



Catholics United for the Faith

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

JEFFERY SCHWEHM WILL DISCUSS SPIRITUAL BARRIERS MAY 18

St. Gregory VII Chapter
May, 2008

JEFFERY SCHWEHM is a former Jehovah's Witness who, with his wife, Kathy, came into the Catholic Church in 2003. Our membership may recall that Jeffery recounted his faith journey as our speaker last November. During his years as a Jehovah's Witness, he spent 1000 hours a year as a door-to-door evangelist, and also served at the World Headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses in New York. In addition to his current position as Assistant Professor of Biochemistry at Lakeland College in Sheboygan, Jeffery is also President of The Fellowship of Catholic Ex-Jehovah's Witnesses (www.catholicxjw.com), an outreach to Catholics who have left the Jehovah's Witnesses, and also to those who may be considering the Catholic faith. He and Kathy are members of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Kohler, Wisconsin.

In this presentation, Jeffery will expand on the important remarks made by Pope Benedict XVI in his talk to the U.S. Bishops in April. The Holy Father asked how a bishop can lead his people to "an encounter with the living God," and then emphasized the need to "begin by clearing away some of the barriers to such an encounter." Jeffery will discuss the role of bishops, priests and laity in removing these "barriers" that cause confusion and misunderstanding. For instance, it is tragic when a non-Catholic has to ask, "Does the Church that wrote *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* actually exist?"

PLEASE JOIN US TO HEAR JEFFERY SCHWEHM DISCUSS:

"REMOVING THE BARRIERS TO ENCOUNTERING THE LIVING GOD"

WHERE: BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH HALL

South 41ST Street and Oklahoma Avenue (Enter lot from
South 40th St. ~ use door at SE corner of Church)

WHEN: Sunday, May 18

TIME: 2:00 p.m. - Meeting

1:45 p.m. - Rosary

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by Fr. Kenneth Baker**

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The election of officers for the Board of Directors will be held at the May meeting. The nominees are:

President: Al Szews
Vice President: Dirk Wichgers
Secretary: Jerry Schmutte
Treasurer: Ann Taucher

The Board of Directors would like to thank all those who express appreciation for the newsletter and work of the Chapter, and of course, those who support the Chapter financially. The Board also would like to invite anyone who has an interest in becoming more active, to attend one of the monthly Board meetings, and/or consider helping in another area, e.g., corresponding secretary, computer data entry, etc. For information, call Al Szews at 414-321-9377.

CATHOLIC MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL PRESIDENT TO LEAVE IN JUNE

The Catholic Memorial High School Board of Directors announced in March that the school President, John Knight, will leave in June, after only a year at the school. No replacement was named in the announcement.

MSGR. POPEK AWARD RECIPIENT, FR. JOHN CORAPI, KEEPS US POSTED

As you know, Fr. Corapi is still dealing with his health issues and is seeking medical assistance in various places around the country. Please know that we continue to be in contact with his office and will mail registration information as soon as possible. Because this is the last newsletter before we resume activity in September, the dinner flyer will be mailed separately, rather than with a newsletter, as we had hoped. As explained in the last newsletter, we will definitely honor Fr. Corapi at our "Msgr. Popek Award Dinner" on October 12, whether or not he is able to come. Again, he suggested sending a special DVD for us if he cannot attend. Please keep him in your prayers.

CARDINAL EGAN SEEKS MEETING WITH GIULIANI AFTER COMMUNION ISSUE

According to a front page story in the May 8 edition of *The Wanderer*, "The New York Archdiocese issued a statement saying that the former mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, had [previously] agreed to refrain from reception of Communion at Mass because of his well-known support of abortion," and Cardinal Egan will be seeking a meeting with Giuliani over the issue... "because it has become a public issue and a public question." The article points out that "all eyes are now turning to Washington's Archbishop Donald Wuerl. He remains evasive after Sen. John Kerry, and other prominently pro-abortion Catholic politicians [Nancy Pelosi, Christopher Dodd, and Edward M. Kennedy], were photographed receiving communion at the Pope's Mass." The article further quoted Philip Lawler, editor of *Catholic World News*, who stated that, "...the public statement by Cardinal Egan chastising Rudy Giuliani is a major step forward for Church leadership in the U.S."

POPE EMPHASIZED "TRUTH" IN PRESENTATION TO COLLEGE PRESIDENTS

In an under-publicized message to the presidents of Catholic universities, and other academics, the Holy Father, in April, emphasized the importance of "truth." Pope Benedict XVI made clear that, "The Church's mission, in fact, involves her in humanity's struggle to arrive at truth. In articulating revealed truth she serves all members of society by purifying reason, ensuring that it remains open to the consideration of ultimate truths. Drawing upon divine wisdom, she sheds light on the foundation of human morality and ethics, and reminds all groups in society that it is not praxis [practice or custom] that creates truth but truth that should serve as the basis of praxis...[F]ar from undermining the tolerance of legitimate diversity, such a contribution illuminates the very truth which makes consensus attainable, and helps to keep public debate rational, honest and accountable." (A reading of this talk will find "truth" mentioned no fewer than forty times. God bless the Holy Father.)

THIS NEWSLETTER IS NOT PUBLISHED IN JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST. THE NEXT ISSUE WILL COME IN SEPTEMBER.



St. Gregory VII Chapter

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Book of the Month: "ISLAM AT THE GATES"

Author: Diane Moczar

Publisher: Sophia Institute Press

"Historian Diane Moczar (author of *Ten Dates Every Catholic Should Know*) pulls back the curtain on one of the most important acts in the drama of Muslim aggression against the West: the 500-year-long siege of Europe by the Ottoman Turks."

"Solid history and dramatic narrative make *Islam at the Gates* a moving look at Europe's long struggle against the Turks. But the author's shrewd Catholic outlook also makes it an edifying one. Had these events unfolded just a little differently, Christian civilization might have been conquered by the sword of Allah. If we fail to learn the lessons of history, Dr. Moczar warns, the West may yet fall."

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

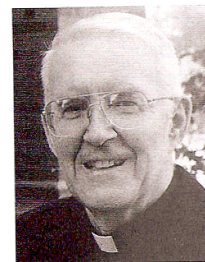


HOMILETIC & PASTORAL REVIEW

August/September 2007

On moving bishops from small to big dioceses

by Kenneth Baker, S.J., Editor



It frequently happens that a bishop of a small diocese is moved to a large archdiocese when that see is vacant. Question: Is this policy good for the Church?

Some years ago, when Bernardin Cardinal Gantin retired as prefect of the Congregation of Bishops, he gave a final talk in which he stated that, in the early Church, bishops were not moved from one diocese to another. A bishop was considered married to his diocese in an indissoluble union, similar to the indissoluble union between husband and wife.

The present policy is not good for the Church because it promotes *ambition* among certain clerics who lust for the purple and the red, who position themselves in the most positive way so that they will be promoted to a higher position. Ambition to dominate others and to have power in the Church is certainly not the mark of a humble or holy man. The bishop is supposed to be first of all a holy man, for it is his task to sanctify and help work out the eternal salvation of the members of his flock. No one can give what he does not have. If he is scheming to get ahead in the clerical world, to become a bishop, then archbishop, then cardinal, he is not humble and not holy and should not even be a bishop.

The outstanding bishops of the past are the saints and martyrs who first of all lived the faith themselves and then directed others in the way of holiness. The first thirty popes were martyrs for the faith. We can think of holy bishops like Chrysostom, John Fisher, Mindszenty and a host of others.

The main reason for moving bishops up in the Church seems to be a prac-

tical one: a bishop of a small diocese gets experience in how to run a diocese. If he is successful, then he is eligible for promotion to a larger diocese. There is some merit in this position, since experience in leadership is an asset for the head of a large diocese. That is the way things work in the business world and in corporations, but the Church is not a corporation like IBM or General Motors.

The negative side of this policy is that it encourages ambition on the part of bishops of small dioceses. So the ambitious bishop who wants to "move up," has strong motivation "to play the game." By that I mean he will do all he can to make himself look good, to avoid conflicts as much as possible and, above all, to see to it that he does

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not get a bad press. It is common knowledge that, if a bishop is a strong ruler in his diocese and insists on Church doctrine and morals, he will get lots of opposition. Opposition

transfers into getting a bad press, since the media are very critical of all persons in authority who actually use their authority to enforce the rules.

Given this situation with a hostile media, often bishops do not rule their diocese for the good of the faith and for the spiritual good of the people, but rather with their own good and promotion in mind. They tend to accommodate themselves to the culture of the time and do not insist on Church doctrine and morals. Examples of this abound: most bishops for years have been silent about the Church's condemnation of contraception; presently few are willing to deny communion to pro-abortion Catholic politicians.

It is my contention that, if all bishops knew they were not going to be moved up, they would be more diligent in sanctifying and ruling their diocese because they are there for life.

My suggestion is to appoint holy auxiliary bishops and priests who have shown that they are good pastors. That is all the training they need. They can learn how to bishop by being a bishop. With the scandals involving bishops, it is obvious that the old policy of "moving up" has not been a success.

Let's try a new policy of "no moving up" and see how that works. If that were implemented, I predict that our dioceses would be much better managed than they are now. And our bishops would have more respect from their people than they now have...If you have any observations on this proposal, I would like to hear from you.

Write to Fr. Baker, S.J., at 70 Lake Street, P.O. Box 297, Ramsey, NJ 07446

St. Gregory VII Chapter

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

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a mailbox. We will pay for its
return.

Come and bring a friend

To hear

Jeffery Schwehm, discuss:

**“Removing the Barriers
to Encountering the Living God”**

Sunday, May 18

Blessed Sacrament Church Hall

South 41st St. and Oklahoma Avenue