



Catholics United for the Faith

Affirming Authentic Catholicism in Milwaukee

PLAN TO ATTEND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS/BIRTHDAY DINNER ON DEC. 13

*St. Gregory VII Chapter
December, 2009*

Our annual Christmas/Birthday "get-together" is an extension of a custom that began as a celebration of Msgr. Alphonse Popek's December 9th birthday during the time he was the Spiritual Advisor of this Chapter. This tradition has continued since his death in 1986.

There will not be a formal address, or "speaker," but there will be a short time after dinner, for anyone who wishes, to share a fond memory of this holy priest who touched the lives of many during his generous service to Christ's Church. We will also hear a short report on the "State of the Chapter" from our president, Al Szews.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR DINNER ON SUNDAY, DEC. 13...

WHERE: KLEMMER'S BANQUET CENTER

10401 West Oklahoma Avenue

WHEN: Sunday, December 13

TIME: 5:00 p.m. Cash bar

6:00 p.m. Dinner

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YOUR DINNER RESERVATION MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

If you plan to attend this dinner on December 13, please fill out the registration form below and mail it to:

ANN TAUCHER

6235 Walnut Lane, Unit A12

Cudahy, WI 53110

Your dinner reservation must be mailed by Monday, December 7. Make checks payable to: "St. Gregory VII - CUF"

Your DINNER SELECTION will be made AT THE DINNER. The dinner choices will be (1) BURGUNDY MARINATED SIRLOIN, (2) BAKED CHICKEN BREAST, or (3) BAKED COD ALMONDINE.

May Our Lord bring you much love, laughter, and many blessings during this Holy Season.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please indicate the number of dinners: _____ Dinner(s) @ \$25 per adult: \$ _____

_____ Dinner(s) @ \$19 per student: \$ _____

and/or Chapter donation: \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

WELCOME TO BISHOP JEROME E. LISTECKI, ARCHBISHOP-DESIGNATE OF MILWAUKEE

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the **St. Gregory VII Chapter of Catholics United for the Faith**, we send a warm welcome to Bishop Jerome E. ListECKi, as he becomes Milwaukee's 11th archbishop. We commend him for correcting House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's incorrect statements regarding Church teachings on the beginning of life, and for being willing to criticize the University of Notre Dame's decision to honor President Barack Obama. We are very pleased with news reports that Bishop ListECKi is outspoken in his defense of Catholic teaching on issues of pro-life, gay marriage and stem cell research. It is also significant that Bishop ListECKi wrote the "Introduction" for the high school religion text, **Our Moral Life in Christ** ~ which is the excellent "morality book" of the recently published, and highly acclaimed, high school religion books known as the "Didache Series." Bishop ListECKi wrote his "Introduction" for this religion book in 2003 when he was an Auxiliary Bishop in Chicago. During his years in Chicago, Bishop ListECKi also taught moral theology at Chicago's diocesan seminary at Mundelein. Needless to say, we send our congratulations to Bishop ListECKi, along with our prayers that he will enjoy God's greatest blessings as he serves Christ's Church in Milwaukee.

MOST REV. JOHN W. YANTA WILL RECEIVE THE 2010 MSGR. ALPHONSE POPEK AWARD

Congratulations to Emeritus Bishop John W. Yanta, Diocese of Amarillo, Texas, who has accepted the Chapter's **Msgr. Alphonse S. Popek Award** for 2010. After his appointment to Amarillo in 1997, Bishop Yanta and his respect life director, Rita Diller, began a campaign to systematically expose the work of Planned Parenthood and shut down their offices in the diocese. At the beginning of the campaign, Bishop Yanta sent a message to all Catholics of the diocese about Planned Parenthood, asking parishioners to cease any association with the organization. According to an article in the September-October, 2009, issue of **Celebrate Life**, "By the end of our campaign, a total of 19 Planned Parenthood facilities had shut down, and the remaining two had disaffiliated from the Planned Parenthood Federation. After 12 hard fought years, the Diocese of Amarillo was free of Planned Parenthood's corrupt influence." (p. 33) We thank Bishop Yanta for accepting our award, and we will all look forward to our annual dinner on Sunday, October 17.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 17 -- AND FEBRUARY 7

Mark your calendar now for Sunday, January 17, when our speaker will be Terry Brown, Principal of St. Anthony's School on South 9th Street in Milwaukee. You might also want note that on Sunday, February 7, Fr. James Kubicki, S.J. (our Spiritual Advisor) will again provide a "day of recollection" for our Chapter, as we all prepare for the coming of the Lenten season. Those meetings, of course, will be announced in each, respective, January and February newsletter.



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Book of the Month: "Awakening"

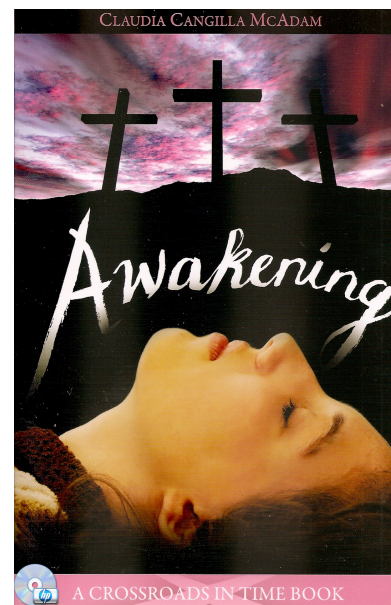
Author: Claudia Cangilla McAdam

Publisher: Imagio Catholic Fiction (Sophia), 2009

"Fear drives me forward as I rush down a rocky path in Jerusalem, trying to sort things out even as dusk makes it harder to hurry. Am I really an American girl, cast back to the time of Jesus? Or a delusional Jewish teen, plagued with visions of a place called America, thousands of years in the future? I don't know anymore. But I do know that something awful is about to happen to my Jesus: they're going to arrest him tonight, and kill him.

"No one believes me; they think I'm crazy. So it's up to me to save him, hurrying down this dark path toward Gethsemane, toward the turning point of all history, the attempt to kill Jesus...toward the uncertainty of whether I can actually manage to change the future."

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



"Without a Doubt," column by Bishop Thomas J. Tobin of Providence, Rhode Island

An "open letter" to Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I.

Published on the "*Rhode Island Catholic's*" website
November 9, 2009

Since our recent correspondence has been rather public, I hope you don't mind if I share a few reflections about your practice of the faith in this public forum. I usually wouldn't do that – that is speak about someone's faith in a public setting – but in our well-documented exchange of letters about health care and abortion, it has emerged as an issue. I also share these words publicly with the thought that they might be instructive to other Catholics, including those in prominent positions of leadership. For the moment I'd like to set aside the discussion of health care reform, as important and relevant as it is, and focus on one statement contained in your letter of October 29, 2009, in which you write, "The fact that I disagree with the hierarchy on some issues does not make me any less of a Catholic." That sentence certainly caught my attention and deserves a public response, lest it go unchallenged and lead others to believe it's true. And it raises an important question: What does it mean to be a Catholic? "The fact that I disagree with the hierarchy on some issues does not make me any less of a Catholic." Well, in fact, Congressman, in a way it does. Although I wouldn't choose those particular words, when someone rejects the teachings of the Church, especially on a grave matter, a life-and-death issue like abortion, it certainly does diminish their ecclesial communion, their unity with the Church. This principle is based on the Sacred Scripture and Tradition of the Church and is made more explicit in recent documents. For example, the *Code of Canon Law* says, "Lay persons are bound by an obligation and possess the right to acquire a knowledge of Christian doctrine adapted to their capacity and condition so that they can live in accord

with that doctrine." (Canon 229, #1) The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says this: "Mindful of Christ's words to his apostles, 'He who hears you, hears me,' the faithful receive with docility the teaching and directives that their pastors give them in different forms." (#87) Or consider this statement of the Church: "It would be a

"Your position is unacceptable..."

mistake to confuse the proper autonomy exercised by Catholics in political life with the claim of a principle that prescind from the moral and social teaching of the Church." (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 2002) There's lots of canonical and theological verbiage there, Congressman, but what it means is that if you don't accept the teachings of the Church your communion with the Church is flawed, or in your own words, makes you "less of a Catholic." But let's get down to a more practical question; let's approach it this way: What does it mean, really, to be a Catholic? After all, being a Catholic has to mean something, right? Well, in simple terms – and here I refer only to those more visible, structural elements of Church membership – being a Catholic means that you're part of a faith community that possesses a clearly defined authority and doctrine, obligations and expectations. It means that you believe and accept the teachings of the Church, especially on essential matters of faith and morals; that you belong to a local Catholic community, a parish; that you attend Mass on Sundays and receive the sacraments regularly; that you support the Church, personally, publicly, spiritually and financially. Congressman, I'm not sure whether or not you fulfill the basic requirements of being a Catholic, so let me ask: Do you accept the teachings of the

Church on essential matters of faith and morals, including our stance on abortion? Do you belong to a local Catholic community, a parish? Do you attend Mass on Sundays and receive the sacraments regularly? Do you support the Church personally, publicly, spiritually and financially? In your letter you say that you "embrace your faith." Terrific. But if you don't fulfill the basic requirements of membership, what is it exactly that makes you a Catholic? Your baptism as an infant? Your family ties? Your cultural heritage? Your letter also says that your faith "acknowledges the existence of an imperfect humanity." Absolutely true. But in confronting your rejection of the Church's teaching, we're not dealing just with "an imperfect humanity." ~ as we do when we wrestle with sins such as anger, pride, greed, impurity or dishonesty. We all struggle with those things, and often fail. Your rejection of the Church's teaching on abortion falls into a different category – it's a deliberate and obstinate act of the will; a conscious decision that you've reaffirmed on many occasions. Sorry, you can't chalk it up to an "imperfect humanity." Your position is unacceptable to the Church and scandalous to many of our members. It absolutely diminishes your communion with the Church. Congressman Kennedy, I write these words not to embarrass you or to judge the state of your conscience or soul. That's ultimately between you and God. But your description of your relationship with the Church is now a matter of public record, and it needs to be challenged. I invite you, as your bishop and brother in Christ, to enter into a sincere process of discernment, conversion and repentance. It's not too late for you to repair your relationship with the Church, redeem your public image, and emerge as an authentic "profile in courage," especially by defending the sanctity of human life for all people, including unborn children. And if I can ever be of assistance as you travel the road of faith, I would be honored and happy to do so.

Sincerely yours,
Thomas J. Tobin, Bishop of Providence

St. Gregory VII Chapter
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Catholics **U**nited for the **F**aith

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

If you do not want to receive
this newsletter, please print

“Refused”

on the front and drop it in
a mailbox. We will pay for its
return.

Come and bring a friend

to the

**Christmas/Birthday
Dinner**

Sunday, December 13
Klemmer's Banquet Center
10401 West Oklahoma Avenue