



# Catholics United for the Faith

Affirming Authentic Catholicism in Milwaukee

St. Gregory VII Chapter  
September, 2011

## STATE SEN. GLENN GROTHMAN TO DISCUSS "WAR ON CHRISTIANITY" SEPT. 18

Wisconsin State Senator Glenn Grothman will discuss "*The Government's War on Christianity*" on Sunday, September 18, at 2:00 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Church Hall, located at South 40<sup>th</sup> Street and Oklahoma Avenue. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Senator Grothman was born in 1955 and graduated from Homestead High School in Mequon, Wisconsin. He earned a B.B.A. and J.D. from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, and is a former tax attorney. He was elected to the Assembly in December, 1993, in a special election, and then re-elected in 1994. He was the Assembly Caucus Vice Chairperson from 1999 to 2003. In 2004 he was elected to the State Senate, where he became the Senate Minority Caucus Chairperson in 2007.

Senator Grothman received the Pro-Life Wisconsin "Friend of Life Award" in 1995, and Wisconsin Right to Life's "Pro-Life Hero Award" in 1996, and "Sanctity of Life Award" in 2004. PLEASE COME AND BRING A FRIEND TO HEAR SENATOR GLENN GROTHMAN DISCUSS:

### "THE GOVERNMENT'S WAR ON CHRISTIANITY"

WHERE: Blessed Sacrament Church Hall (enter SE corner)

South 40<sup>th</sup> Street and Oklahoma Avenue

WHEN: Sunday, September 18

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

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## U.S. BISHOPS CONFERENCE IGNORES CHURCH'S MANDATE TO ATTEND SUNDAY MASS

Faithful Catholics, reading a recent two-page (front and back) flyer titled "*Celebrating the Lord's Day*," published in 2010 by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), may notice that an important paragraph of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) is missing. Although there are four quotations from the *Catechism*, there is no mention of a most critical paragraph, #2181, which states that: "The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice...Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin."

Understanding, as faithful Catholics do, that the terms "grave sin" and "mortal sin" are interchangeable, this means that a person who deliberately chooses **not** to attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on a given weekend **may not receive Holy Communion** until absolution is received in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. At a time when Mass attendance is at an all-time low, it would seem to be critically important to remind Catholics of this obligation. The flyer, often used as a parish bulletin insert, does quote other paragraphs of that same section of the *Catechism*, e.g., #2182, #2179 and #2186. The question is, why not #2181? This on-going refusal to acknowledge mortal sin might well be part of the reason that Mass attendance is at an all-time low. Let us pray that this error will be corrected. How many Catholics, who line up to receive Communion on Sunday, have been faithful to this obligation?

In addition, Catholics reading through "*Celebrating the Lord's Day*," may also notice that there is no explanation of the Mass as the "Holy Sacrifice" of the Mass, as taught in the *Catechism*, #1366, which states that: "The Eucharist is thus a sacrifice because it *re-presents* (makes present) the sacrifice of the cross...The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are *one single sacrifice*...the same Christ who offered himself once in a bloody manner on the altar of the cross is contained and offered in an unbloody manner..." Again, this was an opportunity lost.

## FR. JOSEPH CUNNINGHAM TO RECEIVE ANNUAL MSGR. POPEK AWARD ON OCTOBER 16

REGISTER FOR OCT. 16 MSGR. POPEK AWARD DINNER AT CLARION HOTEL, 5311 S. HOWELL AVENUE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$44 per person (\$39 before Sept. 26) Amt. enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 Angel (includes dinner ticket) Amt. enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ \$150 Papal Tiger (includes two dinners) Amt. enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner choices (indicate No.) \_\_\_ Tenderloin Tips \_\_\_ Baked Chicken \_\_\_ Orange Roughy Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Ann Taucher; 6235 Walnut Lane #A 12; Cudahy, WI 53110 Cash bar: 5:00 p.m. - Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Checks payable to: "St. Gregory VII Chapter - CUF" See complete registration flyer at: <http://www.cufmilwaukee.org>

## PRO-LIFE WISCONSIN'S ANNUAL AUCTION AND DINNER WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 22

Plan to attend Pro-Life Wisconsin's Annual Auction and Dinner on Saturday, October 22, at the Olympia Hotel & Resort, 1350 Royale Mile Road, in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, 53066. The guest speaker will be **Walter B. Hoye II**. The cost is \$50 per person and \$475 for a table of ten. Preregistration is required. The evening will begin with a Silent Auction and Hors d'oeuvres at 5:00 p.m., with dinner and an Oral Auction at 7:00 p.m. For registration information call Pro-Life Wisconsin at (262) 796-1111, or go to: <http://www.prolifewisconsin.org>

## PLAN TO ATTEND THE SATURDAY, OCT. 1, PRO-LIFE ROSARY AT HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

The Catholic young adult group, **Lolek**, together with the **Family Life Council** and in collaboration with the **Nazareth Project** of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee are co-sponsoring a **Rosary** and brief **Pro-life Prayer Service** at the grave site of over 1,000 aborted babies buried in the Children's Section at Holy Cross Cemetery. This is a most fitting place to gather to ask for the Lord's Healing Mercy, and for respect for all human life. The event is scheduled for Saturday, **October 1, from 12 noon to 12:30 p.m.** Holy Cross Cemetery is at 7201 W. Nash St. The Children's Section is located in the northwest part of the cemetery, just south of the administration building. For information, call Family Life Council at 414-218-3769.

## "CATECHETICAL CORNER" (A new feature in the newsletter)

**Question:** Why did God make me?

**Answer:** God made me to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him in heaven. (You might like to know that in May of 2003, shortly after Archbishop Dolan came to Milwaukee, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by Marquette University, and asked to be the commencement speaker. In the context of his commencement address, Archbishop Dolan, *twice*, told those graduating seniors "why God made them" ~ word for word!)



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## Book of the Month: "Life at the Bottom"

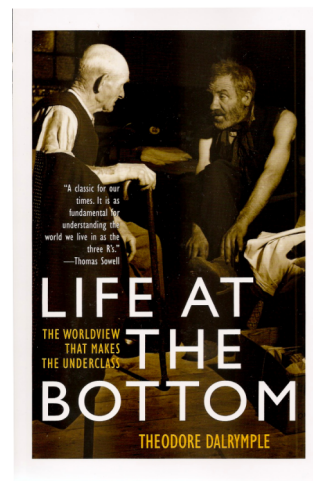
**Author: Theodore Dalrymple**

**Publisher: Ivan R. Dee, 2001**

"Here is a searing account of life in the underclass and why it persists as it does, written by a British psychiatrist who treats the poor in a slum hospital and a prison in England. Dr. Dalrymple's key insight is that long-term poverty is caused not by economics but by a dysfunctional set of values, one that is continually reinforced by an elite culture searching for victims.

His book draws upon scores of eye-opening, true-life vignettes that are by turns hilariously funny, chillingly horrifying, and all too revealing - sometimes all at once. And he writes in prose that transcends journalism and achieves the quality of literature."

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



# Does Social Justice Require Social Democrats?

***The Wanderer*, August 18, 2011, p.1**

**By William R. Snaer**

The chairman of the U.S. Catholic Bishops Committee on Domestic Justice recently spoke out about the need to protect the poor from a disproportionate burden in the re-ordering of the federal budget. He was joined by the president of Catholic Relief Services, the president of Catholic Charities, and the presidents of the major coordinating organizations of both men and women religious.

These Catholic leaders signed a petition headed by Jim Wallis, called ***“A Circle of Protection: A Statement on Why We Need to Protect Programs for the Poor.”*** Most Catholics are reflexively supportive of helping the poor, but they might not be as supportive of an alliance with Wallis.

Wallis’ consistently left-of-center viewpoint is on full display in his 2008 book, ***The Great Awakening***, and on his Sojourners web site. His ideology has earned him the role of spiritual adviser to President Obama, and of course his view of budget reform mirrors that of the president.

Two days after the debt/budget compromise was passed by Congress, Wallis wrote: “The most glaring problem with the deal is that it doesn’t, at this point, include revenues. There is no balancing between spending cuts and tax increases, and this deal, so far, falls completely on the side of spending cuts.”

This rhetoric is a thinly veiled exposition of the belief that, if the Bush tax cuts reluctantly reinstated under President Obama were reversed, no cuts in social programs would be required. Is this true?

The congressional debate did not tackle this question head-on, probably because it is so difficult to clarify in a speech; it’s almost a classroom and blackboard matter. But it is critically important.

We can look at revenue and expenses as percentages of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Then adjustments for inflation and population are unnecessary. Historically, federal expenditures have averaged about 20% of GDP; total revenue has averaged about 18% of GDP. The difference is the deficit that accumulates as national debt. The size of that deficit has increased in the Obama years. Some blame the Bush tax cuts, but

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**“The solution to our budget problem must be found in reduced spending. Those who pretend otherwise are misleading us”**

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they occurred in 2001-2003, and personal income tax receipts increased from 7.3% of GDP in 2003 to 8.1% in 2008.

In 2009, federal spending increased dramatically from Bush-era levels. Combined with the recession-induced decrease in all revenue, this caused the deficit to jump to 10% of GDP in 2009, and stay at almost 9% in 2010. The 2008 deficit was only 3.2%. Just do the rough calculation: About 6% more of a \$15 trillion GDP is \$900 billion. Forget about whether it was necessary, or who “drove the car into the ditch.” The question on the blackboard is whether reversing “tax cuts for the rich” can cover this level of increased spending.

To make it simple, let’s assume that next year’s total federal revenue has recovered halfway back to the almost 18% of the last four Bush years, we still have the 2010 spending level, and we have the modest goal of reducing the deficit to the 2008 level. The blackboard then shows 17% of GDP in

revenue, and 24% in outlays. That’s still 4% more than the 3% deficit in 2008. Multiplying that 4% times the \$15 trillion GDP gives \$600 billion. Can the “millionaires and billionaires” supply it by increasing their “fair share?” Let’s stretch the definition for “wealthy” down to any personal return reporting \$200,000.

In 2008, the last year of fully analyzed data, 4.8% of taxable personal income tax returns showed an adjusted gross income of \$200,000 or more. This group reported 32.3% of all personal income, but paid 52.0% of all personal income tax, at an average effective rate of 21.9%. What tax rate would be needed to generate the additional \$600 billion? Well, \$600 billion is 24.5% of the total adjusted gross income of this group in 2008. Adding that to their existing tax would create an actual tax rate of 46.4%!

The blackboard tells us what congressional debate did not: Tax increases for those making over \$200,000 a year cannot solve our problem. The solution to our budget problem must be found in reduced spending. Those who pretend otherwise are misleading us.

Catholics in America have the additional problem that their religious leaders are coordinating with Jim Wallis whose ideology leans towards the formula of the European Social Democrats. Most Americans don’t want to move in that direction.

So we have an increasingly difficult situation in which influential Catholic leaders feel an obligation to express a prophetic vision that is at odds with the political common sense of the majority of Catholics. Over time, political friction can damage religious unity. Something has to give. Avoiding alliances with left-of-center activists like Wallis would be a good place to start.

Dr. Snaer is a retired pediatric dentist who lives in California.

***THE 2011-2012 SCHEDULE of EVENTS:***

- September 18    **THE GOVERNMENT'S WAR ON CHRISTIANITY, by Senator Glenn Grothman**
- October 16        **MSGR. POPEK AWARD DINNER**
- November 20    **THE SPANISH ARMADA: THE CATHOLIC VERSION, by Christopher Check**
- December 11    **MSGR. POPEK BIRTHDAY/CHRISTMAS DINNER**
- January 15       **ADDRESSING HISTORICAL ISSUES – THE CRUSADES, by David Archibald**
- February 19     **ENGAGING THE CULTURE, by Margo Szews**
- March 18         **AFTERNOON OF RECOLLECTION, by Fr. James Kubicki, S.J.**



**Catholics United for the Faith**

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

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in a reply e-mail, and we will remove your name from our list.

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This newsletter is not published in June, July or August.

Come and bring a friend to hear

**State Senator Glenn Grothman**

discuss:

**“The Government’s War on Christianity”**

Sunday, September 18  
Blessed Sacrament Church Hall  
South 40<sup>th</sup> St. and Oklahoma Avenue