

# Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke

International Director of the Marian Catechist Apostolate

## **Praised be Jesus Christ!**

Dear Members of the Marian Catechist Apostolate and Friends,

In response to many inquiries regarding the completion of the revision of *The Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Basic Catholic Catechism Course, I*, with great joy, announce that the revised text of the Course has gone to the printer and should be available for use in March of 2012. I encourage you to use the revised Course in your ongoing study of the Catholic Faith. Those who have studied the original Course may wish to take it again, as the revision contains many new and helpful references, especially to the Magisterium, to assist us in deepening our knowledge of the Catholic Faith. Having discussed with the Servant of God Father John A. Hardon, S.J., the revision of the Course, which he desired to undertake, I am confident that the revised text is in complete keeping with his intent and desires. I believe that the Servant of God is most pleased with the new edition of the Basic Course.

On the next page of this newsletter you will find the transcript of my brief reflection, given on December 12, 2011, on the occasion of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the offices of the Marian Catechist Apostolate, which recently moved to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The Enthronement reminds us to place our hearts completely into the Heart of Jesus and to

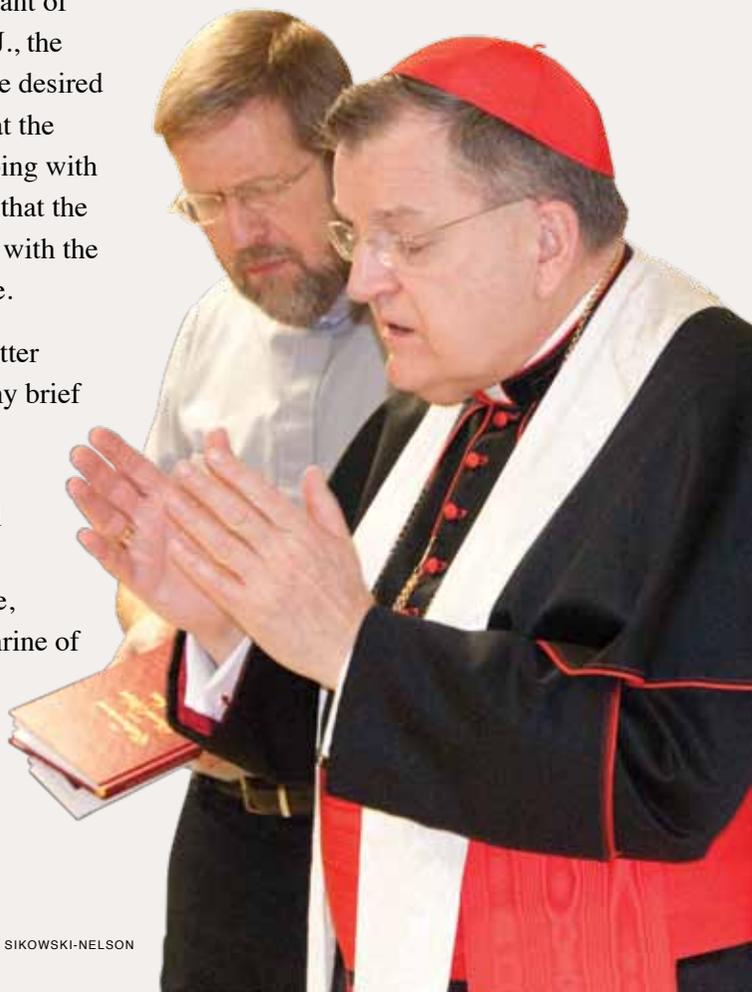
place the entirety of our lives under His Divine Kingship, in order that we may communicate Him and His love to our brothers and sisters.

Invoking God's blessing upon you and your family, while confiding your intentions to the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Servant of God Father John A. Hardon, S.J., and counting on your prayers for me, I remain

Yours devotedly in the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

*Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke*

Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke  
Prefect, Supreme Tribunal of  
the Apostolic Signatura



DES SIKOWSKI-NELSON



# THE MARIAN

A Publication  
of the  
Marian Catechist  
Apostolate

WINTER 2012

# That Christ May Act More Fully in Us

Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke, D.D., J.C.D.

The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in our homes and in the places of the Apostolate is a symbol of the truth that our hearts belong completely to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. One with the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we have placed our hearts completely into the Heart of Jesus, even as Saint John expresses in such a beautiful way in his First Letter (cf. *1 John* 4:7-12). Indeed we abide in God because our hearts, resting in the Sacred Heart of Jesus are, in fact, purified by the gift of His love and, at the same time, strengthened to bring that divine love to others.

The Enthronement, therefore, is not simply, a pious act. It is certainly an act of great piety, of love of God. But its meaning is one that extends into every moment of our lives, to the entirety of our lives. Today, we enthrone the Sacred Heart in this center of the Marian Catechist Apostolate founded by the Servant of God Father John Anthony Hardon of the Society of Jesus. The Enthronement is, of course, harmonious with the whole Apostolate, which is an Apostolate of catechists consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as Father Hardon, the Servant of God, intended from the beginning.

But what it means for us is that both the service which is provided from these offices and then the service of each of us announcing the truth of the Faith with love to brothers and sisters in the various ways in which we do as Marian Catechists are under the Kingship of the Heart of Jesus. It is all done in the Heart of Jesus, and with one only desire, and that is to communicate Him and His love to our brothers and sisters.

We make the Enthronement, first of all, out of a great act of love of Our Lord Jesus, that love which has inspired us to devote our lives to the Marian Catechist Apostolate, but also we do it with a deep sense of how easily the best things are corrupted by Satan. Oftentimes, we as Christians are so foolish. We think that because we are doing a holy work, we won't be bothered by Satan. We discover ourselves, at the end of the day, carrying out an apostolate for ourselves, where we are the center of attention, and where Christ has taken a "back seat" in the whole work. And, not being attentive to those many temptations which come to us in carrying out the Apostolate, we abandon those two fundamental virtues of the Marian Catechist:

❖ Humility by which we recognize that it is Christ alone Whom we serve, He alone Whom we bring and give to others. Humility expresses the truth that we depend upon Him completely for our work.

❖ Secondly, the confidence that we, unworthy as each of us is, through the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit, are strengthened to carry out this Apostolate.

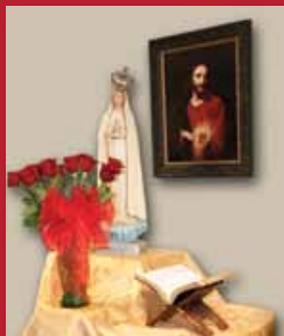
The second motive in making the Enthronement is to remind ourselves at all times of the source of our Apostolate and of its end. The source is the Divine Love Himself, the revelation of God the Father's love for us in His only begotten Son made flesh. By means of the Enthronement, we give ourselves completely to Christ, so that we may be purified of any wrong motives within us, any of our own weaknesses, so that Christ may act more fully in us. The end is the love of Christ dwelling always in our hearts.

So let us praise and thank God for the gift of making the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus today, in this center of the Marian Catechist Apostolate, and also of enshrining the statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary to remind us that it is Mary who is the first and best of the disciples of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is she who is our model and our great intercessor in following Our Lord Jesus Christ, especially in carrying out the apostolate of catechesis. It is she who is constantly by our side, drawing our hearts, with hers, to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. With that maternal counsel which she faithfully gives, and which is inscribed in the cornerstone of the Shrine Church and also in the dome, it is our Blessed Mother who is constantly drawing our hearts to the Heart of her Son with the words, "Do whatever He tells you" (*John* 2:5). And that is all we want to do. We want to do only what Our Lord Jesus Christ wants, so that His Heart may reign, not only in our own hearts, but in the hearts of so many to whom we go as catechists, offering Christ, Who alone is our salvation. ■



His Eminence  
Raymond Leo  
Cardinal Burke  
blessing the image  
of the Sacred Heart  
of Jesus at the  
Enthronement  
Ceremony

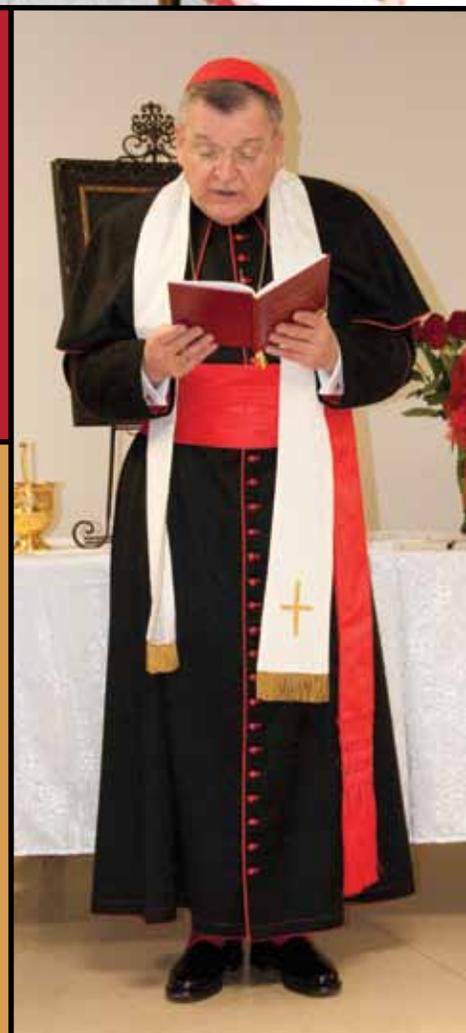
Reflection given December 12, 2011 on the occasion of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the Offices of the Marian Catechist Apostolate, Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, WI



ENTHRONEMENT OF THE  
*Sacred Heart of Jesus*

in the  
Offices of the Marian Catechist Apostolate  
Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, WI

12 December 2011



LEFT PHOTO  
Father Roger Scheckel,  
Deborah Crater, His  
Eminence Raymond  
Leo Cardinal Burke,  
Theresa Knothe and  
Carol Richards

## Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke

PREFECT, SUPREME TRIBUNAL  
OF THE  
APOSTOLIC SIGNATURA



## FOLLOW THE GOLDEN RULE:

# Catholic Obligations When Voting

## *An Interview with Cardinal Burke*

I wanted to make sure that the faithful would realize that they have a very serious moral obligation in voting to vote for those candidates who will uphold the truth of the moral law which, of course, also serves the greatest good of everyone in society . . . You can never vote for someone who favors absolutely what's called the *right to choice* of a woman to destroy human life in her womb or the right to a procured abortion. . . . You could never justify voting for a candidate who not only does not want to limit abortion, but believes that it should be available to everyone.

I would simply say to them, "Do you follow the Golden Rule that was taught to us by Our Lord Himself in the Gospels?" In other words, "Do you do unto others as you would want them to do unto you?" "Do you consider it really fair to advance some interest you have, which may be a good interest, whether it's the environment or whatever it might be, at the cost of denying to other members of society, especially those who depend upon us completely for life itself, the right to life?" And I think that, if most people would reflect in

this way, simply in terms of the Golden Rule, they would understand that, no, it can never be right, no matter what good that I am trying to achieve, to vote for a candidate who favors that good but who, at the same time, favors the intrinsic, the grave, evil of abortion. I cannot ever justify voting for that candidate.

So I would just urge people to consider those smallest brothers and sisters of ours, those fellow members of God's family whom our society teaches us to disregard, or even not to think of as fellow human beings, but who really and truly are fellow human beings, and to do what's right for them, even as we would want, when we were such small little beings in our mother's womb, in the embryonic stage of development or along the way before birth, voters to vote to protect our lives and to safeguard our lives. ■

Interview given  
October 20, 2010 to *Catholic Action*  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=OK514UNkvfU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OK514UNkvfU)

## ON OUR *Civic Responsibility* FOR THE COMMON GOOD

CARDINAL BURKE'S  
PASTORAL LETTER ON VOTING

Cardinal Burke's Pastoral Letter on Voting, *On Our Civic Responsibility for the Common Good*, was originally published in the *St. Louis Review* on October 1, 2004, when His Eminence was Archbishop of St. Louis. In it, he presented traditional Christian teaching about our obligation to vote and to make informed

choices when we go to the polls. In particular, he taught about "the responsibility which belongs to every citizen of a nation to safeguard and promote the common good" and about "how much weightier the individual responsibility for the common good is in a democratic republic like our own nation, in which we elect the officials of our government." Public officials have a grave responsibility before God, commensurate with the level of their office—the higher the office, the greater the responsibility. They will be required to give an accounting of all they have done in exercising their duties to promote, safeguard and foster the common good.

A ten-point summary of the Pastoral Letter follows the text. Also included at the end of the text are twelve discussion questions, along with answers, some of which are found in the "Ask Cardinal Burke" section on the next page. ■

Find the full text of the letter on our web site at:  
[www.mariancatechist.com/burke/responsibility.html](http://www.mariancatechist.com/burke/responsibility.html)

### Q: Am I my brother's keeper?

**A:** Yes. Scripture teaches definitively that we are our "brother's keeper," good Samaritans charged to exercise our civic responsibility to promote the common good. Above all, we must promote and protect the inviolable dignity of all human life.

### Q: Can Catholics simply avoid voting?

**A:** No. To ensure the common good Catholics have a responsibility to vote for a worthy candidate. Our civic responsibility for the common good is great, especially in a society which fails to afford legal protection to the weakest and most defenseless.

### Q: What is the "common good"?

**A:** The *common good* is the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily (cf. Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, no. 26). Fulfillment is not understood in a subjective or relative way, that is, my fulfillment as I or some group define or defines it. Rather, it is the fulfillment which is the objective perfection for which God created us (cf. *Mt 5:48*). The common good permits all to participate in the spiritual and material goods which are necessary for a fully human life, as God has intended it from the beginning. They include: food, clothing, shelter, health, work, education, free exercise of religion, freedom to act according to a sound or properly formed conscience, protection of the sanctity of marriage and the family, freedom from violence and the like. The common good presupposes respect for the person and his fundamental right to life, requires the social well-being and development of groups, and requires the stability and security of a just order (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1906-1910). The common good is the reason that the political authority exists.

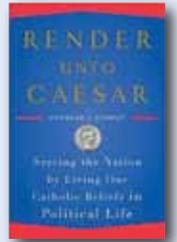
### Q: What do pro-life issues have to do with politics? Isn't this legislating morality?

**A:** Like the good Samaritan in the Gospel, we must come to the aid of our defenseless brothers and sisters in the womb, innocent victims of human engineering, persons who have grown weak in advanced years, and all people and institutions that are threatened by violations of the moral law. The government already "legislates morality" when it addresses issues such as health-care, employment, immigration, race relations, poverty, the rights of citizens, to name only a few.

Ongoing initiatives to educate people about the dignity of human life are of vital importance. The power of prayer for the intention that all will embrace the truth about human life cannot be underestimated.

### 1 RENDER UNTO CAESAR

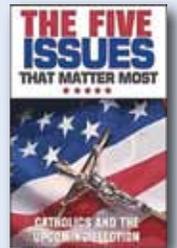
by Archbishop Charles Chaput



Few topics in recent years have ignited as much public debate as the balance between religion and politics. Does religious thought have any place in political discourse? Do religious believers have the right to turn their values into political action? What does it truly mean to have a separation of Church and State? Archbishop Chaput argues that citizens must not be asked to lay aside deeply-held moral and religious beliefs for the sake of public policy. We can't, for example, claim to personally believe in the sanctity of the human person and then act in our public policies as if we don't. We can't separate our private convictions from our public actions without diminishing both. *Render Unto Caesar* calls American Catholics to serve the highest ideals of their nation by first living their Catholic Faith deeply, authentically.

**Hardcover \$21.95 or Paperback \$14.00**

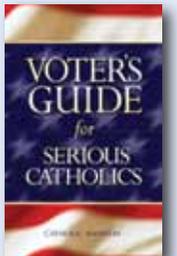
### 2 THE FIVE ISSUES THAT MATTER MOST: CATHOLICS AND THE UPCOMING ELECTION



This 92-page book was written to help Catholics understand five of the key issues facing our nation and world before the 2008 presidential elections, but it is equally applicable today. Its question-and-answer format invite an easy adaptation for adult education classes, parish bulletins, etc. The responses to each question are condensed but powerful summaries of what the Church teaches about specific aspects of five pressing issues in the battle between the Culture of Life and the Culture of Death: abortion, euthanasia, same-sex unions, stem cell research and cloning.

**Paperback \$5.95**

### 3 VOTER'S GUIDE FOR SERIOUS CATHOLICS



This 10-Page booklet provides clear and concise official Church statements on the five issues addressed in *The Five Issues That Matter Most* (abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem-cell research, human cloning, and homosexual unions). The booklet presents each of these issues, which should be considered "non-negotiable" because of their moral implications, in a concise fashion so that Catholic voters will have on hand the necessary tools for judging each political candidate based on his or her stance on key moral issues. **Booklet \$ .40 each**

Please support the **Marian Catechist Apostolate** by purchasing all your books through the Apostolate. Call or e-mail Deborah Crater at (608) 782-0011 or [Bookstore@MarianCatechist.com](mailto:Bookstore@MarianCatechist.com)

# What is the Marian Catechist Apostolate

*A Public Association of the Faithful*



FATHER JOHN A. HARDON, S.J.



INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR

**Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke**

Prefect of the  
Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura



SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

**Reverend Roger J. Scheckel**



NATIONAL COORDINATOR

**Theresa Ann Knothe**



BOOKSTORE MANAGER

**Deborah Ann Crater**



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**Carol Anne Richards**



SECRETARY

**Barbara Ann Clements**

The Marian Catechist Apostolate was founded by Servant of God, Father John A. Hardon, S.J. in response to Blessed Pope John Paul II's call for a New Evangelization. On December 12, 1999, His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke, then Bishop of La Crosse, established the Marian Catechist Apostolate as a *Public Association of the Faithful*. The statutes were approved by Father Hardon, who desired that they be used as the blueprint for the direction and growth of the Apostolate throughout the country. Shortly before Father Hardon died on December 30, 2000, he asked Cardinal Burke, who currently serves the Church as *Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura*, to assume leadership of the Apostolate.

The mission of the Marian Catechist Apostolate is to form catechists, both doctrinally and spiritually, for the teaching of the Catholic Faith. Marian Catechists seek to re-Christianize society, striving to live each day in the presence of Christ through daily prayers and devotions, and through disciplined study. The Marian Catechist is centered on the love of the Holy Eucharist, and is marked by both a strong devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, and an unswerving loyalty to the Holy Father as Successor of Saint Peter. Marian Catechists work in the Apostolate of Catechesis, handing on to others the gift of Christ's truth and love found in the Catholic Faith.

Members of the Apostolate realize that a vital spiritual life is an inherent and essential part of effective catechesis. Ongoing spiritual

formation draws us ever closer to Christ, so that we might draw others closer to Him through our work. The Marian Catechist's deep love for Christ animates his or her catechetical work. The love for Jesus Christ and His Church, which is fostered by a rich prayer life, naturally leads the catechist to desire an ever-deepening understanding of the Faith. Spiritual formation is accomplished by means of the Spiritual Practices of the Marian Catechist. These practices, which are listed at the bottom of this page, are a beautiful part of Catholic life and tradition.

*The Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Basic Catholic Catechism Course* which His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke discusses in his letter on page one of this *Tilma* is the foundation for the Marian Catechist's learning well the Catholic Faith. Because all required courses are home study, each individual is able to work at his or her own pace.

If you would like to join the Marian Catechist Apostolate, or if you have further questions about who we are, please visit our web site, [www.mariancatechist.com](http://www.mariancatechist.com), or contact us at [prayer@mariancatechist.com](mailto:prayer@mariancatechist.com). Please pray for Cardinal Burke and all who are trying to implement our founder's plan to provide good and holy catechists to bring the Good News and the light of Christ into the new millennium. May our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization and model for all catechists, help you discern if this is an Apostolate to which God is calling you. We look forward to hearing from you. ■

## Spiritual Practices of the Marian Catechist in Formation

1. Mass and Holy Communion.....at least 3 times a week
2. The Holy Rosary (five decades) .....daily
3. *Morning Offering* to the Sacred Heart of Jesus .....daily
4. *Memorare* for Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke.....daily
5. *The Angelus*.....twice a day
6. Spiritual reading ..... 10 minutes a day
7. Meditation (Meditation on Scripture using *Lectio Divina* is recommended)\* ..... 10 minutes a day
8. Examination of Conscience / *Act of Contrition* .....each evening before retiring
9. Sacrament of Confession .....monthly

\*A *Lectio Divina* guide is available from the Marian Catechist Apostolate: (608) 782-0011 or [Bookstore@MarianCatechist.com](mailto:Bookstore@MarianCatechist.com)

THE *TILMA* is published by the:

Marian Catechist Apostolate  
P.O. Box 637

La Crosse, WI 54602-0637

(608) 782-0011 [www.MarianCatechist.com](http://www.MarianCatechist.com)

Copyright © 2012 by the Marian Catechist Apostolate

# A Lasting Impact

ON THE  
Marian Catechist Apostolate

You have the power to make a lasting impact on the Marian Catechist Apostolate by establishing a planned gift that takes your personal circumstances into consideration. The following types of charitable arrangements allow you to support the Marian Catechist Apostolate founded by Servant of God Father John A. Hardon, S.J. far into the future, while also providing tax benefits to you. If you are interested in any of these gifts, please contact us. You do not have to be a certain age, nor do you have to be wealthy, to plan a gift to the Apostolate.

## GIFTS YOU MAKE TODAY

Memorial and Honorary Gifts  
Charitable Lead Trusts  
Donor Advised Funds

## GIFTS THAT BENEFIT US AFTER YOUR LIFETIME

Bequests  
Beneficiary Designations  
Endowed Gifts  
Give My Home, But Live There for Life

## GIFTS THAT PAY YOU INCOME

Charitable Gift Annuities  
Charitable Remainder Trusts

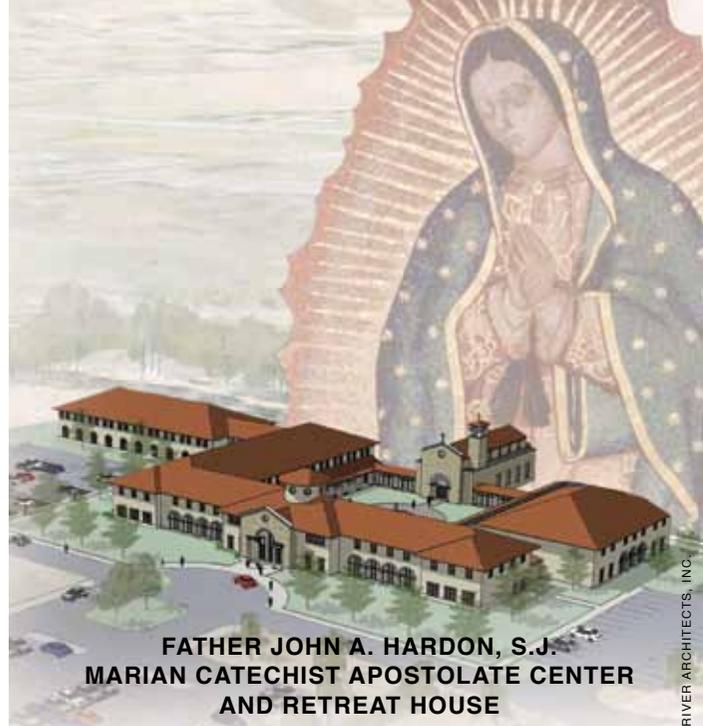
## Gift to the Marian Catechist Apostolate

For your convenience you may use the enclosed envelope to make a gift to the Marian Catechist Apostolate.

In the Winter 2013 issue of **THE TILMA**, we will publish an Annual Giving Report of donations to the Marian Catechist Apostolate. If you donate multiple times during the year, your collective donation will be placed in the appropriate giving level. If you donate in honor or memory of someone, please indicate this on the envelope so you will be listed in the 'In Honor' or 'In Memory' section of the report.

### ANNUAL GIVING LEVELS

Rose .....	up to \$499
Juan Bernardino .....	\$500 - \$999
Bishop Juan de Zumárraga.....	\$1,000 - \$4,999
Saint Juan Diego.....	\$5,000 - \$9,999
Our Lady of Guadalupe.....	\$10,000+



## Future Home of the Marian Catechist Apostolate



The temporary location of our offices is in the basement of the Pilgrim Center at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Our future home will be in the Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Marian Catechist Apostolate Center and Retreat House. The Center will be the principal instrument of the catechetical mission of the Shrine. It will be home to a number of catechetical and spiritual resources, including:

- ❖ The Sacred Heart of Jesus Chapel for use by retreatants and other visitors to the Center;
- ❖ The International Headquarters of the Marian Catechist Apostolate, founded by the Servant of God Father John A. Hardon, S.J.;
- ❖ The Marian Catechist Apostolate Library;
- ❖ Essential facilities for the spiritual and doctrinal formation of catechists, including a three-hundred person conference room and classrooms;
- ❖ A retreat house for pilgrims who wish to spend some days at the Shrine;
- ❖ The Archive and Guild of the Servant of God Father John A. Hardon, S.J.

You are encouraged to make a gift to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe for the building of the Marian Catechist Apostolate Center and Retreat House. For more information please contact Mr. Eugene Diamond at (608) 782-5440 or e-mail [ediamond@guadalupe Shrine.org](mailto:ediamond@guadalupe Shrine.org)

## About this newsletter...

The Marian Catechist Apostolate would like to help you know and love the Catholic Faith. Please accept this newsletter as our gift to you. Each edition will contain information about some aspect of our Catholic Faith. In this issue, you will find His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke's reflection from the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the newly-relocated offices of the Marian Catechist Apostolate. You will also find His Eminence's update on the progress of the revision of Servant of God Father John A. Hardon, S.J.'s *Basic Catholic Catechism Course*, and several resources which will help to shed light on our obligation as citizens, a particularly timely issue, given the threats to religious freedom which we currently face. The resources focus on how we must choose to follow the mandates of a conscience formed by the teachings of the Church, whose authority comes from God, over and above the dictates of the State. We hope you enjoy this first edition of our newsletter, and that its contents help you to "Do whatever He tells you to do (*John 2:5*)."



MARIAN CATECHIST APOSTOLATE  
P.O. BOX 637  
LA CROSSE, WI 54602-0637

## Prayer FOR THE Election

Lord Jesus Christ, You told us to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God. Enlighten the minds of our people in America. May we choose a President of the United States, and other government officials, according to Your Divine Will. Give our citizens the courage to choose leaders of our nation who respect the sanctity of unborn human life, the sanctity of marriage, the sanctity of marital relations, the sanctity of the family, and the sanctity of the aging. Grant us the wisdom to give You, what belongs to You, our God. If we do this, as a nation, we are confident You will give us an abundance of Your blessings through our elected leaders. Amen.

Composed by: +Father John Anthony Hardon, S.J.

Imprimatur by: +Rene H. Gracida, Bishop of Corpus Christi, 7 July 1992

## INSIDE

Message from the Cardinal

Enthronement of the Marian  
Catechist Apostolate Offices

Catholic Obligations When Voting

Our Civic Responsibility  
for the Common Good

Prayer for the Election

DO YOU HAVE ANY FRIENDS OR RELATIVES WHO WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE *THE TILMA*?  
CONTACT US AT (608) 782-0011 OR NATIONALOFFICE@MARIANCATECHIST.COM