



MARY

Mother of God and Mother of the Church

by His Excellency, Bishop Joseph E. Strickland

[On the Monday after Pentecost], the Church celebrates Mary, Mother of the Church. The tremendous gift that Our Lady is for the Catholic Church and for all humanity is something we can all ponder deeply, taking up the model that she gives us as she “ponders all these things

in her heart.” I feel a tremendous responsibility to share the great image of the Immaculate Virgin Mary...because so many of God’s beloved children do not know her and even reject the idea of knowing and venerating her. I am very compassionate toward those who do not embrace Our Blessed Mother because the gift that she is truly is astounding and easily disbelieved. How could a woman, a true flesh-and-blood woman, be the Mother of God? Like so many aspects of our Catholic faith it can easily seem impossible and even wrong to believe that a mere woman could give birth to God’s Divine Son, and not only give birth to Him, but nurture and support Him through every moment of His Incarnation.

Many have likely studied the theologically significant term theotokos. This Greek term literally means “God bearer” and the Council of Ephesus declared this in 431 AD. As I reflect on this great mystery in the context of our year of the Immaculate Virgin Mary and the Eucharist here in the Diocese of Tyler, I feel the urge to move beyond the wondrous truth that this young maiden, a virgin, gave birth to Jesus of Nazareth. Certainly the birth of the Son of God by a woman is enough to examine for many pages, but I encourage us all to let our imaginations embrace the reality that Mary of Nazareth not only gave birth to Jesus in Bethlehem, but she truly mothered Him throughout His incarnation. It is important to also express the reality that the Immaculate Virgin Mary continues to mother Jesus



—Duccio di Bouninsegna, *Maesta Madonna with Angels and Saints*, 1308-11

even as she continues to mother His Church.

In order to consider further the question of how Mary was truly mother to her Son, Jesus, throughout His 33 years and beyond, I turn to one of my favorite passages in the Gospel of Luke. Luke 1:39-56 captures the Visitation, when

Mary goes to her cousin Elizabeth, as both of these women are with child. This inspiring encounter between Mary and Elizabeth includes the leap of John the Baptist in the womb of his mother in the presence of his Lord and the joyful canticle of the Magnificat spoken by Mary. But my focus for our present reflection is on Mary’s motherly instinct for the child Jesus newly conceived in her womb. She cares for her newly conceived Son by setting out in haste to visit her relative who is also with child. Mary instinctively knows that she and Elizabeth both need each other’s support as they nurture the lives of their children. I find something truly beautiful about Mary’s visit. It is what we would describe in modern terms as good prenatal care.

Science has come to understand that the nine months during which a child grows in the womb of his mother are a critical time for healthy development. Mary’s nurturing love in these earliest days of the life of the Incarnate Word in her womb reflects the care and tender love that she will offer Him throughout His life on this earth and into our present day. Mary truly serves as the Mother of the Son of God for all time and her motherly care extends to all of us as the mystical body of her Son, the Church.

May all of us draw closer to the Immaculate Virgin Mary in our own journey through this life and come to an ever deeper understanding of what the Lord’s word from the cross means for all of us: “Behold your Mother.”

GOSPA MISSIONS

Mission Statement: Gospa Missions is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Evans City, PA. It was established in A.D. 1990 for the purpose of evangelizing the world's people to the Catholic Church. Gospa Missions is dedicated to serving our Lord, spreading devotion to His Blessed Mother and general faith-building. We are obedient to our bishop, spiritual directors and the Magisterium.

Publisher
Gospa Missions

Editor-in-Chief
Mary Rutkoski

Editor
Dawn Sanders

Contributing Editor
Christopher Reynolds

Contributors
Bishop Joseph Strickland
Shalini Dominic-Savio

GOSPA MISSIONS
Headquarters & Retail Store
230 East Main Street
Evans City, PA 16033
Phone: (724) 538 - 3171
Hours: Monday-Saturday
10 a.m. — 6 p.m.

Web store:
www.gospa.org

On Facebook:
facebook.com/gospa.missions

Gospa Missions' religious goods store, Amazing Grace, is also available for your conference or event.

*This newsletter is dedicated
to the Holy Spirit.
May we always
do God's will.*

An Editorial from our founder, Thomas Rutkoski...and

A Message from Mary Rutkoski...

The editorial that we chose to bring back to life for you to read again is named **Man, Oh Man, Oh Man!** It was first printed in the February 2002 Gospa Missions newsletter. It doesn't seem possible that twenty years have passed since then.

Tom promised to try to write this particular month's editorial (below) to be very positive. He was tired of writing about all the disturbing news that always seemed to be what was happening. He wanted to be uplifting.

But, when he went to Mass that day, there was no chance of positivity because, at that Mass, there were feminists who were attempting to destroy the word MAN on their own—in Bibles, missals, songbooks—anywhere the *dangerous* word was used. This turned into a very difficult situation for Tom. He had to proceed with a non-positive editorial and he explained in it the words, like “**woman**,” “**female**” and “**male**,” that are being erased from the Church's documents and prayers.

After he thought about it, Tom really felt that the results of what he wrote were maybe positive after all. But Tom was a soldier of the Church. He fought against situations that were just wrong. His standing up for the true Church, in all of his speeches in hundreds of churches, gave him strength to go on with his crusade. He received hundreds of grateful letters and cards, thanking him for changing their lives. There were so many praises from the people who read his books—they found themselves closer to God. So many wrote to tell Tom that they had begun to go to daily Mass and pray the Rosary every day.

After twenty years have passed us by, sadly, the problems still exist. Read Tom's editorial below and see how he finishes it up.

Man, Oh Man, Oh Man!

by Thomas Rutkoski

It is not that it was a New Year's resolution or anything, but I did state to my staff that I was going to try to write a very positive editorial for this issue. I realize that I tend to go off a bit because of all of the disturbing news that seems to permeate the Church these days. It would be nice to have a week or so without some ridiculous altering of the way we do things. It is quite obvious that people, in general, do not like change and especially when something is changed that we hold very dear. But this month I was going to be uplifting.

And then I went to Mass. You would think that going to Mass in a Catholic church would be the last place on earth that one would be infuriated, so much for a positive editorial.

What in the world is the Church thinking of when it kowtows to extreme feminism? A handful of women who do not have a clue to who God is, start beating a drum against the word *man* and the Catholic publishers cannot bow to their demands quickly enough. The Bibles are being changed, the lectionaries and all of the missalettes and songbooks, and all to the dismay of the Magisterium and the Holy Father himself. Soon you will not be able to find the word **man** or **men** anywhere.

I guess the next place they will strike the word **men** is on the doors to the toilets in all of the churches. After all, they want to be in the **men's** locker room while the guys are standing there almost naked, if not completely. So why not use the same toilets? Let's just forget that there is a difference in equipment and discard all modesty for the sake of tolerance. That is tongue-in-cheek for you feminists who are out there nodding and saying, “That's a great idea!”



Continued on Page 3 - Editorial

Satan has not dispensed a bigger dose of pride in centuries. Think of it. A “progressive” woman reads the Bible and sees the words “Our Father” and she takes offense at that. If this is not Satan, then who is it that convinces a woman to object to Scripture? And worse than that, what fool would actually want to change Scripture to please any human being?

But the best part of these foolhardy demands is what they actually demand. “I want the word **mankind** changed to **humankind**. Don’t you get it? **Hu-man-kind**. The word that they find so offensive, *man*, is still there! I find that change, full of nothing, quite disgusting. Let’s take this stupidity to the ultimate laugh. Remember we must get rid of man. But what is this, **woman** or (wo-**man**)? Take out the **man** and you are left with **wo**. Woe is me. Isn’t that a hoot? I am sure that God is not laughing, but saying “Woe to all you who are involved in changing My WORD.”

Then there is that “female” word. But what is this? Isn’t the word **male** in there, also? The feminists say, “We demand that you eliminate that **male** stuff right this instant.” They obviously do this with some foot stomping included. Let’s drop the **male** from **female** to make the feminists happy.

Uh, oh, look at what we have left, a simple **fe**. He made them **male** and **fe**. I would imagine that there is a fee associated with demanding that you want God’s Word to be changed. That price you do not want to pay. He made them **man** and **wo**. Am I making my point?

This is how stupid changing what amounts to nothing, really is. But, because I was not willing to bow to this kind of arrogance, I was advised to leave my former parish, by the pastor, no less, and I did. I also left the dust from my shoes behind.

God’s word is not enough for feminists to attack, they have to attack His songs also. That is exactly what put me on this tangent in the first place—the changed Christmas songs at Mass this year. You see we got new songbooks just before Christmas and everything is different. I don’t think the word **man** is to be found. Today we actually sang *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* with the words, “Peace on the earth, good will to **all**.” It used to be “Good will to men.”

Truthfully it makes me ill. Not because of the tremendous amount of pride displayed in these demands, but because they weary my God. I certainly can forgive them their huge failure, but God will not until the

prideful ones go to confession. And for those who support these dastardly changes, shame on you. In actuality the feminist sin becomes the sin of the changers and supporters.

Well, that is about as uplifting as I can get right now. Wait! Can you hear that? Can you hear the feminists? They seem to be saying, “**Boy**, oh **boy**, oh **boy**.” Stop that right now! You must change that immediately to “*Girl*, oh *girl*, oh *girl*.” Anytime you see something that is rather down, let’s all start saying, “*Girl*, oh *girl*, oh *girl*.”

I don’t know about you, but now that I think about it, this editorial is uplifting.

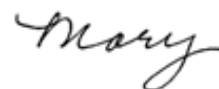
P.S. I wonder if the feminists will allow me in their locker room while they are in their skivvies. Guess what. I don’t want to. Let me finish with a head shake and a, “**Man**, oh **Man**, oh **Man**!” Take *that*, Gloria Steinem.

I feel better now. See you next month.



Thomas Rutkoski

...and Mary



Amazing Grace Books and Gifts by GOSPA MISSIONS

We’re excited to be the go-to store for your inspirational and sacramental needs!

Please check out our great website, www.gospa.org,

and find those perfect gifts for an upcoming wedding or other sacramental event.

And don’t forget our wonderful selection of books, like the ones below.

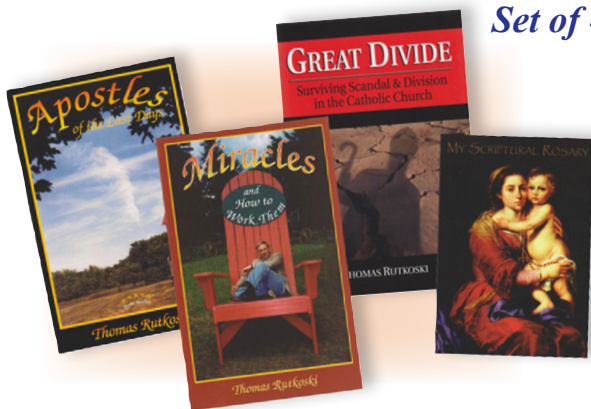
Order online or call us at 724-538-3171!

Set of 4 Books by Thomas Rutkoski, Founder of Gospa Missions

Despite his dyslexia and other issues, God used Tom Rutkoski in a powerful way. He never imagined he would or could write a book, much less four. Read *Apostles of the Last Days* and marvel at the lengths God will go to win a soul. Witness amazing things in *Miracles* and continue discovering the path to sanctity in *Great Divide* and the *Scriptural Rosary*. Are you ready?

001-0007 **Set of Four Books** \$30.00

That’s a 45% discount!
You save \$24.95 off the individual prices!



A Servant's Heart: Seeking Peace in Troubled Times

These days in which we are living are unprecedented. We have strife and divisions in society, the family, the Church, and in governments around the world. It seems like the evil one is running rampant with unfettered restraint. But know this — **Our Lord has won the fight!**

Currently, we have families divided over politics, religion, cultural issues and a host of other problems. The Church is in turmoil with statements from the hierarchy that go against the consistent teaching and traditions of the Holy Catholic Church. We have Cardinals against Cardinals, Bishops against Bishops, Priests against Priests and people against people. Our government seems to be out of control with the power which *we, the people*, gave them. Luckily, we still have the Constitution and certain *unalienable rights* given to us by God. Abraham Lincoln, in a speech to the Illinois Republican State Convention on June 16, 1858, said that, ***"A house divided against itself cannot stand."*** Now this may be true for our country but our Church is a different story. Jesus said:

"Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Matthew 16:17-19

So, although the government and society may not stand while divided, the Church surely will survive.

What do we need to do to find peace in these troubled times?

"Our Lady of Fatima stressed the importance of praying the Rosary in each of her apparitions, asking the children to pray the Rosary every day for peace. Another principal part of the Message of Fatima is devotion to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, which is terribly outraged and offended by the sins of humanity, and we are lovingly urged to console her by making reparation. She showed her Heart,

surrounded by piercing thorns (which represented the sins against her Immaculate Heart), to the children, who understood that their sacrifices could help to console her."

—<https://fatima.org/the-message-in-general/>

Seems simple enough, but are we really doing what she asked of us? I say we are not, as a whole. Are there good and pious people praying? Absolutely; but look at the sins of those inside the Church and outside the Church that have been committed and are still being committed. The majority of Catholics believe that homosexual acts are ok, abortion is ok, divorce is ok, fornication is ok, contraception is ok and worshiping false gods is ok. How can this be, since the Church has taught for over 2000 years that these sins are an abomination against God?

So, what do we need to do? First and foremost, pray the Rosary daily for peace. Second, attend Mass as often as possible. Third, go to confession often and, lastly, consecrate yourself, your family and your homes to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

As a young boy, my mother taught me to say *Hail Mary's* to get to sleep, since I struggled most of my life with night terrors, sleep walking and talking in my sleep. This prayer was so effective that I even did this during my pagan years while away from Our Lord and His Church.

Looking back now, I can see that, if you go to Jesus' Mother, she will bring you to the Prince of Peace, her Son, Jesus. What does Peace in Our Lord look like? Well, for me it is knowing He is with me and His Mother is praying for me. I am confident that the Lord will watch over His people as He promised throughout salvation history.

We all go through tough times; it may be the death of a loved one, loss of a job, illness, or a multitude of other trying situations, but we need to trust in Our Lord. One of my favorite Scripture verses is, ***"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me"*** Ph 4:13. This does not mean that all will be easy or I will be successful in life's endeavors, but rather, with Christ we can handle anything life throws at us. This is often easier said than done.

But Jesus said to His disciples:

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they?...But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides."

Matthew 6:25-33

May the Lord bless you and may you find the Peace of Jesus in your lives.

*—Chris Reynolds
President, Gospa Missions*

Retreat at the Mission: Focused on Catholic Family Life



Left: Canon Talarico giving his homily during Holy Mass.

Below: Attendees at the Mass inside the tent.

Right: Recessional procession at end of Mass.



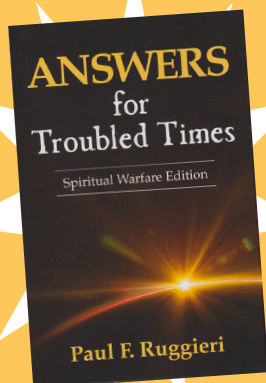
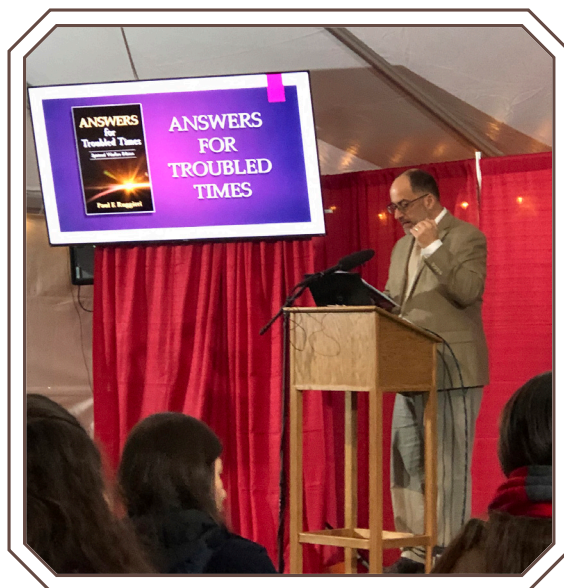
This past May 7, *Gospa Missions* held its first retreat ever at our location in Evans City, Pennsylvania. Over 100 people enjoyed a Traditional Latin Mass and our great speakers—Bishop Joseph Strickland via live video from his diocese in Tyler, Texas, Canon Matthew Talarico from the *Institute of Christ the King, Sovereign Priest* and Paul Ruggieri, award-winning video producer and author. The theme was *Rebuilding Catholic Culture in the Family* and was held in a large tent which covered the back parking lot behind our store on Main Street.

Although the weather was disappointing, God's grace was not.

Bishop Strickland encouraged those present to begin praying the Rosary as a family and they would see the power and beneficence that would pour into themselves and their children.

Canon Talarico spoke on the blessings that come from consecrating our homes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He offered a handout of the *Ceremony of the Enthronement* to those who wanted to make the Act of Consecration.

Paul Ruggieri then offered his insights on ways we can keep ourselves and our families safe from the dangerous intrusions lurking in the various forms of media. (See his book below.)



THERE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO!

Paul Ruggieri shows you how to take back control from today's media and scale the cliffs to salvation.

In *Answers for Troubled Times: Spiritual Warfare Edition*, Paul exposes the subtle yet destructive forces at work in the media that threaten you and your family. He then shows you how to wield the most effective weapons against them and win the war for your soul and your family's.

ARE YOU UP FOR IT?

Order Product # 057-0193 at www.gospa.org or call 724.538.3171.

INDIA: Ramping Up for a New School Year

A new academic year has begun at Mary Rose Buds School and the children are excited, ready to learn and to make new friends.

Repairs to the school and grounds were wrapped up over the month-long break, providing an all-around safer and drier campus for the children. With so much earth work going on, we were even able to provide a place for students interested in track and field sports.

We are very proud of our graduating students, all of whom passed their 10th grade public exams. Of particular note is Abhishek Kakumanu, who scored 573/600 points, the highest in the Guntur district (see photo below).

The in-coming students celebrated the beginning of the year with two events: the Food Art competition and Fancy Fete, similar to Halloween in the United States. The little ones enjoyed dressing up like various heroes and historic figures. The older children showed off their imaginations and skill in crafting some excellent fruit-and-vegetable creations.



Making a firm foundation for the assembly area in front of the school



Creating a solid road base to the church and school so the children no longer walk through standing water



Repairs were completed on all the water leaks



And since we're already moving so much dirt around, how about adding track & field events to the curriculum?



Left, Abhishek Kakumanu is presented with a watch by Fr. Allam in recognition of receiving the highest marks in the Guntur district 10th grade exam

—Shalini Dominic-Savio & Dawn Sanders

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pray for Us!

Remember our Mother, who delights to pray for the children entrusted to her by God. The items shown below will help you call to mind her tender care and loving intercession.



Immaculate Heart Statue
by Santa Teresita

This richly painted image of the Immaculate Heart encourages you to trust in her intercession, as she tenderly gazes at you. Statue is 16" high.

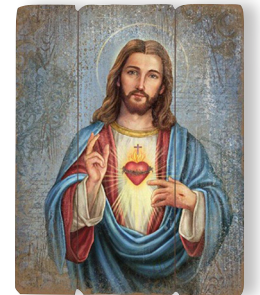
450-0220.....\$99.95

Immaculate Heart Wall Plaque
Palette Style

Mary's gaze gently appeals to you from this brightly colored 12" x 15" wooden wall plaque. A companion plaque of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is also available.

302-0274 (Mary).....\$23.95

302-0273 (Jesus).....\$23.95



*Get to know Jesus and His Mother better
through the Holy Rosary with Fr. Donald Calloway*

10 Wonders of the Rosary
by Fr. Donald Calloway

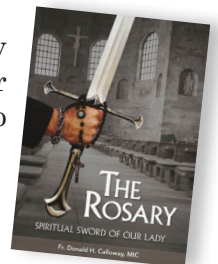
Fr. Calloway, MIC, shares some of the history, miracles and greatest triumphs of devotion to the Holy Rosary in this easy-to-read book. 174 p.

055-0077.....\$9.95

**The Rosary: Spiritual Sword of
Our Lady DVD**

Watch this DVD by Fr. Calloway and you will be ready to pick up your (rosary) sword and go into battle to win! 60 min.

351-0331.....\$9.99



Mug with Monstrance Image



Celebrate the gift of the Holy Eucharist with this ceramic mug. A monstrance and words from the hymn, *O Sacrament Most Holy*, adorn the outside. Microwave and dishwasher safe. 11 oz. capacity.

583-0146.....\$10.00



**Adoration Rosary with
Austrian Crystal & Silver Beads**

A Blessed Sacrament and Monstrance medal is the centerpiece of this 8mm crystal rosary. The Our Father beads and 2" high crucifix, with Miraculous Medal dangle, are all silvertone and the decade beads are silver capped. Gift boxed.

100-0702.....\$36.95

Immaculate Heart of Mary Sox

A fun and unique gift for birthdays, graduations, Christmas, Easter, Confirmation, or just because. Made in the USA. Men's size 5-11, Women's size 7-12.

728-0027.....\$15.99



Mug with Antique Sacred Hearts Images



Enjoy your choice of hot beverage in this 11 oz. ceramic mug, featuring images of the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Microwave and dishwasher safe.

583-0205.....\$10.00

Prayer for the Hastening of the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, Holy Mother of God, and our tender Mother, look upon the distress in which the whole of mankind is living due to the spread of materialism, godlessness, and the persecution of the Catholic Faith.

In our own day, the Mystical Body of Christ is bleeding from so many wounds caused within the Church by the unpunished spread of heresies, the justification of sins against the Sixth Commandment, the seeking of the kingdom of earth rather than that of heaven, the horrendous sacrileges against the Most Holy Eucharist, especially through the practice of Communion in the hand, and the Protestant shaping of the celebration of the Holy Mass.

Amidst these trials appeared the light of the consecration of Russia to thine Immaculate Heart by the Pope, in union with the world's bishops. In Fatima thou didst request *the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays* of the month. Implore thy Divine Son to grant a special grace to the Pope, that he might approve *the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays*.

May Almighty God hasten the time when Russia will convert to Catholic unity, mankind will be given a time of peace, and the Church will be granted an authentic renewal in the purity of the Catholic Faith, the sacredness of divine worship, and the holiness of Christian life. O Mediatrix of all graces, O Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and our sweet Mother, turn thine eyes of mercy towards us and graciously hear this our trusting prayer. **Amen.**

+ His Excellency, Bishop Athanasius Schneider

We need your help to keep moving forward in our mission to lead souls to Our Lord, through His Blessed Mother, so they can find peace.

Please consider, if you are not already a monthly supporter, setting up a monthly donation to help us. At our website, **gospa.org**, click on the donate button and set up a monthly recurring gift.

If you are already a monthly supporter,

Thank You

and please, if possible, consider increasing your gift.

**Our Lady's
Power Hour**
*with reflections by
His Excellency
Bishop Joseph Strickland*

*We will be praying
for our families, our Church
and our country*

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
at 9pm EST**



To join, sign up at
www.gospa.org
and click on the banner
at the top of the page



VISIT US ON

G⊕SPA MISSIONS

facebook

@gospa.missions