

# THE ATHANASIAN

A publication of Traditional Catholics of America † Editor: Fr. Francis E. Fenton, STL  
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## *The Immaculate Conception*

— Fr. Francis E. Fenton

**F**rom the time of the fall of our first parents, and with the sole exception of the God-Man Himself, just one person of all humanity has been conceived and born into the world free of original sin, Mary, the Mother of God. Chosen from eternity for the exalted office of Mother of our divine Redeemer, it was indeed most fitting that she should be exempt from the very moment of Her conception from this universal stain of fallen nature. Mary's preservation from original sin, the pure and spotless condition of her soul from the very first instant of her life is known as her Immaculate Conception.

And because the Almighty bestowed upon Mary the ineffable, the stupendous honor and privilege of miraculously conceiving and giving birth to the Word Incarnate, because her soul was never marked with even the slightest stain of moral guilt, because she is God's masterpiece of creation, — Holy Mother Church has never ceased throughout the ages proudly to sing forth her praise and her glory in prayer, in song, in poetry, in literature, in art. Her grace, her holiness, her dignity, her beauty have always appealed to the highest instincts and ideals of man and have produced some of the noblest artistic creations of the human soul. And today, as of old, Mary remains, in the teaching and prayer of the Church and in the minds and hearts of her devoted children, the most favored and beloved of all the saints, our most powerful advocate before the heavenly throne, the model and exemplar of true womanhood, our Mother, the Mother of God.

And whenever I think of this prerogative of Mary, her Immaculate Conception, the subject of purity almost invariably comes to mind. This is quite natural, I suppose, both because there is a definite connection of ideas here between the virtue of purity and the pureness, the sinlessness of Mary's conception and because one of the most significant titles and roles of our Blessed Mother is that of the Queen of Purity. And surely there is no single vice for the avoidance of which, and for the struggle against which, the modern world has greater need of Mary's all-powerful help and intercession than the vice of impurity. It is noteworthy too that it is under the title of

her Immaculate Conception that the Mother of God is the patroness of our country. Does this just happen to be, I wonder, or could it be that those who originally proclaimed Mary as the patroness of America under this title had a kind of divine foresight that this land of ours would need Mary's aid in a special way in the matter of purity and chastity? I don't know, but the Blessed Mother did say very clearly at Fatima that more souls go to hell for sins of the flesh than for any other sin. We can certainly conclude from these words that there is no virtue for the observance of which the generality of mankind stands in more urgent need of God's help through Mary, the mediatrix of all graces, than the angelic virtue of purity.

At any rate, we do have Mary under the title of her Immaculate Conception as the patroness of our country and I do believe that the Queen of Purity has a full-time job in that capacity. But she is, as we know, more than equal to her task. She asks only that we seek her help with childlike simplicity, with confidence, with contrition and humility. "Never was it known that anyone who fled to her protection, implored her help or sought her intercession was left unaided." Having been one of us, she knows well the weakness of fallen human nature and can sympathize with us in our trials and tribulations, in our frailties and infirmities. But she is also the Mother of God and, as such, her power and influence with the Almighty have no equal in the entire court of Heaven. It remains but for us, then, to go to Jesus through Mary and to beseech her to obtain for us the grace and the strength necessary to be and to remain pure and chaste in an age and in a land where sins of the flesh are glamorized and illicit sex glorified and the grossest immorality abounds on all sides. She will not fail us. Is she not our Mother? What kind of a mother is one who would not protect her sons and daughters from harm? What kind of a Mother would Mary be who would not protect her sons and daughters from the greatest harm of all, the loss of their immortal souls for which her divine Son gave His life on Calvary's Cross? "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." †

# The Quality of Honor

— Fr. Francis E. Fenton

Among the many virtues, both natural and supernatural, defined and discussed in books of Roman Catholic theology, one might expect to find honor as one of those virtues. Surely this noble quality should rank high on such a list. The reason it is not found therein at all is simply because honor is not a virtue in the strict sense of that term. Rather is honor a concept or a quality embracing many virtues — justice, charity, humility, fortitude, honesty, purity, etc. Honor, then, implies or conveys the idea of a high degree of virtue in general, of moral integrity. In the most literal sense of the term a person of honor is not merely an honest or a chaste or a courageous person. He is all of these but he is much more as well. In other words, he (or she) is, both in private and public life, a virtuous person, an individual of integrity and noble purpose, upright, sincere, a man or woman of strong conviction based on sound moral principles. Clearly, then, to describe someone as an honorable person is, if the term is accurately employed, high praise indeed. 'Tis said, incidentally, that without humility there is no sound virtue in anyone. If this be true, as it undoubtedly is, then it would follow that humility would be a rather distinctive mark of an honorable person.

And what of honor in this our day? Will historians of a future age record our present times as a period in which the noble quality of honor was an outstanding characteristic among the American people in general and among their spiritual and temporal leaders in particular? Hardly. Yes, honorable individuals can be found among all classes of people and in all walks of life but the chances are that their numbers are proportionately far less today than in generations past. In any case, their influence upon the American scene is a limited one, a fact so very obvious as to require no elaboration. The unprincipled, the immoral and amoral, the dishonorable predominate and threaten more and more to destroy our nation.

But it is among those in public life that the lack of honor naturally manifests itself most clearly — in the mass media of communication, in the realm of so-called entertainment, in the field of education, in religion, in civil government. Any sincere, informed person can provide numerous examples to substantiate the statement that there is little or no honor among many of those in positions of influence in the above-named areas of public life.

Let us take, for instance, the federal government. And, although scores of examples can be offered of the most blatant dishonor on the part of that government in both foreign and domestic affairs, let us take but one — the establishment of a national holiday in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. This, it should be emphasized, is but one example of many of the depths of dishonor to which our national leadership has sunk. It is taken because it makes the point so unmistakably that men without honor abound in the highest echelons of the American government. 'Tis no wonder we're losing.

Martin Luther King, Jr. called the USA "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today"; he associated with known Communists such as Carl and Ann Braden, Hunter Pitts O'Dell, James Dombrowsky, Aubrey Williams, and others; he was affiliated with some 60 Communist-front groups; he preached non-violence but violence almost invariably followed his non-violent preaching; J. Edgar Hoover, the late head of the FBI, described King as "the most notorious liar in the country."

Such is a portion of the truth (there is much more) regarding Martin Luther King, Jr. And this is the man in whose honor the American government has established a national holiday. This is the man defended by the likes of Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts who called King "the second father of our country." This is the man who was given high praise a few months ago by two prelates of the Conciliar Church, Archbishop James A. Hickey of Washington, D.C. and Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Francis of Newark, New Jersey (no surprise, of course).

Far from being an American hero, Martin Luther King, Jr. was an enemy of our nation who served well the Communist conspiracy. He assuredly deserves to be memorialized with a national holiday — in Soviet Russia!

And yet, despite the outrageous, the treasonous record of Martin Luther King, Jr., 339 members of the U.S. House of Representatives on August 2, 1983, and 78 members of the U.S. Senate on October 19, voted in favor of a bill to establish a national holiday on behalf of this character — and President Reagan signed that bill

into law on November 2, 1983. What a disgrace! What depths to which some men will descend! There is no honor among thieves and there is precious little honor among politicians.

The case of Martin Luther King, Jr. is, as previously noted, but one of the numerous examples of the lack of honor so widespread in the political realm — but it is an especially striking and relevant one. Another notorious example would be the shameless and massive collaboration of our nation's leadership with the most ruthless and inhuman tyrants in history, the slavemasters and murderers of atheistic Communism. Another would be President Reagan's appointment some months ago of Henry Kissinger to head the Commission on Central America. No honorable president would appoint Mr. Kissinger to be a dog catcher (no disrespect meant to dog catchers). Incidentally, how many years or decades has it been since a man of honor was President of the United States?

As we behold with sadness the current state of our nation, saturated as it is with immorality and materialism and secular humanism, one thing is surely crystal clear. Without a return to God and morality and virtue on the part of the multitudes of its citizens, America will not survive. And, if that return is to be an authentic one, notable among its many distinctive marks must be the noble quality of honor. The days of any nation are limited wherein vast numbers of its citizens are men and women without integrity, without principle, without character. Such is the tragic situation in America today, steeped as it is in godlessness and immorality. Is not any country which allows and sanctions by law the murder of millions of human beings through abortion well on the road to extinction? And may not such a nation be accurately described as a nation without honor?

But the survival of America, despite its degenerate spiritual and moral condition, is not — and must not be — a forlorn hope. Essential to that survival, however, is the restoration of the quality of honor both among the rank and file of its citizens and, especially, among those in positions of leadership — and most especially among those in civil government (and the Churches). In civil government on all levels, the crying need of the moment is not for clever, suave, photogenic, charismatic leaders but for humble, just, courageous, patriotic, honest, God-fearing leaders — that is, for *honorable* men and women. The destiny of America is today largely in the hands of people without honor. Unless, under God and with firm reliance upon Him, that situation be soon reversed while there is yet time, the death of America is a

foregone conclusion. A just God, I submit, will not allow His moral law to be endlessly and flagrantly mocked without retribution.

## Pray the Rosary Daily

### *Gift Subscriptions to The Athanasian*

We often receive letters containing complimentary remarks about our newsletter. Reading such comments is, of course, a pleasant task and we appreciate them. They're good for our morale! Now, if only each person who had a kind word to say about *The Athanasian* at one time or another during this year would consider ordering a Christmas gift subscription for some relative or friend, our list of newsletter recipients would be substantially increased. Hopefully, many will consider doing so. Details regarding these Christmas gift subscriptions are contained in the previous (October 15, 1983) issue of *The Athanasian*.

### CORRECTIONS

In the article, "Arianism and the Council of Nicaea," in the previous issue of this newsletter there were two serious errors which require correction.

(1) On page 5, column 2, paragraph 3, line 2: the Greek term should be HOMOOUSIOS and not HOMOIOUSIOS. The first word means "consubstantial" and expresses the correct Catholic doctrine regarding the union of God the Father and God the Son. The second word expresses the heretical doctrine of the Arians.

(2) On page 6, column 1, paragraph 2, line 3: the word "Papism" is incorrect. The correct term is "Caesaro-Papism."

# THE "NEW AGE" CULTISTS

— John Kenneth Weiskittel

(The New Age Movement is an international alliance of thousands of organizations dedicated to the goal of a New World Order. It is quite literally a satanic movement in which the Lucis Trust—formerly called Lucifer's Trust—is deeply involved, and it is virulently anti-Catholic. Among the multitude of organizations included in the network of the New Age Movement are the following: the European Common Market, Amnesty International, Freemasonry, Friends of the Earth, Holistic Health groups, Zero Population Growth, Planetary Citizens, Pacific Institute, People for the American Way. Mr. Weiskittel's article represents but a small portion of the material he has accumulated on the New Age Movement. — Ed.)

## Jonestown...

The name has been deeply etched into the minds of millions of Americans since the moment it was learned that this site served as backdrop for the worst mass murder/suicide in our nation's history. On November 18, 1978, over 900 men, women and children died, the vast majority of them by drinking cyanide-laced Kool-Aid at the command of their leader, the "Reverend" Jim Jones.

There are several remarkable details to this grisly scene. Nearly 1000 U.S. citizens desert their native land in search of a Marxist utopia in a stretch of godforsaken South American jungle. Leading them is a man who rules as absolute dictator and who demands that they *worship* him (they are to call him "Father" in exactly the same sense that we use to address *God*). While many of the followers are forced to drink the deadly mixture — over one hundred children alone — most of them did so willingly.

Nearly all readers are familiar with those disturbing facts, but very few know that Jones' People's Temple — the "Church" to which the poisoned belonged — was listed in the 1972 edition of a directory of contemporary U.S. religious groups, the *Spiritual Community Guide*. A wide range of theological practice and opinion found its way into the *Guide*: from the Buddhist to the Hindu; from the silence of meditation to the frenzy of the whirling dervishes; and from humanistic "self-actualization" to "Christian Marxism."

It would not be fair, given the differences in the numer-

ous groups recorded in the *Guide*, to presume that each and every one of them will lead to future Jonestowns. Still, they do tend to hold certain views in common, such as the denial of the most essential Christian teachings and a scorn for the institutional Churches — in particular, the Roman Catholic Church. Also, the organizations in the *Spiritual Community Guide* (including recent editions) are united in the belief that humanity is on the brink of an era that will revolutionize the way we think, speak and act on a global level and to a degree hitherto never seen; on the brink of supernatural explosion; on the brink of...the *New Age*.

## Welcome to the New Age

- Television's "60 Minutes" carried a report concerning the followers of an Indian "guru" who calls himself "The Blessed One Who Has Recognized Himself As God," who condemns materialism while being chauffeured in a Rolls Royce and presiding over a multi-million dollar religious empire, and who promises spiritual enlightenment through violent release and sexual promiscuity. The show's segment reveals how they have taken over an Oregon town against the wishes of its residents.
- In a resort near Fresno, California, a commune has been established by a man whose followers consider him the greatest moral teacher of all time (he has taken a married woman of the group for his wife, decrees that all male members of the group must take new spouses and states "wife-swapping used to be taught as a vice. We take vice and turn it into a virtue. It has been an exhilarating experience."), and who has compared himself with God.
- A "Christian" order, basing its international headquarters in San Francisco and using Catholic trappings, denies that Christ (or Master Jesus, as they call Him) is anyone more than a great teacher, and denies that we are saved by His death. Biblical interpretation, according to them, must be from a mystical point of view, and astrology and tarot card readings are promoted as ways to achieve higher consciousness.
- "Maitreya, The World Teacher" is heralded not only by his New Mexico "Mission" as the Christ awaited by

Christians, but by Jews who look for the Messiah, by Buddhists who look for the fifth Buddha, by Moslems as the Iman Madhi, and by Hindus as Krishna. The Mission spent around \$1 million on a national ad campaign, claiming that Maitreya has come to solve all the world's problems: "His presence in the world guarantees there will be no third World War."

- Meanwhile, a rural commune in Tennessee, largely populated with "flower children" transplanted from the West Coast in the 1960's, and their kindred spirits, uses marijuana as a "sacrament." The leader says that Christ was simply one incarnation of God (Buddha, for example, is another), that sin is a concept which "is no longer necessary," and that the suffering and resignation of Christ's crucifixion "wasn't exactly what he wanted to teach."

The leaders and groups mentioned above — Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, Charles E. Dederich and Synanon, Holy Order of MANS, Mission of Maitreya, and Stephen Gaskin and The Farm, respectively — all carry characteristic New Age beliefs and practices. They represent only a few strands of a network of organizations totalling literally in the thousands with a combined membership in the millions.

The term New Age is open to various connotations. To a Christian, a New Age proponent likely will try to tie it to the Parousia (the second coming of Christ). As seen already, this basic interpretation can be changed slightly if the interested party happens to be of another faith. At the other extreme, New Age becomes the Age of Aquarius (or Aquarian Age) in the morally decadent Broadway musical *Hair*, and the Golden Age long hoped for by witches and other occultists.

Whatever the case, New Age stands for profound change. Professional "ghost-finder" and apologist for the New Age, Hans Holzer, in his book *The Aquarian Age*, notes that the features of this era include "the powers of righting wrongs, of improving just about everything in human life, of finally bringing to fulfillment all that earlier ages have left unfinished." Further, in order for this to be brought about, he details, whole bodies of peoples will be required "the sacrifice of old ideas, of old concepts cherished and held on to out of a false sense of security. It means that nations will have to give up being nations as we knew them." Presumably, the New Age will usher in universal peace and understanding; the world will become one big, happy family.

The idea of change is often seen in the most popular New Age symbol — the rainbow. Now seen as a car

window decal, or else hanging as a mobile from a rear-view mirror — frequently used by people who display them for absolutely innocent reasons — the rainbow has a meaning for New Agers that is quite different from the Judeo-Christian connection with God's covenant with Noah. In nearly every culture the rainbow has some mystical symbolism: to the Norse, it was a bridge between heaven and earth; in China, it denotes the union of heaven and earth; for the Greeks, it was the sign of Iris, messenger of the Gods. (St. Bernard suggests that the natural sign of the Pope, as bridge between God and man, is the rainbow.) Spanish scholar/poet Juan Cirlot, in his *Dictionary of Symbols*, noting this symbolic link between bridges and rainbows, writes what could also apply to the latter:

...there are a great many cultures where the bridge symbolizes the link between what can be perceived and what is beyond perception. Even when it lacks this mystic sense, the bridge is *always symbolic of a transition from one state to another — of change or the desire to change.*

(Emphasis added.)

(Each year, it should be noted, New Agers who call themselves the Rainbow People meet for a festival of free meditation, free drugs, free music, free thinking and "free love.")

The movement is becoming legitimized by the powers that be. *The Aquarian Conspiracy*, a book defending the New Agers, was a best-seller offered by the Book-of-the-Month Club. Bantam Books carries a series actually called "New Age" (promoted by the publishers as dedicated to "A Search for Meaning, Growth and Change"). Then, there are publications such as *New Age*, *Co-Evolution*, and *Aquarius, Journal of the New Age*. (Oh, yes, not to forget that *The New Age* is the name of the magazine of the Scottish Rite Masons, Southern Jurisdiction). Other books include *Religion in the Age of Aquarius*, *New Age Socialism*, and *Occult Preparations for the New Age*. Television shows that in one way or another have a New Age flavor include "In Search of...", and "Cosmos."

### **"You Shall be as Gods"**

The quote making up the title of this section is, of course, the lie that Satan used to deceive Eve into disobeying God. In a large sense, it is the underlying teaching that permeates New Age cults. This is expressed differently by the various groups, but it is always expressed. Whether by those who are *pantheists* (i.e., believe that God is comprised — literally — of each and every object in the universe down to subatomic particles) or by those who are *humanists* (who

believe that Humanity, in a creation without a Creator, is capable of making divine decisions), and including every shade or overlapping of opinion between the two, there runs an unspoken conviction in the ability of mankind to save — in the religious sense — itself.

Ram Dass, a writer popular in New Age circles, sees existence as a cosmic amusement. Enlightenment, he states, comes when you are able to “realize that you have always been God. That you created your own separateness for the sport.” Anglican-turned-Zen Buddhist Alan Watt, in his clearly titled book *Beyond Theology: The Art of Godmanship*, talks of the purpose of what he calls the New Church in similar terms. The Church will remind God of the “enormous trick” He “has played on himself in pretending to be us.”

At the movement's opposite pole, Humanist Jean-Claude Pecker argues that “Man's only possible savior is Man.” Such is the unspoken message in pop scientist Carl Sagan's “Cosmos” series — humanity, and not God, imbues the universe with whatever meaning it has. In *Free Inquiry* magazine's classification section, one will find such Humanist gems as: “136-Biblical Contradictions,” “BIBLICAL ERRANCY” and “JESUS FICTIONAL!” — Positive proof Flavius Josephus created Jesus, authored Gospels.” The strategy for making America Humanist is suggested in the article, “A Religion for a New Age,” in the January/February issue of the *Humanist* (official organ of the American Humanist Association): “the battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public school classroom by teachers who correctly perceive their role as the proselytizers of a new faith: a religion of humanity.”

For all the seeming conflict in comparing pantheism and Humanism, the real differences may be few. Father John F. McCormick, S.J. in *Natural Theology* contends that “it is not easy to distinguish Pantheism from Atheism (Humanism's true name)...there is a tendency for pantheistic thought to develop into mere materialism.” He quotes Professor John G. Hibbens who wrote

Pantheism, in identifying God with the world, leads some of its adherents to the question: “If the world is everything, why call it God?” The only story the world tells us of itself, is the story of material atoms and mechanical relations. Is not the idea of God, therefore, wholly illusory?”

Certainly, this is the belief of many New Agers. Zen mentor D.T. Suzuki taught — or, rather, non-taught since, as he has written, “Zen teaches nothing” — that

not only is there “no God to worship,” but “no soul whose welfare is to be looked after by somebody else and whose immortality is a matter of intense concern with some people.” Others who preach this theological confusion include a wide range of people who call themselves *pagan*. They claim belief in an impersonal, unconscious creative energy (similar to “The Force” in the film *Star Wars*) that they worship under many names, often those of the false gods of the ancients: Isis, Baal, Astarte...and Satan.

Another question poses itself: how can a New Age teacher argue on the one hand that everyone is God (or, at least, *part* of God) and, on the other hand, that he (meaning the particular leader) is the modern manifestation of God-Incarnate. The answer is not as difficult to arrive at as one might think. To paraphrase Orwell's *Animal Farm*, the New Age gurus are simply saying that while all people are divine, it just so happens that some of them are more divine than others.

### **The Drive Towards A One World Church**

For the New Age mentality, God's Commandment, “I am the Lord thy God; thou shalt not have strange gods before me,” falls on deaf ears. Instead, they argue that the false religions share the same source of inspiration by which the true faith is guided. This means that two religions may contradict each other on a given theological question (e.g., the divinity of Christ) and yet, according to this line of thought, both creeds have an equal right to claim God as their founder. How? First, so goes the argument, the human element in the various religions has modified or misinterpreted the Mind of God, so, in the case of the divinity of Christ, say, they might agree with the British poet William Blake's “solution” to the difference of opinion: “He (Christ) is the only God. And so am I, and so are you.” The second explanation given is that the true teachings have been suppressed. In New Age author Edouard Schure's *From Sphinx to Christ: An Occult History*, the reader is told that, in the case of Christianity, groups that were working for “truth” were unjustly harrassed and suppressed by narrow-minded authorities in the Roman Catholic Church; movements like the Gnostics, Albigenses, Cathars, Templars, and the Rosicrucians were, he laments, nearly “always accused of heresy and sorcery” by bigoted prelates who wanted to prevent the enlightenment of the people. (What the people were being protected against was, in the case of the Gnostics, for instance, the doctrine that God and Satan are angels of equal stature who, therefore, ought to be revered to a similar degree.)



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## TCA TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS SCHEDULE

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### COLORADO

**AURORA** (Denver area)  
OUR LADY OF VICTORY CHAPEL  
2566 Sable Boulevard  
(303) 364-8040  
Masses at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.  
(every Sunday)  
Occasional weekday Masses

### COLORADO SPRINGS

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY  
(303) 636-1575  
Mass at 10:00 a.m. Dec. 4, Jan. 8, Jan. 15  
Mass every Friday at 9:00 a.m.

### DURANGO

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY  
Centennial Savings and Loan  
1101 E. Second Ave.  
(303) 884-2526  
Mass at 10:00 a.m. Dec. 25, Jan. 1

### STRATTON

OUR LADY OF FATIMA CHAPEL  
(303) 348-5454  
Mass on Dec. 11, Dec. 25, Jan. 22

### LOUISIANA

**OPELOUSAS** (Lafayette area)  
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHAPEL  
Route 1, Box 195  
(318) 942-9053  
Mass at 11:00 a.m.  
Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Jan. 22

### MINNESOTA

**ROCHESTER**  
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHAPEL  
5820 Viola Road, NE  
(507) 282-5163 or 289-8522  
Mass at 10:00 a.m.  
Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Jan. 29

### MONTANA

**GREAT FALLS**  
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHAPEL  
2020 Second Avenue North  
(406) 452-8826  
Mass at 11:00 a.m.  
Dec. 18, Jan. 1, Jan. 22

### NEW YORK

**BUFFALO**  
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHAPEL  
231 McKinley Parkway  
(716) 537-9533  
Mass at 10:00 a.m.  
on first and fourth Sundays

### PENNSYLVANIA

**EDDYSTONE** (Philadelphia area)  
(215) 876-8737

### UTAH

**SALT LAKE CITY**  
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP  
Hilton Inn  
154 West 600 South  
(801) 278-7501  
Mass at 11:00 a.m. Jan. 29

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## THE ATHANASIAN

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