



TILMA

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Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke

International Director of the Marian Catechist Apostolate



Praised be Jesus Christ!

Dear Members of the Marian Catechist Apostolate and Friends,

This season's *Tilma* contains much information which I hope you will find instructive, both for yourself, as you grow in knowledge and love of our Catholic Faith, and for all who benefit from your catechetical apostolate.

Many of you have heard about the new blessing for children in the womb, which has been approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The blessing was prepared foremost to support and encourage expectant parents, but also to witness to the inestimable good and dignity of the unborn child in a culture which suffers from a continuous onslaught to life at all its stages. An overview of the new *Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb* can be found on page two.

Elsewhere in this edition of *The Tilma*, you will find information about the Marian Catechist Mass Guild. Also enclosed with *The Tilma* are two cards, which may be used to enroll a friend or loved one in the Mass Guild. One is a memorial card, which is to be used to enroll someone who is deceased; the other is to be used to enroll someone who is still living.

Enrollment in the Mass Guild is a most treasured gift, because the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the center of the life of the Church, the "source and summit of the Christian life" (*Lumen Gentium* 11). Having a Mass offered for someone is a source of abundant grace for the recipient, whether the person is living or deceased. For the Poor Souls in Purgatory, who are no longer able to help themselves, the Holy Mass is the most efficacious assistance we can offer to them.

I take this opportunity to encourage you to participate as fully as possible in "A Fortnight for Freedom," called for by the Bishops of

the United States, in response to the federal government's Health Care Mandate which violates directly the God-given rights of Catholic individuals and institutions in their free exercise of religion. The "Fortnight for Freedom" will begin on June 21st, the vigil of the Feasts of Saint Thomas More and Saint John Fisher, and will conclude on July 4th, Independence Day for citizens of the United States. These two weeks are to be a "special period of prayer, study, catechesis, and public action [to] emphasize both our Christian and American heritage of liberty" (www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty). The Bishops have asked that Catholics around the country join with their Diocesan Bishops, participating at the local level in the nationwide observance of the "Fortnight for Freedom."

The questions featured in the "Ask the Expert" section of this *Tilma* help to clarify the distinctions between just and unjust laws, between the Culture of Life and the Culture of Death, and between the freedom of worship and the freedom of religion, as established by the Founding Fathers of the United States of America in the Constitution's Bill of Rights. A clear understanding of these distinctions is critical in reversing the secularization of our society and our world.

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

PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING OF A CHILD IN THE WOMB

If appropriate, the mother is invited to come forward, along with the father and other family members. With hands extended, the celebrant blesses the child in the womb and all those present, in these words:

God, author of all life,
bless, we pray, this unborn child;
give constant protection
and grant a healthy birth
that is the sign of our rebirth one day
into the eternal rejoicing of heaven.

Lord, who have brought to this woman
the wondrous joy of motherhood,
grant her comfort in all anxiety
and make her determined
to lead her child along the ways of salvation.

FOR THE FATHER:

Lord of the ages,
who have singled out this man
to know the grace and pride of fatherhood,
grant him courage in this new responsibility,
and make him an example of justice and truth for
this child.

FOR THE FAMILY:

Lord, endow this family
with sincere and enduring love
as they prepare to welcome this child into
their midst.

Lord, you have put into the hearts of all men and
women of good will
a great awe and wonder at the gift of new life;
fill this (parish) community
with faithfulness to the teachings of the Gospel
and new resolve to share
in the spiritual formation of this child in Christ
our Savior,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb

There can be no doubt that the most powerful weapon we have for safeguarding and defending all human life is prayer. Indeed, in our day, given the gravity and intensity of the attacks on human life by civil authorities and private citizens alike, daily prayer for the realization of a Culture of Life must be seen as an urgent necessity.

In a beautiful and timely confirmation that prayer is the mightiest weapon in the arsenal of the Culture of Life, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has announced the Vatican's *recognitio*, or approval, of the text of the new *Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb*: "We hope the use of this blessing will provide not only support and God's blessing for expectant parents and their child in the womb, but also another effective witness to the sanctity of human life from the first moment of conception," said Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond, Chairman of the Committee on Divine Worship of the USCCB (<http://www.usccb.org/news/2012/12-077.cfm>).

The *Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb* will be included in the next edition of the *Book of Blessings*. Until that time, it is being published by the USCCB as a booklet addendum to the *Book of Blessings*. In addition, it is currently available for use in the United States at www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/prayers/pro-life-blessings.cfm.

Hard copies of the forty-three-page bilingual booklet will be available this summer. It will include the *Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb* both within and outside the Mass. The Rite itself includes an Introduction, Prayers of the Faithful, the Blessing for Mother and Child, and blessings for the father and family. It concludes with a final blessing for all present.

May Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America and Star of the New Evangelization, intercede on behalf of our Bishops and all who work and pray for the realization of a Culture of Life in our nation and in our world. ■



Fortnight for Freedom

The Catholic Bishops of the United States have called for *A Fortnight for Freedom*, a two week period of time this summer (June 21 to July 4) during which our Bishops call us to pray, study, and teach about our right to religious liberty, and also to take action on behalf of the very first of the freedoms protected by the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution: our freedom of religion.

The Bishops' statement, *Our First, Most Cherished Liberty: A Statement on Religious Liberty*, begins with the words, "We are Catholics. We are Americans." It explains how being Catholic and being American should be complementary, not contradictory. It then describes, using concrete examples, recent threats to religious liberty in the United States, threats generated and endorsed by our own government. Just a few examples of how these threats have been put into practice include:

- ❖ **UNJUST LAWS:** The Health and Human Services mandate that all employers (except for the few who are protected by a narrowly-defined exemption) provide and pay for "health care" coverage for contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs, even when such coverage violates deeply-held religious beliefs and moral principles (of either the institution or the individual). For Catholics, this mandate would require complicity in the provision of services that we know to be gravely sinful.
- ❖ **UNJUST BUSINESS PRACTICES:** The revocation of the licenses and/or contracts held by some Catholic adoption and foster care services (such as Catholic Charities) which have refused to place children with same-sex and/or cohabiting couples. In many instances, such agencies already have been forced to close their operations.
- ❖ **DISCRIMINATION:** The federal government has made the renewal of its contract with the USCCB Migration and Refugee Services, for example, contingent upon the provision of contraceptive and abortion services or referrals to victims of abuse, despite its outstanding record for serving victims of human trafficking. Such practices stand in direct violation to Catholic teaching, and hence, to the freedom of religion guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

PRAY! First and foremost, pray for our country. Pray that our political and religious leaders and all people of good will will have the courage to protect our First Amendment right to the free exercise of religion.

CATECHIZE those who do not understand what is at stake as a result of the government's most recent attacks on religious liberty. Make sure that people understand that this is not simply a "Catholic issue," and that it is about more than "health care" coverage for contraceptives and abortion. Read the USCCB's statement on religious liberty, *Our First, Most Cherished Liberty**.

PARTICIPATE in the *Fortnight for Freedom*:

- ❖ Pray and fast from June 21 to July 4; encourage others to join you.
- ❖ Find out what your parish and Diocese are planning. Volunteer to help.
- ❖ Attend the planned events, and take others with you.

*<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/our-first-most-cherished-liberty.cfm>

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.

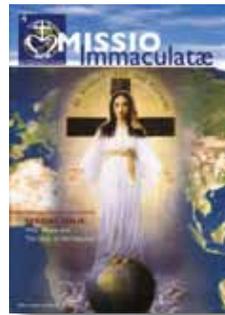
Imprimatur: +Rene H. Gracida, Bishop of Corpus Christi, 7 July 1992

Prayer for Religious Liberty

Almighty God, Father of all nations,
For freedom You have set us free
in Christ Jesus (*Gal 5:1*).
We praise and bless You
for the gift of religious liberty,
the foundation of human rights,
justice, and the common good.
Grant to our leaders the wisdom
to protect and promote our liberties;
By Your grace may we have the courage
to defend them, for ourselves
and for all those who live in this blessed land.
We ask this through the intercession
of Mary Immaculate, our patroness,
and in the name of Your Son,
Our Lord Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with whom You live and reign,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Source: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/our-first-most-cherished-liberty.cfm>

RECOMMENDED *Catholic Periodical*



The *Missio Immaculatae* is a fine catechetical periodical published by the Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate. It will assuredly enrich one's knowledge of the Catholic Faith and deepen one's spiritual life. Your subscription to this exceptional resource will also help to ensure its continued circulation!

ABOUT THE *MISSIO IMMACULATAE* MAGAZINE

The *Missio Immaculatae* is a Marian and missionary review published by the Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate, some of whom are in residence and provide pastoral care and spiritual assistance to pilgrims at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The magazine presents various doctrinal and devotional articles featuring Our Lady, Sacred Scripture and Catholic history, spirituality and morality. It also features articles on culture and the arts, with an abundance of beautiful sacred art to draw one's soul to the Lord.

THE FRIARS' PATRON SAINT

The Friars are inspired by the example of Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe (1894-1941) in his use of modern communication for the purpose of evangelization. Saint Maximilian published a Catholic daily newspaper, monthly magazines for both children and adults, and a bi-monthly magazine for Bishops and clergy, as well as numerous pamphlets and books. His printing apostolate was staffed by over 700 Friars who were all consecrated to Our Lady. The miracle of his great work lies in the fact that the work was supported solely by the generous alms of the Catholic faithful.

SUBSCRIPTIONS / DONATIONS NEEDED

In a similar way, the Friars use modern means of communication, like their *Missio Immaculatae* magazine, to evangelize souls. They are currently working to build up a subscribers' base large enough to defray the costs of printing and shipping. Just as in the days of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, their publications are the result of the creative efforts of both the Friars and the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate, who do much of the magazine's writing and editing. Please consider subscribing, donating directly to the Friars, or giving a gift subscription to a friend. Thank you, and be assured of their prayers.

To order ***MISSIO IMMACULATAE***, mail check to:

Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate

8212 W. Hendricks Road | Bloomington, IN 47403

Pay by credit card: (812) 825-4642, Ext. 233

Pay online: www.MaryMediatrice.com/missio

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Volume discounts available for churches or groups.

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Ask the EXPERT

Q: What is legitimate authority, and how are we to know when a law is unjust?

A: From the earliest days of the Church, the faithful have submitted to those in authority and obeyed civil laws, since all legitimate authority comes from God (cf. *Romans* 13:1). How are we to recognize the legitimate exercise of authority? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* helps us in this regard: “Authority is exercised legitimately only when it seeks the common good of the group concerned and if it employs morally licit means to attain it. If rulers were to enact unjust laws or take measures contrary to the moral order, such arrangements would not be binding in conscience” (CCC 1903). On the contrary, we are “obliged in conscience not to follow the directives of civil authorities when they are contrary to the demands of the moral order, to the fundamental rights of persons or the teachings of the Gospel” (CCC 2242). In other words, only those civil laws that conform to the will of God are legitimate; we must pray for the courage of Saints Thomas More and John Fisher to oppose all others.

Q: What is the difference between freedom of worship and freedom of religion? Why is the distinction important?

A: *Freedom of worship* in the modern world commonly refers to the State’s permission to carry out religious acts in fulfillment of the Third Commandment within the confines of private edifices or legally recognized houses of worship, churches, etc. *Freedom of religion*, on the other hand, generally refers to the right to practice one’s religion outside of places and times of worship. It refers also to exemption

from penalties for practicing one’s religion, even when the practice of one’s religion is contrary to civil laws which legalize violations of the natural law (e.g., contraception, abortion, euthanasia, same-sex marriage, divorce, etc.) or interfere in the internal affairs of a religious community which are not in violation of the natural law (e.g., imposing the ordination of women on Catholics).

The distinction is important because, alone, freedom of worship reduces the practice of religion to one thing only: permission to worship within the confines of private edifices or legally recognized houses of worship, churches, etc. By itself, freedom of worship leaves the religious community, e.g., the Catholic Church, subject to all sorts of invalid civil law, turning religion into merely an instrument of politicians and tyrants, and preventing such bodies from their missionary and evangelical ministry in view of conversion. In effect, this is a thinly disguised form of the total secularization of the community and of politics. It is, for all practical purposes, a form of public atheism.

Freedom of religion is not a right conferred by the State. It is conferred directly by God because, in those obligations and rights of a religious nature, God alone is the primary supervisor, either immediately or through His one true Catholic Church. Freedom of religion does not mean one may practice any religion he pleases rather than that instituted by God the Father Himself through our Savior Jesus. Nor does it absolve one from the obligation to do everything possible to discover the true way to salvation. It simply means that the State is not the arbiter of this and may not, therefore, compel a citizen to adopt this or that religion, or require, as a condition for enjoying the blessings of citizenship, membership in a State

religion. Nor may the State interfere with the internal affairs of a religious community, unless that community is engaging in acts contrary to the natural law and harmful of the common good of the State. If the objection is raised that this leaves the State helpless to control directly abuses within a religious community, the answer is: the Lord has provided for this in the institution of the Church. If a State does not wish to cooperate with the Church, that does not give the State the right to interfere. It merely means that, by its own choice, the State is powerless to remedy problems arising from a failure on the part of many to recognize the Mystical Body of Christ on earth (of which the fullness resides in the Catholic Church) as necessary to salvation.

Q: What is meant by Culture of Death and Culture of Life?

A: The *Culture of Death* commonly refers to the positive promotion of death as a primary “good”. It may take a variety of forms (e.g., population limitation via contraception, abortion or euthanasia). The culture of impurity is its foundation. The *Culture of Life*, on the other hand, commonly refers to the positive promotion of life (that is, that it is better to exist than to not exist, to be alive rather than dead). Indeed, the Culture of Life understands population expansion via large families as good, both for the temporal order, and for filling the heavenly paradise. A culture of purity and chastity is its foundation. The spirituality of the Cross, together with devotion to the Woman at the foot of the Cross, is not a promotion of the Culture of Death. On the contrary, the spirituality of the Cross is the basis for any sound and successful implementation of a Culture of Life.

MARIAN CATECHIST

Mass Guild

The Marian Catechist Apostolate is excited to announce the

Marian Catechist Mass Guild.

The Guild offers a beautiful alternative to traditional gift giving.

Enrollment in the Guild is a gift with supernatural benefits... the graces we all need!

"We should encourage people to have Masses offered for their own and other people's intentions. This is our faith. And not just for the deceased but for the living – the living who are suffering, the living who are in need, the living who are estranged from God. There is an extraordinary special grace for those for whom Masses are offered." Father John A. Hardon, S.J.

WHO CAN BE ENROLLED?

Anyone can be enrolled. The person may be living or deceased. He or she may be a friend or a family member, an acquaintance who is facing difficult times or even someone with whom I struggle.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ENROLLMENT?

The one who is enrolled will be remembered in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered for members of the Guild each month for an entire year. The Masses will be offered at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

WHAT KINDS OF ENROLLMENT ARE AVAILABLE?

There are two kinds of enrollment:

In Memory or ***In Honor***.

In Memory enrollment – to be used when the one enrolled is deceased.

In Honor enrollment – to be used to commemorate someone's birthday, graduation, anniversary, retirement, or simply as an expression of your love, admiration or concern. It may also be used as a gift for the one who "has everything he needs." After all, we will always need more grace!

WHAT IS THE COST OF ENROLLMENT?

We simply ask that you fill out the enrollment information on the Marian Catechist Apostolate envelope and send it in, along with a donation of your choice, to the Apostolate. You can then send the Memorial or In Honor card to the person in whose name you have made the gift.

Memorial Card

[SYMPATHY]

INSIDE



OUTSIDE



INSIDE

In Honor Card



OUTSIDE