



Catholics United for the Faith

Affirming Authentic Catholicism in Milwaukee

St. Gregory VII Chapter
February, 2014

Matt Sande, Pro-Life Wisconsin's Director of Legislation, will speak Feb. 16

Matt Sande joined Pro-Life Wisconsin as the organization's Director of Legislation in 2003. Public policy and politics are his passion. A 1991 political science graduate from the University of Notre Dame, and a former legislative aide in both the Wisconsin State Assembly and State Senate, Matt has directly participated in the political process for over twenty years. He served as the Director of Legislation for the Wisconsin Hospital Association for three years before joining Pro-Life Wisconsin.

Matt's expertise in the policy and politics of the pro-life movement in Wisconsin, combined with his ability to clearly articulate the 100%, total protection position of Pro-Life Wisconsin, makes him an effective lobbyist on behalf of preborn babies, the aged and disabled. He effectively educates grassroots proliferators on how to influence their state legislators and is frequently quoted in the media on issues such as the morning after pill, personhood, conscience rights, embryo-destructive research, and end of life issues. **Matt lives in Jefferson with his wife, Rebecca, and their six children.** Please come, and bring a friend, to hear Matt Sande discuss,

"A PRO-LIFE CATHOLIC IN THE STATE CAPITOL"

WHERE: St. John the Evangelist Church Hall

8500 W. Cold Spring Road

(Enter from north parking lot)

WHEN: Sunday, February 16

TIME: 2:00 p.m. – Program 1:45 p.m. Rosary

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Please! - Ask Archbishop Listecki to remove "Common Core" from diocesan schools!!

Mary Jo Anderson, who writes for *Crisis Magazine* and has appeared frequently on EWTN, reveals in the title of her December 17 *Crisis* article that, "Common Core Sexualizes American School Children." She explains that "Across the nation, in public and Catholic schools, parents and teachers have found sexually inappropriate materials in the exemplars recommended by Common Core State Standards (CCSS)." She asks, "Should a small cadre of unelected ideologues have nationwide power to decide that American first graders should be exposed to homosexual "families," or that ninth graders be given pornography in the guise of literature?" Two of the books she cites, *Black Swan Green* and *The Bluest Eye*, contain graphic sexual description, and are recommended by Common Core for ninth graders. (visit cufmilwaukee.org for Common Core articles.)

Fr. Joseph Shimek, in the most recent diocesan promotion of Common Core, claims that where Common Core standards are relevant, "their integration...is directly managed by the Archdiocese, making sure that nothing unacceptable is embedded in them." Really? For almost 15 years the diocesan "Valuing Your Sexuality" (VYS) program required middle school boys and girls to draw pictures of genital, body parts and sexual activity! In VYS, birth control, abortion and sex acts were "opinion" questions, judged through moral relativism. After being exposed on national TV in 1985, VYS was finally canceled in the early 1990s. In addition, in the early 1980s, eighth graders in a local Catholic school were given a Planned Parenthood book (with 12 pages of contraception instruction, including pictures) by the parish priest! Around that same time, a senior English class at a local Catholic high school was assigned *The World According to Garp*, until stopped by a parent. (Would not *Quo Vadis*, or *Ben Hur*, have been a better novel for Catholic seniors?) And, now parents are being asked to trust the diocese?

The February, 2014, Prayer Intentions published by Pope Francis

During February, Pope Francis has asked that we pray for two intentions: 1) **Elders**. That the Church and society may respect the wisdom and experience of older people, and 2) **Collaboration in Evangelization**. That priests, religious, and lay people may work together with generosity. For information regarding the activities of **The Apostleship of Prayer**, please visit: apostleshipofprayer.org

Plan to Attend the "All-Night Vigil" February 28th and March 1st at Christ King Parish

The March "All-Night Vigil of Reparation" will be held on **Friday, February 28th and Saturday, March 1st** at Christ King Church, 2612 N. Swan Blvd. It opens Friday night with Mass at 8:00 p.m., and concludes with First Saturday Mass at 5:00 a.m. Come for the opening Mass and stay as long as you like. For more information, or for a ride, call 414-254-2790.

Plan to attend "What's Lent all About?" at Catholic Books & Gifts on March 11

Mark Schuh will discuss the question, "What's Lent all About?" on Tuesday, March 11, at 7:00 p.m., at **Catholic Books and Gifts**, 7346 West Greenfield Avenue in West Allis. **Ash Wednesday** is coming up on **March 5**, so mark your calendar for this timely, Lenten presentation. The meeting is free and open to the public. For questions, call 414-258-2665.

"Mindszenty" meeting is March 15, and "Institute on Religious Life" is April 25-27

The Mindszenty Foundation's 33rd Annual Chicago Conference will be held March 15 from 7:30 am to 3:15 pm at the **Drury Lane Conference Center** in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois. Speakers will be **William A. Borst** on "Liberation Theology," **Ann Carey** on "Sisters in Crisis Revisited," and **Tom Brejcha** on "Conscience at the Crossroads." For registration information, call Gina Gallo at 630-424-1447 or Kevin Haney at 630-730-7112.

The **Institute on Religious Life**, founded by Rev. John Hardon, S.J., will hold its **40th Annual Meeting on April 25-27** at the **University of St. Mary of the Lake** in Mundelein, Illinois. Speakers will include **Bishop Robert Vasa**, **Mother Dolores Hart, O.S.B.**, **Dr. Timothy O'Donnell** and **Sheila Liaugminas**. For information, call 847-573-8975 or visit IRLstaff@ReligiousLife.com. Single day registration is available. (Significant discount if registered by March 15.)

"Catechetical Corner"

Question: What is the Pillar and Bulwark of truth?

Answer: Although many Protestants would say that the "Bible" is the pillar and bulwark of truth, the Bible states otherwise. According to 1Timothy 3:15, the "Church of the living God" (the Catholic Church) is the Pillar and Bulwark of truth.



Catholics United for the **F**aith

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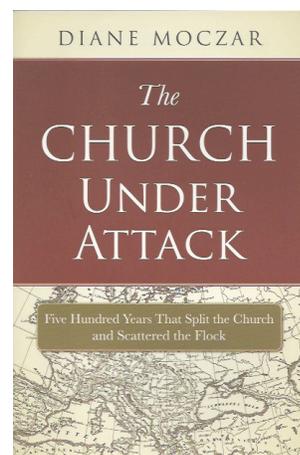
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Book of the Month: "The Church Under Attack"

Author: Diane Moczar

Publisher: Sophia Institute Press, 2013

"Here's an unabashedly Catholic history that documents scores of sustained and unprecedented assaults on our Catholic faith these past five centuries and delineates our Church's brave response to each one. For five hundred years, from Luther to Marx, through Darwin, Hitler, and Rousseau, wave after wave of cynical anti-Catholic men and movements have wrought havoc even worse than that of Attila the Hun and Genghis Khan, leaving our once noble Christendom a ruined city, devastated politically and spiritually, morally and intellectually... Celebrated Catholic historian Diane Moczar counters here with an unflinching sketch of these five woeful centuries with sound reasons for hope. For, as she demonstrates, even after five hundred years of sustained persecution, our Church has not merely survived but continues in many places to flourish..."



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

"Common Core Education is Uncommonly Inadequate"

By Jamie Gass and Charles Chieppo, May 28, 2013, p. A15

Mr. Gass directs the Center for School Reform at Pioneer Institute, a Boston-based think tank where Mr. Chieppo is a senior fellow.

Massachusetts student test scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress and SATs were unremarkable in the early 1990s. Then, after a landmark educational reform in 1993, state SAT scores rose for 13 consecutive years. In 2005, Bay State students became the first to score best in the nation in all grades and categories on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. The students have repeated the feat each time the tests have been administered. How to explain this turnaround? The state's educational success hinged on rigorous academic standards, teacher testing and high-quality tests that students must pass to graduate from high school. All locally developed, these three factors aligned to produce amazing results.

Unfortunately, Massachusetts dropped its own standards in 2010 to join 44 other states (and the district of Columbia) in adopting the flawed standards of the Common Core. This is an educational program sponsored by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers that has been championed by the Obama administration. Common Core recycles a decades-old, top-down approach to education. Its roots are in a letter sent to Hillary Clinton by Marc Tucker, president of the National Center on Education and the Economy, after Bill Clinton's presidential victory in 1992. The letter laid out a plan "to remold the entire American system" into a centralized one run by "a system of labor-market boards at the local, state and federal levels" where curriculum and "job matching" will be handled by government functionaries. Today, many advocates of national

education standards embrace these same anti-academic impulses. In a 2011 speech before the National Governors Association, Bill Gates, whose foundation has been Common Core's major funder, called on states to essentially brush aside liberal arts departments and fund public college and university disciplines based on their job-creation potential. Compared with

"Three federal laws explicitly prohibit the U.S. government from directing, supervising or controlling any nationalized standards, testing or curriculum."

Massachusetts' former standards, Common Core's English standards reduce by 60% the amount of classic literature, poetry and drama that students will read. For example, the Common Core ignores the novels of Charles Dickens, Edith Wharton and Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn." It also delays the point at which Bay State students reach Algebra I - the gateway to higher math study - from eighth to ninth grade or later. Stanford University Emeritus Mathematics Professor R. James Milgram - the only academic mathematician on Common Core's validation committee - refused to sign off on the final draft, describing the standards as having "extremely serious failings" and reflecting "very low expectations." This academic-lite approach has been tried before - and it failed. In 1998, Connecticut had

higher reading scores than Massachusetts. But just as the Bay State was pursuing clearly articulated academic goals, Connecticut chose a curriculum that put soft skills (such as cultural competence and global awareness) on a par with academic content. By 2005, Connecticut was one of seven states that had outsized drops in reading scores, falling by nearly 10 points in seven years.

Common Core's problems aren't just academic. Three federal laws explicitly prohibit the U.S. government from directing, supervising or controlling any nationalized standards, testing or curriculum. Yet Race to the Top, a federal education grant competition that dangled \$4.35 billion in front of states, favored applications that adopted Common Core. The Education Department subsequently awarded \$362 million to fund two national testing consortia to develop national assessments and a "model curriculum" that is "aligned with" Common Core. The standards were generally adopted by governors' offices and state boards of education eager for Race to the Top money. The state legislatures that fund American K-12 education were largely bypassed.

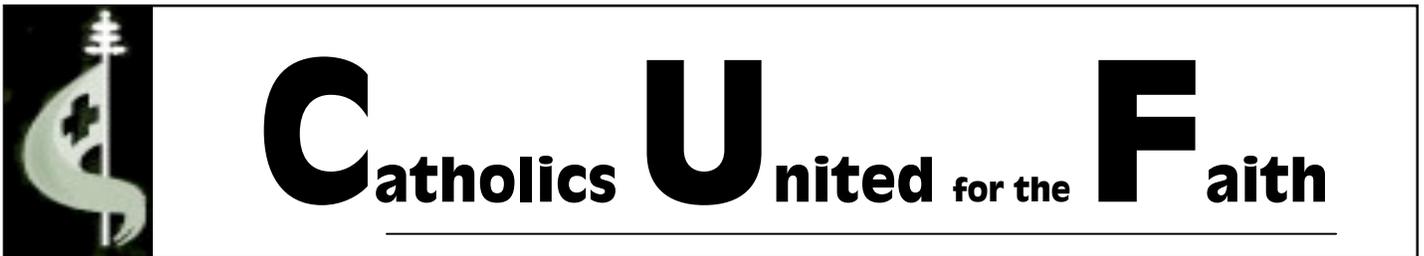
Several states, including Texas, Virginia and Nebraska, declined to adopt the Common Core standards. Meanwhile, grass-roots movements in at least 15 other states are fighting them. Common Core has been put on hold in Indiana and Pennsylvania. Michigan's House of Representatives has voted not to fund implementation. The federal government and the D.C. groups behind Common Core don't have records that inspire confidence. None of them can point to a program of theirs that has clearly improved student achievement in the past two decades. And in Massachusetts, the likely result of the Common Core is that the gains of the past 20 years will slowly but surely recede.

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

If you do not want to receive
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on the front and drop it in
a mailbox. We will pay for its
return.

Join us March 9 to hear
Fr. Kubicki, S.J., present an
“Afternoon of Recollection”

**Come and bring a friend to hear
Matt Sande**

Director of Legislative Affairs at Pro-Life Wisconsin
discuss

**“A Pro-Life Catholic in the State
Capitol”**

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