



# Catholics United for the Faith

Affirming Authentic Catholicism in Milwaukee

St. Gregory VII Chapter  
April, 2011

## FR. CLIFF ERMATINGER, ST. ANTHONY PASTOR, TO SPEAK SUNDAY, APRIL 17

Fr. Cliff Ermatinger is a native of Chicago and is currently pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish on Milwaukee's south side. He did undergraduate studies at Gonzaga University and joined the Legionaries of Christ in 1987. He was ordained in Rome in 1997, and has lived and worked in Germany, Hungary, Mexico, Spain, Italy and Ireland where he has preached missions, given spiritual direction and taught the Ignatian spiritual exercises. He is the author of numerous homiletics and articles, as well as five books, including the April "Book of the Month," *Common Nonsense*, highlighted on page two. The other four titles are: *St. Augustine Answers 101 Questions on Prayer*; *St. Therese of Lisieux*; *Letters from the Desert*; and *Following the Footsteps of the Invisible*.

Fr. Ermatinger left the Legionaries of Christ in 2009 and is in the process of incardination into the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. In his presentation on prayer, Fr. Ermatinger will address such questions as: what to pray for, what not to pray for, why God wants us to pray, and how we should pray. He will look at these questions through the profound words of one of the most influential minds of the Church - that of St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church.

PLEASE COME, AND BRING A FRIEND, TO HEAR FR. ERMATINGER EXPLAIN HOW WE CAN DEEPEN OUR CATHOLIC FAITH BY:

### "PRAYING WITH THE FATHERS"

WHERE: Sacred Heart Parish Hall

917 North 49<sup>th</sup> St.

(one block north of Wells St.)

WHEN: Sunday, April 17

TIME: 2:00 p.m. - Program (1:45 p.m. - Rosary)

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## ELECTION OF OFFICERS TO BE HELD AT MAY MEETING

The annual election of officers for the Chapter will be held at the May meeting. Anyone interested in being on the ballot, or suggesting nominees, should contact Larry Schmidt at 414-774-2824. The positions are president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. If you have questions, call Al Szews at 414-321-9377.

## ATTEND THE CATHOLIC HOMESCHOOL CONFERENCE & VENDOR FAIR ON APRIL 29 & 30

"Celebrate the Faith," the Catholic Homeschool Conference & Vendor's Fair, will be held at the Tommy G. Thompson Youth Center, located on 84<sup>th</sup> Street, just south of I-94 (north end of the State Fair Grounds in West Allis). Speakers include Joseph Pearce, Catholic convert in 1989, popular speaker, and author of numerous books on G.K. Chesterton, J.R.R. Tolkien, Hilaire Belloc, Shakespeare and C.S. Lewis. Other speakers include Fran Rutherford, author of *Questions for the Thinkers*, Jim Weiss, founder of "Greathall Productions," and Fr. Peter Berger. Fr. Cliff Ermatinger will say Mass and also give a talk. Visit the vendors and purchase new books, used books, curriculum materials, religious items, etc. Programs will be offered for children and teens. Registration before April 15 is \$25/person, and \$45/married couple. At the door, the cost is \$35/person and \$60/married couple. The box lunch is \$10, and registration for teens is \$10. The conference is sponsored by the Greater Milwaukee Catholic Home Educators. Go to: <http://www.gmcheconference.com>

## EWTN ACQUIRES THE "NATIONAL CATHOLIC REGISTER" BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

According to an article printed in the January 28, 2011, edition of the *Southern Nebraska Register*, on Feb. 1, EWTN took "full control and ownership of the *National Catholic Register*, now based in Irondale. Its editorial and business offices had been based in North Haven, Conn., since 1995, when the Legionaries of Christ bought the paper and moved it to New England from California." Michael P. Warsaw, EWTN's president and chief executive officer, said "I believe that EWTN will be able to provide the stability that the Register needs at this time, as well as to give it a platform for its growth in the years ahead. We're proud to be able to step in and carry on both the Register's name and its tradition of faithful Catholic reporting on the issues of the day." According to the article, rising publishing and mailing costs, and the negative impact on Register donations from the downturn in the economy, overwhelmed the Legionaries' ability to continue to subsidize the costs of producing the newspaper. This is the latest in EWTN's efforts "to expand its news presence in the global Catholic digital and multimedia market, which currently includes more than 140 countries and territories." The *National Catholic Register* is published 26 times per year. Subscription rates are \$49.95/year; \$89.95 for two years, and \$119.95 for three years. Call 800-421-3230 for subscription information.

## PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION OF AMERICA CALLS FOR MORE ABORTION FACILITIES

The February/March, 2011, issue of "ALL News," published by **American Life League**, reported that "Despite its claim that abortion is only a small part of its business, PP relies on abortion to keep its doors open." The article quotes Lisa David, senior vice president of Health Services Support for Planned Parenthood of America, saying that the organization is implementing a broad "new patient services initiative." She said that **abortions must be committed in at least one clinic per affiliate**. There are currently 12 PP affiliates that do not commit medical or surgical abortions, and American Life League is working hard to stop these affiliates from implementing the new corporate goal. For more information, contact Judy Brown at 540-659-2586, or e-mail at: [jbrown@all.org](mailto:jbrown@all.org). Visit **American Life League** at: <http://www.all.org>

## CARDINAL MINDSZENTY "FAITH, FAMILY, FREEDOM" CONFERENCE ON APRIL 30

Pro-Life activist, **Lila Rose**, Catholic convert, **Bruce Sullivan**, author of *The Closing of the Muslim Mind*, **Robert Reilly**, and President of Eternal Life, **Fr. Edmund McCaffrey**, will be the featured speakers at the **Cardinal Mindszenty Conference** on Saturday, April 30, at the Drury Lane Center in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois. The fee for the program (7:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.) is \$50 (\$47 if sent by April 20), and includes the luncheon. Without lunch, the fee is \$23. Clergy, religious and students, without lunch, are free. For information call Don Ludwin at 773-229-0375, or, <mailto:ludwin5148@comcast.net>



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## Book of the Month: "Common Nonsense"

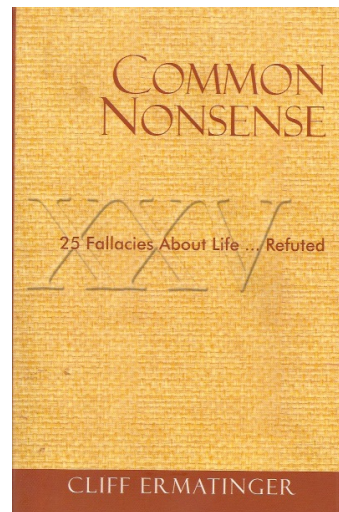
**Author: Fr. Cliff Ermatinger**

**Publisher: Circle Press, 2007**

"Are you tired of hearing those trite sound bites that you know are wrong but you can't say why? Now you'll know how to refute them! They're all here! This is a reunion tour of the most common of nonsensical fallacies complete with cogent and humorous rebuttals. Now you won't need a degree in philosophy to spot the weakness in the bad and bleak philosophy so prevalent today. This book shows you how to tear apart those threatening arguments and chuckle while you're at it."

"Common Nonsense is an excellent source of responses to the relativist diktats that abound. It tackles all the politically correct issues with depth and humor. No doubt it will be an invaluable tool for study groups – or just personal enjoyment for years to come." Michael D. O'Brien, author of *Father Elijah* and *Children of the Last Days* series.

Contributors of \$12 or more per year to the Chapter are entitled to discounts on all books displayed at CUF meetings.



# The Catholic Difference

## “The Church and the Unions”

By George Weigel, senior Fellow, Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

*Southern Nebraska Register, March 25, 2011, p.4*

Judging by the impassioned commentary from some Catholic quarters during recent confrontations between unionized public-sector workers and state governments, you'd think we were back in 1919, with the Church defending the rights of wage slaves laboring in sweat shops under draconian working conditions. That would hardly seem to be the circumstances of, say, unionized American public school teachers who make handsome salaries with generous health and pension benefits, and are virtually impossible to fire even if they commit felonies. I don't think those were the kinds of workers Leo XIII had in mind in *Rerum Novarum*, or John Paul II in *Laborem Exercens*.

The right of workers to organize to advance their interests is not in question. What is in question is the claim of organized government employees to be immunized against the sacrifices necessary to rescue America from fiscal disaster: a disaster created in no small part by irresponsible politicians pandering to public-sector workers' unions. A union that does not defend its own is, of course, an absurdity. A union that defends *only* its own, with no concern for the common good, is something else altogether. That kind of unionized selfishness smacks of organized greed, just like the pyramid schemes of Bernie Madoff and his ilk.

Tens of thousands of inner-city children are being denied a quality education today because of the intransigence of the teachers' unions in conceding the effectiveness – and moral imperative – of voucher

programs that allow underprivileged and at-risk kids to get the kind of decent, disciplined education that is unavailable in too many government-run schools: *not* because of lack of funding, and *not* because government schools “have to take everyone,” but because of union rules that protect failed teachers, reward incompetence, and make it virtually

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impossible for dedicated teachers to conduct the kind of classrooms that work. This is, in a word, selfishness – cruel selfishness. It ill befits Catholic activists and commentators to support it. A related moral question is raised by public-sector workers' unions and their recent clashes with governors and legislators determined to prevent their states from going over the fiscal cliff. It's the same moral question that is posed to all of us by the impending crisis of federal entitlements like Social Security and Medicare: what is our responsibility, in this generation, to future generations? Is it morally worthy of us to leave our children and grandchildren with mountains of debt because we cannot bring ourselves to reform unsustainable entitlement programs that were enacted when life expectancy was far lower than it is

today? Is it morally worthy of today's public-sector workers' unions to defend what one columnist described as “massive promissory notes issued to government unions when state coffers were full and no one was looking”? [sic] Is it worthy of citizens of the world's leading democracy to mortgage the country's future security interests and diplomatic options to the fact that the People's Republic of China owns vast amounts of American governmental debt in the form of Treasury bonds – and may well call our financial bluff one day when freedom's cause is on the line?

My family benefited, once, from American trade unionism. My grandfather and uncle were members of the United Steelworkers, back when America had a steel industry. There are many reasons why there's little left of the once-great enterprises for which they worked: the inevitable shifts of comparative advantage in a dynamic global economy are perhaps the most important reasons. But the stupidities of both management and labor in refusing to face the facts of a rapidly changing economic environment also played their role. And the wreckage you see in once-great steel towns across the American Rust Belt bears mute witness to the human suffering that results when people can't see beyond their own immediate and narrow interest. Rather than acting as if this were 1919, Catholic leaders in America might begin to assert that selfishness is selfishness, with or without a union label, and that the common good requires sacrifices from all.

George Weigel's column is distributed by the *Denver Catholic Register*, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver.

## ***THE 2010-2011 SCHEDULE of EVENTS:***

**April 17**            **PRAYING WITH THE FATHERS, by Fr. Cliff Ermatinger (at Sacred Heart)**

**May 15**            **CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT – THE FACTS,  
by Jerry Schmuttee (venue TBA)**

**October 16 (note change)**    **MSGR. POPEK AWARD DINNER, Fr. Joseph L. Cunningham, Recipient**

**TBA**                **ADDRESSING HISTORICAL ISSUES – THE CRUSADES, by David Archibald  
(to be rescheduled in Nov., Jan. or Feb.)**



**Catholics United for the Faith**

*To Support, Defend and Advance the Efforts of the Teaching Church*

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this e-Newsletter, please print

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Next meeting will be **May 15**  
“Catholic Campaign for Human  
Development – The Facts”  
with Jerry Schmutte

**Come and bring a friend to hear**

**Rev. Cliff Ermatinger**

Pastor, St. Anthony Padua Parish  
1711 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street

**discuss**

**“Praying with the Fathers”**

Sunday, April 17

Sacred Heart Church Hall  
North 49<sup>th</sup> St., just north of Wells St.