dry and boring exercise.

One thing is clear: Although the repeated Hail Mary is addressed directly to Mary, it is to Jesus that the act of love is ultimately directed, with her and through her. The repetition is nourished by the desire to be conformed ever more completely to Christ, the true program of the Christian life. St. Paul expressed this project with words of fire: “For me to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Phil 1:21). And again: “It is no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me” (Gal 2:20). The rosary helps us to be conformed ever more closely to Christ until we attain true holiness.

THE ROSARY REMEMBERS JESUS

Mary lived with her eyes fixed on Christ, treasuring his every word: “She kept all these things, pondering them in her heart” (Lk 2:19; see 2:51). The memories of Jesus, impressed upon her heart, were always with her, leading her to reflect on the various moments of her life at her son’s side. In a way those memories were to be the “rosary” which she recited uninterruptedly throughout her earthly life.

Even now, Mary constantly sets before the faithful the “mysteries” of her Son, with the desire that the contemplation of those mysteries will release all their saving power. In the recitation of the rosary, the Christian community enters into contact with the memories and the contemplative gaze of Mary. The rosary, precisely because it starts with Mary’s own experience, is an exquisitely contemplative prayer.

Mary’s contemplation is above all a remembering. We need to understand this word in the biblical sense of remembrance (*zakar*) as a making present of the works brought about by God in the history of salvation. The Bible is an account of saving events culminating in Christ himself. These events not only belong to “yesterday”; they are also part of the “today” of salvation. This making present comes about above all in the liturgy: What God accomplished centuries ago did not only affect the direct witnesses of those events; it continues to affect people in every age with its gift of grace.

Christians, while they are called to prayer in common, must also go to their own rooms to pray to their Father in secret (see Mt 6:6); indeed, according to the teaching of the Apostle they must pray without ceasing (1 Thes 5:17). The rosary, in its own particular way, is part of this varied panorama of “ceaseless” prayer. By immersing us in the mysteries of the Redeemer’s life, it ensures that what he has done and what the liturgy makes present are profoundly assimilated and shape our existence.

LEARNING CHRIST FROM MARY

Christ is the supreme Teacher, the revealer and the one revealed. It is not just a question of learning what he taught but of “learning him.” From the divine standpoint, the Spirit is the interior teacher who leads us to the full truth of Christ (see Jn 14:26; 15:26; 16:13).

But among creatures no one knows Christ better than Mary; no one can introduce us to a profound knowledge of his mystery better than his Mother. Contemplating the scenes of the rosary in union with Mary is a means of learning from her to “read” Christ, to discover his secrets and to understand his message.

As we contemplate each mystery of her Son’s life, she invites us to do as she did at

The Rosary (Continued on page 16)



**ASSUMPTION OF THE
VIRGIN MARY**

*Annibale
Carracci
(1600)*

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For more details see next page



DR. SCOTT HAHN, esteemed professor of theology at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, is a popular author, speaker and father of six. His books include the best-selling *Hail, Holy Queen* and *The Lamb's Supper*. Dr. Hahn's impressive body of work also includes over seventy-five Catholic tape series available from St. Joseph Communications.



ALEX C. JONES was a Pentecostal/Evangelical minister for twenty-five years before converting to Catholicism. After much research and reflection, Alex discovered both biblical and historical support for the Catholic Church's claim of originality and apostolicity. He has since led his family and many members of his former congregation to Catholicism. Currently, Alex is the Associate Director for *Sign Me Up!*, an evangelization project for the Archdiocese of Detroit, MI.



FATHER MICHAEL MANNING is a Catholic priest whose unique ministry is television. With degrees in Philosophy and Theology (plus an M.F.A. in play writing), he is presently seen nationally on Cornerstone Television and the Trinity Broadcasting Network. Father has also written many books and booklets, including *Pardon My Lenten Smile!*, and *Proclaimed from the Rooftops*.



TIM STAPLES is a full-time evangelist and Director of Evangelization at the Catholic Resource Center. Tim was raised a Baptist and was an Assembly of God Youth Pastor. Since his conversion he has given hundreds of talks and helped thousands of Catholics find their way back home. Tim can speak extensively on every Catholic issue and is especially effective in apologetics, bible study, Mary, and the Eucharist.

MICHAEL CUMBIE is an evangelical convert to Catholicism. Before entering into the Catholic Church in 2001, he had been ordained to the priesthood in the Charismatic Episcopal Church in 1993. Michael now shares with others his incredible spiritual journey into the fullness of the Faith and teaches about the importance of authentic liturgical worship.



JEFF CAVINS returned to Catholicism after pastoring in Protestant Churches for 12 years. Jeff is an accomplished speaker and travels throughout the country speaking to Catholics of all ages. He is especially gifted at relating to teens, speaking on apologetics, and teaching the Bible timeline and salvation history.



VERY REV. WILLIAM CASEY, C.P.M. is the Superior General of the Fathers of Mercy, a Roman Catholic Congregation of priests headquartered in South Union, Kentucky. Their primary apostolate is to preach parish missions, to give retreats, with a special emphasis on the Eucharist and Confession. As the Superior General, Father oversees the apostolic activities of this rapidly growing religious community.



OTHER SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Kimberly Hahn, Stephen Ray, Ken Hensley, Fr. Shannon Michael Collins, C.P.M., Matthew Arnold, Tom Wilson, Johnny Romero, Barbara McGuigan, Fr. Antoine Thomas, Shevawn Pearson, Ed Visenor, Ruben Quezada, And More!!!



Hotel Information

For your comfort and convenience, we've arranged a great room rate at the Hilton Anaheim, which is directly adjacent to the Anaheim Convention Center. The Hilton Anaheim has much to offer with four restaurants, a full health/fitness center, a heated outdoor pool and four spas, three acres of rooftop gardens, a driving range, shops, and much, much more! All guestrooms offer the ambience of a world class resort and amenities. Also, the Ballrooms and Pavilions of the Hilton will be the locations of the Chapel, Breakout talks 1 & 2, and the Teen talks. Now you can enjoy the convenience of a room here, too! Reservations must be made by June 21, 2003 to guarantee room and rates. There are limited rooms available at this great price, so register today (and be sure to mention the Catholic Family Conference!)

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Register on line: www.CatholicCRC.org email: info@CatholicCRC.org (On-line registration closes July 8, 2003)

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CURSILLO ("kur-SEE-oh") is Spanish, meaning "short course" or "short study." Among other things, Cursillo is an in-depth study or reexamination of the Catholic faith. One's Cursillo may begin with the Three Day Retreat, but it is really lived on in the days thereafter - the days we call "The Forth Day" - or simply, the rest of one's natural life. For the history of Cursillo, visit the website.



National Cursillo Center

The Cursillo® Movement
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Dallas, Texas 75211 (USA)


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NATIONAL ENCOUNTER
Consider attending the National Encounter at Xavier University in Cincinnati on **July 17-19, 2003**. This year's National Encounter will focus on 10 topics that were presented at the 1st Conversations of Cala Figuera in Mallorca. These topics reflect the original focus of the founders' study, which eventually formed the Cursillo Movement. **Register now ... [more](#)**

CURSILLO LITERATURE
If you read all this material, you will have a head start on leaders school. Lost your Cursillo cross? This is the source ... [more](#)

CURSILLO PILGRIMAGE TO SPAIN AND MALLORCA
The Pilgrimage is to Santiago de Compostela, the site of the first pilgrimage of our founders. It also includes Cala Figuera the site of the first ever Cursillo de Cristiandad Weekend (1944), Palma de Mallorca, Madrid and God-willing a luncheon visit with Eduardo Bonnin, the founder of Cursillo. We are planning the pilgrimage during **March 2004** ... [more](#)



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CYBER HEAVEN

www.natl-cursillo.org

(Continued from page 6) Cursillo

He just smiled. It was quite irritating. But I also wondered what had happened. Although I was curious, I still did not really want to go...

The following Thursday evening, with great reluctance, I went up to Marywood with Bob and our sponsors. I was not in a social mood (to say the least)! I was not rude but I was certainly not very sociable. I remember hiding behind reading the diocesan newspaper as a way to avoid talking to people.

I am not sure what I was expecting. I guess that I imagined that Cursillo might be a holy-roller-type event with a lot of emotionalism and holding hands and singing "Kum-Ba-Ya." I was too old for that non-sense. I was an educated lawyer and a well-read Catholic who wanted something more intellectually stimulating.

I had been told that Cursillo was like a retreat but better. I had not been on a retreat for a long-time but I remembered that most retreats required silence, so I hoped that it would not be too bad.

My preconceptions of Cursillo were *so wrong!* It was truly the greatest experience of my life and opened a door I never even imagined was there! It changed my life and I would never go back to the way I lived prior to Cursillo. If I had to summarize the change I experienced from Cursillo, it was this: Before Cursillo I would wonder, "Why does God love me?" and after Cursillo, I merely said with a great smile, "Thank you, God, for loving me!"

That may sound "emotional," but so what? I had come to realize that God gave us both a brain with which to think but also a heart with which to love! We are a combination of both intellect and emotion and they are intertwined and cannot be separated. God made us this way, and therefore, by definition, it is good.

Cursillo is an amazing program which is like a retreat but more. The program is overseen by a spiritual advisor, Fr. Ray, who is one of the most educated and kind priests I have ever met. Cursillists present "rollos" or "small talks" regarding our Faith and our obligations as the laity of Christ. The talks were extremely well done and very substantive – the content was solid and challenging.

I remember one specific rollo entitled "Bloom Where You Are Planted." This talk reminds us that God does not expect us to quit our jobs and start preaching in foreign lands but rather expects us to be a reflection of Him where ever we are – in our jobs, at our parishes, in our Scout troops, at social occasions. I remember thinking, "I wonder if there is an exemption for those of us in law firms?" I thought about asking the question but thought better of it and held my tongue. At that time, I was a partner at Rutan & Tucker. I could not begin to imagine how to "bloom" as a Catholic within the firm.

After the best weekend of my life, I did go back to Rutan and wondered what would happen if I put a crucifix on my office wall. I went out and bought a nice crucifix, not very ostentatious, and hung it on the small wall behind my desk where I could see it when I came into the office.



**THE SEVEN ACTS
OF MERCY**

Caravaggio
(1607)

(Continued from page 12) *Cursillo*

I have no idea why I was afraid to hang the crucifix. What was I afraid of? That the firm would shatter into pieces or that someone would think I was a “holy roller?” Again, the question was: so what? I found out that these fears were in my own head and were total nonsense. Even more important, I realized that if I was a disciple of Christ then I best start acting like it. I watched as both attorneys and staff who came to my office saw the crucifix – I could see their eyes as they noticed it. I found that people were more easy as they talked with me about a lot of different things and staff often came in to ask for my help. It was as if the crucifix told them they could trust me and that I would help them. I was honored to be in such a position.

After I realized that I had to define my life and what I was in relation to Christ and I had to trust Him and the Holy Spirit to guide me. I have never been disappointed! And Rutan did not shatter – it is still there!

Next, I started to say prayers before meals, even in front of clients and other lawyers. I never had anyone ever criticize me for doing so. But even if they did, so what? Am I only willing to proclaim Christ provided it does not cost me anything in this life?

I thank God that I had friends who loved me enough to gently pursue me into attending Cursillo. It was one of the greatest gifts I have ever received. ✚

SPIRITUAL EARTHQUAKE

BY GREG WEILER, ESQ.

Partner, Palmeri, Tyler, Wiener, Wilhelm & Waldron LLP

It was a perfect time in my life for a calm, spiritual retreat. In the last year my mother had died and both of my in-laws had passed away within six weeks of each other. My finances were stretched to the limit while I attempted to corner the market on Texas apartment buildings for sale by the RTC. During my spare time I was training for my once-a -decade 85 mile trans-Sierra hike, ending with a climb of Mt. Whitney. It was sort of your typical type “A” lawyer year. Little did I know what effect a three-day Cursillo retreat in March of 1994 would have on me and my family. Although I am a cradle Catholic, attended twelve years of Catholic school, was married in the Church and was raising my family at the Mission San Juan Capistrano, something was missing.

My faith, as it was, had a minimal impact on my politics, business, recreational activities, language or many of my relationships. Simply put, my life was out of focus and a person could easily tell by where I spent my time, energy and money, that my priorities were not exactly “Christian.”

However, after many years of trying, a few of my friends at the Mission San Juan convinced me to sign up for a Cursillo retreat. I didn’t want to go and really didn’t have the time for three days. My wife was even more adamant about not

Cursillo (Continued on page 20)



**THE INFANT JESUS
DISTRIBUTING
BREAD TO PILGRIMS**

Bartolme Murillo

(1678)

Ad Risum Vertere Veritatem*

*Latin for "To turn truth into laughter"



HEAVEN OR HELL?

Standing at the pearly gates, St. Peter tells the law student who has just arrived that he can spend a day in hell and then spend a day in heaven before deciding where he wants to spend eternity. The law student visits hell for a day. While there, he eats at the finest restaurants hell has to offer. He drinks, plays golf, goes to the theater, drinks some more, gets a guided tour of the museum, attends a ball game in a luxury suite and does not do half the work he's expected to while in hell. As his day in hell ends, he realizes he actually enjoyed it. Having had such a great day in hell, he anxiously awaits his visit to heaven.



He begins his day in heaven by reading some articles and discussing the articles with some angels. For the rest of the day, nothing terribly exciting happens. While it is relatively peaceful in heaven, he is not having nearly as much fun as he did in hell. At the end of his day in heaven, St. Peter appears and asks the law student where he wants to spend eternity. He thinks about it, turns to St. Peter and says, "It was just too much fun in hell. I want to spend eternity there."

When he gets to hell, things have changed dramatically. Instead of golf, drinks, ball games, theater and museums, everybody works 12 to 14 hour days under intense deadlines from the evil taskmaster. The law student runs to Satan and says, "Hey! I was just here yesterday and everyone was partying like rock stars, drinking, golfing and eating. Today everyone is working, under constant stress and making unreasonable demands. Where did all the fun go?"

Satan looks into the law student's eyes and with a smile says, "Oh, you must have been here during the summer associate program." †

SIMPLE TRUTHS



Fulton J. Sheen

"It is interesting to note the difference between missionaries and spoiled modern youths who have had everything. The first have often been through every conceivable kind of trial - poverty, hunger, deprivation, sometimes even prison, torture, and death - and yet they are the happiest persons who ever lived." †

ARTIFICIAL MINDS

MICHAEL SHONAFELT, ESQ.

Today's Tower of Babel is modern technology. With it, we have gone to the Moon, synthesized the human reproductive process, and altered the fundamental genetic structures of life. We have, in short, played God. If we hadn't strayed far enough into realms properly exclusive only to God, we have lately claimed that we can also recreate the human mind and soul.

Some time ago, *Time* magazine featured the head of a woman, beautiful, but droid-like, fixing a knowing gaze on the reader and crowned with a halo of gears. The caption of that week's *Time* was "*Can Machines Think? They already do, say scientists. So what (if anything) is special about the human mind?*"

The question posed by the editors of *Time* prompts more profound inquiries: What is so special about the human mind? Is it a matter of degree or complexity? Is like that of a monkey, only with more neurons? If so, then there is nothing to prevent us from replicating it in the form of a computer motherboard. If so, then we are nothing but machines ourselves.

In describing the reality that machines are getting better than human beings at math, clerical work, and chess, the *Time* article goes on to say "[t]he better these seemingly soulless machines get at doing the things people do, the more plausible it seems that we could be soulless machines too."

The article provides another example of how modern ideologies continue to erode the boundaries between man and machine. The attempt to eliminate these borders has both a moral impetus (we don't want eternal responsibility for our actions) and a philosophical impetus (we are materialists and no longer hold to the existence of an immaterial soul).

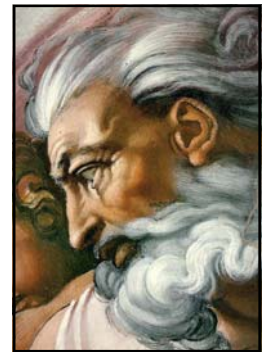
But current philosophies that reduce the human mind to a machine fail to account for what *Time* magazine calls the mind's "mysterious" qualities such as consciousness. And try as they might, the materialists will never be able to explain how the mind moves in immaterial realms and builds complex systems of thought with nothing but abstract ideas that transcend matter.

Is an abstract concept such as "justice" or a mathematical axiom such as the Pythagorean Theorem, reducible to material components? If a materialist says "yes", then he is compelled to explain how ideas can be reduced to atoms. If he says "no", he is compelled to deny their existence. But their existence is beyond the denial of reasonable human beings. We build cities based on our grasp of the universal concepts of geometry -- a system of ideas abstracted by our minds from our perceptions of raw matter. But we can never take these ideas and examine them under a microscope. They have no material component susceptible of quantification. They are "immaterial".

The following "thought experiment" (to use the expression of the popular Catholic philosopher, Peter Kreeft) demonstrates the "immateriality" of human thought.

In your mind, conjure the image of a car. What does your imaginary automobile look like? In your imagination, change its make, color, and model. Note that, while the image changes, something remains constant. That which remains constant is the concept of "the car" which, while quite distinct from the various pictures in your imagination, is nonetheless common to each. Whether your imagination presents a picture of a roadster or a limousine, the universal idea of "the car" transcends all of the particular concrete

TRUTH OR MYTH?



GOD AS CREATOR

Michelangelo
(1510)

(Continued from page 15) Artificial Minds

examples of cars we see either on the road or conjure in our imagination.

This thought experiment demonstrates the universality of our ideas. It shows that ideas are completely distinct from the images in our imagination and that they transcend the material representations or examples of the ideas that we encounter. It also shows that ideas transcend matter. For, if ideas were material, they could not be universal.

This truth is profound. It is the grist for Saint Thomas Aquinas' proof for the immortality of the soul. Aquinas says that, if ideas transcend matter, so does the mind that produces them, since "*action follows being.*" And, if the mind transcends matter, it cannot be reduced to parts, and cannot therefore be destroyed. This ultimately means that the mind (i.e. "soul") persists beyond the destruction of the body at death.

To argue immateriality is to argue immortality and, ultimately, an eternal destiny - and accountability -- for all human beings. The argument is a priceless tool for apologetics. The positive, albeit ironic, outcome of the advancement of technology into the realm of "artificial intelligence" is a renewed debate on the nature of the human mind. Twentieth Century thought has hitherto dismissed the notion of immateriality out of hand as something too chimerical for reasonable discussion. But now the technological gurus and modern philosophers are taking notice of the mystery of the mind. As scientists provide more and more of the technology that has its counterpart in the gray matter of the brain, they will take note that one major ingredient is missing: the soul.

For now, scientists and modern philosophers only skirt about the periphery of the great truth of the mind's immateriality, but the more thoughtful of them have realized that something profound is missing in their calculus. *Time* calls them the "*Mysterians*" and one of them has said that there is something "*over and above the physical*" that separates artificial intelligence from human intelligence.

Though we may take some comfort in the idea that modern thought is finally coming around to questions answered centuries ago with such astounding clarity by Aristotle and Saint Thomas, we could also offer the "*Mysterians*" a helpful bit of advice -- read the Summa and then get down on your knees. †



CREATION OF
ADAM

Michelangelo
(1510)

(Continued from page 8) The Rosary

the Annunciation: to ask humbly the questions which open us to the light, in order to end with the obedience of faith: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38).

Never as in the rosary do the life of Jesus and that of Mary appear so deeply joined. Mary lives only in Christ and for Christ! If Jesus, the one Mediator, is the Way of our prayer, then Mary, his purest and most transparent reflection, shows us the Way.

The rosary is both meditation and supplication. Insistent prayer to the Mother of God is based on confidence that her maternal intercession can obtain all things from the heart of her Son. The rosary is also a path of proclamation and increasing knowledge, in which the mystery of Christ is presented again and again at different levels of the Christian experience.

'Come unto me...'

To pray the rosary is to hand over our burdens to the merciful hearts of Christ and his Mother. It is natural to bring to this encounter with the sacred humanity of the Redeemer all the problems, anxieties, labors and endeavors which go to make up our lives. "Cast your burden on the Lord and he will sustain you" (Ps 55:23).

I look to all of you, brothers and sisters of every state of life, to you, Christian families, to you, the sick and elderly, and to you, young people: Confidently take up the rosary once again. Rediscover the rosary in the light of Scripture, in harmony with the liturgy, and in the context of your daily lives. †

MATTHEW 7: 21-23

²¹Not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you evil doers.'



Comment from the Navarre Bible:*

²¹⁻²³ To be genuine, prayer must be accompanied by a persevering effort to do God's will. Similarly, in order to do his will it is not enough to speak about the things of God: there must be consistency between what one preaches—what one says—and what one does: "The kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power" (1 Cor 4:20); "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (Jas 1:22)

Christians, "holding loyally to the Gospel, enriched by its resources, and joining forces with all who love and practice justice, have shouldered a weighty task on earth and they must render an account of it to him who will judge all men on the last day. Not every one who says 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but those who do the will of the Father, and who manfully put their hands to the work" (Vatican II, Gaudium et Spes, 93).

To enter the Kingdom of heaven, to be holy, it is not enough, then, to speak eloquently about holiness. One has to practice what one preaches, to produce fruit which accords with one's words. Fray Luis de Leon puts it very graphically: "Notice that to be a good Christian it is not enough just to pray and fast and hear Mass; God must find you faithful, like another Job or Abraham, in times of tribulation" (Guide for Sinners, book 1, part 2, chap. 21).

Even if a person exercises an ecclesiastical ministry that does not assure his holiness; he needs to practice the virtues he preaches. Besides, we know from experience that any Christian (clerical, religious or lay) who does not strive to act in accordance with the demands of the faith he professes, begins to weaken in his faith and eventually parts company also with the teaching of the Church. Anyone who does not live in accordance with what he says, ends up saying things which are contrary to faith.

The authority with which Jesus speaks in these verses reveals him as sovereign Judge of the living and the dead. No Old Testament prophet ever spoke with this authority. ✠

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MORE ON THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD

THE WRITINGS OF THOMAS MORE



More's greatest help in running Chelsea was the capable executor of this thirty-four-acre farm, Lady Alice. How much he trusted her judgment and skill in management is well illustrated by an event that occurred near the beginning of September 1529.

The harvest that year was the first good one in quite some time. In fact, such a famine had developed that More had fed one hundred people a day, at his home, during the winter of 1528. Food had become so scarce and, therefore, theft so prevalent that the government had resorted to punishment by hanging.

Just as this most welcome harvest was completed and all of More's barns were full, a fire broke out, caused "*by the negligence of one of his neighbors' carts.*" The result was the destruction of all of More's barns, part of his house, and several of the neighbors' barns as well.

Lady Alice immediately sent son-in-law Giles Heron to inform her husband. Sir Thomas was at court, attending the King. While Giles stood by, More wrote a quick response. Given the spontaneous, unpremeditated character of its composition, this letter is of special value. Written just seven weeks before he would become Lord Chancellor of England, it reveals More's true mind and character. Few could have written such a letter, having just suffered such crippling losses.

More begins the letter by sympathizing with Alice. But then he points out that, God having allowed this to happen, "*we must and are bound not only to be content but also to be glad [of His will].*" After all, it was God who "*sent us all that we have lost and since He has by such a chance taken it away again, His pleasure be fulfilled.*"

What comes next in the letter must have been quite difficult for the practical-minded Alice to accept. "*Let us,*" he says, "*heartily thank [God] as well for adversity as for prosperity, and perhaps we have more cause to thank Him for our loss than for our gain, for His wisdom sees better what is good for us than we do ourselves.*"

Proceeding along this line of reasoning, he then makes a request: "*Therefore I pray you be of good cheer and take all the household with you to church and there thank God both for what He has given us and for what He has taken from us and for what He has left us which, if it pleases Him, He can increase when He will; and if it pleases Him to leave us yet less, so let it be at His pleasure.*"

More next asks that Alice find out what their neighbors lost and assure them that he will compensate them for it. If it meant that any "*poor neighbor of mine*" would bear a loss because of something that "*happened in my house,*" he writes, "*I would not leave myself a spoon.*"

As for the many practical details following upon this loss, More leaves those to his capable and trusted wife. He asks that she work out, for example, the best course of action to get the corn they will need for consumption in the winter and for seeding in the spring. Since the loss is so great, he realizes, they may not be able to keep the land at all. He asks Alice, in the event that they have to sell it, not to discharge any of their workers without giving them proper provisions or without finding another place for them to go.

Assuring Alice that he will come home as soon as he can, Sir Thomas finishes his letter by sending his good wishes to the children and signing off, "*Your loving husband.*"

BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED

One day, when I was a freshman in high school, I saw a kid from my class was walking home from school. His name was Kyle. It looked like he was carrying all of his books. I thought to myself, "Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He must really be a nerd."

I had quite a weekend planned (parties and a football game with my friends tomorrow afternoon), so I shrugged my shoulders and went on.

As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running toward him. They ran at him, knocking all his books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him. He looked up and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes.

My heart went out to him. So, I jogged over to him and as he crawled around looking for his glasses, and I saw a tear in his eye. As I handed him his glasses, I said, "Those guys are jerks. They really should get lives." He looked at me and said, "Hey, thanks!" There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude.

I helped him pick up his books, and asked him where he lived. As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before. He said he had gone to private school before now.

I would have never hung out with a private school kid before. We talked all the way home, and I carried some of his books. He turned out to be a pretty cool kid. I asked him if he wanted to play a little football with my friends. He said yes. We hung out all weekend and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him, and my friends thought the same of him.

Monday morning came, and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said, "Boy, you are gonna really build some serious muscles with this pile of books everyday!" He just laughed and handed me half the books.

Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends. When we were seniors, we began to think about college. Kyle decided on Georgetown, and I was going to Duke. I knew that we would always be friends, that the miles would never be a problem. He was going to be a doctor, and I was going for business on a football scholarship.

Kyle was valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a nerd. He had to prepare a speech for graduation.

I was so glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak. Graduation day, I saw Kyle. He looked great. He was one of those guys that really found himself during high school. He filled out and actually looked good in glasses. He had more dates than I had and all the girls loved him.

Boy, sometimes I was jealous.

Today was one of those days. I could see that he was nervous about his speech. So, I smacked him on the back and said, "Hey, big guy, you'll be great!" He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled. "Thanks," he said.

As he started his speech, he cleared his throat, and began. "Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough years. Your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach...but mostly your friends. I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. I am going to tell you a story."

I just looked at my friend with disbelief as he told the story of the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his Mom wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying his stuff home. He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile.

"Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable."

I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. I saw his Mom and Dad looking at me and smiling that same grateful smile. Not until that moment did I realize it's depth.

Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture you can change a person's life. For better or for worse. God puts us all in each other's lives to impact one another in some way. Look for God in others and bloom where you are planted. ✚



**THOUGHT
FOR
THE
DAY**





ST. CECILY'S
CHARITY

Lorenzo Costa Coello
(1505)

(Continued from page 13) Cursillo

attending, but my friends' persistence paid off and the weekend kind of snuck up on me before I could cancel. So on that fateful Thursday night, rolling my eyes and holding my nose, I was driven up to Marywood. But like any good type "A" lawyer, I figured that as long as I was there I should "get the most out of it."

At the risk of understatement, my Cursillo weekend was like a spiritual earthquake and turned out to be the greatest weekend of my life. That statement is coming from a guy whose had a lot of great weekends. It is the combination of loving people, incredible talks, music, sacraments, and spiritual gifts, combined to result in what is typically a profound impact on most people. Why do Cursillo retreats typically have such a profound impact? I guess it sounds trite to say "the Holy Spirit," but I can only say that from that very first talk on Friday morning on the Christian "ideal," I was never the same. A Cursillo weekend, a short course in Christianity, put my life in focus and left me with a burning desire to "be" Christian, to "know" Christ, and inspired me with an incredible desire to share the good news with others.

When it comes to Cursillo, my advice is "Just do it!" ✚

PRAYER PETITIONS



*Heavenly Father,
I offer you this day
all that I shall think
or do or say,
uniting it with
what was done
by Jesus Christ,
your only Son.
Amen*

*We all need prayers—at some times
more than others. If you have a
special need for prayer, please let us
know so we can join in prayer for
each other. Leave a message on Anne
Lanphar's voicemail (714) 800-3225,
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PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- ✚ Lieutenant Seth Wolcott & his family.
- ✚ US Air Force Pilot John Flynn
(son of Carol Flynn).
- ✚ All members of the US Armed Forces
and their families.
- ✚ Baby Thomas Peter Council (serious illness).
- ✚ Kristin Burkett (serious illness),
- ✚ Ronald Moore (pass the bar exam).
- ✚ Diana Todora (pass the bar exam).
- ✚ Robyn Belz (serious illness).
- ✚ Fr Hugh Barbour's Father (serious illness).
- ✚ Myron Cohen (serious illness).
- ✚ Terry & Julie N (special intention).
- ✚ Darren M (questioning the Faith).
- ✚ Fr. Matt Munoz (special intention).
- ✚ Ryan McEachon (special intention).
- ✚ John Thompson (employment).
- ✚ Selma Mann's family (2 medical conditions).
- ✚ Cindie Burnes, a young mother
recovering from chemotherapy.
- ✚ Michael Shonafelt (special intention).
- ✚ John Flynn & his wife (serious illness).
- ✚ Ron Gable (special intention). ✚

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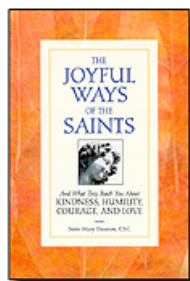
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Sister Mary Eleanore, C.S.C (1890-1940), a relative of Betsy Ross and Mark Twain, was dean of English at St. Mary's College in Indiana. She published books in history, theology, and poetry. Her special friendship with the saints gives these pages a resplendent spiritual glow.

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