

Reflections

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Catholic Family Newsletter*

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God's Family Is Being Attacked

St John Bosco's Vision For Our Times

Stories of Padre Pio's Prophetic Spirit

Our Lady of Kibeho's Message to the World

Blessing to All:

By: Richard Pickard

When was the last time you had a major disagreement with your husband/wife or children? Was it about something "BIG" or was it something "little?"

Most would reply it was over something "little." This is normal in most of our lives.

But if "little" things happen many times each day, then it is a condition that bears watching. We all know that Satan is trying to destroy "Peace" within families. It usually starts over "little" things but eventually the resulting resentment, frustration, anger and need for getting back or getting even, overwhelms and clouds our better judgement.



If you have children in the room when arguments break out, then Satan has an opening to steal the peace from the child as well. When peace is absent in our souls, we can more easily be controlled by our emotions and to Satan's benefit.

It takes work to keep your emotions in check in the face of criticism and name calling from others. But it is a must in this every changing world that Satan prowls through, looking for ways to turn you off course and into his highway to eternal destruction. You can defeat evil with goodness and by keeping daily prayer in your life. Praying for peace in your family and for friends is necessary each day. **Don't stop praying.** Prayer is the sure way

to help family members, friends and people you meet, to regain a sense of peace in their lives. Jesus said many times, **"Peace be with you."** Peace in your soul, will drive out the distress you feel in your heart, when confronted with angry comments, unjust criticism, racial slurs, and gestures of contempt. Being a Christian is not all peaches and cream. On the contrary, it is a life long battle against the evil in the world in which we live.

God's Babies Being Murdered 1.7 Billion Murdered & Counting

Many world governmental leaders have lost their inner peace and the fear of God. They are waging war against God's children. The world total of murdered babies in the womb is approaching 2 billion! Here in America, **"so called Christian politicians", approve and defend the murdering of babies in the womb, and now, they approve the selling of aborted baby parts! Woe to the Democratic Party which approves abortion in its Party Platform, and therefore, aligns itself with Satan.** The evil that controls the world, does so through the dark souls of politicians, large companies, news media and organizations **which breed division by falsely saying that evil is good and good is evil. Isaiah 5:20 "Woe to those who call what is bad, good, and what is good, bad, who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness, who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter."**

An alarm has finally been sounded by many American Catholic Bishops. In June 2021, they are discussing the production of a "teaching document", as a public stand against those who justify the killing of innocent babies. Which includes President Biden who receives communion with the approval of Cardinal Gregory, the Archbishop of Washington, DC.

I hope the document will rebuke Catholic politicians, including President Biden, and give direction to the Catholic hierarchy, and the Vatican, who so far, **shy away** from upsetting the elite who support this abomination of killing of the innocent. I also hope the "teaching document" forbids them from receiving the Body and Blood of Christ. The result of the recent vote to produce such a "teaching document" was 168 in favor and 55 against. The vote of Bishops was held virtually. It was a **secret ballot**, and we may never know who voted against it.

Vatican Issues Warning to Archbishop Gomez

In a letter dated May 7, 2021, the head of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF), Cardinal Luis Ladaria, told the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop José Gomez that any such policy (teaching document) requires dialogue among bishops themselves and then between bishops and ¹Catholic politicians who support abortion rights — whom the cardinal specifically identified as pro-choice. And he warned that if U.S. church leaders fail to reach a unanimous decision, a national policy, "given its contentious nature," could become a source of discord within the American church.

Vatican Warns American Bishops Not to Upset Biden Administration



The Vatican letter also wanted a more cautious and collegial approach to the 'divisive issue.' The Vatican letter raised questions of the difficulty this could make for bishops in their ability to cooperate with the Biden administration on issues such as immigration and racial injustice. **PROTECT THE SHEEP, NOT THE WOLVES!**

You don't give a 'PASS' to politicians saying, "its okay to murder babies!", because we don't want to upset them on other issues! You don't compromise with Evil. Our Church Bishops need your prayers, to be strong in defending the innocent. The Vatican, by sending this warning to the American Bishops is very cautious about this potential "teaching document." I hope Bishop Gomez will lead the flock of Jesus in calling out this Evil of those receiving the Eucharist while approving of abortion. The Vatican should be backing these Bishops in a forceful way. John 21:16...'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He replied, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Look after my sheep.' Unborn children are also in mentioned by Jesus. "Feed my lambs."

There is no "middle ground" for our Church in taking a stance against the killing of babies. The American Bishops must be strong. You can't soft-soap sentences about abortion in the fear of hurting future dialog with these politicians on other issues! Babies are suffering intense pain at the hands of abortionists. It's morally wrong. Period. The issues that seem to be more

¹ <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2021-05/vatican-letter-ladaria-bishops-us-communion-politics-abortion.html>

central with the over-cautious Vatican and less contentious in nature, are aligned with social justice, immigration and climate change

I read a few years ago that, ²“Pope Francis told reporters during a free-wheeling conversation on his flight home from a visit to Mexico: “A person (Trump) who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be, and not building bridges, is not Christian.” I do not know if he was quoted correctly. But our Church should be all about “saving souls”, not issuing a personal opinion of then President Trump, who is against abortion a non-Christian. I know the Pope wants to save the Earth, save the Rainforest, champion Climate issues, stop Border walls, save the Polar Bears, and that is all good. But his first duty should be for saving souls and calling out **evil**. And now to see his spokesman, Cardinal Luis Ladaria, **warning** our American Bishops on the potential harmful consequences of producing a “teaching document on the Eucharist and Abortion is troubling. I see trouble ahead for our Church if they waiver from divisive issues. I hope I am wrong, but I see a rift forming within the hierarchy of our Church. Please pray, that the Holy Spirit will help our Church be a **Light Shining in the Darkness**. The loyal Cardinals and Bishops need to raise their voices and help steer the Catholic Ship. ³St. John Bosco’s had a vision of our time. See the next article for the full vision.

I am proud of the American Bishops who voted in favor of producing a “teaching document.” I am hoping that it is strong and represents the teaching of our founder, Jesus Christ. Those who lead the ‘sheep’, will have to answer to Jesus. Matthew 12:34...” **You brood of vipers; how can your speech be good when you are evil? For words flow out of what fills the heart.”**



The fifth commandment of God...”Thou shalt not kill.” The better translation from the Hebrew would be “**Thou shalt not murder**” — a subtle distinction but an important one to the Church. Killing an innocent person is considered murder. Killing an unjust aggressor to preserve your own life is still killing, but it isn’t considered murder or immoral.

² <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-election/pope-says-trump-not-christian-in-a-sign-of-global-concern-idUSMTZSAPEC2IR8HAHN>

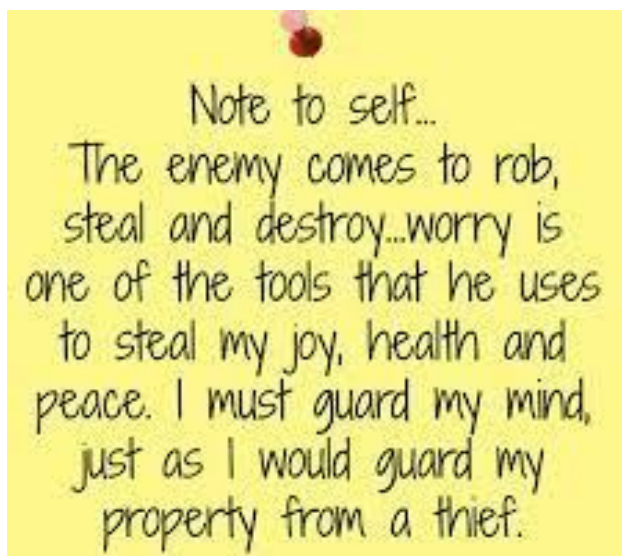
³ <https://icxcmmary.wordpress.com/st-john-boscoss-vision/>

⁴ The Holy See was also reportedly annoyed by Bishop Gomez, the President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops statement on President Biden's Inauguration Day, when he lamented that "***our new president (Biden) has pledged to pursue certain policies that would advance moral evils and threaten human life and dignity, most seriously in the areas of abortion, contraception, marriage, and gender.***" The statement from Gomez, added that "for the nation's bishops, the continued injustice of abortion remains the preeminent priority." Along with Biden, there are 158 so-called Catholics in Congress, most of them Democrats who are pro-choice.

The road to perdition is wide and popular. Many fail to recognize how their actions in supporting murder of babies is evil and keeps them from the promise of salvation through Jesus Christ. *Those that support murder*, will face Jesus one day. Pray, Pray, Pray each day without fail for our country, our Bishops, your family members and for those that need it the most. **As a follower of Jesus, support good...avoid evil. Don't be silent.**

We are in a war for the souls of many. We are Christian soldiers.

Pray, Pray, Pray



⁴ <https://www.npr.org/2021/02/24/970877117/in-pope-francis-biden-has-a-potential-ally-who-shares-the-same-catholic-detracto?live=1&t=1614629266622&t=1620735001499>

Avoid bad company, lest you fall into Serious Sin.

“For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. Luke 6:43-45

The Vision of St John Bosco For Our Time

Two Pillars: Holy Eucharist and Our Lady



It is under the title of Our Lady Help of Christians that Saint John Bosco had his famous vision about Christ’s Church and the Blessed Virgin.

John Bosco was an Italian priest, who from childhood onward had vivid and mystical dreams which helped him in directing his life and which described in great detail conditions and events that would occur in the future. He persistently astounded those around him with the accuracy and precision of the prophecies he made that came to pass during his lifetime. He was also a miracle worker, healing thousands, and he was the founder of the Salesian Order. He and his followers helped tens of thousands of street children in Italy and in the Western Hemisphere develop job skills and a moral and spiritual life. He died in 1888. One of his more remarkable mystical dreams

occurred in the spring of 1862, when he had a vision of the near-term future of his beloved Catholic Church. He described the dream as follows:

“Imagine yourself to be with me on the seashore, or better, on an isolated rock and not to see any patch of land other than that under your feet. On the whole of that vast sheet of water you see an innumerable fleet of ships in battle array. The prows of the ships are formed into sharp, spear-like points so that wherever they are thrust they pierce and completely destroy. These ships are armed with cannons, with lots of rifles, with incendiary materials, with other firearms of all kinds, and also with books, and advance against a ship very much bigger and higher than themselves and try to dash against it with the prows or burn it or in some way to do it every possible harm.

As escorts to that majestic fully equipped ship, there are many smaller ships, which receive commands by signal from it and carry out movements to defend themselves from the opposing fleet. In the midst of the immense expanse of sea, two mighty columns of great height arise a little distance the one from the other. On the top of one, there is the statue of the Immaculate Virgin, from whose feet hangs a large placard with this inscription: *Auxilium Christianorum*—“Help of Christians”; on the other, which is much higher and bigger, stands a Host of great size proportionate to the column and beneath is another placard with the words: *Salus Credentium*—Salvation of the Faithful.

“The supreme commander of the big ship is the Sovereign Pontiff. He, seeing the fury of the enemies and the evils among which his faithful find themselves, determines to summon around himself the captains of the smaller ships to hold a council and decide what is to be done.

“All the captains come aboard and gather around the Pope. They hold a meeting, but meantime the wind and the waves gather in storm, so they are sent back to control their own ships. There comes a short lull; for a second time the Pope gathers the captains around him, while the flagship goes on its course. But the frightful storm returns. The Pope stands at the helm and all his energies are directed to steering the ship towards those two columns from whose summits hang many anchors and strong hooks linked to chains.

"All the enemy ships move to attack it, and they try in every way to stop it and to sink it: some with books and writings or inflammable materials, of which they are full; others with firearms, with rifles and with rams. The battle rages ever more relentlessly. The enemy prows thrust violently, but their efforts and impact prove useless. They make attempts in vain and waste all their labor and ammunition; the big ship goes safely and smoothly on its way. Sometimes it happens that, struck by formidable blows, it gets large, deep gaps in its sides; but no sooner is the harm done that a gentle breeze blows from the two columns and the cracks close up and the gaps are stopped immediately.

"Meanwhile, the guns of the assailants are blown up, the rifles and other arms and prows are broken; many ships are shattered and sink into the sea. Then, the frenzied enemies strive to fight hand to hand, with fists, with blows, with blasphemy and with curses.

"Suddenly the Pope falls gravely wounded. Immediately, those who are with him run to help him and they lift him up. A second time the Pope is struck, he falls again and dies. A shout of victory and joy rings out amongst the enemies; from their ships an unspeakable mockery arises.

"But hardly is the Pontiff dead than another takes his place. The pilots, having met together, have elected the Pope so promptly that the news of the death of the Pope coincides with the news of the election of the successor. The adversaries begin to lose courage.

"The new Pope, putting the enemy to rout and overcoming every obstacle, guides the ship right up to the two columns and comes to rest between them; he makes it fast with a light chain that hangs from the bow to an anchor of the column on which stands the Host; and



with another light chain which hangs from the stern, he fastens it at the opposite end to another anchor hanging from the column on which stands the Immaculate Virgin.

"At this point, a great convulsion takes place. All the ships that until then had fought against the Pope's ship are scattered; they flee away, collide and break to pieces one against another. Some sink and try to

sink others. Several small ships that had fought gallantly for the Pope race to be the first to bind themselves to those two columns. Many other ships, having retreated through fear of the battle, cautiously watch from far away; the wrecks of the broken ships having been scattered in the whirlpools of the sea, they in their turn sail in good earnest to those two columns, and having reached them, they make themselves fast to the hooks hanging down from them and there they remain safe, together with the principal ship, on which is the Pope. Over the sea their reigns a great calm.”

We see from this prophetic vision that it is through the grace and power of the Holy Eucharist, the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, and the courageous leadership of the Pope, that the Church will weather the storms and attacks of this age and be guided safely to the haven of salvation.

Stories of Padre Pio’s Prophetic Spirit

The Rose... Giovanna Boschi, had attended Padre Pio’s Mass in San Giovanni Rotondo for more than forty years. She also felt blessed that in those many years, she had been able to go to confession to Padre Pio on a regular basis.



On one occasion, Giovanna decided to visit her good friend Margherita Hamilton in Rome. During the visit, she noticed a magnificent red rose on the terrace of Margherita’s house. She picked it and put it in a vase. Setting it on a table next to a little framed picture of Padre Pio, Giovanna said to Margherita, “This rose is so beautiful that I am going to take it to Padre Pio.” Soon another friend came over to Margherita’s house to visit. The three ladies admired the rose sitting next to Padre Pio’s photograph. That

afternoon they had a wonderful time conversing together. After a time, Margherita happened to glance at the little table beside them. “Look,” Margherita said to her companions, “The rose is not in the vase. It has

disappeared!" The women lifted up the table and looked on the floor. They looked to the left, to the right, in front and behind. They looked everywhere in the general area, but the rose was nowhere to be seen. "This is impossible," Margherita said. "The three of us never left the house. We have been sitting here all afternoon. The rose was here and now it is gone. Things cannot just vanish into thin air!" There was absolutely no explanation for the occurrence. About three weeks later, Margherita and Giovanna decided to go to the monastery of Our Lady of Grace to visit Padre Pio.



When they arrived at the monastery, they found Padre Pio in a small sitting room. To their great surprise, he was holding a beautiful rose in his hand. It was the rose that Giovanna had intended to give him, the one that

had vanished into thin air. "Thank you very much for the rose, Giovanna," Padre Pio said. "I appreciate your kindness." Needless to say, Giovanna and Margherita were shocked. Right before their eyes, they saw the miraculous rose. Giovanna said to Padre Pio, "Father, do you think I might be able to have that rose back?" "Of course, you can," Padre Pio replied. She took it home and put it in a frame. The rose would always remain one of Giovanna's most treasured possessions. †

The Need For Prayer...On January 20, 1936, Dr. Guglielmo Sanguinetti and several other men were visiting Padre Pio in his cell. As they were talking, Padre Pio suddenly interrupted the conversation and asked the men to kneel



down with him and to pray. "We must pray for a soul who will



soon appear before the judgment seat of God," Padre Pio said. When they were finished praying, Padre Pio asked his friends if they knew who they had been praying for. They replied that they did not know. Padre Pio told them that they had been praying for George V, the King of England. Dr. Sanguinetti told Padre Pio that he had just read in the paper that the King's health was not a cause for alarm. He had a head cold and no more. He was not in any danger. "What I am telling you is the truth," Padre Pio answered. About midnight, Father Aurelio heard a knock at his cell door. When he opened the door, there stood Padre Pio. "Let us pray for a soul who at this very moment has passed away and is now appearing before the tribunal of God. I am talking about the King of England," Padre Pio said. The two priests prayed together for a while. The next day, the newspapers announced that the King had died. His death occurred at the same time that Padre Pio and Father Aurelio were praying together for him. It was generally not Padre Pio's habit to make statements about political or world leaders. However, at the time of King George V's death, Padre Pio spoke of him and asked his friends to pray for his soul. It is not known whether Padre Pio had spoken of him at any other time. And what do we know of the King?



We know that he was a man of faith and that he made it his practice to read from the Holy Scriptures every day. As a Protestant, he treated the Catholic Church with admirable respect. When George V became the King of England, he made a decision in favor of the Catholic Church. He refused to abide by the tradition in his country that called the Catholic Mass "superstitious and idolatrous." History tells us that as the King of England, George was diligent and committed, and he influenced his country for good.



† **The Confession**...Once a young woman was preparing to make a trip to the monastery of Our Lady of Grace in order to make her confession to Padre Pio. She also wanted to discuss some very important personal matters with him. Before leaving for the monastery, the girl's mother, spoke at length to her about Padre Pio. Her

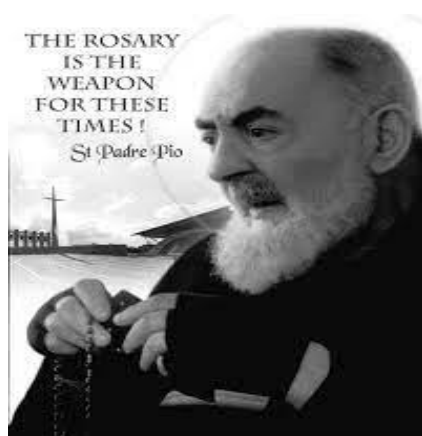
mother then kissed the palm of her hand three times and made a request. "Just as I have kissed the palm of your hand, I ask you to kiss Padre Pio's hand for me," her mother said. The young woman was irritated by her mother's words, which did not seem to be of much importance. She explained to her mother that her time would be very limited in the confessional. She was certain that it would be impossible for her to kiss Padre Pio's hand three times. She would be lucky if she had the chance to kiss Padre Pio's hand even once. But to kiss the palm of his hand? That did not seem likely. Most people kissed the back of his hand, if they had the opportunity to do so at all. "I have some very important things to discuss with Padre Pio," the young woman said to her mother. "In my mind, I am reviewing everything I want to say to him so that I will not forget. I cannot promise you that I can do anything other than that." As the girl was making her confession to Padre Pio, he gently brought the palm of his hand to her lips. The girl kissed his hand and then continued her confession. Two more times, he put the palm of his hand against her lips. She had no idea why he did so. After the confession was over, she walked out into the courtyard in front of the church. She told several people who were standing nearby about her confession to Padre Pio. She explained how he had pressed his hand to her lips. She asked them if they knew why he might have done so. None of the people had an answer to her question. It was not until the next day that

the girl finally realized what had happened. Padre Pio was granting her mother's wish. †

The Unbelieving Husband...There was a woman who had received a great grace through the intercession of Padre Pio. She wanted to visit Padre Pio at the monastery of Our Lady of Grace, and she asked her husband to take her there. Her husband was a devout Catholic, but he was skeptical about Padre Pio. He doubted all the claims he had heard about his sanctity.



He finally told his wife that he was willing to take her to San Giovanni Rotondo, but he did not care to speak to Padre Pio. During their days at the monastery, his wife tried to reason with him. "You have the opportunity to receive a blessing from Padre Pio and to have our son receive a blessing too. I am hoping and praying that you will take advantage of that opportunity," his wife said. Finally, he gave in to his wife's pleadings. The last day of the trip, he took his son to the place where the men waited for Padre Pio each day to receive his blessing. He stood off in the distance and hid himself in the shadows. After a time, Padre Pio came in. To some, he gave his blessing, to others he spoke a word of encouragement, and to others, he reached out and took the letters they handed him. When Padre Pio saw the man and his son, he turned to the son and said, "I know your name. Your name is Francesco Pio, just like mine." Then he looked at the father and exclaimed, **"I said that to your son in order that you would believe."** From that day forward, he believed. †



Our Lady of Kibeho's message to the World



By Kateri Williams... Director of the Office of Black Catholic Ministry for the Archdiocese of Denver.

Most Catholics are familiar with the Marian apparition sites in France, Portugal and Mexico. Yet, many are unaware of the Marian apparitions that took place in Kibeho, Rwanda between 1981 and 1989 to three children. Recognized by the Vatican in 2001, Our Lady of Kibeho is the only Marian apparition site approved by the Catholic Church on the Africa continent.

At the time of her appearance, Kibeho was a peaceful town. The visitations took place 13 years before the brutal genocide of over one million people in Rwanda. ***The messages from Our Lady to the three young visionaries included a foreshadowing of the impending tragedy. However, her messages were not only for the people of Kibeho. Our Lady stated, "If I am coming here, it does not mean that my message is only for Rwanda, nor just Africa, but for the entire world."***

Her messages reminded us to pray the rosary daily. *Furthermore, she requested that the visionaries reintroduce the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows*



of the Virgin Mary to the world. She promised that the recitation of this rosary in conjunction with (not in place of) the traditional rosary would result in forgiveness of our sins as well as the understanding of why we commit such sins, so we can avoid the snares of the devil and fill our hearts with the love of God.

In this time, as our own country seeks healing and unity, we ask Our Lady of Kibeho to pray for us.

Prayer to Our Lady of Kibeho

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Word, Mother of all those who believe in Him and who welcome Him into their lives, we are here before you to contemplate you. We believe that you are amongst us, like a mother in the midst of her children, even though we do not see you with our bodily eyes.

We bless you, the sure way that leads us to Jesus the Savior, for all the favors which you endlessly pour out upon us, especially that, in your meekness, you were gracious enough to appear miraculously in Kibeho, just when our world needed it most.

Grant us always the light and strength necessary to accept, with all seriousness, your call to us to be converted, to repent, and to live according to your Son's Gospel. Teach us how to pray with sincerity, and to love one another as He loved us, so that, just as you have requested, we may always be beautiful flowers diffusing their pleasant fragrance everywhere and upon everyone.

Holy Mary, Our Lady of Sorrows, teach us to understand the value of the cross in our lives, so that whatever is still lacking to the sufferings of Christ we may fill up in our own bodies for His mystical Body, which is the Church.

And, when our pilgrimage on this earth comes to an end, may we live eternally with you in the kingdom of Heaven. Amen.

**The International Catholic Family Newsletter
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Our mission statement is to motivate people to pray and to be Christian examples in their work, home and with others, for those needing the Light in a world of Darkness.

<https://www.catholicfamilynewsletter.com>

**I am watching over you. Pray my children,
Pray, Pray, Pray, My Rosary For The Salvation of
Sinners**



1 Corinthians 15:45

So the first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul;
and the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit.