



NEWSLETTER



DEACON DON SIMS
FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR
PO BOX 34
LYONS, TX 77863
PHONE: 281-794-0299

Knights of Columbus

MARTIN ELMAN
FAITHFUL COMPTROLLER
3098 SOUTH HGY. 77
ROCKDALE, TX. 76567
(512-446-6699)

Msgr. Francis D. Urbanovsky #2587
Somerville, Caldwell, and Rockdale

FEBRUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 MEETING ROCKDALE	12	13	14 SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY	15	16
17	18 PRESIDENTS DAY	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

NEWS

Our meeting this month is in Rockdale, starting with the meal being served at 7:00 pm sharp. This meeting will consist of our annual Renewal of Obligation ceremony, therefore the dress is Tuxedo with Social Baldric. All wives are invited to attend, and the meal will be catered. There will be a guest speaker for the Ladies, while we attend the Ceremony. Raffle tickets will be available at this meeting for our annual Turkey Shoot that will be held on March 31, 2019. We would like to thank Josiah and Beverly, for again hosting this event. There is a lot of work on their part, other than what we do, to get ready for this day. Let's pray for another good day, and a safe and successful shoot, so that we can continue doing our part to fund the various charitable projects the way we have done in the past.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Here is something pretty appropriate for this Valentine's Day-reprinted from Catholic Online—www.catholic.org
My powerful and glorious and holy God, with everything I have and everything I am in Christ, I come before Your Throne to intercede on behalf of marriages. Lord, I come before You with complete confidence because I know with irrefutable certainty that I am praying according to Your will. Father, You are PRO-MARRIAGE. You are FOR US. And if You are for us, who indeed can be against us? Lord, Your enemy the devil is waging full scale war on the marriages of Your own children. Havoc resides in the earthly house of God. Our churches will only be as strong as the families that inhabit them.
If not for Your Spirit living within us, Satan's psychological warfare would be almost too much to bear and his lies too sly to discern. We cry out to You, Lord! I ask You to rise from Your Throne in behalf of each of our homes and marriages and cause our enemies to scatter violently. Open our eyes to the deceit of the enemy that tempts spouses to think they need something - someone - brand new. Help them to see that it would be an unending cycle of newness always wearing off and demanding something deeper to sustain it. Renew us, Lord! You created marriage and You alone can sustain it. Breathe fresh life into each of our marriages. You are a master at resurrection life. Raise marriages from the dead, O Lord! Reclaim those that have given up. Put a holy tenacity in them to refuse to let go. Give each spouse eyes only for the other. Cause each husband to thrill to the touch of his wife. Cause each wife to thrill to the touch of her husband. Renew a fiery passion in their hearts toward one another. Fill each wife with the desire and obedience to treat her man like he's the real man You created him to be. Forgive us our serious trespasses of dishonoring or belittling our spouses in any way. Forgive us for making our men secondary priorities to our children. Help us to see that the best thing we could ever do for our children is to have a wonderful relationship with their father. Cause each man to be lavish in his demonstrations of love toward his wife. Open his eyes to see how hard she works and how badly she needs his blessing. In turn, open her eyes to the pressures that fall daily upon her man and enable her to love him in a way that soothes and relieves him. CLAIM OUR HOMES AND OUR MARRIAGES, LORD! I know You can perform miracles over the worst of marriages. You performed countless wonders over my own. Lord, in Jesus' Name, You bring to a stunning halt every weapon forged against each couple and every scheme the enemy may already have under way. Bind every single person and subsequent action that may be coming against one of these marriages. Halt any hint of extra-marital flirtation or fantasy in the powerful Name of Jesus. Cause any other person that has become dangerously attractive to now become utterly repulsive to them. Empower every person at risk to flee for his or her life from sexual temptation and immorality. Make each spouse TRUE, Lord, in heart, soul, and mind.
God, I lift this to You with great urgency and fervency. Enough is enough! Enough Christian marriages have disintegrated! I don't just pray for couples to stay together. I pray for them to LOVE staying together. I pray for the return of laughter, flirtation, desire, and life-long commitment. Interrupt mediocrity with fresh fire. We are all weak in our natural selves, Lord, and we know we'll never have perfect marriages and homes but we are fully capable in Your sovereign power to have good ones. Healthy ones. FUN ONES. L-A-S-T-I-N-G ONES! Lord, the beauty of praying in Your will is knowing that every single couple who desires and receives it can have it. Every couple can be healed. Every couple can be in love again. Every family can be whole if they are willing. Make them willing! I offer this intercession with the absolute belief that You initiated it, Lord. You do not waste time nor effort. If You prompted it, You meant to answer it. Now, compassionate and wonderful Father, do what only You can do. Out-do everything we ask. Do more than we could think to request so that Your great Name can be magnified above all else. I set before You every marriage represented by those who read this entry. Cause every couple to have a glorious Head-on collision with You, Lord, the Maker of Heaven and Earth. Nothing is too difficult for You. My prayers are unmistakably heard and my thanks already appropriate because I offer each of these petitions in the incomparable and delivering Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

To Anyone Who Thinks the Ralph Northam Controversy Is Insignificant

Controversy erupted this week after Virginia's Democratic governor, Ralph Northam, not only defended a late-term abortion bill but also [insinuated](#) that babies could be left to die after birth. Many Republicans, including [President Donald Trump](#) and Nebraska [Sen. Ben Sasse](#), made public statements about the moral repugnance of Northam's remarks.

Through a spokesperson, Northam, a former pediatric doctor, said his words [were taken out of context](#) by Republicans and that the idea of killing infants was "disgusting."

Regardless of Northam's intent, Americans should know that there is a great evil afoot in our nation, one that far pre-dates [Virginia's bill](#) or Northam's comments. That great evil is the systematic undermining of human dignity. From where do so many Americans find the ideological justification to take the lives of innocent human beings, whether born or unborn?

To answer that question, we must go back to *Roe v. Wade*. In perhaps the most perverse ruling in the Supreme Court's history, the majority implicitly categorized the unborn baby in a mother's womb as her "personalty" (a legal term referring to one's private property) and effectively legalized abortion on the basis of a woman's "right to privacy" in relation to the property in her womb.

In effect, *Roe v. Wade* asserts that the unborn child does not become a human being until it is born.

Justice John Paul Stevens, writing more than a decade later in support of *Roe v. Wade*, [declared](#) that even "the nine-month-gestated, fully sentient fetus on the eve of birth" is not yet a human being. He gives no explanation, but merely asserts—because there is no possible rationale. It is [illogical](#) to say a being's location determines its nature.

Thus, only a few years after the civil rights movement had expanded protection of human dignity, seven lawyers chose to bypass the legislature to rule that an entire class of human beings—unborn babies—will not be guaranteed justice and equality.

The effects have been catastrophic, with *Roe v. Wade* functioning like an environmental disaster on the moral ecology of our nation.

The worst effects have been felt by the unborn beings who die violently in the womb during the act of abortion. Indeed, an unborn baby in a medical facility enjoys less legal protection in America than an endangered species of bird. But social scientists, medical experts, legal experts, and philosophers have also shown that abortion on demand [harms society in a more holistic manner](#).

For one, it [harms women](#) by encouraging male irresponsibility and sexually predatory behavior. It hurts [men](#) by giving them no legal say in the pending destruction of the baby they helped create. It hurts families and communities by teaching them that they can employ lethal violence in order to solve their problems. And it hurts law-governed democracy by denying justice and equality to an entire class of human beings—unborn babies.

Roe v. Wade has eroded the moral foundations of our nation and numbed our collective consciences.

It also set the stage for lethal violence to be used against infants after they are born. In fact, many of America's most prominent ethicists now argue that it is morally plausible to take the life of a baby weeks after it has been born.

For example, Princeton University professor Peter Singer—often described as the most influential ethicist in the world—argues that it is permissible and sometimes even necessary to kill the innocent. He based this argument on a dismissal of Christian teaching about human dignity, opting instead for the view that human beings are mere animals.

Singer argues not only for abortion on demand, but also for legalizing infanticide and euthanasia.

There is a great evil at work in Singer's argument, similar to the evil that produced the racial and ideological cleanings of the 20th century—yet somehow it is palatable to the privileged and enlightened thought leaders who hired him and who applaud his work.

How should we respond, then, to abortion on demand and the chilling new movement to legalize infanticide?

First, we should show compassion for the very difficult situation many women find themselves in during unexpected pregnancies. We should provide financial support for adoption agencies, counseling services, pregnancy support services, and help equip churches who minister to women in crisis pregnancies.

But we must also look to persuade our fellow citizens as we seek both social renewal and legal reform, so that human babies will be protected, men will be held responsible, families will be kept together, and America's claim to uphold "justice and equality" will apply to everyone in this land—born or unborn.

We should hope that recent controversies, such as the remarks made by Northam or [New York's radical abortion bill](#), will somehow become the "ground zero" from which many Americans become lifetime recruits for the pro-life cause. The America we seek should be one in which every child—unborn or born—is [protected in law and welcomed in life](#).

Americans might recall years ago that the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals launched a program to create ["no kill" cities](#). In San Francisco, for example, they announced that "no adoptable animal with a treatable disease will be euthanized" and that they would "pay for medical care for an animal with a long-term health problem after it is adopted." Milwaukee, St. Louis, and New York joined San Francisco in becoming "no kill" cities. Now if we could only expand that compassionate vision to include human babies.

Commentary By Bruce Ashford.

Bruce Ashford is provost and professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the co-author of ["Letters to an American Christian,"](#) and blogs at [Christianity for the Common Good](#).

Faithful Friar	Rev. Tom Hanus		Faithful Scribe	Robert Zapata	512-760-5839
Faithful Navigator	Donald E Sims	979-204-1812	Inner Sentinel	Charlie Watson	512-446-7992
Faithful Comptroller	Martin Elman	512-446-6699	Outer Sentinel	Frankie Wolf	979-820-1869
Faithful Captain	Adrien Drouilhet	512-461-2972	One Year Trustee	Richard Neal	979-220-2798
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Faithful Purser	Lawrence Vavra	979-324-7232	Three Year Trustee	Jose Mancha	512-455-2123
Faithful Pilot	Maurice Jurena	979-324-4856	Faithful Commander	Lawrence Vavra	979-324-7232