



'Legio Sanctae Familiae'

The Legion of the Holy Family

Under the Patronage of
The Sacred Heart of Jesus
The Immaculate Heart of Mary
The Most Chaste Heart of St Joseph



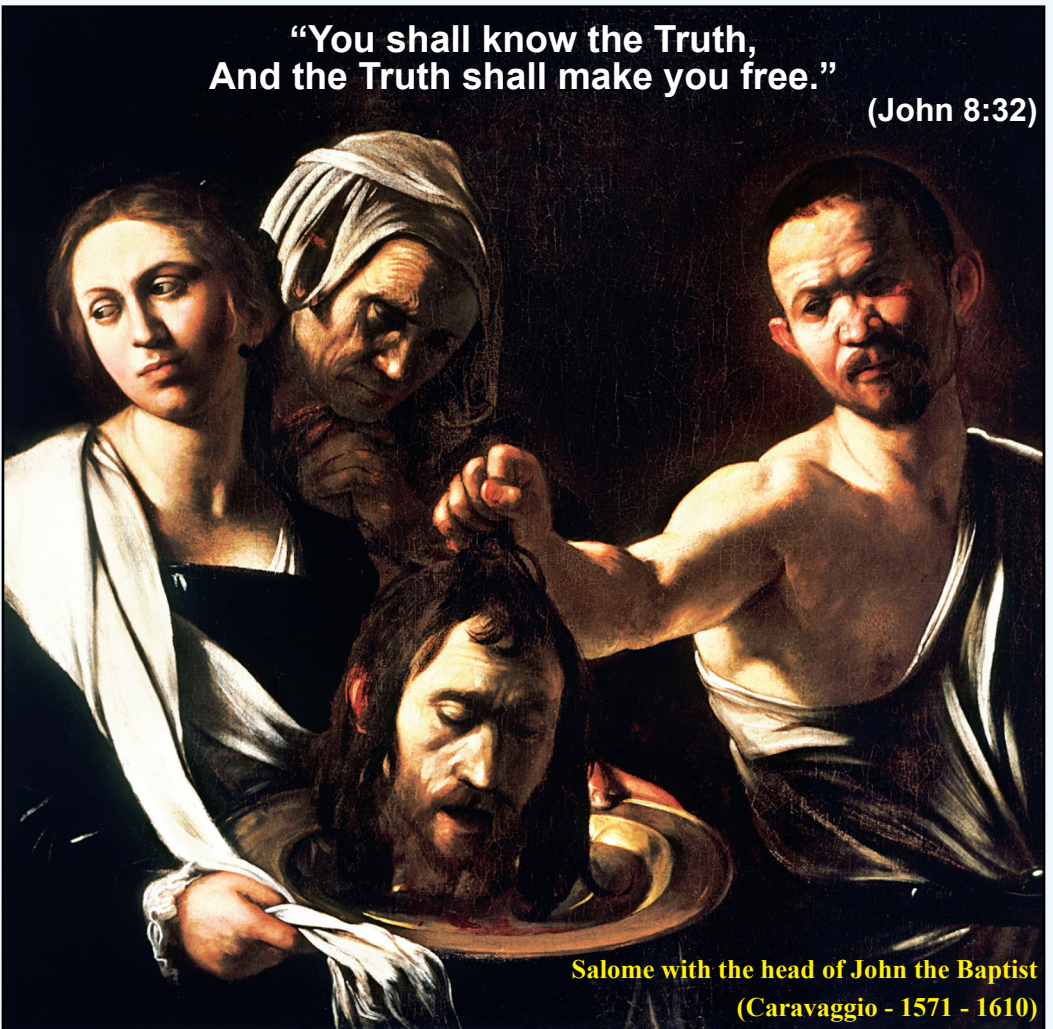
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**“You shall know the Truth,
And the Truth shall make you free.”**

(John 8:32)



**Salome with the head of John the Baptist
(Caravaggio - 1571 - 1610)**

The Reality of Truth and Freedom!

The cover image on this month's newsletter can seem quite gruesome to our modern sensibilities and tastes. Saint John the Baptist lived in a time where beheading and crucifixion were not uncommon. Secular rulers, such as Herod Antipas, wielded the power of life and death over their subjects. There was no court of appeal.

Many will thank God that we do not live in such a barbaric society. Most will prefer the image of Saint John the Baptist that is on this page, where he is shown embracing a lamb. The lamb is symbolic of Jesus, there is a wooden cross, and the banner affixed to the cross contains the words — *Ecce Agnus Dei* — behold the Lamb of God.

But is it true that we live in a less barbaric society than that of the time of Saint John the Baptist?

I was born on 15th March, 1962, in Dublin, Ireland. At that time divorce was illegal in Ireland. The sale of pornographic magazines was illegal. Contraception was illegal. Abortion was illegal. The only recognised form of marriage in Ireland was between one man and one woman and marriage was for life. Nobody even contemplated such a thing as "same-sex marriage". There was no euthanasia in Ireland back then and no talk of euthanasia either. The Catholic faith was taught and upheld by the Catholic schools. Births out of wedlock represented just 1.8% of all births. Boys were boys, girls were girls, men were men, and women were women. Everybody knew what this meant.

Does this mean that Irish society was perfect back in 1962?

Of course not! Some spouses failed in their marriages. The wealthy could afford to go abroad to obtain a divorce. There was a small black market in pornography, contraception and abortion. Some people engaged in homosexual acts and children were born out of wedlock. There is nothing new about such sins but the Irish people were, in general, mindful of their duty to Almighty God.



The Infant Saint John the Baptist with the Lamb
Bartolomé Esteban Murillo (1617–1682)

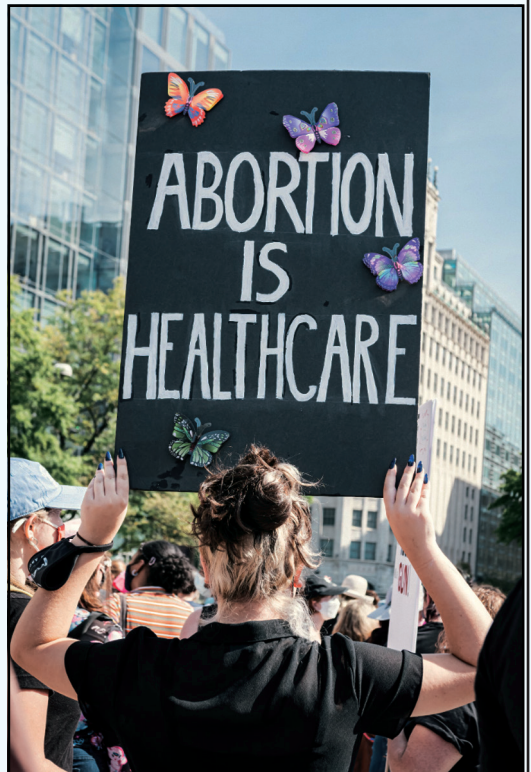
Fast Forward Just Sixty Two Years.

Ireland in 2024 is an alien place for Catholics. We now live in a society which promotes the killing of innocent human beings in their mothers' wombs. The government promotes abortion and other evils to school children and subsidises the killing of these innocents by paying doctors to administer the deadly tablets. Ireland's largest teachers' union promotes the homosexual lifestyle to children as young as four years old in the classrooms of Catholic primary schools. Divorce is legal and the Irish government has changed the legal definition of marriage by way of a referendum to cover same-sex relationships. The government is about to try to change the legal definition of the family, by way of a referendum on March 8th, 2024 and to remove the constitutional protections given to mothers who choose to stay at home to mind their children.

The out of wedlock birth rate has increased by over 2,000%, from 1,111 in 1962 to 24,754 in 2022, the latest year for which figures are available. Out of wedlock /civil partnership births now amount to 43.02% of all births. Our government is currently discussing how best to bring in legislation that will allow for the killing, in certain circumstances, of the elderly, the incapacitated, and those with mental illnesses. The Irish government has also crafted what they call a 'hate speech' law which is intentionally designed to silence and prosecute those who publish certain opinions which the government can designate as 'hate speech'. They do not define what is meant by 'hate' in the 'hate speech' bill, so it is impossible to have an adequate defence once accused of this imaginary crime.

But the most significant changes that have taken place, and the ones that I believe have caused the most damage to our society, are the changes that took place in the liturgy of the Catholic Church. This is closely followed by the damage caused by the changes to the methods and content of teaching in the Catholic Church and in the Catholic schools owned by the Church.

Such statements are not very well received by the Catholic hierarchy but the evidence is all around us. The collapse in the practice of the Catholic faith is what has allowed the other evils



Many baptised Irish Catholics now support the erroneous idea expressed in the poster above and actually voted for this.

to penetrate our society. In the short period of just sixty two years since I was born, the Catholic culture of Ireland has been almost completely subverted by enemy forces. The enemies of Jesus Christ and of the Catholic Church now control our country and the two referenda due on March 8th seek to remove the last remnants of our Catholic heritage from the statute books. The type of legislation that is constantly being enacted by our governments in recent decades, will bring about the collapse of western societies.

The 'public' Catholic schools in Ireland are Catholic in name only. Those whose duty it is to protect the Catholic identity of Catholic schools, have permitted these schools to corrupt the minds of the very young children who attend them. There has hardly been a word of protest at the evil that is being foisted on our children, and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Ireland is itself complicit for promoting programmes that contradict Catholic Church teaching in the schools of which they are the patrons. Most notable is the 'Flourish' programme which instructs teachers to show a sexually explicit cartoon video, in a classroom setting, to children in sixth class. These children will range in age from 11 to 13 and most of these classes will have both boys and girls present.

The Supernatural Outlook

But all is not lost and we must never give up hope. We must re-learn the ability to look at and assess the world through the eyes of our Catholic faith. We must learn from the Biblical stories what happens when the people abandon Almighty God. God is ever patient and he waits for us to call upon Him. God allows the Nations who abandon Him to suffer terrible wrongs. Most of these sufferings are self-inflicted. Their root cause is sin. We must never doubt God or doubt His love for mankind, created in His own image and likeness.

Now, I don't want to get bogged down in all of the reasons for the collapse of Catholicism in Ireland and throughout the wider world. That is not the point of this newsletter and much of what happens is beyond the control of ordinary men. Rather, I want to take a look at Saint John the Baptist to see if he can give us any guidance for our times.

The quote on the front page from Saint John's Gospel speaks about the Truth setting us free. It would seem that very few understand the nature of freedom and its connection with Truth. I capitalise the word Truth because it refers to Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6).

In relation to the cover image, many people feature in the story of the beheading of Saint John the Baptist. There is Herod Agrippa, the ruler of Gallilee. There is Herodias, the wife of Herod's brother Philip. Herod and Herodias are living in an adulterous relationship. There is Herodias' daughter Salome. There are prison guards and there are all the usual important 'hangers-on' who love to associate themselves with power are there to celebrate Herod's birthday.



The Expulsion of Adam & Eve from the Garden of Eden - Thomas Cole (1801 - 1848)

Of all these people, only Saint John the Baptist is truly free, even though he is in prison and in chains. He is free because he lives by the Truth. He is not afraid to speak the Truth and this is the reason for his imprisonment. He told Herod that his adulterous relationship with Herodias was displeasing to God because it was unlawful. He was not prepared to make a deal with Herod as this would mean a compromise with the Truth. Saint John the Baptist's will is conformed to the Will of God, and therefore, he is truly free despite the outward appearances of imprisonment. St John the Baptist will be free for eternity.

The other people in this story who, to outward appearances seem to be free, are all prisoners of their own arrogance or cowardice. We are ruled by such men today who believe that they can change the nature of man as God created him. We are told that male and female are not of God but are social man-made constructs. We are told that the family is what the government decides to tell us it is. Marriage is no longer for life, nor necessarily between one man and one woman. Murder is legally permitted, at present of the unborn, but soon others will be added to the hit list such as the elderly, the infirm, and those with mental illnesses.

Saint John the Baptist lived in a similar time to us, but he did not cave-in to those who promoted such evils and neither should we. Failure to resist evil is to become an accomplice and a slave to evil. God created us to be free. Jesus Christ guarantees our freedom provided we follow Him and strive to live by His Truth, regardless of how many times we might fall. Both Saint John the Baptist and Jesus Christ

The Truth Frees Us To Give Sacrificial Love

clearly show us the fate that might be awaiting us for living such a life, but neither of them lost their freedom. When Our Lord spoke about the good shepherd he said:

“Therefore does the Father love me: because I lay down my life, that I may take it again. No man takes it away from me: but I lay it down of myself, and I have power to lay it down: and I have power to take it up again.” (John 10:17-18)

There is no doubt that a new persecution of Catholics is on the way. It has already begun, but too few Catholics are publicly resisting the tyranny, and so the worldly powers do not fear us yet. But they will come to fear us, and when they do, they will persecute us. Catholics have always been persecuted. In the not too distant future, some Catholics in Ireland will once again die at the hands of the enemies of Jesus Christ and His Catholic Church, because they will refuse to abandon their Catholic faith.

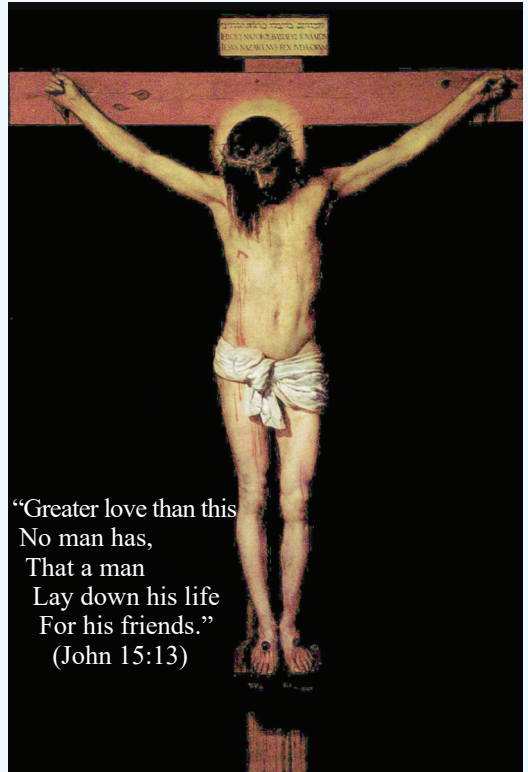
In the Gospel passage quoted on the front cover from Saint John, chapter 8, Jesus has just set the woman caught in adultery free. The Jews are trying to further trap Him and this is where he speaks of the Truth setting us free.

“Then Jesus said to those Jews, who believed him: If you continue in my word, you shall be my disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him: We are the seed of Abraham, and we have never been slaves to any man: how sayest thou: you shall be free?”

Jesus answered them: Amen, amen I say unto you: that whosoever commits sin, is the servant of sin. Now the servant abides not in the house forever; but the son abides forever. If therefore the son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.” (John 8:32-36)

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We must prepare ourselves to live in the Truth, regardless of the personal cost in this world. The primary requisite for living in the Truth is Prayer. We must strive to get our prayer lives in order. Prayer is the foundation of the interior life which is the foundation of all of our good works. Our good works will suffer when we neglect our prayer life. Nobody can truly say that they are living a perfect life, there



“Greater love than this
No man has,
That a man
Lay down his life
For his friends.”
(John 15:13)

is always room for improvement. We must constantly evaluate the direction we are taking in life and our decisions with Almighty God as the reference point.

It is good to begin the morning with an act of adoration in preparation for our morning prayer routine. The angel of Peace, who is also the angel of Portugal, on visits to the children of Fatima in 1915 and 1916, instructed them in how to pray. When he brought the Holy Eucharist to them he also taught them a prayer of adoration.

“Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, I adore Thee profoundly, and I offer Thee the Most Precious Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Thy Son Jesus Christ, present in all the Tabernacles of the world, in reparation for all the sacrileges, outrages and indifferences by which He Himself is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of Thee the conversion of poor sinners.”

Saints Francesco and Jacinta suffered terribly and both of them died very young. The three children of Fatima earnestly desired to follow the instructions of the angel when he said to them:

“Pray! Pray a great deal! The hearts of Jesus and Mary have designs of mercy for you! Offer prayers and sacrifices unceasingly to the Most High!”

When he was asked by the children how to do this, he replied:

“Offer up everything within your power as a sacrifice to the Lord in an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended; and of supplication for the conversion of sinners. Thus invoke peace upon your country. I am her Guardian Angel; the Angel of Portugal. Above all, accept and bear with submission the sufferings that the Lord may send you.”

On the first apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, on May 13th, 1917, Our Lady confirmed what the angel had said. She asked the children:

“Do you want to offer yourselves to God to endure all the sufferings that He may choose to send you, as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended and as a supplication for the conversion of sinners?”

When Lucia responded, “Yes, we want to.” Our Lady replied:

“Then you are going to suffer a great deal,” the Lady promised, “but the grace of God will be your comfort.”

This same method of prayer and sacrifice is valid for our lives too, especially in a world where peace is being threatened by the ever growing threat of a world wide war. A world where so many baptised Catholics have turned away from Almighty God. At times we may become discouraged when we look at the big picture and see all of the apostasy in once Catholic countries. There is a danger in looking for and expecting great changes to come quickly. We must keep our focus on Jesus Christ, on His mother Mary, and we must strive to do our daily duty, to become holy, so that we can influence those who come into contact with us. We must keep in mind that we have demonic enemies, whose sole focus is to prevent us from gaining Heaven.

New Year - New Projects for Legio Sanctae Familiae

In all of this, we must never give up Hope, because ultimately, the battle is not ours but Gods. God can never be defeated, but we can lose our souls if we do not pay close attention to what He is asking of us. We must keep striving, until the day of our death, to attain that perfection that God asks of us. We cannot achieve it by ourselves, but only by losing ourselves in Him.

With this in mind, I am hoping to begin some new projects this year. I want to reach out to more people through the use of videos which will present the Traditional Catholic Teaching on marriage and family life showing how the good of society depends on Traditional Catholic families for its existence. These families are also where the future vocations to the sacred Catholic priesthood and religious life will come from. God desires Traditional Catholic families so that there will be many more Saints in Heaven for eternity!

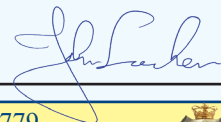
I want to write more articles and to share them on an online platform so that they are accessible to more people, especially to younger age groups who should be considering their vocations.

When I first launched Legio Sanctae Familiae and asked my Archbishop for his blessing, he said: "There is a great need for support, especially spiritual support, for families in Ireland. This work you have undertaken will require very great patience and understanding of situations which, to say the least, are often less than perfect. I will pray that you find ever more means to communicate with and serve these fragile families with the sometimes heroic levels of tact and diplomacy often required and always so difficult to balance with Gospel forthrightness. It is a remarkable calling, which I hope will prosper and yield a rich harvest."

Later in the year, I also want to see how best to give counsel to spouses who are struggling in their marriages and who need to be shown the love of Christ with that Gospel forthrightness of which the Archbishop spoke. With this in mind it will be necessary to begin to establish the Traditional Catholic Family support networks which will be essential to bringing the Irish people back to the Catholic Faith. Traditional Catholic Families in other countries will need to establish these support networks too.

None of this will be possible without your prayers of supplication to God. I am also dependent on your financial support, without which I cannot devote my time to this great work for God's Kingdom. I am confident that God will bless this work because it is something that He desires.

May God bless you abundantly,



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