

# CANADA NEEDS OUR LADY BULLETIN

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## Our Lady of the Militia: How Sicily Was Saved From Invasion

BY JOSEPH GENSENS

Most Catholics are not aware of the story of how Our Lady repelled a Muslim invasion of Sicily on horseback and in armour. Perhaps this miraculous deliverance from ruin is unknown because it is so contrary to today's spirit of rampant ecumenism

### An Unforgettable Battle

For the citizens of Scicli in Sicily, an event that would be remembered for centuries took place in May of 1091. Suddenly, a fleet of Muslim Turks appeared on the horizon, heading for this vulnerable seacoast town.

King Roger of Sicily gathered what forces were at his disposal and prepared for battle. Meanwhile, the concerned citizens prayed and fasted, asking for Divine intervention to counter the impending threat.

The Muslim forces landed on the beach of Donnalucata and faced King Roger's forces, which had been bolstered by the townspeople. However, as the battle raged, the Christian forces began to falter. The enemy's victory seemed certain when suddenly a miracle occurred.

Our Lady appeared on a magnificent



*A painting of Madonna delle Milizie, Bartolomeo Pascucci, via Wikimedia Commons*

white stallion with a drawn sword and charged against the Turks in a terrible blue cloud of smoke. The Turks were driven back and suffered a crushing defeat.

### Celebrating Our Lady's Victory Until Today

Today, the townsfolk of Scicli celebrate the important battle with a procession featuring a magnificent life-sized statue of Our Lady throughout the town. This commemoration helps

to keep the memory of the great victory alive. Reenactments of the play also take place on this important day.

Of course, no feast day would be complete without a feast. Thus, the Sicilians created a pastry commemorating the occasion called teste di Turco or Turkish heads. Puffy custard-filled pastries are shaped like the turbans of the invading Turks.

To remember this critical battle, the Sacred Congregation of Rites issued a decree for the recitation of a special Office and Mass by the clergy of the city of Scicli on the last Saturday of May.

One big takeaway from this story is that Our Lady, being the best of all mothers, will always watch over her children and, when necessary, even protect them in person if they are in danger.

Numerous interventions of Our Lady in battles serve as reminders to have confidence in Our Lady, especially in chaotic and troubled times.

Her intervention recalls the words of the Song of Solomon: "Who is she that cometh forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army set in array?" (6:10).



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# Even if the Holy Church Is Devastated by the Wolves of Heresy, Let us Stand With Her

BY PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA



Photo courtesy of the American TFP

Let us be with the Holy Church, whether under persecution or during Her triumphal ‘Palm Sunday.’ Even if the Holy Church is devastated by the wolves of heresy, let us stand with Her, fighting for Her, suffering with Her, praying with Her.

The Holy Father Leo XIII says, and subsequent pontiffs have repeated, Communism is an evil of moral origin. Economic and political factors are present but moral problems produce the communist movement. More than anything else, Communism causes the moral breakdown of today’s civilization. This moral crisis has economic, social, and political consequences. Thus, the problems inside finance, politics, and society will only be solved when this moral crisis is resolved.

However, only the Church can provide a solution to this moral crisis. Only Catholicism is armed with the supernatural and natural resources to do this. The Church has

the marvellous gift of producing in souls the fruits of virtue essential for a Catholic civilization to flourish.

These conclusions are taken directly from the papal encyclicals. It suffices to open them up to find what we are saying.

## “Even if Holy Church Is Devastated by the Wolves of Heresy”

If only the Church can remedy contemporary evils, then we must strive to eliminate them within Church ranks.

It matters little that others do not do their duty. Let us do ours. Only after having done everything possible—meaning absolutely everything and not just “a little” or “a lot”—can we resign ourselves to the coming avalanche.

Even if the whole world should perish and the Church be devastated by the wolves of heresy, She is immortal. She will float above the flood’s raging waters. After the storm, the men who will found the civilization of tomorrow will come out from within her sacred bosom like Noah from the Ark.

However, some Catholics do not want to make this great effort. Like the Jews, they understand Christ only on a throne of glory. They are faithful to Him only on days like Palm Sunday when the crowd cheers Him and covers His path with garments. For them, Christ must be an earthly King. He must continuously dominate the world. They no longer want to hear about Him if the wickedness of men temporarily reduces Him from King to the Crucified One, from Sovereign to Victim.

## Holy Church Would Also Pass Through Calvary

For these people, Christ did not come to save souls for eternity. He came to establish a corporate regime around the world and fight Communism. If Communism momentarily wins, it will be a short step for some people to join the communists and wield the whip to scourge the great Culprit!

However, Christ wanted to go through all embarrassments and humiliations to show that the Church would also have to endure Calvaries, humiliations, and defeats in her history. Fidelity on Golgotha is much more commendable than on Mount Tabor.

Our Lord submitted to all humiliations on Calvary to teach a lesson to these people. However, He also wanted Palm Sunday’s glory to teach another lesson to a different group of people capable of understanding its message.

## A Message to Catacombalists

Yet another group of people has the detestable mentality that finds it only natural for Christ to suffer and for the Church to be harassed, humiliated, and persecuted. They are selfish people “cujus Deus venter est”—“whose God is their belly.”

Since the Church must imitate Christ, these people think it natural that her enemies overwhelm her and make her suffer. They say this persecution repeats the Passion of Christ. However, while His Passion is repeated, they lead plush and comfortable lives indulging in orgies, immorality, indulging all the senses, and practicing all sins.



The whip with which the Temple vendors were expelled was made for such people.

To such “catacombalists,” we say that we must not cross our arms when the Church’s enemies attack us. We must not sleep while the Passion is renewed. Christ recommended that His Apostles pray and watch. We must accept the Church’s sufferings with resignation as Our Lady accepted her Son’s Passion. However, we must not be unfaithful disciples, facing the Saviour’s pains with drowsiness, indifference, and cowardice. This would be a reason for our eternal condemnation.

Thus, we must always be with the Church “because she alone has words of eternal life.” Let us fight for her when attacked. But let us fight like martyrs until we shed all our blood



Photo courtesy of the American TFP

and use our last ounce of energy and intelligence.

If, after all these efforts, the Church remains oppressed, let us then suffer with her like Saint John the Evangelist at the foot of the Cross. We can then be assured that a merciful Jesus will not deny us the splendid prize of contemplating His divine and supreme glory in this world or the next.

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*The above meditation by Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira was published in Legionário in 1937. Let us recall the difficult historical situation: Communism dominated in Russia, Nazism ruled in Germany, and Fascism in Italy. The article has been slightly adapted and edited for publication.*

# Become a Rosary Rally Captain!

<i>What?</i>	Public Square Rosary Rallies
<i>When?</i>	October 11, 2025 at Noon local time
<i>Where?</i>	In a public place, busy intersection, park, in front of Government buildings, etc.
<i>Who?</i>	Faithful Catholics, young and old from all walks of life.
<i>Why?</i>	To beg Our Lady of Fatima for the much-needed conversion of our country.

On October 11, thousands of Catholics will be taking part of a growing number of faithful Catholics who believe in Our Lady of Fatima’s message and attend her request to pray the Rosary. Our nation desperately needs conversion and the Rosary is the one prayer the Mother of God asked us to pray in order to obtain the change of hearts.

## Sign up today to become a Rosary Rally Captain!

Sign up today to become a Rosary Rally Captain! We will send you a free banner and rally manual. In time, contact your friends and family and invite them to join you at the place of your choice on October 11 at noon, local time.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Call: 1-844-729-6279 or Visit: <https://cnol.org/sign-up>

# A Breath of Fresh Air: Glorious Chastity—One Bishop's Reflection

BY LUIZ SÉRGIO SOLIMEO

A breath of fresh air! That is how I felt reading the recent statement by the Most Reverend Joseph E. Strickland, Bishop of Tyler, Tex.

The relief starts with the title: *Glorious Chastity—One Bishop's Reflection*.<sup>1</sup> In elevated, simple, and concise language that reflects the brilliance of truth, the document goes to the bottom of the ongoing sex scandal crisis: "In the year 2019, we live in a world that's off-kilter. One of the deepest roots of the present chaos is the lack of willingness to embrace Glorious Chastity."

This is indeed a forgotten truth. Without it, though, any debate on the subject will be barren.

With no human respect, Bishop Strickland uttered a word that seems to be forbidden in today's ecclesiastic vocabulary. He not only recalls the value of the angelic virtue but proclaims it "glorious": *Glorious Chastity!*

This adjective was not chosen at random: "I specifically use the word 'glorious' because I believe it is God's plan that obedience to His will with regard to this virtue is a key that will unlock God's wondrous plan for every individual person and for all of humanity."

Indeed, chastity moderates the carnal impulse by keeping it submissive to the dictates of reason, which shows us the ultimate purpose of our acts, determined by the supreme wisdom of God: "God's plan is for Glorious Chastity to always guide sexual desires along a path of accompaniment with His Divine Plan and the wondrous gift of participating in His creation. He has created us in His image."

Procreation is the primary, albeit not the sole purpose of the sexual act, "The glorious beauty of God's plan allows a man and woman, committed to each other in the marital bond, to be open to God's creativity and to the possibility of begetting children as they express their love in profound intimacy."



Photo courtesy of the American TFP

## Consequences of "Devastating Sex"

Conversely, when sexual pleasure is sought for its own sake regardless of its primary purpose, it becomes devastating, and the entire society suffers the consequences: "Rather than Glorious Chastity, the prevailing reality in today's world is Devastating Sex. Once again, I specifically use a word as strong as 'devastating' because it describes what has happened to this very human faculty which has been dehumanized in so many ways."

In a hard-hitting paragraph, the Tyler, Texas bishop summarizes:

- "Devastating Sex can be defined as any sexual expression, whether alone or with another person, that does not follow the narrow path laid out by God . . .
- Devastating Sex happens when a married couple interferes with the fertility of their love through contraception . . .
- Devastating Sex happens when a man and a woman engage in sexual activity outside the bond of marriage . . .
- Moreover, it happens when persons of the same sex engage in sexual activity . . .
- All these aberrations go to the heart of why God has created us male and female. He created us with real physical differences that complement each other when they are lived in the commitment of marriage."

I thank Bishop Strickland for his lucid and timely words, and recommend everyone to read *Glorious Chastity—One Bishop's Reflection*, in its entirety.

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1. Joseph Strickland, "Glorious Chastity—One Bishop's Reflection," Feb. 14, 2019, <https://bishopstrickland.com/blog/post/glorious-chastity-one-bishops-reflection>.

Canada Needs Our Lady is a special campaign of the Canadian Society for the Defence of Christian Civilization to win the hearts and minds of Canadians for Mary.

The Canadian Society for the Defence of Christian Civilization was incorporated on June 25, 2013 as a federal nonprofit organization "to advance religion by the promotion of the religious teachings, tenets, doctrines, morals, and observances of the Roman Catholic faith and their application to individuals, families, and society in Christian culture and civilization."

From our main office in Saint Hubert, QC, Society members and volunteers reach out to concerned Christian families and individuals across Canada. We promote and defend the principles and values of Christian civilization and spread the Gospel message far and wide.

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