

the flock

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IN THIS ISSUE OF ‘THE FLOCK’

OUR LADY’S MIRACULOUS CARE (p2) HE CAME, HE SAW,
HE CONQUERED (p4) OUR VISIT TO ROME (p6) PUTTING THE RECORD
STRAIGHT (p8) DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (p8) HOME SCHOOLING (p10)
DEAR FRIENDS (p13)



“Teach the children the Catechism and show them how to make the Sign of the Cross. Teach them how to approach the Sacraments and everything they need to know for their Salvation.”

No, this is not another exhortation to our Bishops from *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*, these are the words Our Blessed Lady spoke to Adele Brise, a Belgian immigrant girl of 28, in Green Bay, Wisconsin, U.S.A. Our Lady spoke in 1859 but the apparitions have only just been officially approved by the Church and can now be recognised by all.

See-http://www.gbdioc.org/images/stories/Evangelization_Worship/Shrine/Documents/Shrine-of-Our-Lady-of-Good-Help.pdf

Adele Brise obeyed Our Lady by travelling the State of Wisconsin, collecting children and teaching them exactly as Our Lady had requested. She started an Order of Sisters to work with her and their teaching played an essential part in the life of the Church in that State.

OUR LADY'S MIRACULOUS CARE

ONCE when a terrible fire spread across Wisconsin, Sister Adele with the other Sisters and all the children sheltered in the Church praying to be kept safe. They stayed there all night and in the morning they found that although the church and a small area around it were untouched, all the surrounding countryside for many miles was devastated.

Now this apparition has been officially approved by the Church, Our Lady's message must be seen as a message of great importance for all Catholics, especially as it is extremely relevant for us today.

Why has it been approved now? Possibly because there is such desperate need now for the Catechism to be taught again if the Church is not to virtually disappear in all the English-speaking countries and in Western Europe.

Why in Green Bay? Bishop David Ricken of Green Bay has recently been appointed the Bishop responsible for Evangelisation and Catechetics for the United States Conference of Bishops.

Why the Catechism? Perhaps Our Lady in her Wisdom chose to name the Catechism specifically because it gives a concise but full, clear and well-structured account of the Truths of the Catholic Faith. 1859, the year of the Apparitions, was, significantly the year our magnificent 'Penny Catechism' was first published in England and Wales.

What else did Our Lady say? She appeared three times to Adele. The first time she said nothing but she delivered her important message on the two following days. It is characteristically brief but concise and to the point. Our Lady also added that we must *Pray for sinners*. It seems likely that she means us to teach our children to pray for sinners too.

Who is this message for? This command to ‘Teach the Catechism...’ is addressed by Our Heavenly Mother to all of us - parents, grandparents, bishops, priests, teachers, school governors, parish catechists and RCIA instructors. *‘Teach the catechism...’* means work through the questions and answers, one at a time explaining each one carefully, and then choosing the most important answers for the children/ students to learn.

What if the Diocesan Catechetical Advisors/ Inspectors forbid schools to use the ‘Penny Catechism’? Sadly this does happen. I remember being forbidden to use the Catechism in my Catholic school and I know this still goes on. It probably explains why so many pupils of Catholic schools have so little understanding of their Catholic Faith. Now, however, we must obey Our Blessed Lady even if it means refusing to obey the R.E. Advisors/Inspectors. Let’s remember how St Peter and St John reacted when the High Priests told them to stop teaching the Resurrection. (Acts Chap.4). The two Apostles explained, politely but firmly, that, although normally they would obey their High Priests they had to obey God before men and so they would go on teaching the Resurrection. In the same way, we must obey Our Lady before R.E. ‘Advisors’ and even before our Bishops and teach the children the Catechism as she has told us to.

Has this helped Green Bay Catholics? Yes, I understand from an English priest who visited them they are still remarkably faithful and devout.

Fortunately the Penny Catechism is still available from the CTS, though it costs a lot more than a penny now. It can also be down-loaded free from our web-site, www.proecclesia.com <<http://www.proecclesia.com/>> TAN the American Publishers are reprinting it and I know *Grandparents United* in Ireland are buying it in quantities from them to sell to parents at their Meetings.

Of course we must teach our children to pray as well and to obey Our Lady by adding a sentence to their night and morning prayers such as *Lord, help all sinners, especially those who are dying tonight/this day.*

As this important message comes from Our Blessed Lady, we must do all we can to implement it, especially as it could still bring this country back to the

Faith of our Fathers. As well as teaching when we can, let's each write to our own Diocesan Bishop giving him this message from the Queen of Heaven so he can implement it in the schools and parishes of his Diocese, **and let's keep writing to him until he does.**

In all we do to spread this message and to teach the catechism, let's remember to ask the help of Our Lady of Good Help and let's teach our children to turn to her whenever they need help too.

HE CAME, HE SAW, HE CONQUERED!

THE recent Papal visit was undoubtedly a triumph for the Holy Father. It was very reassuring to see him disarm our few but noisy protesters so effortlessly and so charmingly. He just had to be himself to win people over and when he spoke no-one could question that what he said was both good and wise. Now we should feel more confident about affirming our Faith in public by practicing it more openly. For instance, we could say grace before meals in restaurants, abstain from meat in work canteens on Fridays, wear a crucifix or medal, Cross ourselves whenever we ride past a church in a bus, talk to non-Catholics friends about going to Mass on Sundays and Holydays, etc.

1. Sadly, the SOHO Masses where openly practicing homosexuals who flaunt their, objectively, sinful life-style receive Holy Communion every first and third Sunday of the month, were ignored. The reporter John Burke, who writes regularly for the American Catholic papers, *The Remnant* and *The Wanderer*, attended the Press Conference held by Father Frederico Lombardi during the Pope's visit. Reporters were asking Father Lombardi various questions so John Burke asked him about the SOHO Masses. Father Lombardi obviously knew all about them but he replied that he would not take that question "as they are not on the Pope's schedule"! Remembering that the Pope is very particular about the reverence due to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, encouraging recipients to kneel and receive on the tongue as we used to, he must be just as unhappy about these openly sacrilegious Communions as the rest of us are.

Diplomacy may be the reason there is no action. Rome lives and breathes a diplomacy which restrains them from interfering directly with a serving bishop unless there is absolutely no alternative. They may instruct a bishop to take certain action and he may *diplomatically* procrastinate, delay, make excuses and eventually just do and say nothing. Then Rome will wait until he reaches retirement age and they replace him. Unfortunately many of our archbishops and bishops are still a long way from retirement. Diplomacy is fine when things are going fairly well but now the Church is facing what Pope John Paul II called “a genuine crisis” it is no longer fit for purpose. I can understand why Mother Angelica used to say “Diplomacy stinks!”

2. The False Religious Instruction in Schools and Parishes is the other scandal crying out to be corrected before the Church in this country shrinks to vanishing point. Teaching children the travesty of the Faith found in our approved religious textbooks is calculated not only to leave them ignorant of our glorious faith but it also instills in them a contempt for the Church it is almost impossible to eradicate. It is not surprising that 97% of Catholic school leavers lapse from the faith never to return while children who attend state schools remain more faithful. Teaching nothing is obviously less damaging than teaching rubbish and claiming it is Divine Revelation.

What can parents do? Some don't realise there is anything wrong because this has now gone on for over forty years and they were not taught effectively themselves. Others who do realise what is happening may protest to the school/parish priest/bishop only to be told they just don't understand modern methods - although it is the content not the method they are concerned about. Until the official instruction is corrected, the only safe answer is to teach your children yourself using a sound religious programme like the *Faith and Life Series* from America and of course the *Catechism*. We must be very grateful to Our Blessed Mother for her timely message which does so much to make the issue clear and to support our pleas for sound religious instruction again.

Surely not even a bishop will dare to ignore Our Lady's Clarion call when you pass it on to them.

OUR VISIT TO ROME

HOWEVER, as these two scandals were not effectively addressed at the Papal visit, two of us decided to go to Rome in October to discuss just these two points and the future appointment of sound bishops in this country. As usual we took dossiers with us illustrating the present position on the SOHO Masses and the officially approved religious instruction in most schools and parishes. We were kindly received in every Curia Office we visited and we went through our dossiers with the officials we met, leaving a set behind for their further study.

SOHO Masses. This dossier contained News Letters from the Church of Our Lady and St Gregory, Warwick Street, which showed encouragement to walk in the GAY PRIDE MARCH carrying banners proclaiming “Proud to be Catholic, Proud to be Gay”; promotion of books, talks and films by advocates of the homosexual lifestyle; the spread of these Masses as they are not being stopped; the recruitment of young Catholics to join them etc. We also included addresses of web-sites run by regular members of this congregation stating their hostility to Church teaching and their programme to spread this practice quite explicitly, with names of priests and bishops who facilitate all this.

Religious Instruction. This time I decided not to repeat reviews of the approved textbooks as usual, but to give them instead the *fruits* of this teaching. Providentially, the Monday after the Pope returned to Rome, *The Daily Telegraph* published the latest official figures for Catholics in England and Wales. They compared the number when Pope John Paul visited us in 1982 with the present number. These figures are so alarming we can only conclude that if nothing is done, a Pope visiting us in around twenty years time would find very few Catholics here. I gave more statistics and enclosed evidence, but just a few examples are enough to give you the sad, almost unbelievable picture of our terminal decline. All these figures are just for Westminster Archdiocese as it is typical.

1. Catholic marriages – have dropped from 3,178 in 1982 to 1,139 in 2009. Catholics who do not marry in church do not bring up their children as Catholics either, so we have lost them and their descendants.

2. Church and school closures. In spite of the amount of immigration, five parish churches and **forty four** Westminster Catholic schools have closed in this time. Schools which were built by our fore-fathers at great personal sacrifice are now sold to become restaurants, Mosques, even schools for Moslems.

We will never be able to replace them.

This precipitous drop in Catholic practice must be compared with our steady growth in this country before the advent of Modern Catechetics in our schools and parishes when we did ‘teach the children the catechism.’

This enables us to see exactly where the problem is and what we have to do to put it right. It is surprising that in spite of the shocking fruits forty years of Modern Catechetics has produced, the bishops continue to use it and condemn Catholics who want a return to sound teaching. Fortunately, they will not be able to condemn Our Blessed Lady and she has now said “*Teach the children the Catechism.....*” So if we all unite to proclaim her message far and wide things will inevitably get better.

Good Future Bishops are the solution to our problems. Where such bishops have been appointed in America and in Australia, sound teaching has been brought back to the schools so churches are packed again, seminaries are crowded and stable Catholic marriages the norm.

So, we must thank God that we do now have some excellent priests of the right age to make excellent bishops. This means we were able to provide names of priests who are on public record as being totally faithful to all Church teaching and completely loyal to the Magisterium. Interestingly, they are all entitled ‘Father’ none of them are auxillary bishops, vicars general, canons or even monsignors.

We should also thank God that we have a new Prefect for the Sacred Congregation of Bishops, Cardinal Oulliet, who demonstrated when he was Archbishop of Quebec that he loves the Church and has no time for dissenters. He will now be able to work with our new Papal Nuncio to make good Episcopal appointments in this country. Pray for them both.

If we play our part by praying, the recent help from our Blessed Mother, should remedy the alarming decline we are witnessing at present.

PUTTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT (a correction)

OUR leaflet putting the record straight on child abuse in the Church helped to defuse a difficult situation by giving the true facts. It was used far and wide and we found ourselves having to print thousands of extra copies for churches around the country, while others reprinted it in their newsletters and magazines. We were pleased to see this dissemination as nothing we write is ever under any copyright.

However, unfortunately the front page of the first editions of the leaflet contained an error we were not able to correct once they had gone out.

Where it says ‘10% of American Protestant clergy have been found guilty of child sexual abuse’ it should have said 2-3% were guilty. I trusted that Sam Miller, the journalist I was quoting, was accurate because he has a reputation for reliability, but here he made a slip and gave the total figures for abuse instead of those only for child abuse. 2-3% is higher than the 1.7% of Catholic clergy but much less than 10%.

Once the error had been pointed out we corrected it in future copies and on our web-site. We do apologise for misinforming you on this.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MANY of you have asked us about reviving the *Pro Fide Forum* talks so we have arranged a talk for Tuesday 8th March 2011 in St Vincent’s Conference Centre, Westminster where all the other talks have been held.

This is an experiment, because if there is a good attendance we will arrange further talks. We have fortunately found an exceptionally worth-while Speaker to address you. He is Dr Joseph Shaw, Lecturer in Philosophy at

Oxford and Chairman of the Latin Mass Society. His subject will be “The History of the Reformation in Oxford” and his talk begins at 7 p.m. There will be questions and discussion, followed by tea and biscuits until the Meeting ends about 9.30. Tickets, bought at the door, are £5 each and I advise you to come early to be sure of your seat.

The next important date is Saturday June 18th 2011 when we have a Conference in the Lecture Hall at Westminster Central Hall, which seats 450, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. When we were in Rome last October we were fortunate enough to see H.E. Cardinal Raymond Burke, Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, Rome. He very graciously agreed to come and speak for us on June 18th. So I would advise you to keep that date free.

More information on this Conference will be given in our April issue.

SEX-ED - THE FINAL PLAGUE?

They don't teach them the Faith any more, they talk dirty to them instead.

(From a letter by an angry mother.)

The Government is about to impose the most explicit, intrusive sex-ed, which includes information most Catholics need never know, on even our youngest children. Sadly, Catholic schools, which could have opted out had the Bishops united in their refusal to allow it, are now committed to it just as secular schools are.

The National Curriculum for Sex-education will begin at the age of five and here are some examples of what the children will be given.

Cartoon pictures of some of the ways “mummies and daddies fit together” in *Mummy laid an Egg*: full frontal cartoon pictures of a naked male and female in *Where did I come from?*: a vocabulary of sex-related words which is recommended for children aged 5+ and which includes these terms *masturbation*, *incest*, *homosexual* and *prostitute* with their explanation. All this in mixed classes.

What can parents do? You can, at present, withdraw your child if he/she is

under fifteen years old. If this is made difficult, you can arrange strategic dental or optician appointments if you know the days to avoid school. Find out all you can about what will be covered, who will teach it, if the class will be mixed, and what your rights as parents are. Get *Too Much Too Young*, a helpful booklet produced by “The Christian Institute,” Write to them at Wilberforce House, 4, Park Road, Gosforth Business Park, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. NE 12 8DG, enclosing a donation to cover printing and postage. Or E-mail: info@christian.org.uk <<mailto:info@christian.org.uk>> or Tel 0191 281 5664

Schools that want to follow the safer Vatican Guidelines on sex-ed can write to The Education Centre, Balmoral Road, Lancaster. LA1 3BT. Lancaster Diocese have produced a discreet sex-ed programme which leaves the more intimate parts for parents to do at home and helps them to tackle them.

Finally, don't confuse sex-ed with Biology classes which discuss human reproduction but are usually not controversial.



HOME SCHOOLING

MORE and more parents are choosing to home-school their children and the results seem to be extremely good. There is no doubt this way you can protect them not only from sex-ed, which will destroy their innocence, from false teachings, which could destroy their Faith, but also from all undesirable influences and contacts. It is not possible for all parents but it is well worth considering. Below are a few thoughts from Karen Rodgers, a mother who is home-schooling her two daughters.

MY THOUGHTS ON HOME EDUCATION

The home is the natural environment for initiating a human being into solidarity and communal responsibilities. Parents should teach children to avoid the compromising and degrading influences which threaten human

societies. The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute.

(The Catechism of the Catholic Church, *Paras 2224/2221*)

What a revelation it was first reading these paragraphs under the kindly tutelage of Petroc Willey as part of the Parish Catechists Course at Maryvale. Although I had had the tome for a while, being large and rather forbidding, it had sat unopened on my shelf. Yet once I started to read it I could hardly put it down ; here, on page after page was a beautiful luminous vision of the human mission in this life which was at stark odds with the vision projected by the media and contemporary society. On no topic was the contrast between the two views more marked than in the matter of family life and parenthood.

I was continually told, first as a mainstream teacher and then as a new mother, that the home is merely a springboard from which to send the child off to somewhere more compelling and important. And parents? Well they know very little. The best they can do for their children is to hand them over to the ‘experts’ who will know what to do with them.

Yet here set out in black and white was the fact that in reality parents are the ‘first heralds’ of the Faith and that the home is a ‘domestic church’. It is not the State which gives you your children, it is God. He does not entrust them to an institution, a school, or even the Church, but to you, their parents. So, it is up to you to protect them and nurture them and to teach them how to pray. Just how difficult it is to do this when they are at mainstream school had become only too apparent to me during my time as a secondary school teacher.

Then I discovered the inspirational Montessori who wrote *“In a state of nature a parent or guardian knows intuitively the needs of a child. How often civilisation wipes out his correct impulse and attitude towards a child. Allowing a child to observe, to explore and follow his normal interests is a form of respect towards the child. It is an inspiration due to parental love. From “ What you should know about your child” by Montessori, page 70.* As the expectations of others as to what we would do with our first child pressed in on us, I felt the truth of the proposition that it is only a child’s parents who

are really qualified to judge what is best for the child. They are the ones who know and love them best.

Montessori also wrote, *Expert mothers, if they see their child taking a special interest in something allow him to look at it closely for as long as he wishes...The child shares his mother's life and is always listening. "The Absorbent Mother" pages 94-97.*

How different was this from the concept of Education which had been the unspoken basis for my P.G.C.E.Course, which had assumed that anything worth knowing had to be broken down into segments and drilled into the heads of groups of same-age children in forty minute bouts. How different (and indeed how much more productive and simultaneously effortless)was the learning I observed taking place in our daughter as she watched us and others and explored her environment on her own terms and in her own time. As I voraciously read about child development, I realised that this was the way children are made to learn and have been since time immemorial. So, we decided to home-educate.

We now have two daughters aged eight and five who are thriving on the stimulation, freedom and highly sociable environment which home-education in Cambridge now provides. I run a wide variety of groups for other home-schoolers and for those who are considering home-schooling.

I have a teaching certificate but in my experience, mothers who have no teaching qualifications make better home-schoolers than those of us who have to unlearn habits which are indispensable when teaching large classes of children in a time-table environment. As the Catechism teaches, the real experts on any child are his parents.

Karen Rodgers.

Karen has kindly said she would be delighted to hear from other Catholic parents and talk about home-schooling.

E-mail: karen@karenrogers.co.uk or Karen@sharingaloveoflife.org.uk
Web-site: www.catholicparenting.org.uk.

DEAR FRIENDS

WE have had an eventful six months since the last issue of “*The Flock*”. First the historic Papal visit, then our visit to Rome with all the dossiers we had prepared and more recently the unfortunate remarks on the use of condoms which the Holy Father made during his interview with a journalist.

Whatever the Pope intended, these last have undeniably caused such widespread confusion that many responsible commentators feel his words would have been better left unsaid. They certainly pleased the wrong people. As the January issue of *Christian Order (C.O.)* pointed out, “*the United Nations* could hardly contain its delight...” seeing them as “a first step toward making the use of condoms acceptable among Catholics”. Dissenters within the Church also welcomed them, as have the openly practising homosexuals who attend the Masses at Warwick Street Church. Even Durex celebrated by advertising these ‘World Aids Day Masses’ on their web-site, which contains so much other anti-Catholic material.

As James Larson, also writing in C.O., wrote, “..it is imperative for our own faith and sanity that we now gain an understanding of this very serious situation.” He went on to say that minimising the problem was unjustifiable, that clarifications so far seemed to cause even more confusion and that the ‘discussion’ Father Lombardi recommended had “opened the floodgates to evil”. So, though I feel I should say something, I will confine myself to just four points.

1. Church teaching on the use of condoms has not and cannot change. It is longstanding, universal, infallible teaching no one has the power to alter.

2. The Holy Father was not speaking infallibly. He was expressing his opinion as any of us are free to do. I remember at school Sister explained to us very carefully that although the Pope is certainly infallible he can still err when not speaking ‘ex Cathedra’. She always used foretelling the weather as an example.

3. This has happened before in the long history of the Church, several times. Once, about a thousand years ago, a Pope who was preaching in St Peter’s

one Sunday, told the congregation that when they died they went to sleep until Judgement Day. Most of his hearers knew this was not Church teaching and this was explained to him when he finished Mass.

However, the Church did not fall apart. Everyone realised he was not speaking infallibly and so was as liable to human error as we all are.

4. To end on a positive note. Let's use this as a reminder that we should pray more for our Holy Father who carries such great responsibilities at such a very difficult time. Let's ask Pope St Pius X, to guide and help him.

Now I would like to thank all those of you who make it possible for us to keep on working, by so kindly funding our printing and postage costs. We are more than grateful to you for your generosity. To others who enjoy reading "The Flock" but have not thought about contributing, please send us something if you possibly can. I understand that times are hard but we have had an expensive six months printing so many leaflets as well as extra copies of *The Flock* to distribute among the Papal crowds. The next six months with our June Conference are going to be costly too, so every little will help.

Our Hon. Treasurer, Michael Akerman, will be delighted to receive cheques made out to *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* (or PEEP) from you, or, he tells me, he likes Standing Orders even better. Please post whatever you can spare to him at P.O.BOX 636, Enfield, EN2 9HX.

In these difficult times, contributing to *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* could be the best way of investing your money. Our Blessed Lord has promised to repay "a hundredfold" everything we give. Frank Sheed once worked out that this means any money we donate, 'to His cause it is lent, and His rate of repayment's ten thousand percent!'

Thank you most sincerely for your valued prayers and for your loyal support. We rely on both to keep us going,

Wishing every blessing on you and your families,

Daphne McLeod.

Letters to Rome please address your letters to the following:

On all matters relating to the Church, especially dissent from Catholic doctrine:

Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith
Piazza del S. Uffizio, 11
00120, Vatican City State, Europe
Phone: 011 39 06 6988 3357 Fax: 011 39 06 6988 3409

On matters relating to religious instruction in schools and parishes:

Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy
Piazza Pio XII, 3
00120 Vatican City State, Europe
Phone: 011 39 06 6988 4151 Fax: 011 39 06 6988 4845

On matters relating to Bishops:

Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops
Palazzo delle Congregazione
Piazza Pio XII, 10
00120 Vatican City State, Europe
Phone: 011 39 06 6988 4217 Fax: 011 39 06 6988 4300

On matters relating to the family, sex education, contraception, marriage:

President of the Pontifical Council for the Family
Piazza S. Calisto, 16
00120 Vatican City State, Europe
Phone: 011 39 06 6988 7322 Fax: 011 39 06 6988 7214
pcpl@laity.va

On matters relating to the Liturgy and Sacraments:

Prefect of the Congregation for Worship and Sacraments
Palazzo delle Congregazione Piazza Pio XII, 10
00120 Vatican City State, Europe
Phone: 011 39 06 6988 4316 Fax: 011 39 06 6988 3499

On matters relating to Seminaries, Catholic Schools and Colleges:

Prefect of the Congregation for Education
Piazza Pio XII, 10
00120 Vatican City State, Europe
Phone: 011 39 06 6988 4167 Fax: 011 39 06 6988 4172



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