



St. Michael Broadcasting "News"

Top Stories

- [February 2015 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [January 2015 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [December 2014 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [November 2014 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [October 2014 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [September 2014 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [August 2014 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [July 2014 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [June 2014 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [May 2014 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [April 2014 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [March 2014 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [February 2014 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [January 2014 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [December 2013 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [November 2013 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [October 2013 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)

- [September 2013 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [August 2013 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [July 2013 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [June 2013 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [May 2013 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [April 2013 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer of St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)

February 2015 Letter

Board of Advisors: February 2015, A.D.

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Spiritual Advisor, St. Paul Seminary

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

An out-of-print prayer book with instructions and advice, called *The Catholic Manual*, (1947 edition) by Tilmann Pesch, S.J., says that *“On the day of judgment we shall not be examined as to our success in science, in our profession or business, or whether we have been rich or poor. The sentence of the Judge will depend on our courage and determination in carrying out the will of God, in avoiding sin, in providing for the salvation of the souls entrusted to our care. And on that sentence depends our eternal weal or woe. As man lives, so he dies, and as he dies, so he remains.”* Lent is a time during which through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we work on conforming our wills to the will of God. Below we reprint again a reflection on the last things by our founder, Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J.

Dust Thou Art

“Dust thou art and to dust thou shalt return.” The Church offers this prayer for each one of us as the priest traces a black cross on our foreheads with the ashes from burnt palm branches. I wonder how often we reflect, especially when we are in good health and are busy with many good works, that a day will come, perhaps very soon, when we will die and our bodies will be placed in a cold casket six feet under the lush green grass in the local Catholic cemetery. I should ask myself now, “Where will I be then?”

As Catholics we should think about death each day, since it is included in many of our prayers. The Mass itself is a memorial and a re-presentation of the death of Jesus. A crucifix reminds us of the death of Christ. In the Liturgy of the Hours we are constantly reminded of the death of the Lord, of the death of the wicked, and of our own certain death. The Church, making use of the Psalms, reminds us over and over again that our life is fragile and fleeting, and that it will disappear like the morning mist. Man naturally fears death. He knows it is certain, but he does not like to think about it. Contemporary American culture trivializes death in the media because it does not want to confront the awesome reality of death. It is strange, is it not? Scores of murders and deaths are shown on TV each day, but rarely, if ever, is the reality of death given serious treatment.

Our modern culture tries to create illusions of immortality. We see this in film and TV stars, in sports heroes, in popular politicians. But where are they now? Picking just a few well-known names at random, we can ask: where are Abraham Lincoln, John Wayne, FDR, Marilyn Monroe, John F. Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan, and all the rest who have gone before us? During their lifetimes they were thought to be important persons. Now they are gone, and most people pay little or no attention to them.

What a cruel fate awaits rich, powerful and famous men and women who appear to be something but who, whether sooner or later, are swallowed up by the jaws of death. Many of them do not seem to know that death is the fruit of sin, that “the wages of sin is death” (Rom 6:23). And we Catholics—priests, religious and laity—are we any different? Do we heed the warnings of the Bible and the teaching of the Church that death is the punishment for sin—the sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve, and our own personal sins? Daily the Church urges us to repentance and conversion of heart, especially during Lent. Do we listen and heed her motherly warnings?

Just think about your relatives and friends who have died during the past few years. Where are they now? The Church teaches infallibly that there are only three possibilities right now before the Second Coming of Christ: purgatory, heaven and hell. Do you ever think seriously about the certain fact that you will be with those deceased friends and relatives one future day—perhaps sooner than you think? Do you pray for them and gain indulgences for them in case they are in purgatory?

The closer one comes to God in love and the more one submits himself to the will of God, the more one becomes like God in holiness, and the less fear one feels in the face of death. Actually, many of the saints have longed to die, to be dissolved that they might be united eternally with Christ. St. Paul said, “For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.... My desire is to depart and to be with Christ” (Phil 1:21-23). A daily awareness that we shall soon be judged by the glorified Christ for our words and deeds injects humility into our lives, and spurs us on to a more intense practice of the love of God and neighbor. (*Homiletic and Pastoral Review*, Feb. 2011)

We volunteers hope St. Michael Broadcasting helps your efforts to strengthen your will during Lent. Please help this apostolate through your prayers, by promoting it, by volunteering, or through a financial contribution.

God Bless you this Lent,

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Special Programs this month include: *After This Our Exile*, by Fr. Benedict Groeschel; *The Good Code*, a series on natural law, by Dr. Charles Rice; *The Four Last Things*; *Women’s Mental Health and Abortion*, by Martha Shuping; *Virtues and Christian Discipleship*, by Ed Sri; *The Catholic Church and*

Homosexuality, by Fr. Paul Check; *Christopher Dawson's Christian View of History*; and *Out of the Darkness*, a program about the dark world of prostitution, pornography and sexual addiction.

January 2015 Letter

Board of Advisors

January, 2015 A.D.

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J. President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

In his book, *The Hand of God: A Journey from Death to Life by the Abortion Doctor Who Changed His Mind*, Dr. Bernard Nathanson (1926-2011) mentions a beloved Jewish professor that he had in medical school in the 1940's who, he later discovered, had converted to Catholicism. This teacher, Dr. Karl Stern, wrote a superb autobiography about his conversion, which was published in 1951, called *Pillar of Fire*.

Stern, who was born in Germany in 1906, witnessed, as a young psychiatrist, the implementation of the 1933 Nazi "eugenic law" under which those with presumed hereditary defects were forcibly sterilized. In his book, Stern tells the tale of a "devout Catholic spinster" in her early forties who was suffering from "melancholia," or severe depression. At her eugenic "trial," her defense said that she was unlikely to bear any "defective" offspring since she was "a devoutly Catholic spinster of over forty", and that forced sterilization "would considerably diminish all possibilities of recovery." Nonetheless, she was forcibly sterilized. The outgrowth of this eugenic law was Hitler's 1939 executive order authorizing the euthanizing (killing) of "incurables," that is, those with conditions such as "idiocy," Down's syndrome, physical deformities, paralysis, etc. This decree avoided the word "killing," saying instead that it authorized doctors to, at their sole discretion, "grant a merciful death" to these "incurables." It resulted in over 270,000 state-sanctioned killings.

After the war was over, Stern, then in Canada, noticed that this attitude toward the mentally and physically handicapped was becoming increasingly common among medical staff, who would say things like "Why don't we just let them die a peaceful death... would it not be so much more humane?" Stern goes on to say, "From a strictly pragmatic point of view, lacking a metaphysical concept of Man

(i.e., belief that Man has a Divine origin and destiny that transcends the material, ed.), there is no reason at all against such a step. We... are clinging to... a Christian heritage, of which we are no longer conscious... Thus, we cling with one hand to modern pragmatism, and with the

other to the Hebrew-Christian philosophy. But the gap is widening all the time, and there will be a moment when one hand will have to let go.”

An editorial titled “A New Ethic of Medicine and Society” in the September, 1970, issue of *California Medicine* supports the abandonment of the “old,” “Judeo-Christian ethic” for the “new,” pragmatic, “quality of life” ethic: “It will become necessary and acceptable to place relative rather than absolute values on such things as human lives...” The editorial argues that this is already happening as regards abortion: “Since the old ethic has not yet been fully displaced it has been necessary to separate the idea of abortion from the idea of killing... The result has been a curious avoidance of the scientific fact, which everyone really knows, that human life begins at conception and is continuous whether intra- or extra-uterine until death...”

“One may anticipate further development... as the problems of birth control and birth selection are extended inevitably to death selection and death control whether by the individual or by society.”

The “new ethic” is here: On one of our recent programs, the *Human Life Alliance Symposium on Euthanasia* (filmed by SMB), a middle-aged nurse tells the story of how she, as a comatose 24 year old, who could not move, or breathe on her own, or even blink, *but could hear*, heard a doctor discussing how he wanted to harvest her organs, but could not because her husband wouldn’t grant permission.

Catholic opposition to Hitler’s euthanasia order resulted in its cancellation in 1941. We must similarly resist state-sanctioned murder in our time. We must oppose the pragmatic “quality of life” ethic and affirm, in the words of St. Pope John Paul II: *“...the transcendent dignity of the human person who, as the visible image of the invisible God, is therefore by his very nature the subject of rights which no one may violate...”* (*Centesimus Annus* #44 and *Veritatis Splendor* #99).

This month we will promote this dignity of the human person. Please continue to support your station, through your prayers, by offering to volunteer, telling others, or a financial contribution.

St. Michael Defend us in Battle, Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer **Special Programs this Month** include: *The Human Life Alliance Symposium on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide*; *St. Elizabeth Seton*; *Conversion of Bernard Nathanson*; *Mother Teresa of Calcutta*; *Apostle of Life: Fr. Paul Marx*; *Eclipse of Reason*; and several new *Faith and Reason* programs.

December 2014 Letter

Board of Advisors: December 2014 A.D.
Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J. President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

Anne Carroll, in her book *Christ the King, Lord of History*, says "...to find the most important event in the history of the world, we must find an event that had a great influence at the time it occurred, that is still influencing history at the present time, and that even made a difference in history before it occurred. There is only one event that meets all these requirements. That event is what Christians call the Incarnation: the birth, life, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ who was both God and man." The use of B.C. and A.D. in our dating system, she says, with the division point being the birth of Christ, "indicates that the Incarnation is the most important event in history."

Our mentor, Fr. Baker, in his book *Preach the Word*, says much the same: "The birth of Christ in a humble stable in Bethlehem is the greatest event to take place in the whole history of the world.... No other historical event ever has or ever will surpass it...The incarnation of God in Jesus is God's greatest work in the world of creation for three reasons: 1) because it has God himself as its purpose and end—to assume flesh from the Virgin Mary and so become man; 2) because it is the supreme manifestation of God's love for man; 3) because of the immense good it brings to all mankind--- the possibility of salvation and eternal life."

Fr. Baker continues, "At this time (Christmas), we experience God's love for us. It is visible. And in imitation of God's love for us we are motivated to show love for our family and friends... God made us out of love and for love. That is our destiny. He made us for himself and we know from 1 John 4 that God is love--- that is his very nature and definition and we experience a touch of that love at Christmas.

"When we show love for God and love for our neighbor, then we are doing what God made us for,

what God made us to do. And when we do that, we experience true joy and happiness. That is why Christmas is such a happy time--- a time to rejoice! So saying *Merry Christmas* really means *rejoice* because Jesus has come to save us."

Fr. George Welzbacher, when asked why we give gifts at Christmas, said we do so, "Because God gave His only begotten Son to us as one of us. We in turn give gifts to one another to express our gratitude and joy." What can we give Jesus? We can give Jesus love and adoration, and one of the ways we do this is by imitating Jesus' love. Just as Jesus gratuitously loves us, we can see Jesus in others and gratuitously love them through gifts, acts of charity, forgiveness and cheerfulness.

When Jesus begins his public ministry, he says, "Repent and believe the Good News." (Mark 1:15) What is the Good News? Broadly speaking, it's the whole teaching of Christianity. But, in one sentence, what is it? Fr. George Welzbacher put it this way: "Christ Jesus our Lord, God the Son who became man, by His teachings and sufferings and death, opened the Gates of Heaven for all who hear His Word and follow it." Christmas marks the beginning of the Good News.

We volunteers at St. Michael Broadcasting hope that by bringing the Word to you through our programming, that you are better able to bring "tidings of comfort and joy" to all you meet.

Please help the station if you can through word of mouth, your prayers, by offering to volunteer, or if possible, a financial contribution.

Merry Christmas!

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Please remember in your prayers Bernice Sieler (March 23, 1926 - February 8, 2014) a viewer who passed away earlier this year and remembered the station in her will. Her gift will help the station with needed upgrades in the year ahead. Also, please pray for our advisor and friend Fr. Paul La Fontaine who has had to retire as Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish for medical reasons.

The Only Person Pre- Announced: "The Greeks expected Him, for Aeschylus in his *Prometheus*, six centuries before His coming wrote, 'Look not for any end, moreover, to this curse until God appears, to accept upon His Head the pangs of thy own sins vicarious.'" Quoted from *The Life of Christ*, Fulton Sheen, page 19.

November 2014 Letter

Board of Advisors: November, 2014 A.D.
Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J. President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

On the anniversary of the death of St. Francis, October 3rd, Fr. Benedict Groeschel, whose programs we often play on this station, passed on to eternal life. It's worth recounting, and taking inspiration from, the accomplishments of this remarkable and holy man.

Robert Peter Groeschel was born in 1933, in New Jersey. As a young boy he saw a nun bringing food every day to a poor widow. Robert followed the nun and looking through the window, thought the woman looked like a witch from a fairy tale. Young Robert was frightened, but was impressed by the nun's actions. He felt the call to the priesthood and in the eighth grade memorized a poem about a monk who served Jesus in the poor: *The Legend Beautiful*, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The theme of this poem would become the theme and motif of his life. When he was 18, in 1951, he entered the Capuchin order, and in 1959 was ordained a priest.

In 1960, he became chaplain of Children's Village, a home for emotionally disturbed children in Dobb's Ferry, New York. In 1967, he founded St. Francis' House in Brooklyn to help adolescent boys who could no longer stay at Children's Village. In 1973, he co-founded Trinity Retreat House for troubled priests. Meanwhile, his education continued as he received a master's degree in counseling in 1964 and a Ph.D. in psychology in 1971.

In 1980, he helped Fr. John Harvey set up Courage, a ministry for Catholic men struggling with homosexual attraction. In 1985, he co-founded the Good Counsel Home for homeless pregnant women. In 1987, Fr. Groeschel and seven fellow Capuchins founded the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal whose mission includes living a radically poor life, about 3 hours of prayer per day, serving the poor, and evangelization. Today, there are 115 Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and 31 Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal. The friars in New York run two homeless shelters, a food pantry, a medical clinic, a teen outreach program, provide weekly lunch in Harlem, etc.

Fr. Groeschel was involved in the civil rights movement. He stood up for the unborn, and was once arrested while praying outside an abortion mill. He supported Catholic colleges that try to faithfully live and impart Church teaching. He taught at various colleges and gave numerous retreats. One retreat was given to Mother Teresa and her Missionaries of Charity in India, after which he helped her establish her order in New York.

But that's not all: Fr. Groeschel also wrote over 45 books, including *The Courage to be Chaste, Arise from Darkness* (about depression), *After this Life* (a meditation on death and the afterlife) and recorded more than 100 audio and video series. Through it all, he had a wonderful wry sense of humor. For example, when someone once expressed fear of an impending major catastrophe or chastisement, he replied, "I wouldn't be so optimistic."

St. Vincent de Paul said: "If you love the poor, your life will be filled with sunlight, and you will not be frightened at the hour of death." Fr. Groeschel once wrote, "I wish to witness that this is true." A memorial card distributed at Fr. Groeschel's funeral said: "*A Faithful Son of the Church; A Loving Father to the Poor; An Ardent Preacher of the Gospel; A Dedicated Follower of St. Francis.*" Though Fr. Groeschel would no doubt want us to pray for his soul, and we should, it's hard to think that Fr. Groeschel has not already heard the words: "*Come, ye blessed of my Father, possess you the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger, and you took me in: Naked, and you covered me; sick, and you visited me: I was in prison, and you came to me.*" (Mat 25:34-37) Fr. Groeschel served the suffering in person: trying to meet not just their physical needs, but their emotional and spiritual needs as well.

Bishop Sheen once wrote, "Judge the Church not by those who barely live by its spirit, but by the example of those who live closest to it." (*Love One Another*, 1947, p. 147) Fr. Groeschel was surely one who lived closest to it. Fr. Groeschel spent Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter not with his family, but serving meals and giving food to the poor. This Thanksgiving, let us give thanks for, and take inspiration from, the life of Fr. Benedict Groeschel.

St. Michael Broadcasting still has many Fr. Groeschel programs that we haven't yet aired, but we hope to air them and repeat others over the coming years. They are timeless. To accomplish this, we volunteers ask you to please support this station through your prayers, by telling others, and if possible, a financial contribution.

A blessed Thanksgiving to you and yours, Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

October 2014 Letter

Board of Advisors:

October, 2014 A.D.

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J. President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony
Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

Fr. George Rutler, in a program aired on this station, once said that "Politics is the poor man's religion." What exactly did he mean by this?

Fr. Rutler meant that politics can become a substitute for religion. People can devote themselves to a political ideology and shape their lives by it in the way they would a religion. They vest political figures with a quasi-sacred authority. The ultimate result is worship of the state and a tendency to treat the government as a god. Since this is a poor substitute for devotion to and worship of the one true God, "Politics is the poor man's religion."

Those for whom politics is a substitute for religion are *de facto* humanists. Humanism is the philosophy (or religion) whose foundational belief is that "man is the measure of all things". In 1933, a group of humanists laid out their beliefs in a document called *The Humanist Manifesto*.

The Humanist Manifesto (which now includes two subsequent versions) refers to humanism as a "religion". Among the "affirmations" of this non-theistic religion are the following: "*Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created... Religious Humanism considers the complete realization of human personality to be the end of man's life and seeks its development and fulfillment in the here and now... No deity will save us; we must save ourselves... Ethics is autonomous and situational... The right to birth control, abortion, and divorce should be recognized... Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful. They distract humans from present concerns, from self-actualization, and from rectifying social injustices... faith in the prayer-hearing God... is an unproved and outmoded faith.*"

Though we as Catholics--- who see this life as a journey and not an end--- reject these humanist

"affirmations," we act like humanists when we neglect our daily prayers and the sacraments. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI "*At the heart of all temptations ... is the act of pushing God aside because we perceive him as secondary, if not actually superfluous and annoying, in comparison with all the apparently far more urgent matters that fill our lives*". (Jesus of Nazareth, p. 28)

If we love God, it makes sense that we would want to spend time with Him in prayer asking His help in knowing and doing His will and wanting to be with Him in the Holy Eucharist. The two tablets of the Ten Commandments represent the admonition to Love God and Love our Neighbor. Love of God and the desire to do God's will precedes love of neighbor: Doing our will and expecting God to save us equals presumption. Doing God's will and expecting God to save us equals trust.

In an address at Thomas Aquinas College in 1982, Mother Teresa spoke of the importance of prayer: *“If you have learned to pray, that is your strength; that is your joy... The fruit of prayer is always the deepening of faith. And the fruit of faith is always love. And the fruit of love is action. We must put our love for Jesus in the living action. How do we do that? If we do it with Jesus, if we do it for Jesus, and if we do it to Jesus, then we know that we are with Him because He has said so.”*

Insofar as the state behaves as a god, or embodies a counter-religion such as Humanism which impedes our ability to know, love and serve God, we must oppose it. That opposition, apparent sometimes in our programming, can appear political. But it is not political *per se*; it is a matter of “giving to God what belongs to God.” Recall that Jesus was accused of being “too political” when they said he was “no friend of Caesar” (John 19:12). He was crucified by the Romans for this “crime”.

The purpose of this station is, in the words of the old *Baltimore Catechism*, to help each of us “*know, love and serve God on earth and be happy with Him forever in Heaven.*” By encouraging us to pray, it can help us to avoid the idolatry of choosing “the poor man’s religion”. Please continue to support this station through your prayers, by telling others and if possible, a financial contribution.

“Pray, hope and don’t worry” (St. Padre Pio), Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

New programs this month include: *Into to Chesterton’s Orthodoxy*, by Dale Ahlquist; *Isabel the Catholic* (about Isabel of Spain and the discovery of the New World by Columbus on October 12, 1492; *Last Conversations of St. Therese*; *Map of Life*, by Fr. Groeschel; *Meditation on All Saints/All Souls*’ by Fr. Groeschel; and *El Matrimonio*.

Latin Mass on 16.1: Monday-Saturday 12, 5 and 10 pm., and Sunday, 5 and 10 pm. For movies, see page 4. **Channel 16.3 Schedule** (Repeats at midnight, 6 am and noon the next day.)

September 2014 Letter

Board of Advisors:

September, 2014 A.D.

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts
Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony
Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

On Sunday, August 18, 1935, Archbishop John Gregory Murray of St. Paul had a statement read at every Mass in the Archdiocese which said, in part: “...no individual... may retain membership in any organization recognizing or supporting birth control or sterilization.”

“Persons employed in any position that involves cooperation of any kind in the process

of supporting, promoting, or effecting either birth control or sterilization must withdraw from such employment.”

“Physicians, nurses, social workers who... participate in any action designed to effectuate birth control or sterilization must be denied the sacraments... until they have agreed to repair as far as possible the injury done and guarantee to refrain from cooperation in such evil.”

Now fast forward to 2014. The University of St. Thomas employee health plan covers contraceptives and sterilization! And this policy, in place for many years, was permitted while the two most powerful positions in the school: Chairman of the Board of Trustees and President, were held by, respectively, the Archbishop of St. Paul and a Catholic priest. How did this scandal happen?

This disobedience to the magisterium (teaching authority) of the Church dates back to the publication of the encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, on July 25, 1968, which restated the Church's constant teaching on the grave immorality of contraception, sterilization and abortion. Many priests and bishops, including many in this archdiocese, publicly dissented from this teaching and thereafter either would not teach it, or taught, as one such priest told me, that it “was not non-reformable teaching” and was “abusive of the rights of conscience.”

The failure to suspend the faculties of these dissidents meant these men communicated their heretical “let your conscience be your guide,” aka “modernist” philosophy to seminarians and the laity. Consequently, many priests, bishops, and laity, including Catholic politicians, now erroneously believe they are free to disobey Church teaching on this and other matters. This is a misunderstanding of conscience. The Church does not teach that our conscience is the arbiter of right and wrong; rather conscience applies knowledge of what is right and wrong to the here and now. We know what is right and wrong through natural law, sacred scripture and sacred tradition, and the magisterium.

All this is summarized in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

This failure to obey what the Church teaches on chastity (the rightly ordered, or moral use of one's reproductive powers), led to allowing young men with same-sex attraction into seminaries¹ who “let their conscience be their guide” on whether to remain chaste--- with the result that there are about six male victims of alleged clerical sexual abuse to every one alleged female victim in the 11-17 year old age bracket, even though the vast majority of priests are not sexually attracted to males². It's this lack of fidelity to Church teaching, even by the hierarchy, that led to the healthcare plan at St. Thomas that contradicts Church teaching, the sexual abuse scandal, and most recently, the silence or outright opposition of many priests to Church teaching on the evil of same-sex marriage³.

Neither our country nor Western culture will change for the better until the Church stands more firmly against these evils. Our faithful and chaste priests and bishops need our help. It is imperative that we, the laity, remember that we are largest division of the Church Militant, and that just as St. Catherine of Siena called the Pope from Avignon back to Rome, we must call our timid, or misguided, or disobedient bishops, priests and fellow laity, charitably but firmly, back to faithfulness to the magisterium of the Church. Paragraph 907 of the *Catechism* adjures us to do this: “In accord with the knowledge, competence, and preeminence which they possess, **[lay people] have the right and even at times a duty to manifest to the sacred pastors their opinion on matters which pertain to the good of the Church, and they have a right to make their opinion known to the other Christian faithful**, with due regard to the integrity of faith and morals and reverence toward their pastors, and with consideration for the common good and the dignity of persons.”

St. Michael Broadcasting can help each of us properly form our consciences and strengthen our fortitude so that we can both amend our lives and charitably call others to faithfulness. Please support this all-volunteer apostolate by telling others, with your prayers, and if possible, your financial support.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam,

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

1. See, for example, *The Homosexual Agenda*, by Fr. Enrique Rueda, 1982, or *Goodbye! Good Men: How Catholic Seminaries Turned Away Two Generations of Vocations from the Priesthood* by Michael Rose, 2002.

2. For more on this, see the article *Child Molestation by homosexuals and heterosexuals* by Brian Clowes and David Sonnier in the *Homiletic and Pastoral Review*, May 2005, pages 44-54.

3. *Considerations Regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to Unions between Homosexual Persons*, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 2003.

New Programs this month include: *The Bible and the Sacrifice of the Mass*, Hahn; *The Greatest Destroyer of Peace*, Lila Rose; *Symposium on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide*, by Human Life Alliance; two programs on *Humanae Vitae*; *Compassionate, Professional Care for People with Same-Sex Attraction*, Sutton; *Learning How to Love...* (attachment problems); *Random: a Carefully Selected Word*, Behe; *How to Win the Culture War*, Kreeft; and *Myths of the Sexual Revolution*, Eberstadt.

August 2014 Letter

Board of Advisors:

August, 2014 A.D.

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

One of the enjoyable things about running this station is that we are given older audio/visual presentations for consideration and occasionally find something of great interest. Among these was an audio copy of a 1973 talk by Fr. Charles Coughlin (pronounced Cog-lin) who lived from 1891-1979.

Fr. Coughlin, broadcasting from Royal Oak Michigan, had a national radio program that ran from 1926-1939. His audience was enormous--- about 25% of the American public, five to six times greater than today's top radio personality, Rush Limbaugh. At his peak popularity, he received 80,000 letters a week compared to 8500 letters a week for Bishop Sheen in the 1950s.

Over time, Fr. Coughlin's talks became more political as he sought to promote Pope Leo XIII's recommendations from *Rerum Novarum* (1891), aka *On Capital and Labor*. Fr. Coughlin thought that the "supernatural concept of life" on which the U.S. had been founded was being challenged by a Marxist "materialistic concept of life" which would end badly unless there were a Christian resolution to the problems between *laissez-faire* capitalism and labor. Initially supportive of Franklin Roosevelt, he turned against Pres. Roosevelt when he learned that FDR had given U.S. taxpayer's money to aid the communists in the Spanish Civil War. Roosevelt then turned on Fr. Coughlin and through government agencies impeded Fr. Coughlin's ability to reach his audience. In 1939, Fr. Coughlin ceased his radio and print political commentaries at his bishop's request.

The talk we received, given when Fr. was 82 years old, is not political, but about the sacrament of Confirmation. In it, Fr. Coughlin says: “*You have been called to a vocation higher than Baptism gives you.*” He reminds his audience that it was at Pentecost when the “designated apostles” received the Holy Spirit and *became* apostles. *Then* they received the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, knowledge, fortitude, counsel, piety and fear of the Lord) which enabled them to overcome their fear and go out into the world. The confirmed laity, he says, has also received these gifts and is commanded to use them. The Mystical Body of Christ is at war with the Mystical Body of the Anti-Christ (unrepentant sinners, cowardly compromising Catholics, materialists, etc.) until the end of time:

This earth was never planned to be the Church Triumphant: That has to wait until you go to Heaven. On this earth you must belong to the Church Militant, or get the hell out of it! That’s the right word, because you are “either with me or against me.” There is no middle-term in this battle between Satan and God, between Christ and Anti-Christ. You’re either on Hell’s side or Heaven’s side...

As a battler, you’re supposed to suffer... Put on the offensive armor of Truth. Speak out! Realize that you’re Temples of the Holy Spirit and have Him dwelling in you with fortitude, knowledge, wisdom and understanding, given you at that hour what to say! Begin a novena (to the Holy Spirit) in your home, make it a perpetual novena, and remember He’s leading the forces against Anti-Christ....

May the gifts of the Holy Spirit enflame you to be a brave, courageous Christian not afraid to die for Christ--- that would be easy--- but not afraid to LIVE for Christ which is more important in this world where our seminaries are empty, our bishops are frightened, and our people are in disarray. God bless you. You can win.

We volunteers who run the station hope that it is a conduit for these Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Please continue to support it through your prayers, by telling others and financial contributions.

Veni Sancte Spiritus, Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Holy Spirit Prayer. Come, Holy Spirit, almighty Sanctifier, God of love, who filled the Virgin Mary with grace, who wonderfully changed the hearts of the apostles, who endowed all Your martyrs with miraculous courage, come and sanctify us. Enlighten our minds, strengthen our wills, purify our consciences, rectify our judgment, set our hearts on fire, and preserve us from the misfortunes of resisting Your inspirations. Amen.

New Programs this month include *Pro-life Action Ministries Sidewalk Counseling Series*. This is a good example of Christians who avail themselves of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially fortitude, to overcome their fear and help save the lives of babies and save mothers from a lifetime of regret.

Board of Advisors:

July, 2014 A.D.

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts
Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony
Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

The Bible begins with the words. "In the beginning, God created... and on the seventh day He rested." There is a tendency to believe that at this point creation was "finished," which it was, but it is also paradoxically true that God's creation continues. For example, Jesus says in John 5:17 "My Father is at work until now..."

Years ago, in an astronomy class, my professor said that the universe is "expanding." "Expanding into what?" I asked. "It isn't expanding into anything," she replied. "It *is* everything." This too implies that creation continues. Man also participates in creation when, through procreation, a man and a woman and God the Father bring a new immortal soul into existence.

But creation continues in another way. When Adam and Eve sinned, they upset the goodness of God's creation. God the Father did not want this condition to continue forever and so sent his Son to redeem us. Jesus' undoing of original sin through his passion, death and resurrection is the "new creation." At the time of His death on the cross, Jesus said (John 19:30) "It is finished," but it is also paradoxically true that the new creation continues. The new creation is not fulfilled until the Second Coming, when according to Revelation 21:5 God says "Behold, I make all things new."

The Mass is not a play about the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus: rather, it makes present the eternal sacrifice of Jesus to the Father. In the Mass, through Holy Communion, we both give ourselves to Jesus and receive Jesus. As members of the Mystical Body of Christ, we offer our contrite hearts, our sufferings and our wills to Jesus who in turn offers them to His Heavenly Father that they may redound to the salvation of our own souls and those of the whole world. In this way, *we participate in the new creation*. What an honor! Like the Paschal candle first lit at the Easter Vigil, which recalls "Let there be light" in Genesis 1:3, we are called to bring the light of the new creation, Jesus, into the world, and just as a candle sheds its light by consuming itself, we must shed the light of Christ by dying to self. The gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially the graces given us at Baptism and Confirmation help us do this. Then, when the new creation is fulfilled, we can realistically hope to be among the "wedding guests" (and hope that the wedding guests we have invited will be there too!) and live in the eternal beatitude for which we were created.

Bishop Sheen put it this way: *Our Lord finished His work, but we have not finished ours. He pointed the way we must follow. He laid down the Cross at the finish, but we must take it up. He finished Redemption in His physical Body, but we have not finished it in His Mystical Body... He has finished the Sacrifice of Calvary; we must finish the Mass. (Calvary and the Mass)*

Please support your station so that we can spread the joy of the new creation and the “reasons for our hope” into a culture that is at the same time cynical, yet hungry for Truth--- the Light that dispels the darkness. Please tell others about the station, pray for its success, ask your parish priest if you may put a monthly schedule in your parishes’ literature rack, and send in a contribution if you are able. If you are not able to send in a contribution, please offer up that suffering for the success of the station, or if you have a great fundraising idea, please write or email the station with your suggestion. We have no paid staff, but revenues most often fall short of expenses.

Pax tecum, Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

New programs this month include: Prolife Action Ministries *Sidewalk Counseling* series; *Fr. Robert Barron at Thomas Aquinas College*; *Rediscover How to Pray*; *The Family as the Foundation of Culture* by **Archbishop John Nienstedt** (Make time for this!); Chesterton Academy Speeches; and a 4th of July special *The Birth of Freedom*.

June 2014 Letter

Board of Advisors:

June, 2014 A.D.

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts
Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony
Mgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

Pope Emeritus on Corpus Christi Processions *By Greg Smisek*

It’s been my privilege to direct the Archdiocesan Corpus Christi Procession for the past eleven years. One of my early inspirations came from reading an exhortation given by His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger as he led the Corpus Christi procession in the city of Munich, back when he was Archbishop there. Mike Bird asked me to encapsulate these reflections for our viewers, and I was happy to oblige. The complete exhortation can be found in *God Is Near Us* (Ignatius Press, 2003).

The man who later would be Pope (and now Pope Emeritus) Benedict XVI reflected on three elements special to the feast of Corpus Christi, the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ: standing before the Lord, walking with the Lord, and kneeling before the Lord.

Standing before the Lord refers to our gathering together either at Mass or another starting point. Yet we don’t simply stand around as so many individuals, but rather our Lord gathers us to Himself and unites us in Himself. This expresses “the inmost meaning of the Eucharist, that we, receiving the *one* bread, enter into this *one* heart and thus become a living organism, the *one* Body of the Lord.” As “the public worship of all those whom the Lord calls,” the Eucharist takes us out of the comfortable confines of our circle of friends and like-minded associates, crosses boundaries, and forms us into a new brotherhood. Standing with and for the

Lord reminds us that when we respond to our Lord's call, we open ourselves up to an encounter and relationship not only with Him, but also with our brothers and sisters in Him.

Walking with the Lord constitutes the Eucharistic procession itself, where the bishop or priest carries the Blessed Sacrament outside the church, exposed in a monstrance, typically surrounded by a ceremony crew carrying candles, incense, bells, and a canopy, accompanied by the faithful singing festive songs. This walking with the Lord flows from the Mass. It solemnizes what happens every time we receive the Lord in Holy Communion. "The Lord who has become our bread is thus showing us the way, is in fact our way, as He leads us." Just as the Lord went before His people in a pillar of cloud and fire during the Exodus from Egypt, "Man finds his way only if he will let himself be led by Him who is Word and bread in one."

Kneeling before the Lord in adoration is the climax of the action. When the procession returns to the church and the Blessed Sacrament has once more been enthroned on the altar, the event concludes with Benediction. Why kneel before the Lord? "If the Lord gives Himself to us, then receiving Him can only mean to bow before Him, to glorify Him, to adore Him." His Holiness explains that bending the knee in worship and obedience, far from being contrary to our dignity and freedom, actually confirms them. "Only if He is the Creator is freedom the basis of all things; only then can we be free. And when our freedom bows before Him, it is not abrogated but is at that moment truly accepted and rendered definitive."

His Holiness concludes with a tender reminder that the One we kneel before is not only the almighty Creator, but the One who stooped down to us and gave His life for us. "The One whom we adore ... is not some distant power. He has Himself knelt down before us to wash our feet. And that gives to our adoration the quality of being unforced, adoration in joy and in hope, because we are bowing down before Him who Himself bowed down, because we bow down to enter into a love that does not make slaves of us but transforms us. So let us ask the Lord that He may grant us to understand this and to rejoice in it and that this understanding and this joy may spread out from this day far and wide into our country and our everyday life."

Please join us for the Archdiocesan Corpus Christi Procession on Sunday, June 22, at 2:00 p.m., led by Archbishop Nienstedt. We will gather and adore at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis and walk with the Lord across Hennepin Ave. and through Loring Park. An ice cream social follows. For more information, visit www.WalkWithHim.org or call (651) 239-8574.

(Note: SMB volunteer Greg Smisek graciously manages the bulletins and music on 16.1)

Please continue to support SMB in these summer months with a financial contribution if possible.

New programs this month include: *The Psychological Importance of Fatherhood*, by Dr. Paul Vitz, (explores how an absent father or a bad father affects belief in God); *Prayer and Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory*, by Fr. Kubicki, S.J.; *Rachel's Vineyard* (post abortion healing), by Theresa Burke; and *Blessed Margaret Pole*, by Mary's Dowry.

May 2014 Letter

Board of Advisors:

May, 2014 A.D.

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

The word *dhimmi*, which is Arabic for “infidel,” is defined as “a person living in a region overrun by Muslim conquest who was accorded a protected status and allowed to retain his original faith.” As long as the *dhimmis* paid an onerous and extortive tax called *jizya*, and abided by some highly restrictive laws, they were allowed a limited practice of their faith. *Jizya* was used to humiliate the *dhimmis* and to promote Islam: to fund the building of mosques, Muslim-only charities, armies, etc. Recently, radical Islamists in the Syrian city of Raqqa imposed the “*dhimmi* pact” on Christians there, requiring payment of *jizya* in gold dinars. Those who fail to pay will be “put to the sword.”

Today though, *dhimmis* primarily experience their second-class status, or *dhimmitude*, through laws: blasphemy laws, laws against displaying crosses, or building churches, or holding processions, or converting someone, and laws against holding government or military offices. Violating these laws can result in fines, imprisonment, lashings, or death. Last year, for example, a Christian in Saudi Arabia was sentenced to 300 lashes and six years in prison for helping a woman convert. In Iran, three Christians selling Bibles were each sentenced to 10 years in prison. In Pakistan, a Christian woman who criticized Islam is now appealing her sentence of “death by hanging.”

But another kind of *dhimmitude* is now occurring in the “post-Christian” West.

Over the last century, a new paganism--- which deifies man himself--- has increasingly challenged Christianity as the dominant religion of America, and turned America into a homicidal and libertine culture. Christians are becoming *dhimmis* of the new pagan state: If your faith won’t allow you to dispense contraceptives or abortion pills, don’t become a pharmacist; Comply with the Obamacare mandate requiring your business’ health insurance to cover contraceptives, abortifacients and sterilizations, or pay bankrupting fines; If you don’t want to provide goods or services for a “same-sex marriage” celebration, find another occupation. Don’t wear a cross on your government job. Taxpayer-funded entertainment that ridicules Christians is allowed, but that which might evangelize, is prohibited. Christians must pay taxes for government schools that propagate the new paganism, but must pay again for a private school that instills their faith. In other words, refusal to convert to the new paganism means being treated like a *dhimmi* who must pay *jizya*.

According to the late Fr. John Hardon, “*The hardest and most important conversion we need in the United States is conversion of the mind. The minds of millions have been perverted by our multi-billion dollar American educational system.*” America needs re-evangelization.

According to Fr. Hardon, to achieve this re-evangelization the laity has certain obligations: “...to understand their Catholic Faith, to live their Catholic Faith faithfully, to pray their Faith by a growing union with God, to share their Faith by personal--- should be personal--- conversation and active evangelization; and finally and crucially to suffer for their Faith by uniting their trials – physical and spiritual – in union with Christ, for the conversion of sinners and the extension of Christ’s kingdom. No Catholic can remain a Catholic faithful person in America today without suffering--- no way, no way! Either you pay and you pay dearly... or you will compromise your faith.”

The first step, “understanding their Catholic Faith,” begins with education. This month, your station will feature a talk by Fr. Hardon encouraging Catholic home education, and, as an example of Catholic

diocesan education, an “infomercial” for Immaculate Conception Grade School. Catholics must know their faith if they are to not just withstand increasing marginalization and persecution, but to evangelize in the face of it.

Please support your station. Recently, contributions have not equaled expenses. If at present you cannot contribute, please offer this suffering for the success of the station.

Dominus vobiscum,

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

New Programs this Month include: *The Apostolic Fathers; Ultimate Questions*, by Catholic Courses; *The Christ; Tour of St. Peter's*; and Stephanie Gray speaking to Students for Life.

April 2014 Letter

April 2014, A.D.

Board of Advisors:

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts
Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony
Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

In 1973, an armed man attempted to rob a bank in Stockholm, Sweden. The robbery went awry, shots were fired, and a policeman was wounded. The robber took four people hostage into the bank vault. He negotiated with the police, and received permission for a crook friend to join him. He threatened to kill the hostages if his demands for money, bullet proof vests and a getaway car weren't met. Six days later, gas was released into the vault, and the robbers surrendered.

To everyone's surprise, the hostages expressed sympathy for their captors and irritation, and even anger, with the police. Psychologists sought to explain this phenomenon and created a term for it: Stockholm Syndrome. Stockholm Syndrome, also known as *capture-bonding*, is a psychological phenomenon in which hostages express sympathy or even positive feelings toward their captors, even to the point of defending them.

In 1974, newspaper heiress Patti Hearst was kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army, physically and sexually abused, and some say, brain-washed, by her captors. Two months later, brandishing an M-1 carbine (a type US military semi-automatic rifle), she willingly robbed a bank with them. After she was rescued, she spoke well of her captors and refused to testify against them. Hearst is considered a classic case of Stockholm Syndrome.

A friend once told me the story of a man who was physically and verbally abusing his girlfriend in a bar. A male patron told him to knock it off. A brawl ensued. The girlfriend started

beating on the man who had come to her defense. It seems she too, was suffering from Stockholm Syndrome.

Maybe it's also true that when our government, under the guise of "helping people," makes capable and intelligent citizens enervated captives of the welfare system--- who vehemently fight against cuts to their "benefits" --- we have an *en masse* manifestation of Stockholm Syndrome.

But there is a spiritual dimension to Stockholm Syndrome as well.

Hostage to the Devil is the title of a book on demonic possession. Satan takes us hostage through sin. Sin looks fun, attractive, liberating, like it will benefit us, while all the while it darkens the intellect, weakens the will, and enslaves. Before we know it, we're defending our intemperance, selfishness, sloth, avarice or lust. If we're rightfully admonished about our approval of contraception, divorce, homosexual acts, same-sex marriage, abortion, or euthanasia, we become angry and indignant at the one reproving us. By defending our sins, we are showing sympathy and positive feelings toward the one who has taken us hostage. This too is Stockholm Syndrome.

The way out is through the sacraments, especially Confession and Holy Communion, and by living a virtuous life. The sacraments help us neutralize the captivating magnetism of sin. Living virtuously sharpens the intellect and strengthens the will to resist sin.

We, the laity, are called to the vocation of holiness for the purpose of renewing the temporal order by means of evangelization. Fortified by the sacraments and by living lives of virtue, we are enabled to pursue this vocation.

At St. Michael Broadcasting, we volunteers hope our programming will strengthen your vocation to holiness so that you can help evangelize and brighten a darkening world. Please support the station through your prayers, by volunteering and telling others, putting a few program guides in your church or maybe a financial contribution.. The last few months we have been far short of what we need to break even.

Dominus vobiscum!

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Special Programming this month includes: *Finding the Fullness of Faith; Overcoming the Evil of Abortion* by Judi Brown; *Global Warming Unmasked; St. Catherine of Siena; The Crusades;* and *Mary, Mother of God* by Fr. Hardon, S.J.

March 2014 Letter

March 2014, A.D.

Board of Advisors:

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts
Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony
Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

Jesus said, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23) Lent is a time to practice self-denial and a time to remember that at the end of our lives, we will be judged. Below is a reflection on Lent by our founder, Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J.:

Dust Thou Art

"Dust thou art and to dust thou shalt return." The Church offers this prayer for each one of us as the priest traces a black cross on our foreheads with the ashes from burnt palm branches. I wonder how often we reflect, especially when we are in good health and are busy with many good works, that a day will come, perhaps very soon, when we will die and our bodies will be placed in a cold casket six feet under the lush green grass in the local Catholic cemetery. I should ask myself now, "Where will I be then?"

As Catholics we should think about death each day, since it is included in many of our prayers. The Mass itself is a memorial and a re-presentation of the death of Jesus. A crucifix reminds us of the death of Christ. In the Liturgy of the Hours we are constantly reminded of the death of the Lord, of the death of the wicked, and of our own certain death. The Church, making use of the Psalms, reminds us over and over again that our life is fragile and fleeting, and that it will disappear like the morning mist.

Man naturally fears death. He knows it is certain, but he does not like to think about it. Contemporary American culture trivializes death in the media because it does not want to confront the awesome reality of death. It is strange, is it not? Scores of murders and deaths are shown on TV each day, but rarely, if ever, is the reality of death given serious treatment.

Our modern culture tries to create illusions of immortality. We see this in film and TV stars, in sports heroes, in popular politicians. But where are they now? Picking just a few well-known names at random, we can ask: where are Abraham Lincoln, John Wayne, FDR, Marilyn Monroe, John F. Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan, and all the rest who have gone before us? During their lifetimes they were thought to be important persons. Now they are gone, and most people pay little or no attention to them.

What a cruel fate awaits rich, powerful and famous men and women who appear to be something but who, whether sooner or later, are swallowed up by the jaws of death. Many of them do not seem to know that death is the fruit of sin, that "the wages of sin is death" (Rom 6:23). And we Catholics—priests, religious and laity—are we any different? Do we heed the warnings of the Bible and the teaching of the Church that death is the punishment for sin—the sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve, and our own personal sins? Daily the Church urges us to repentance and conversion of heart, especially during Lent. Do we listen and heed her motherly warnings?

Just think about your relatives and friends who have died during the past few years. Where are they now? The Church teaches infallibly that there are only three possibilities right now before the Second Coming of Christ: purgatory, heaven and hell. Do you ever think seriously about the certain fact that you will be with those deceased friends and relatives one future day—perhaps sooner than you think? Do you pray for them and gain indulgences for them in case they are in purgatory?

The closer one comes to God in love and the more one submits himself to the will of God, the more one becomes like God in holiness, and the less fear one feels in the face of death. Actually, many of the saints have longed to die, to be dissolved that they might be united eternally with Christ. St. Paul said, “For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.... My desire is to depart and to be with Christ” (Phil 1:21-23). A daily awareness that we shall soon be judged by the glorified Christ for our words and deeds injects humility into our lives, and spurs us on to a more intense practice of the love of God and neighbor. (Homiletic and Pastoral Review, Feb. 2011)

This month your station will feature some programs that deal with death and the hereafter. These include *After This Our Exile*, a seven part series by Fr. Groeschel and *What Every Catholic Needs to Know about Hell*. Please support this apostolate through your prayers, by telling others, by volunteering or with a financial contribution. Note: Thank you notes for contributions greater than \$20 are sent out quarterly. All contributions, including those for less than \$20, are acknowledged at year-end.

Vaya con Dios!

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

New Programs this month...

Special Programs this month include: *Models of Faith*, and interview with two young Irishmen by Michael Voris; *St. Patrick*, by Mary's Dowry Productions; *Catholic Adult Education*, a 35 part series by convert Scott Hahn; *Saints With a Past*, a course on eight notorious sinners; *Out of the Darkness*, a program on the deadly effects of pornography; and *The Seven Deadly Sins*, in which Fr. Barron talks about these sins that can lead us to Hell.

February 2014 Letter

February 2014, A. D.

Board of Advisors:

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

Last October, we received an email from a viewer who was very angry about a program we had aired on homosexuality. He claimed that homosexual acts were not sinful, and that we were guilty of “preaching hate” and of not “loving our neighbor” by portraying them as so. He said, “Judge not lest you be judged; No man goes to Hell for being what God created him to be--- gay.”

Since these are common objections encountered by those who attempt to speak the truth about homosexuality and homosexual acts, it's worth considering these arguments.

The fact that we broadcast programs that point out the sinfulness of homosexual acts does not mean that we “hate.” We broadcast programs on the sinfulness of abortion and drunkenness and pornography, but this does not mean that we “hate” the woman who had an abortion, or the alcoholic, or the person struggling with pornography.

The same is true of homosexual acts. The sinfulness of these acts is discussed in paragraphs 2357, 2358 and 2359 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

If someone is struggling with alcoholism, it is not “hateful” to say something to that person. In fact, “admonishing the sinner” is one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy. It is an act of love if it is done in a charitable manner, even if it is not received that way by the one admonished. Similarly, it is a Spiritual Work of Mercy to charitably admonish the individual experiencing or acting on same sex attraction.

Since all of us are sinners, we can all use some admonishment from time to time. We can't use the excuse that we were “born that way” even if the inclination is very strong. In studies of biological twins, if one says he is homosexual, most often the other is not, so it's hard to see how one is “born this way” based on genetics. Similarly, if someone is “born” with say a strong predisposition to alcohol, or a ferocious temper, he must summon the strength and grace to overcome these tendencies. Bishop Sheen, in *A Fulton Sheen Reader*, page 151, seems to respond to the assertion that a person is “born that way.” He asks the question, “If God knew that I

would sin, why did He make me?” He replies, “Very simply, insofar as I am a sinful being, God did not make me, I made myself. I am a self-creating being. God gave me power, but I am free to decide the manner of man I shall be. Hence my success or failure is in my own hands and I am responsible for the result.”

This is all tied up with the issue of freedom. God wants us to love Him and to be happy with Him forever in Heaven. But in order to love Him, we also have to be free not to love Him.

If you know someone who experiences same-sex attraction and wants to live chastely as the *Catechism* prescribes, he may want to speak to someone at the Archdiocesan Office of Marriage Family and Life 651-291-4400, where he or she could work with others who want to do the same.

This month we will show two programs related to homosexuality: *A Profile in Courage* and *Portraits in Courage*, both of which deal with the late Fr. Harvey and his work with those with same sex attraction. Needless to say, you won't see programs like this on network TV or PBS. We ask you to please support your station through prayer, by telling others, by sending a contribution, or by asking your parish priest if you can put our monthly program guide in the literature rack. If he agrees, let us know and we will send you a supply.

Dominus Vobiscum,

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

New Programs this month

..... include: *The Real Presence*, by Fr. John Hardon; *Tragedy at Sea*, a documentary about a family that found life through their near-death experience at sea when their catamaran ran into a submerged reef; *Blessed Francisco Marto*, the story of one of the Fatima children; and *An Inside Look at Mary's Dowry Productions*, the story of the people that put together these wonderful saint stories.

Debating Same-Sex Marriage

Although our Minnesota politicians redefined marriage last year, the debate will go on. Often those who supported this redefinition resorted to a straw man argument: "The only reason you're against this is because you hate gays." Then, too often, the argument would degenerate into trying to disprove this charge, a discussion of homosexuality, and away from the subject of marriage. The argument below keeps the discussion on the topic of marriage where it belongs:

"Some women have babies out of wedlock. In many cases, the mother and her mother end up raising the child together. They all love each other. If the mother and child's grandmother wanted to marry each other, I would oppose this, not because I "hate" grandmothers or mothers, but because both the vast preponderance of sociological evidence and my personal experience indicate that the child needs both mother and a father. I must oppose redefining marriage because someone needs to stand up for the needs and rights of the child who is in no position to do this for himself."

January 2014 Letter

January 2014, A. D.

Board of Advisors:

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

The day the Supreme Court legalized abortion with its January 22, 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision will forever remain a day of infamy for the United States. And two names: Ted Kennedy (1932-2009), and Bernard Nathanson (1926-2011) will forever be associated with this evil. Like captains of passing ships, they navigated their lives in opposite directions.

Ted Kennedy began life an Irish Catholic and pro-life. In 1971, then Senator Kennedy wrote to a constituent: "Wanted or unwanted... human life, even at its earliest stages has certain rights... the right to be born ...the right to grow old... When history looks back... it should recognize this generation as one which cared... to fulfill its responsibility to its children from the

very moment of conception.” In 1976, he voted for a resolution stating that “every human being shall be deemed, from the moment of fertilization, to be a person entitled to the right to life.”

Then Kennedy changed. In 1987, Kennedy scurrilously attacked Robert Bork and led the fight against his nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court, fearing Bork might overturn *Roe v. Wade*. If Kennedy was right, and Bork *would* have provided the “fifth vote” to overturn, Kennedy is directly responsible for the abortion of many thousands of “unwanted” children. By 2003, he spoke against a ban on even partial-birth abortions. When he left the senate, he received a 100% approval rating from NARAL, whose initials first stood for “The National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws.”

In contrast, Bernard Nathanson began life a Jewish atheist and pro-abortion. When he was 22, he arranged for his girlfriend to have an abortion. As a OB-GYN doctor in his 30's, he personally aborted his own child. In 1969, he co-founded NARAL, and, when New York State legalized abortion, directed the largest abortion mill in the nation. But by early 1974, as a result of watching fetal development through ultrasound, Dr. Nathanson wrote, “There is no longer serious doubt in my mind that human life exists in the womb from the very onset of pregnancy...” In 1979, he left what he called “the Satanic world of abortion,” and referred to abortion as a “crime.” As the reality of what he had done dawned on him, he considered suicide as his grandfather and sister had done.

Instead, he campaigned against abortion and hoped to expiate his guilt. He made two films: the *Silent Scream* (1984) which shows an unborn child when grabbed by the abortion instruments jerking and wailing (hence its title), and *Eclipse of Reason* (1987). At pro-life gatherings, such as those of Human Life International where he met and became friends with Fr. Paul Marx, he would introduce himself: “I stand before you as a mass murderer. I am directly responsible for the death of 75,000 innocent children.” At these, he “noted the sense of peace that emanated from so many of these people.” By 1996, he had “found the secret he had been searching for all his life--- the secret of the peace of Christ.” He became Catholic. In his book, *The Hand of God: A Journey from Death to Life by the Abortion Doctor Who Changed His Mind*, he wrote:

“I am no longer alone. It has been my fate to wander the globe in search of the One without Whom I am doomed, but now I seize the hem of His robe in desperation, in terror, in celestial access to the purest need I have ever known.”

Neither network television nor PBS ever showed either of Dr. Nathanson's films. But we will. This month we will show *The Silent Scream*, along with the moving story of Dr. Nathanson's conversion. You may not want to watch *The Silent Scream* --- it moved me to tears, but you should watch the story of his conversion.

Please continue to support your station as we seek to defend the unborn, seek personal conversion, and conversion of our culture. You can do this through your prayers, by telling others about the station, by offering to volunteer, or with a financial contribution.

Pax Christi,

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpts for January 2014

New Programs this month include: *The Priest: Another Christ*, *Pope Benedict XVI: Teachings on the Gospel*; *Crossroads of the Heart*, the story of women reflecting on their choice for abortion; *Philosophy for Theologians*; *Interview With An Exorcist*; and, every Saturday a **rebroadcast** of the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Andrew Cozzens at noon on. **16.4.**

December 2013 Letter

December 2013, A. D.

Board of Advisors:

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

In November, we celebrate the public holiday of Thanksgiving. We rightly thank God for our many spiritual and material blessings and for living in a country that still beckons as a sort of “promised land.” Christmas, however, dwarfs Thanksgiving in significance, because then we celebrate the Son of God coming into the world and making Heaven, our eternal promised land, a possibility.

Fr. Baker, in his book *Preach the Word*, says “*The incarnation of God in Jesus is God’s greatest work in the world of creation for three reasons: 1) because it has God himself as the purpose and end— to assume flesh from the Virgin Mary and so become man; 2) because it is the supreme manifestation of God’s love for man; and 3) because of the immense good it brings to mankind— the possibility of salvation and eternal life.*”

When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, they broke our relationship with God, lost the right to Heaven for themselves and their posterity, and passed on original sin--- the absence of sanctifying grace--- to their descendants. Unlike actual sin, which is an offense against God, original sin is “sin” in the Spanish sense of the word, meaning “without.” Adam and Eve passed on a void where sanctifying grace, God’s holiness and justice, had dwelled within their souls.

But God granted man a second chance. He created Mary, the “new Eve,” free from original sin and “full of grace” (the Immaculate Conception, celebrated Dec. 8). Unlike Eve, Mary said “yes” to God and conceived by the Holy Spirit, which meant her Son would be born without original sin: a divine Person with a divine and human nature. Jesus, as “true God and true man,” could and did atone for the original sin and all the actual sins that were ever and would ever be committed. He also showed us how to live that we might avoid eternal separation from God by following Him: “the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

At our Thanksgiving feast we put forth great effort preparing, cleaning and decorating as we anticipate the arrival of our guests. Before Jesus’ arrival, St. John the Baptist preached that we should “prepare the way of the Lord... and make straight in the desert a highway” by which he meant that we

should interiorly clean house through penance and reform of our lives. Fr. Baker says *“The best way to prove to God and ourselves that we are truly sorry is by the practice of prayer, penance and self-denial. Without some penance and self-denial it is impossible to be saved.”* With this in mind, acts of self-denial we might attempt include giving up: treats, a meal, a drink (soda, alcohol or coffee), mindlessly surfing the internet--- and instead spending extra time in spiritual reading or prayer, performing acts of good will, or considering how we might amend our lives.

Advent is also a reminder to prepare for the time when Jesus will come to judge us at the hour of our death and at His Second Coming. We must have a holy fear of damnation. As in the parable of the Ten Virgins (Mat 25:1-13), we must have the light of faith fueled by the “oil in our lamps”--- meaning grace, charitable deeds and virtue in our souls--- so that we are ready to meet the Bridegroom when He comes to welcome us to His feast. Again, Fr. Baker says *“We should not lose sight of the purpose of Advent and Christmas--- to re-live in some small way the coming of Christ into our world to redeem us, to save us, and to bring us to God. In our own small way we should try to follow the example of John the Baptist and we should try to put his teaching into practice in our own lives.”*

“If we prepare for Christmas properly and spiritually, we will experience the true joy of Christ on Christmas Day. Then Jesus will be for each one of us truly Emmanuel, that is, God with us... Because of Jesus Christ of Nazareth we now have hope of eternal life and the means to attain it by his sacraments and his grace. Therefore, we celebrate and rejoice during the Christmas season.”

Please help your station, St. Michael Broadcasting, to continue to bring this message of hope and eternal life to all viewers of this station. We often receive notes from people, Catholic and non-Catholic, who have stumbled upon the station and tell us how much it means to them. Please support it through your prayers, by your willingness to volunteer, by telling others, and if possible, a generous year-end financial contribution.

May the peace and joy of Christ our Savior be with you this Advent, Christmas and forever.

Michael Bird, President and Chief volunteer

Excerpts for December 2013

Special Live Broadcast! On **Monday, December 9, at 2pm**, we will broadcast **live** the **Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-elect Andrew Cozzens** from the St. Paul Cathedral on 16.3. **New Programs this month include:** *Pius X and the Jews; Freemasonry; and De-Christianization and the Sacred Heart of Jesus.*

Besides the methods mentioned on the front cover, you may also contribute to St. Michael Broadcasting by making **Goodsearch** your search engine, and/or by making online purchases through it. Oftentimes, anywhere from 1% to 5% or more of the purchase price of an item will go to the station at no additional cost to you.

November 2013 Letter

November 2013, A.D.

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Family and Friends of St. Michael Broadcasting,

Bishop Sheen, in his various writings and talks over the years, often spoke about how the outlook of those who believe in God and eternal life differs from those who do not. He used the example of a child with a ball:

“Picture a child with a ball, and suppose that he is told that it is the only ball he will ever have to play with. The natural psychological reaction of the child will be to be fearful of playing too much with it, or bouncing it too often, or even pricking it full of pin holes, because he will never have another ball. But suppose that the child is told that perhaps next month, perhaps next week, perhaps even in five minutes, he will be given another ball, which will never wear out, which will always give joy and with which he will never tire of playing. The natural reaction of the child will be to take the first ball a little less seriously, and to begin playing with it joyously and happily, not even caring if someone does prick it full of pin holes, because he is very soon going to have another ball which will endure eternally.

The child with one ball is the modern pagan who has only one ball in the sense that he has one sphere, one world, one life, on earth. He cannot enjoy the earth as much as he would like because he must always be fearful of the earth being taken away from him. He can never even tolerate that any suffering or pain should ever come to his little ball, the earth, for it is the only ball that he will ever have to play with. The Christian, on the other hand, is the one who believes that someday, perhaps even tomorrow, he will have another ball, another world, another sphere, another life. And so he can begin to play with this earth, enjoy its monotony, and even be resigned to its pinpricks, for he knows that very soon he is going to have the other ball, which is the other life that will never wear out nor become tiresome, because its life is the life of the Eternal God, the beginning and the end of all that is.”

This brings to mind the story of the Carmelite Nuns of Compeigne, who during the Reign of Terror in France (1793-4), were convicted of the crime of having a religious community. They sang *Veni Creator Spiritus* as they approached the guillotine and were, one by one, beheaded. Their deaths, in one sense, were a tragedy; but in another, a victory, because they went not to death, but to life.

At this time of the year, we celebrate the feasts of All Saints: the victory of the saints who have gone to life in Heaven; and All Souls: when we pray for the faithful departed; and the holiday of Thanksgiving: when we offer gratitude for our many material and spiritual blessings.

Those who went to a Catholic grade school may recall that the sisters used to teach us the four purposes of prayer, and to remember them through the acronym ACTS: A ---for adoration; C ---for contrition; T ---for thanksgiving; and S ---for supplication. Let us this month concentrate on thanks.

Let us thank God for creating us and giving us the goal of eternal life. Let us thank Him for our faith, which helps us live life more joyfully by putting life into perspective. Let thank God for the existence of this station that since 1989, through the work and contributions of many unheralded people, has brought food and water to the spiritually hungry. Let us be thankful that by educating us the station helps us increase our faith and makes us spiritually healthy, enabling us to bring Christ and the joy of a Christian life into the world. Maybe someday we will sing with the Nuns of Compeigne.

Please support this station though your prayers, a contribution if possible, and by telling others. We need your financial support! If you cannot contribute financially, please offer up that suffering for the success of the station.

God bless you all,

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpts for November 2013

New programs this month include: *My Vocation to the Priesthood*; *With God in Russia* (the story of Fr. Cizek); *DeChristianization & the Sacred Heart of Jesus* with Raymond De Souza; *St. Francis Cabrini*; *Living the Liturgy: the Monks of Clear Creek Monastery*; *Seven Threats Against the Culture of Life*; *Meditation on All Saints/ All Souls* with Fr. Groeschel; *Many Faces of Mary*; *The Miraculous Medal* and *Saul Alinsky and the CCHD*.

October 2013 Letter

Board of Advisors:

October 2013, A.D.

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

When Henry VIII reigned as King of England (1509-1545), he liked to spend more than he was collecting in taxes. What to do? Cut spending? Raise taxes? Henry chose a more subtle and insidious course.

Henry decided to meddle with the metal in the schilling, *debasing* it, by replacing 40% of its pure silver content with a base metal. What does this mean? It means he would take 6 pure silver shillings received through taxes, melt them down, add some base metal, and create 10 new shillings. If he owed someone 10 shillings, he was, in effect, paying them off with six shillings. This increased the value of his money by 67% and the money supply by up to 67%. Yet he could still brag that he hadn't raised taxes! But people got wise to this legal counterfeiting. They began hoarding the pure silver content schillings, and used the "cheap," or debased, shillings for everyday transactions. Since there was more money and it was worth less, prices went

up, or inflated, to compensate. Foreign trading partners bought English gold with the debased shillings, thereby taking gold out of England and leaving the debased shillings in England.

Henry's daughter, Queen Elizabeth, engaged **Sir Thomas Gresham**, a financier, to ascertain why gold was becoming scarce. He explained that due to the "Great Debasements... all your fine gold was conveyed out of your realm." This concept, that "Bad money drives out good money," or more precisely, "Cheap drives out dear if they exchange for the same price," is called **Gresham's Law**.

Our country was on an actual or *de facto* **gold standard** from about 1837 until 1933. For 96 years, the dollar converted into gold at \$20.67/oz. But the creation of the Federal Reserve, in 1913, and its policy of "fractional lending" ---which increased the money supply by allowing the printing of more money than there was gold to back it up--- caused inflation, and doomed the gold standard. Gold now costs over \$1300/oz. It now takes a dollar to buy what 4 cents would have bought in 1913, or a dime would have bought in 1950. Now, when we hear that "the Federal Reserve is buying \$85 billion in government bonds a month" and ask "*Where are they getting all that money?*" It's simple: out of thin air; they just *print* it, and lower the value of everyone's savings. They *strive* for 2% inflation/devaluation. It's also why one hears calls for a return to a **gold standard**. If a currency or coin is not backed up by a fixed amount of a commodity such as gold (or silver), it frees a government to deficit spend and debase its currency until it becomes worthless. In 1966, long before he became Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan wrote of this phenomenon: "*In the absence of the gold standard, there is no way to protect savings from confiscation through inflation. There is no safe store of value...*"

But Gresham's Law and the gold standard have applications outside the field of finance. For example, years ago, for two summers, I worked for the City of Minneapolis. I complained to a fellow worker about how little work our crew did in the course of a day. He told me not to let this bother me: "You don't get paid more if you work harder. You don't get promoted based on your work; It's all based on seniority." Here was an application of Gresham's Law: "Cheap (laziness) driving out dear (hard work) if they exchange for the same price."

The same is true with "grade inflation." If a teacher gives almost all A's and B's, there is a tendency for the bright student who would have worked *really* hard to get an A under a harder grading system to slack off and not work up to his full potential, because he can get an A without doing so. He is less educated than he would have been.

Similarly, if there is widespread cheating in a class, and the honest student who works hard finds himself getting a C while all the cheaters are getting C's, B's and A's, there is strong pressure on him to cheat too. Or, if there is a businessman who remains closed on Sunday, while all his competitors remain open, he places himself at an economic disadvantage as they sell more and spread their fixed costs over 7 days vs. 6. He may face the choice of going out of business, or opening on Sundays. So Gresham's Law explains a decline in virtue, manners and morals.

In the moral realm, the equivalent of the gold standard is the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and the moral teachings of the Catholic Church. These are objective truths binding across cultures and time. Moral relativism: The theory that there is no objective truth, and that moral standards vary from one society to another and over time,

is the base metal substituted for the gold, driving the culture into spiritual bankruptcy and social chaos.

In his history book, *Modern Times*, author Paul Johnson describes this linkage: "*By early 1933 ...the two largest and strongest states of Europe (Russia and Germany) were firmly in the grip of totalitarian regimes which preached and practiced, and indeed embodied, moral relativism, with all its horrifying potentialities. Each system acted as a spur to the most reprehensible characteristics of the other... they were animated by a*

Gresham's Law of political morality: frightfulness drove out humanitarian instincts and each corrupted the other into ever-deeper profundities of evil." (p. 296)

It is imperative that we as Catholics point out the need to adhere to objective norms of morality if we are to have a reasonably peaceful and just society. Our hope at St. Michael Broadcasting is that our programming will help all viewers to learn, live and proclaim the Truth that sets men free. Please support your station with your prayers, by telling others, and if possible, a financial contribution. We volunteers need your financial support.

Pax Vobiscum, Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpts for October 2013:

New Programs this month include: *The Pope as Arbiter of Natural Law*, with Dr. Charles Rice; *This is Our Faith*, with Fr. Rutler; *Personhood USA: Pro-Life Unity Meeting*; *Scribe's Corner*, with hostess Therese McCann; *Life Unexpected*; *Faith and Science*, by Dr. Theresa Deisher; and the *Life and Legacy of Mother Catherine Aurelia Caouette*.

"How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world." Shakespeare, *Merchant of Venice*, Act IV, Scene 1, 90-91.

September 2013 Letter

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

In southern Arizona, amidst the scrubby desert where summer temperatures often exceed 100 degrees, and about 30 miles from the Mexican border, lies a town called Tombstone. Tombstone got its unusual name from a scout for the United States Cavalry at nearby Fort Huachaca who decided to leave the military and look for gold and silver in the area. A friend told him "The only thing you're gonna find out there is your tombstone." But the scout did find silver and named his grubstake Tombstone. In 1879, the boomtown was born. Today, Tombstone is a tourist town known for "The Gunfight at the OK Corral," during which three men died in a showdown between the Earp brothers and Doc Holliday on one side and the Clantons and McLaury's on the other. But Tombstone had another gentler side, exemplified by a woman who went to Tombstone hoping to strike it rich, "The Angel of Tombstone," Nellie Cashman.

Nellie Cashman was born in Ireland in about 1845 and after the Potato Famine of 1849 immigrated with her sister and mother to the United States. She worked as a housemaid and a hotel worker, and in 1869 traveled to San Francisco with her sister and mother over the newly completed transcontinental railroad. Here, her sister married, but Nellie, hoping to strike it rich, soon went searching for gold and silver. In 1872, she opened a miners' boarding house near Pioche, Nevada, but by early 1874 her search led her to Dease lake, Canada, about 1100 miles north of Seattle. In the winter of 1874-5, Nellie had left her camp and was headed to Victoria to deliver \$500 she had raised for a new hospital being built by the Sisters of St. Ann when she heard that the miners back at her camp were snowbound, low on food and had developed scurvy.

Despite the warnings of government officials, she led a 77 day long dog-sled rescue mission and saved the lives of as many as 75 men.

In 1880 she moved to Tombstone and set up a boarding house and café, using the income from these to fund her claim buying and prospecting activities. Sometimes she traded down-on-their-luck miners room and board for a percent of their grubstake. Here, she helped nurse sick miners back to health. She raised funds for a hospital and to build Sacred Heart Catholic Church. She continued to send money to the Sisters of St. Ann for their hospital. In 1881, the same year as the Gunfight at the OK Corral, Nellie's sister's husband died, and her sister and children moved to Tombstone to live with Nellie. Then, in 1883, her sister died, and Nellie undertook raising her five children aged 4-12.

In 1884, five men guilty of murder were scheduled to hang on the same day. A carpenter began building a viewing stand hoping to charge \$.25 to those who wanted to see the hanging. The men complained to Nellie about this humiliation. Nellie convinced the five to repent of their sins and convinced the three who weren't Catholic to convert. She then hired men to destroy the viewing stand in the wee hours, at 2 a.m., the night before the hanging.

By the late 1880's the mines in Tombstone had become unproductive due to flooding. Nellie moved to other promising locations until, in 1898, she traveled to Dawson, Canada, and again opened a boarding house. It's difficult for us to understand these distances and the hardships she endured. The distance from Minneapolis to Seattle is about 1675 miles; the distance from Seattle to Dawson is almost 1900 miles. Assuming she traveled by ship to Skagway, Alaska, it was still 440 miles inland using dogsleds to Dawson. The average January temperature in Dawson is -16 degrees, versus 13 degrees in Minnesota! Nonetheless, in her eight years in Dawson Nellie again contributed to and raised funds for the Catholic Church there, raised money for St. Mary's Hospital, worked with the sisters running the hospital and worked her claims, still hoping to strike it rich.

From there, Nellie moved on to Fairbanks again raising funds for a hospital and the church, and then to a mining camp of about 100 or 200 miners in Coldfoot, Alaska. Coldfoot's name also has an unusual origin: Miner's would get to this particular camp (2500 miles north of Seattle) and plan to go still further north, but they would get "cold feet" and return. The town, or camp, became known as Coldfoot. Coldfoot's temperatures average -27 degrees in January, and today it has a population of 10. In 1924, Nellie caught pneumonia at her cabin in Coldfoot and was brought back to the hospital run by the Sisters of St. Ann, to whom she had first sent donations in 1875. She died there in January, 1925.

Though Nellie was successful in her business dealings, she never did "strike it rich". She is perhaps, though, an example of a lay person who did strike it rich, by "seeking first the Kingdom of God."

We, the laity, are the first exposure most people have of the Church. We the volunteers at St. Michael Broadcasting hope that this station--- your station, we hope--- helps you bring Christ to others in your words and deeds. Please help bring the faith to others by supporting the station through word-of-mouth, by praying for its success and if possible, like Nellie, a financial contribution.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam, Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

[Excerpts for September 2013](#)

New Programs this Month include: *Catholic Morality and the Catechism*, by Msgr. William Smith; *The Bible Made Me Do It*, Tim Staples' conversion story; *Catholics in the Public Square*, and *Dante's*

Purgatory, both by Catholic Courses; *Ten Things Women Need to Know about Men*; and *Catholic Underground*.

“Earthly goods are not bad, but they are debased when man sets them up as idols, when he adores them. They are ennobled when they are converted into instruments for good, for just and charitable Christian undertakings. We cannot seek after material goods as if they were a treasure. Our treasure is Christ and all our love and desire must be centered on him.” Jose Maria Escriva, *Christ Is Passing By*, 35

August 2013 Letter

Board of Advisors: August 2013, A.D.

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

Most of us have heard the idiom “He saw the handwriting on the wall” and know it means “sign of impending doom.” The expression derives from King Belshazzar’s feast (Daniel 6:5). At the feast, Belshazzar, the King of Babylon, profanes the gold and silver vessels (previously taken from the temple in Jerusalem) by giving them to his guests, who use them to drink wine and to toast their false gods. Suddenly, a disembodied hand appears and writes on the wall words that none of the astrologers or wise men of the terrified king can interpret: *Numbered, Weighed, Divided*. Finally, the prophet Daniel is sent for and decrypts the message. He tells the king that because he rebelled and did not honor the God who gave him life and breath, but instead profaned the vessels of the temple, his days are *numbered*: “...you have been *weighed* on the scales and found wanting” and his kingdom will be *divided*. That same night, the king is slain and his kingdom overtaken.

Over 30 years ago, historian Paul Johnson saw the “handwriting on the wall” regarding marriage in the United States. He wrote: “The United States is in the process of establishing a social and legal system in which marriage has no legitimate status and the family no natural role... Its destruction (the family’s) will have economic consequences which are quite unforeseeable but which are certain to be profound. No less important, the disappearance of the legally-constituted family will remove a formidable barrier which, at the moment, still stands between the vulnerable individual and the burgeoning state. The family is still an emblem of freedom... we must ensure that it retains its legal personality and its constitutional status.”

This month “marriages” between those of the same sex will begin to occur in Minnesota, and last month (June) the US Supreme Court struck a blow against the Constitutional status of marriage. Many of our “wise men and astrologers,” or intellectual elite, insist that this will not harm the family, but some know better. In 1994, self-described gay activist Michelangelo Signorile wrote that he supported same-sex marriage, “not as a way of adhering to society’s moral codes, but to debunk a myth and radically alter an archaic institution... The most subversive action lesbians and gay men can undertake ... is to transform the notion of family entirely...”

St. Paul tells us in that our bodies are “temples of the Holy Spirit.” (1Cor 6:19-20) By legally sanctioning the profane use of our bodies--- first through legalized contraception (which darkened our understanding of

marriage) and now by permitting same-sex “marriage”--- we have invited the destruction of marriage and the family, and ultimately of our society and nation. This brings to mind the words of Fr. Fulton Sheen written in 1948: “When men and women reach a point where they are no longer interested in watching a seed that they planted grow, or caring for its flower; when they are more concerned about increasing dollars in their bank account than obeying the primitive impulse to *increase and multiply* -- then know ye that a night has dawned when **a thing** is more important than **a person** and *Hic jacet* (here lies) must be inscribed on the tombstone of democracy. Beyond and behind all the schemes and blueprints of *politics* and *economics* there is nothing more fundamental to the revival of true democracy than **the restoration of the family.**”

Sheen continued: “America is not in danger from the outside, but it is in grave danger from the inside. The internal danger can become the source of external danger.”

Like Daniel, we are called upon to live holy lives and to make known the will of God. Attempting to live a holy life and speaking out in defense of the family and marriage will invite persecution. It behooves us then, to learn to understand this in the manner of Fr. Walter Cizek, S.J., who after suffering under the Communists in the Soviet Union wrote: “Christ’s redemptive act did not of itself restore all things; it simply made the work of redemption possible, it began our redemption. Just as all men share in the disobedience of Adam, so all men must share in the obedience of Christ to the Father’s will.” As a prisoner in Siberia, Fr. Cizek began to see his seemingly senseless sufferings “as purposeful, redemptive, healing acts by which the world is reconciled to the will of the Father. Such suffering can only bring with it deep spiritual joy, for from it springs redemption and salvation...” (*He Leadeth Me*, p. 118) But, says Fr. Cizek, this is not easy. He learned it “only through the constant practice of prayer, by trying to live always in the presence of God, by trying to see all things as a manifestation of his divine will.”

Our hope at St. Michael Broadcasting is that our programming prophesies to the culture at large and helps each of us fulfill the purpose of our lives on this earth, which is to do the will of God. Please support this apostolate with a financial contribution, by telling others, and through your prayers. Though we involved in the day-to-day operation of the station are all volunteers, your station did not break even last month and needs your support.

Dominus vobiscum! Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpts for August 2013

Special Programs this month include: *The Splendor of the Church*, by Scott Hahn; *The Rediscover Faith Series* (4 parts) by our Archdiocese; *Sacred Places*, by Greg Pulles; *The Universal Call to Holiness*, by Scott Hahn; *St. Kateri Tekakwitha*, by Mary’s Dowry Productions; *Shakespeare’s Catholicism*, by Joseph Pearce; *Intro to Thomas Aquinas*, by Int’l Catholic University; *Fr. Kolbe*; *Moral Theology: Biblical Foundations*; *Christology*; *Ten Things Men Need to Know About Women*; and *Atheism: Not Just Monkey Business*.

July 2013 Letter

Board of Advisors:

July, 2013, A.D.

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

At the beginning of the movie *The Ten Commandments*, director Cecil B. De Mille prefaces the film with his own comments. The subject of the picture is, he says, the "Birth of Freedom. The theme of this picture is whether men are to be ruled by God's Law, or whether they are to be ruled by the whims of a dictator like Rameses. Are men the property of the state, or are they free men under God? This same battle continues throughout the world today."

In the movie, as in the Bible, Moses leads the Hebrews, who have been protected by the blood of the Passover lamb, out of Egypt, a land of slavery and idolatry. Their journey, which is fraught with hardship and suffering, takes them through the Red Sea and the wilderness (Baptism and purification) to freedom under God in the Promised Land.

Catholics understand this story as a prefigurement: Jesus, the sacrificial Lamb of God, who washes the lintels of His Church with His own salvific blood, leads those who follow Him out of their slavery to sin or self-idolatry. This entails an arduous yet purifying journey during which we are aided by the sacraments of Baptism, Confession, Holy Communion and Confirmation, but leads to freedom and everlasting happiness with God in Heaven.

Past immigrants to the United States saw a similarity between their journey and that of the Hebrews: they left their oppressive native land, made an arduous baptismal journey across a great sea, to a new land--- and began anew in freedom, they hoped, living under laws whose source was The Law of God.

In May, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln, in a proclamation to the nation, stated "...we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own." Lincoln saw the Civil War as a suffering that he hoped would purify the soul of America: "... may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment, inflicted upon us, for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole People?"

One hundred and fifty years ago this month, from July 1-3 of 1863, the Battle of Gettysburg raged, and about 50,000 men, Union and Confederate, died. At a ceremony dedicating the battlefield in November 1863, Lincoln exhorted his listeners: "It is for us the living... to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced...that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain... that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom..."

Those who died at Gettysburg did not die so that we Americans could sacrifice our unborn children to the god of self through abortion, or so that men could engage in unnatural sexual relations with one another and call it "marriage," or because they wanted us to render God's act of procreation barren through taxpayer funded contraception and sterility rites and call it "healthcare."

We must resolve that the soldiers fallen at Gettysburg "did not die in vain." Through the sacrament of Confirmation, we became soldiers for Christ. We received grace that enlightens our minds and strengthens our wills to do good and avoid evil. The Holy Spirit helps make us willing to suffer all things, even death, for Christ. At the moment, we are not being asked to die for Christ, but to engage in the battle, and, with Truth as our sword, to expect to receive wounds, to suffer: to LIVE for Christ, "that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom."

The Holy Spirit is, through the programs we show on St. Michael Broadcasting, enlightening our minds and strengthening our wills. Please continue to support his apostolate through your prayers, by telling others, and if possible, a financial contribution.

God bless you this 4th of July, the Birthday of Freedom in the United States.

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpts for July 2013

“Proclaim the Truth and do not be silent through fear. Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!” St. Catherine of Siena

“A new crime is arising in the world today; be prepared for it. The crime of being a Christian. The crime of believing in God.” Abp. Fulton Sheen

New Programs this Month include ***No Turning Back***, the story a high school dropout who was jailed, converted, and became a priest; ***St. Thomas More***, who was the “King’s Good Servant, but God’s First,” and died on July 6, 1535; ***The Shrine of St. Joseph; The Sacrament of Reconciliation; The Lamb’s Supper***, by Dr. Scott Hahn; ***The Truth has No Color; The Birth of Freedom***, a reflection on the importance of religious belief in the founding of our country; ***Maria Goretti***, (Saturday, 7:30 pm., July 6) the 12 year old virgin martyr who died on the same date as Thomas More, but in 1902; and ***Unveiling the Apocalypse***, a course that makes comprehensible this mysterious last book of the Bible.

Logo needed. Several people have kindly submitted their ideas for a logo to us, but we who have looked them over have never unanimously agreed on any of them (Sorry, everyone!). If you have artistic talent, please feel free to submit your ideas. It should be simple and if possible contain the implication of the Church Militant, e.g. a sword.

Sources for our programs: Common sources are **St. Joseph Communications** (Scott Hahn, Matthew Arnold) at saintjoe.net, 800-526-2151; **Catholic Courses** (Anthony Esolen, Joseph Pearce, etc) at catholiccourses.com, 800 437-5876; Michael Voris at ChurchMilitant.tv 248-545-5716; **Mary’s Dowry Productions** (Saint Stories) at marysdowryproductions.org; **EWTN** (Groeschel, Ahlquist, Rice) at ewtn.com 202 271-2900; **Acton Institute** (*Birth of Freedom*) acton.org 1.800.345.2286; and Janet Smith (*Contraception Why Not*) at mycatholicfaith.org 866 267-4113.

June 2013 Letter

Board of Advisors:

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

The house, senate and governor of Minnesota have now redefined marriage to include same-sex “marriage.” One marvels at the *hubris* of such a vote. The state has no competence or authority to even make such a ruling. By the same logic, the state could redefine certain persons as non-persons and kill them, but it wouldn’t be *murdering* them, because they’re not legally persons!

The most specious “straw man” argument made by those who support redefining marriage is this: “Gays have a right to marry one another. Opposing this proves you hate gays. The only way you can prove you don’t is by voting to redefine marriage so gays can marry.” The illogic of this bullying argument can be proven by analogy: “Some women have babies out of wedlock. In many cases, the mother and her mother end up raising the child together. If the mother and child’s grandmother wanted to marry each other, I would oppose this, not because I “hate” grandmothers and mothers, but because both the preponderance of sociological evidence and my personal experience indicate that the child needs a father. I must oppose redefining marriage because someone needs to stand up for the needs and rights of the child who is in no position to do this for himself.”

This change wasn’t made because the people of Minnesota wanted it--- according to the Minnesota Poll, 53% opposed redefining marriage. It was changed because elected officials wanted to change it. Why then, were these unrepresentative people elected? It seems we’re seeing an example of what Dostoyevsky warned about--- citizens willingly giving up their beliefs and freedom in exchange for security provided by the state: *“Receiving bread from us, they will see clearly that we take the bread made by their hands from them, to give it to them, but in truth they will be more thankful for taking it from our hands than for the bread itself!”* Voters are compromising their beliefs--- on say, homosexual acts, abortion, or redefining marriage--- and electing those who promise security in the form of “free” healthcare, “free” government education, food stamps, unemployment benefits, subsidies for housing, mortgages, crops, art organizations, public broadcasting, contraceptives and so on.

These are the Trojan horses that allow the social engineers to enter and dominate our lives. Like the drug dealer giving the first hit of crack cocaine for free, they create a servile dependency. Perhaps the most insidious of these “subsidies” has been “free” primary and secondary school education which has allowed the state to undermine the values and beliefs parents want to impart to their children. The late Bishop Fulton Sheen warned against this: *“The State must guarantee the social security of its citizens, but it must not supply that security. Freedom from want must not be purchased by freedom from freedom, in which the Bureaucratic State becomes the world’s caterer.”*

This decision to change the definition of marriage will bring the Church and faithful Catholics increasingly into conflict with the state. John the Baptist lost his head for saying that Herod had no right to marry his brother’s wife. Saints John Fisher and Thomas More also lost their heads because they would not agree that Henry VIII could divorce his wife and marry another. Opposing Henry’s marriage was a capital “treasonous” offense, and many lost their heads or suffered the grisly execution of being hanged, drawn and quartered. Presaging the modern deified totalitarian state, Henry made himself head of the Church of England, taking for himself the lands and possessions of over 825 Catholic religious communities.

Years ago, Archbishop Fulton Sheen foresaw what is now coming to pass: *“We will begin to see, as the world goes on, a new kind of bigotry. We will be opposed not because we believe, for example, in the supremacy of the Holy Father, but because we are standing in the way of the demoralization of the world. We stand for life against death. We stand for family against divorce. We stand for purity against fornication. We stand for goodness against vice. We are the great obstacle to the world. And the new bigotry will see that cross and will hate us. So we have to be prepared for it and we have to take our stand underneath it..”*

“The result of this separation of religion and the world is that culture has emancipated itself from Christ and become demonic. For the laity to be effective, they have to do three things. First of all, they have to be conscious of the fact that they are members of the people of God, the community. Second, they must be theologically literate: St. Peter said they should ‘be able to give reason for the faith that is in them’. And then third, they must communicate to the world as Christians.”

St. Michael Broadcasting will continue to oppose the redefinition of marriage and strive to help all viewers understand why, thereby enabling us to “better communicate to the world as Christians.” Please support your station through prayers, by telling others, and, if you can manage it, through a financial contribution.

May the Holy Spirit of Pentecost fortify us and give us tongues of fire as we communicate the Truth in love.

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpts for June 2013

“Proclaim the Truth and do not be silent through fear. Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!” St. Catherine of Siena

“A new crime is arising in the world today; be prepared for it. The crime of being a Christian. The crime of believing in God.” Abp. Fulton Sheen

Please see the 16.3 schedule for the many new programs added this month. Two are of special interest: ***Distributism*** (recorded in our studio) by Dale Ahlquist, and ***St. John Fisher*** by Mary’s Dowry Productions.

Click here to [download our newsletter](#). Or, view the [Ch. 16.3 schedule at this web page](#).

Fundraiser or fundraising ideas needed. Contributions for the last two months have been far below what is necessary to operate the station. If you would like to volunteer as a fundraiser, or have an “outside the box” fundraising idea, please let us know. Another thing you could do is request our brochure on St. Michael Broadcasting and ask your parish priest if you could put it in the display rack at your parish. This would help us increase our base of viewers and contributors.

Logo needed. Despite some generous submissions, we have not been able to agree on a logo design. If you have artistic talent, please submit your ideas. It should be simple and imply of the Church Militant, e.g. a sword.

May 2013 Letter

Board of Advisors:

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting, May 2013 A.D.

In his novel *The Brothers Karamozov* (1880), Fyodor Dostoyevsky foresees slavery if men continue to reject Christianity in favor of atheistic materialism. In one chapter in particular, *The Grand Inquisitor*, a cardinal turned Satanist (representing the deified secular state) tells Jesus how, unlike Him, they would turn the “stones into bread” and the citizens would gladly relinquish their freedom. The government will do it by making citizens dependent on the government for food: *“They will lay down their freedom at our feet and say, ‘Make us your slaves, but feed us!’”* The government will allow them to sin: *“We shall allow them to sin and they will love us like children because we allow them to sin.”* All this false freedom will cause chaos and violence: *“They will cast down temples and drench the earth with blood... this will end, of course, with cannibalism.”* All the chaos will make the people want to give up more freedom: *“They will crawl fawning at our feet and whine to us... ‘save us from ourselves!’”* Government control will be complete: *“They will know*

the value of complete submission... We shall allow them to have wives... or children ---according to whether they have been obedient or disobedient--- and they will submit to us gladly and cheerfully."

In 1935-6, Fr. Fulton Sheen took up this theme again in a series of lectures called *The Prodigal World*. Fr. Sheen makes an analogy between the Prodigal Son who squandered his inheritance and Western Civilization which has squandered the spiritual capital of Christianity and degenerated: "Devolution is the law of man without God." (p.5) "The prodigal saw now that the choice before him was not whether he would accept or reject the authority of his father, but whether he would accept the authority of his father or the authority of his passions and his vicious habits... Now apply this to Western Civilization. It too... is finding out to its own chagrin that in rejecting the authority of the Father's House, it did not escape authority, but substituted... an authority of the tyrannical kind, like the passions of the prodigal. Our civilization threw off all authority: the authority of the Church, the authority of the Bible, the authority of religion and morals in the political economic and social order... Modern man soon discovered... in rejecting the authority of God, he became subject to the authority of Caesar.... Now the Prodigal World finds itself the slave of those forces it once thought would make it free." (*The Prodigal World*, Alba House. Society of St. Paul, pages 53-55)

"Many heartaches and long sad experiences were necessary before the prodigal realized that the father's house he left was the only place where he could find freedom, peace and contentment. In like manner, the world will not quickly realize that the Church which it believed was so restraining to liberty is the only force that can make us free, and that which was so much behind the times is the only institution which has survived the times."

Just as the father of the prodigal son, seeing him at a distance, ran out to meet him on the road, we in the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, must run out to meet the hedonists, the pagans, the Marxists and sinners like ourselves, and be Christ to them in word and deed. But we cannot bring Christ to them if we do not know Christ. St. Michael Broadcasting can help each of us know Christ and His Church better so that we are better able to bring the love of Christ and the hope of eternal life and happiness to each person we meet. Please support this apostolate with through prayer, by telling others, by volunteering, or with a financial contribution.

The Lord be with you!

Michael Bird, President and Chief volunteer

Excerpts for May 2013

New Programs this Month include: ***Contraception Why Not***, by Janet Smith. Dr. Smith does a superb job of explaining the commonsense reasons against contraception and why it's deadly to the soul; ***Homeschooling***, by Fr. John Hardon; ***Beginning Homeschooling*** by Cathy Baier (Note: the Minnesota Home Educator's Conference occurs this month May 31-June 1 at the University of St. Thomas <http://www.mnconference.org/>); and ***A Day of Marian Recollection***, by Fr. John Hardon. Remember **May Family Rosary Procession**, Sunday May 5th. See p.1.

Our founder, Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., has been busy writing books the last few years. These include: ***The Will of God: Finding and Fulfilling Your Purpose in Life***; ***Doctrinal Sermons on the Catechism of the Catholic Church***; and ***Preach the Word: Homilies on the Sundays and Feasts of the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite***. I have been reading *Preach the Word*, and don't think its title reflects its appeal to the casual reader. It might be called *The Liturgical year: Short Meditations on its Sundays and Feasts*. Each essay, or homily, is only about 2 -3 pages long. Examples include: *the Problem of Evil; Suffering and Love; Anger; Just and Sinful; God's Final Judgment*. Each essay contains insights that one has maybe not thought of before. For example, in the Homily for Passion Sunday titled *Sin Causes Suffering*, Fr. says "Many think

that sin is caused by suffering, for example, poverty causes crime. That is not true; the reality is the other way around. Sin is followed by suffering--- either sooner or later, either in this life, or the next life." SMB viewers might enjoy these as short bedtime meditations, or as a gift for a friend. Publisher: Alba House.

April 2013 Letter

April, 2013, A.D.

Board of Advisors:

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

Recently, Dan Vaughan, a friend and contributor to the station and a strong supporter of Msgr. Matthew Odong's seminary (see Board of Advisors above), died, or as St. Paul would say, "fell asleep" (1 Thes. 4:15). A few days before he died, he told a visitor, "I am not afraid to die." Where did his fearlessness come from?

It comes from Easter, the empty tomb. In his book, *Preach the Word*, Fr. Baker writes about Easter Sunday:

What is the reason for rejoicing on Easter Sunday? The reason is basic, fundamental: By his resurrection Jesus has triumphed over sin and death, which is the result of sin. Adam lost grace and immortality by his sin; Jesus restored it by his death and resurrection. But his triumph is not just for himself. It is also for us and for all who believe in him, are baptized, and receive his sacraments. As Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, even though he be dead shall live" (John 11:25). Through our faith, baptism and divine grace, we are united to him and are members of his Mystical Body. So what happens to him happens to us also, since we live by his life (p. 74).

...If we die in his grace, we will be united with him forever and we will also rise from the dead as he did. Jesus assures us of this in John 6:54: "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

At the end of time, there will be a "new heaven and a new earth" (Rev. 21:1). But, Fr. Baker says, "...the world... will not be annihilated--- it will be transformed... perhaps something like the body of Jesus on Mt. Tabor during the Transfiguration. There will be no suffering or death, only great joy, peace and happiness forever. Perhaps it will be something like the Garden of Eden before the Fall, only much better" (p 167-8).

The primary joy of Heaven is seeing God face-to-face, or union with God. An ancillary joy is that we will meet the angels and saints and meet again our loved ones: "...the ties of blood and friendship begun on earth will somehow continue into eternity" (Fr. Hardon, *The Catholic Catechism* p. 267).

Many viewers of this station express their concern that their children, or siblings, or friends will not get to Heaven because they have left the Mystical Body of Christ, either completely, or by feeling free to disagree with and disobey the Church's teachings on say, going to Mass or confession, contraception, or same-sex marriage. This concern is warranted, because in 2 John 1:9 it says "Anyone who is so progressive that he does not remain rooted in the teaching of Christ does not possess God."

So how can one be joyful and happy in Heaven if one's loved ones are in Hell? Though we can't understand this now, those in Heaven will understand the mercy and justice of God, the "Just Judge," and will be happy with His justice.

Nonetheless, all of us who hope to go to Heaven would like our loved ones there too. We need to act as channels of God's grace to them through acts of prayer and sacrifice. Parents concerned about their children might want to write their children a letter to be opened after their death. At that time they may be more open to your words and to God's grace than they were in life. It might read something like this:

Dear (Children's names),

When you read this, I will have passed from this life. Though parting is sad, my hope is that I have gone to eternal life, to Heaven ---in which case you need not be too sad--- and that someday we will all joyfully meet again in the presence of the Holy Trinity. As you look over the material things that I've left behind, remember that the greatest thing any of you can hope to possess is the Catholic faith and the greatest thing you can hope to inherit is eternal life. If you follow the Catholic Faith it will lead you to Heaven. It is the roadmap; it is the road. It is available to all of you. My last will and dying wish is that you learn the faith, love the faith, and live the faith. The Catholic Church is the Church Jesus founded and Jesus is the "Way the Truth and the Life."

I leave you with these words from a holy card: "There is work still waiting for you, So you must not idly stand; Do it now while life remaineth-You shall rest in Jesus' land. When that work is all completed, He will gently call you Home; Oh the rapture of that meeting, Oh the joy to see you come!"

Please pray for me. Remember that I love you, and if I am in Heaven, praying for you. God bless you all.

St. Michael Broadcasting is trying to help each of us learn the faith, love the faith and live the faith. Please support this apostolate with your prayers, by telling others and with a financial contribution if possible. "God loveth the cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7).

Rejoice, He is risen!

Michael Bird, President and Chief volunteer

- Excerpts for April 2013

New Programs this month include: *Devotion to Christ*; *The Last Things*; *Breaking the Bread*, by Scott Hahn; *No Price too High*, Alex Jones' conversion story; *March for Marriage*; *True Friendship* by Catholic Courses; *The Miracles of Jesus*; and *The Meaning and Mystery of Marriage*.

Volunteers Needed: John Raleigh, one of our long time reliable volunteers who helps put stickers and labels on this program guide, is leaving the state due to health problems. Thank you, John. God bless you. We need one or more people to take his place. If you can volunteer once a month for about 5 hours, usually from 10-3 on a weekday, please call or email the station. We also need someone with library type experience to help organize our programs.

Latin Mass on 16.1. (Tidentine or Extraordinary Form) appears Monday-Friday at 12 noon, 5 pm, and 10 pm. -- Channel 16.3 April Schedule (repeats at 12 midnight, 6 am and noon the next day). Moves, see page 4 of our newsletter. [Click here to download our latest newsletter.](#)

-
- **"The Philosophy of Abortion: A DEBATE"** is now available in DVD format. - [Click here to download the order form.](#)

-
- ***Newsletters below are archived newsletters from previous months of 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012.***

-
- [July 2009 Letter from the Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
 - [August 2009 Letter from the Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
 - [September 2009 Letter from the Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
 - [October 2009 Letter from the Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
 - [November 2009 Letter from the Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
 - [December 2009 Letter from the Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
 - [Janauary 2010 Letter from the Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
 - [February 2010 - Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
 - [March 2010 --Letter from the Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
 - [April 2010 --Letter from the Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
 - [May 2010 --Letter from the Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
 - [June 2010 --Letter from the Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
 - [July 2010 - -Letter from the Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
 - [August 2010 - Letter from the Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
 - [September 2010 - Letter from the Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)

- October 2010 - Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting
- November 2010 - Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.
- December 2010 - Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.
- January 2011 - Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.
- February 2011 - Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.
- March 2011 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.
- April 2011 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.
- May 2011 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting
- June 2011 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.
- July 2011 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.
- August 2011 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.
- September 2011 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.
- October 2011 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.
- November 2011 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.
- December 2011 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.
- January 2012 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.
- February 2012 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.
- March 2012 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.
- April 2012 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.
- May 2012 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.
- June 2012 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.

- [July 2012 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [August 2012 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [September 2012 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [October 2012 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [November 2012 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [December 2012 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [January 2013 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [February 2013 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)
- [March 2013 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)



- [Excerpts for March 2013](#)
- [Excerpts for February 2013](#)
- [Excerpts for January 2013](#)
- [Excerpts for December 2012](#)
- [Excerpt for November 2012](#)
- [Excerpt for October 2012](#)
- [Excerpt for September 2012](#)
- [Excerpt for August 2012](#)
- [Excerpt for July 2012:](#)
- [Excerpts for June 2012: Quote from Archbishop Sheen...and...](#)
- [Excerpt for May 2012:](#)
- [Excerpt for April 2012: **Special programming on 16.3** this month includes actual testimony for marriage presented at the State Capitol.](#)
- [Excerpt for March 2012: New Programs this month include: *Metaphysics* by Dr. Ralph McInerry: *Life and Love in the 21st Century*; *Devotion to Christ*;..... ; **A contract engineer** that works with the station...email him at \[tom@iwe.us.com\]\(mailto:tom@iwe.us.com\) to use his expertise in electronics and in software; **Programs for 16.3** that begin at 6 pm will replay at 12 midnight, 6 am and noon the following day. **Latin Mass** on 16.1 \(Tirdentine form\) appears Monday-Friday at 12 noon, 5 pm, and 10 pm. The **Movie schedule** appears on the top of page 4 of our monthly newsletter. \[\[Click here to download.\]\(#\)\]](#)

- Excerpt for February 2012: "Christ cameto save us ..."; New Programs this month; Thank you to those who leave compliments; Programs on Ch. 16.3; Latin Mass is on Ch. 16.1; Movie schedule is on page 4 of our monthly newsletter.
- Excerpt for January 2012: New This Month; International Catholic University; Financial Needs; Fundraising Ideas Needed; Catholic Programming Wanted; Latin Mass on Ch. 16.1; Movie Schedule.
- Excerpt for December 2011: 501(c)3, Ch. 16 TV movies, and specials for December.
- Excerpt for November 2011 - Weekend movies, Start of broadcasting the daily Latin Mass; Fr. Barron's "Catholicism" series on EWTN.
- Excerpt for October 2011 - Pope Leo XIII and Pope Pius XI
- Excerpt for September 2011 - From the *Man of Law Tale* by Geoffrey Chaucer (1343-1400)
- Excerpt for August 2011 - Fr. John Hardon; Volunteers Needed; Large Donation Needed; Latin Mass Fund.
- Excerpt for July 2011 - Fr. Barron, Fr. Corapi and Saturday Specials
- Excerpt for June 2011 - My Mission in Life by John Henry Cardinal Newman (1848)
- Excerpt for May 2011 -- May Specials and Latin Mass Fund
- Excerpt for April 2011 - Quotation from Pope Benedict XVI, Dec. 20, 2010; April Specials
- Excerpt for March 2011 - Lent begins Wednesday, March 9th -- Latin Mass Fund -- We need your support!
- Excerpt for February 2011 - The Eucharist, The Presence Sacrament.
- Excerpt for January 2011 - There is No Stopping Abortion without the Eucharist
- Excerpt for December 2010 - The Gentle Voice in the Night
- Excerpt for November 2010 - Both Sides of a Question
- Excerpt for October 2010 - An Army Like Gideon's
- Excerpt for September 2010 - "...the lust for power can be just as completely satisfied by suggesting people into loving their servitude as by flogging them and kicking them into obedience." Aldous Huxley
- The Battle Ground of the Church - by Archbishop Fulton Sheen (1974) --August 2010
- Marriage and Law - May 2010
- July 2010 - Loss of Standards, Totalitarian, Freedom
- June 2010 -The National Council of Catholic Women on Birth Control (circa 1922)
- Volunteers Needed
- Important note to viewers - April 2010
- Selected quotes from *God Love You*, by Fulton J. Sheen
- The Paradox of Christian Freedom
- From "Education for Citizenship" by Pierce Butler (1916)
- A Plea for Intolerance -- Bishop Sheen
- Excerpt from "Veritas Splendor", Pope John Paul II.
- **"Ownership Transfer of Ch. 19 TV**
- The Pillar of Personality, by Abp. Fulton Sheen
- **First National Day of Thanksgiving Proclamation (1789)**

- [Without God All Is Meaningless](#)
- [Abortion as Pagan Sacrifice --\(excerpts\) by Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.](#)
 - [Penance and Reparation: A Lenten Meditation by Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J. \(abridged\)](#)

Click on the link in the top banner [of any page] to download our latest News Letter. Or [click here to go to our download page.](#)

Top Stories

[March 2013 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting:

Why does God allow pain, evil and suffering? To bring greater good out of it. Considering the agonies some endure, this simple answer is difficult to accept, but God loves men more than we, and the greatest evil that ever occurred was the crucifixion of Jesus: Deicide. That day, *Good Friday*, the greatest good occurred: Jesus redeemed the world.

Jesus told us, if we want to follow Him, we must “deny ourselves and take up the cross.” (Mat 16:24) As members of the Mystical Body of Christ, our sufferings too can prove salvific. Frank Sheed, in his book *Theology and Sanity*, explains: “...it was in the glorious design of God that human love should not be denied all place in the expiation of human sin, and men...no more than spectators of their own redemption. Redeemed humanity should suffer in union with Christ, and in union with Christ these sufferings should be co-redemptive.”(p.277) Below, the late Fr. Hardon, meditates on this further:

The Apostolate of Suffering

By Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J. ©1998 Inter Mirifica

WHEN did Christ redeem the world? When He died on Good Friday. How did Christ redeem the world? By His Passion and Death on Calvary. Why do we make the Sign of the Cross? To remind ourselves we have been redeemed by the Cross.

Of course we know that Christ, the First Apostle, was sent by the Father to save mankind by every word and action He performed during His visible stay on earth. But it was especially by His sufferings that we were delivered from sin and mainly by His Cross that we were saved.

We need to recall these truths in our day, when activism is being honored far beyond what it deserves. Some people feel “useless” because they are no longer as “active” in the service of others as they formerly were or as they would like to be.

They may suffer in a variety of ways: with some draining disease or crippling disability; with a natural, but no less painful, weakening of their bodily powers as they advance in years; with the awful sense of being no longer needed after decades of active service in the priesthood, religious life, single state or in rearing a family. Or the Lord may touch them early and they are disabled or confined or gravely handicapped in the prime of life.

No matter. The number of such persons in our society is large, and larger than most people would ever suppose. What they need to be told is that they can actually do more for others now than they ever could before.

Why should this be so? Because we serve others best when we do most for their souls. And we do most for their souls when we obtain graces from God for their numerous spiritual needs. If this means prayer, and it does, there is no more effective prayer than one that is joined with sacrifice, which in practice means prayer that is animated by the cheerful acceptance of the Cross.

The apostolate of suffering is not some exotic enterprise for only mystics or what we sometimes call "victim souls." It is open to everyone who has faith, and love, and zeal for souls. Faith assures us that suffering must be noble, seeing that God became man in order to suffer and thereby save the world. Love enables us to make of every pain a willing sacrifice, seeing that it costs us so much. And zeal for souls urges us to actually rejoice as we are privileged to suffer something for the myriad souls redeemed by the blood of Christ.

He did His part to reconcile this sinful world with the Father. But the mercy that He merited by His Cross will remain sterile unless sinners cooperate with the graces He won for mankind. We must unite our cross with the Savior's to help sinners respond to God's mercy.

With St. Paul we can say to others what he told the Christians of his day: "It makes me happy to suffer for you, as I am suffering now, and in my own body to do what I can to make up all that is still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of His Body, the Church." (Colossians 1:24). Christ is still redeeming the world, with our cooperation.

Let us take these words of Fr. Hardon to heart and perhaps share them with others. And recall the words of St. Paul: "If we have died with Him, we shall live with Him." (2 Tim 3:11) Please help your station continue to bring Christ's message of salvation through suffering through your support of this apostolate. We who volunteer do what we can, but it also takes financial support and prayer and telling others to sustain and grow the station.

Have a holy Lent and a joyful Easter,

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpts for March 2013

New Programs this month include: *Reclaiming Feminism; What Every Catholic Needs to Know about the Pope; The Biblical Theology of Benedict XVI; The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help; Testimony for Marriage II; Moments of Grace: Forming a Catholic Conscience; 40 Years, 40 Hours, 40 Days: What Will it Take to bring about a Culture of Life?; Homosexuality*, and new episodes of *Life Unexpected*.

“Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God’s kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.” Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Contributions for *Maria Vision* needed. We still would like to broadcast **Maria Vision**, the Catholic, Spanish language station from Mexico, on 16.5, but we need about \$13,500 in contributions to do this.

Latin Mass on 16.1 (Tridentine or Extraordinary Form) appears Monday-Friday at 12 noon, 5 pm and 10 pm.

Channel 16.3 March Schedule (repeats at 12 midnight, 6 am and noon the next day). **Movies**, see page 4 of [our latest newsletter](#).

Refer to our generic schedule for Ch. 16.3 TV. [Specials on Channel 16.3, click here](#).

February 2013 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.

Board of Advisors:
S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Kenneth Baker,

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Parish, St. Anthony

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

Fr. John Hardon, S.J., once said, “We tend to do, we tend to become, what we think about.” Bishop Sheen similarly said: “Our thoughts make our desires, and our desires are the sculptors of our days. The dominant desire is the predominant destiny.”

Those who desire to excel in some earthly occupation, and reap the rewards of excelling, try to imitate the masters in that field. The young Johann Sebastian Bach wanted to play and compose music. He is said to have hand-copied the entire music scores of various masters who preceded him in order to learn from them. Then he practiced on the organ or harpsichord and composed. This required great self-discipline, but he reaped the rewards by composing marvelous music such as *Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring*, and receiving pay for doing what he loved, which allowed him to provide a comfortable, happy home for his large family.

Since we are immortal beings, we have immortal ends. The old *Baltimore Catechism* says that “God made us to know, love and serve God in this world and live with Him in His happy home in Heaven.” Since God is the Supreme Good, it makes sense that we should desire Him above all else and that our dominant thoughts and actions would be ordered toward loving and pleasing Him.

God showed His love for us by sending Jesus to both redeem us and show us how to live. It is Jesus we are to imitate. Before embarking on His earthly ministry, Jesus fasted forty days and forty nights in the desert. There He resisted the temptations of Satan in favor of the Will of His heavenly Father. Each Lent, we

try to follow Jesus' example in order to increase the mastery of our wills so that they better conform to the Will of our heavenly Father.

Fr. Baker, in his book, *Preach the Word*, says, "The weapons we need to defeat the devil are well known: prayer, fasting, almsgiving, self-denial, the sacraments, reading the Bible, avoiding the near occasions of sin such as immoral television, videos, music, magazines and internet pornography. We should know our faith well and be familiar with the Bible, especially the New Testament. Note how Jesus defeats the devil with three quotes from Deuteronomy chapters 6 and 8... The purpose of Lent is conversion of heart--- turning away from inordinate attachment to creatures and turning to God." (p. 55)

The prayer and self-denial that we willingly undertake during Lent will help us so that we are better able to deny ourselves, and to bear the unavoidable sufferings of life. "The point," says Fr. Baker, "is to make our suffering salvific--- to offer it up to God in union with Christ for our own salvation and that of others."(p. 66) Bishop Sheen puts it this way: "Our Lord is now in heaven. He therefore can suffer no more in His human nature but He can suffer more in our human natures. So He reaches out to other human natures, to yours and mine, and asks us to do as the thief did, namely, to incorporate ourselves to Him on the Cross, that sharing in His Crucifixion we might also share in His Resurrection, and that made partakers of His Cross we might also be made partakers of His glory in heaven." (*Calvary and the Mass*, p. 32)

If St. Michael Broadcasting helps you know your faith better, and helps increase your desire to love God and neighbor more, and do His will, we are fulfilling our purpose. In order to continue doing so, we need your help. Please support SMB with your prayers and, if you are able, a financial contribution. Also, please tell others about the station so that they too may benefit from our invaluable programming, and the station may in turn benefit and grow through an increased viewer base.

Ad majorem Dei gloriam,
Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpts for February 2013

DiETING or Fasting for Lent: What's the Difference?

"The will is the governor of the soul and body. It is the seat of all motivation and, therefore, the root of character. Two men can do exactly the same thing--- for example give alms. But one will do it because he gets his name in the paper and the other because he sees Christ in the poor; the amount given may be the same, but the motivation that came from the will was very different. So it is with dieting and fasting. There is no material difference between someone losing ten pounds by fasting and ten pounds by dieting, but there is a world of difference in the effect on the character. Dieting is done for the sake of the body; Fasting is done for the sake of the soul. Dieting is done for the ego; fasting is done for charity, or to tame the body that the soul may be freer in its flight toward God." ~Fulton J. Sheen, *Lift Up Your Heart*, (1950) p. 116.

New Programs this month include: *Dante's Inferno*, by Anthony Esolen, an 8 part series that helps us meditate on Hell, in perhaps the greatest poem ever written; *Reflections on the Mass*; *Crossroads of the Heart*, a very powerful program interviewing women who have had abortions; *Testimony to Truth*, with Scott Hahn; *Conference on Stealth Euthanasia*, with Mary Kellet; *Ancient and Medieval Philosophy*; and *Left to Tell*, the story of a survivor of the Rwandan Massacre.

Librarian Needed! Help! Help! We need someone with library or record keeping experience that can help us organize our materials. Please call or email the station if you might be able to do this.

Contributions for *Maria Vision* needed. We still would like to broadcast **Maria Vision**, the Catholic, Spanish language station from Mexico, on 16.5, but we need about \$13,500 in contributions to do this.

Latin Mass on 16.1 (Tridentine or Extraordinary Form) appears Monday-Friday at 12 noon, 5 pm and 10 pm.

Channel 16.3 February Schedule (repeats at 12 midnight, 6 am and noon the next day). **Movies**, see page 4 of our newsletter. [Click here to download it from our downloads.html page.](#)

January 2013 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, St. Anthony

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Gulu, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

The *Guinness Book of World Records*, 2000 edition, contains the entry “Most Human Sacrifices in a Religious Ceremony.” It says the record goes to the Aztec priests of what is now Mexico City, who in the year 1486, in a four day ceremony, offered up to their god of war 20,000 victims. We aren’t certain of the accuracy of this information, since another source says 4000 were killed, while another says as many as 80,400. Estimates of the number of Aztec victims sacrificed per year range from 20,000 to 250,000.

What was the purpose of these sacrifices? The purpose was to appease one god or another in the hope of obtaining a benefit for those who weren’t sacrificed. Most often, the victims of these sacrifices were captives from neighboring tribes. Therefore, these tribes had a great hatred for the Aztecs.

When the Spanish arrived in the New World and observed these sacrifices, they sought to put an end to them. One can’t help but think that the message of Catholic missionaries, that “the Son of God had suffered and died and offered Himself up as an eternal sacrifice for all,” must have been very welcome news to the slated victims and their kin.

Yet today, in our country, we have our own form of human sacrifice: abortion. The purpose of abortion is to obtain some benefit for the living: such as to save the mother or father from some inconvenience, from embarrassment, or to allow more time to finish school.

In December, a troubled young man killed 20 first graders and 6 adults at an elementary school in Connecticut. Many people are calling for “gun control.” However, if these same victims had been killed by abortion years earlier, many of the same people now calling for “gun control” would then have insisted that killing them that way was a sacred “right.” Well, people like them *were* killed years earlier, and are being killed now, at the rate of over *3500 per day!* When one counts abortion-inducing pills, there are yet hundreds more killed per day, meaning over 1.2 million people a year, or 54 million victims over the last 39 years.

Mother Teresa once said, "If we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people to not kill each other? Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want." The increasing violence in our country is a consequence of disobeying the moral laws of God: *"They have taken no notice of my advice, they have spurned all my warnings: so they will have to eat the fruits of their ways of life, and choke themselves with their own scheming."* Proverbs 1:30-31

Thirty nine years ago, on January 22, 1973, our Supreme Court legalized abortion. This month your station will feature several programs about abortion as a way of reminding ourselves and other infrequent viewers that we must oppose this evil. We must show kindness and understanding to those who are tempted to abortion or who have had one: "There but for the grace of God go I." But like the missionaries to the Aztecs, we must seek to bring an end to this practice.

Please help your station bring the light of Christ's love into our culture, and to show that the benefit of imitating Christ's sacrificial love is eternal life. Pray for the success of the station, tell others about it, and if possible support it with a financial contribution. Our country needs this station, and your station needs you.

Thank you for all your support this past year and have a blessed New Year.

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpts for January 2013

New Programs this month include: *Seven Myths about the Church and Science; What Every Catholic Needs to Know about Mary; Testimony to Truth*, the conversion stories of two Protestant ministers, Scott Hahn and Alex Jones; *Interview with and Exorcist*; and *What Every Catholic Needs to Know about Hell*.

The **Latin Mass** on 16.1 (Tridentine form) appears Monday-Friday at 12noo, 5 pm and 10 pm. The **Movie Schedule** appears on page 4.

The program block for 16.3 that begins at 6 pm repeats at 12 midnight, 6 am and 12 noon the following day.

Refer to [Specials on Channel 16.3, click here](#).

December 2012 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.

Board of Advisors

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Borromeo, St. Anthony

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Family and Friends,

The recent election was, in my opinion, a tipping point for our country. Forcing businesses to purchase abortion inducing drugs, sterilizations and contraceptives as employee "healthcare," or legally redefining marriage, will result in state sanctioned persecution of faithful Catholics. But let us remember the words of

Jesus: "Blessed are you when men abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account, *rejoice and be glad* for your reward will be great in heaven. This is how they persecuted the prophets before you." Reverting America will require faithful Catholics *living* this eighth beatitude. Father Baker's article from December, 1993 has proven prescient:

God is the Source of Freedom

During the month of December we celebrate the season of Advent and the great feast of Christmas. Christmas is a time of personal and familial joy because we commemorate the coming of God into the world in the Person of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. For those of us who believe in Christ and rejoice in his coming, there is a focus and purpose for our whole existence. Our Christian faith tells us that God loves us, that he created each of us individually, and that he has destined us for eternal happiness with him in heaven if we return his love.

"If you love me, keep my commandments," Jesus tells us in the Gospel of St. John. Since we live in a covenant relationship with the Lord, in order to fulfill our part of the bargain we must abide by God's law. That law is very clear since it is expressed in the Ten Commandments and summarized in the Great Commandment of love of God and love of neighbor. Those who live according to that law will find a basic happiness and contentment in this life, and life everlasting in the next world.

The modern world began about 500 years ago with the Renaissance when Western intellectuals began to move away from Christianity and the Church. What they wanted to do was to liberate themselves from God. It was a type of revolt against God which involved elevating man to the place of God. Gradually the idea became common that man could solve all his problems by reason alone, without the help of God and revelation.

Many thinkers like Solzhenitsyn, Dostoyevsky, Eric Vogelin and Paul Johnson have pointed out that the roots of the modern ideologies that lead to totalitarianism and the dehumanization of man are to be found right here in this idea of the revolt against God. This is the source of positivism, utilitarianism, hedonism, fascism, National Socialism, and communism in our recent past; it is also the source of the newer ideologies of feminism, abortionism and environmentalism. Not to be excluded from this list is the currently popular "liberal democracy," which is the ideology behind our own government and the other Western democracies. What they all have in common is the belief that man can be good and virtuous without God, without belief in transcendent Truth. According to them, man is the measure of all things, can produce order in the world, and can provide for the happiness and contentment of most human beings. This belief has given us the 20th century horrors of fascism, Nazism and communism.

Many were scandalized at Solzhenitsyn when, in his Harvard address some years ago (1978) he equated liberalism with communism in that both lack a spiritual foundation. For, if man's dignity and rights do not come from a transcendent God, then they are postulated by man and can be changed or abolished by man. If there is no difference between good and evil, and man cannot perceive that difference, then everything is permitted. This is exactly what we have in our public schools where children are taught how to fornicate, how to commit sodomy, and how to put on a condom. This is an explicit admission on the part of adults who, presumably, know more than the children, that there is no difference between right and wrong. The only thing left is ideology or what is "politically correct," and that is determined by the strong. So in the Dred Scott decision black people were declared to be possessions to be used as one saw fit; in Roe v. Wade preborn children were declared to be nonpersons and so can be killed at will.

In this country right now, as God and religion are pushed out of the public square into the privacy of one's basement, our government is usurping the place of God and moving rapidly toward some sort of liberal totalitarianism. We all sense that we are less free now than we were forty years ago. Let us pray for men of

faith and courage in public life who will work for the restoration of the public recognition of the absolute importance of morality and religion in public life. For if God goes, our freedom and dignity go with him.

At St. Michael Broadcasting we oppose the advancement of liberal totalitarianism by proposing that *God is the Source of Freedom*, and that only by living by His laws will we find *“basic happiness and contentment in this life, and life everlasting in the next.”* By learning our faith, we are better equipped to celebrate Christmas by bringing Jesus to others in our words and deeds. Please consider making one of your Christmas gifts this year a kind word about, a prayer for, or a financial contribution to St. Michael Broadcasting.

Rejoice and be glad! Merry Christmas, Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpts for December 2012...

Help St. Michael Broadcasting while shopping/searching on the internet! Goodsearch is an easy way to raise money for SMB. Use **Goodsearch** as your search engine, and they'll donate about one cent to SMB every time you do a search. Or, better yet, if you go through their shopping mall, **Goodshop.com**, and use it to buy clothes, airline tickets, housewares, etc., you will pay the same price as if you went directly to the retailer's site, but 1%-10% of that price will go to SMB! So if you wanted to send someone flowers, and bought them a \$50.00 arrangement through FTD, 5%, or \$2.50 would go to SMB. To get started, go to **goodsearch.com**, look up **St. Michael Broadcasting**, and designate your station, St. Michael Broadcasting, as the cause you're supporting.

New Programs this month include: *Man and Woman: Divine Invention*; a repeat of *Maafa 21*; *The Sacred in Art*, and the *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius*. *The Meaning of the Lord of the Rings* continues. It is very good.

Latin Mass (Tridentine form) appears Monday-Friday at 12 noon, 5 pm and 10 pm.

Ch. 16.3 Dec. Sched. (repeats at 12 am, 6 am and noon the next day.)

Refer to [Specials on Channel 16.3, click here:](#)

November 2012 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts
Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, St. Anthony
Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Gulu, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

The month of November is dedicated to the *poor souls in purgatory* whose feast we celebrate on All Souls' Day,

November 2. We pray for them that they may soon join the *communion of saints*, and for ourselves and others, that like them, we may respond to the “universal call to holiness,” and also become saints.

St. Maximilian Kolbe told his brethren that sanctity was a simple duty. He even reduced it to a mathematical formula: $w = W$, where $w = my\ will$, and $W = the\ will\ of\ God$. Fr. Kolbe was starved for two weeks in Auschwitz, comforting and singing with his fellow victims so that with God’s grace, $w=W$. Several years ago, Fr. Groeschel quipped that we say we want take up our crosses and follow Christ, but would like a “cross made of Styrofoam, preferably with a little wheel at the bottom.” But often it isn’t that easy. Jesus said, “If they persecuted me, they will persecute you... the hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he is offering worship to God.” (John 15:20-16:2)

Jesus said “*I am the way the truth and the life*,” and “*...the truth will set you free*.” Our country used to recognize this connection between truth and freedom, that in order to have a just society man’s laws must conform to God’s laws, and that the peace and bounty we enjoyed were due to the providence of God: “*The safety and prosperity of nations ultimately and essentially depend on the protection and blessing of Almighty God; and the national acknowledgment of this truth is not only an indispensable duty which the people owe to Him, but a duty whose natural influence is favorable to the promotion of that morality and piety, without which social happiness cannot exist, nor the blessings of a free government be enjoyed.*” ---Pres. John Adams’ *Proclamation of a Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer*, 1798.

But now, we who insist that we are subject to laws that we did not create, and that truth isn’t determined by majority vote, are treated as suspicious and ignorable individuals or sub-groups “trying to impose our religious values.” Pope John Paul II touched on this in his encyclical *Centesimus Annus*:

“*...the root of modern totalitarianism is to be found in the denial of the transcendent dignity of the human person who, as the visible image of the invisible God, is therefore by his very nature the subject of rights which no one may violate — no individual, group, class, nation or State. Not even the majority of a social body may violate these rights, by going against the minority, by isolating, oppressing, or exploiting it, or by attempting to annihilate it.*”

The culture and praxis of totalitarianism also involve a rejection of the Church. The State or the party which claims to be able to lead history towards perfect goodness, and which sets itself above all values, cannot tolerate the affirmation of an objective criterion of good and evil beyond the will of those in power, since such a criterion, in given circumstances, could be used to judge their actions. This explains why totalitarianism attempts to destroy the Church, or at least to reduce her to submission, making her an instrument of its own ideological apparatus.

Furthermore, the totalitarian State tends to absorb within itself the nation, society, the family, religious groups and individuals themselves. In defending her own freedom, the Church is also defending the human person, who must obey God rather than men (cf. Acts 5:29)...”

In 1967, in a remarkably prophetic letter to his diocese, Abp. John Murphy of Cardiff, Wales, wrote:

“*It is the Church which fights for the unborn child, for the rights of parents to educate their children, for the dignity of the marriage contract, for the dignity of the individual being... And in some secular, humanistic future, when the only sin will be pain, the only evil ill health, when childbearing will be looked upon as a disease, and terminal illnesses will not be tolerated, when it is just possible that the free, human beings will be forbidden to have a child, or a smoke, or a drink, save by prescription on the National Health; in that cold, clinical future, you will search in vain for the rebels save in the ranks of the Catholic Church.*”

That future is upon us. In order to fight for truth and true freedom, we need first of all to learn the truths taught by the Catholic Church. This is where St. Michael Broadcasting comes in. If we learn the faith, we are

better equipped to live the faith, spread the faith, and, like Maximilian Kolbe, die for the faith. Please support this station with your prayers, by word of mouth, and financial support. Despite our all volunteer staff, we are not breaking even on a regular basis.

God bless you and yours this Thanksgiving, Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpts for November 2012 ...

New Programs this month include: *The Meaning of the Lord of the Rings*. With *The Hobbit* coming out in December, this will help you understand its Catholic imagery; the ICU Course *Modernism; Grill a Priest* with youth asking questions of Fr. Joseph Johnson; *Meeting Josemaria Escriva*, the founder of Opus Dei; and *First Amendment Issues*, timely with the recent HHS mandate regarding contraceptives, abortifacient drugs and sterilization.

Contraception and the Faith

(final paragraph from Fr. Welzbacher's pastor's letter of July 27, 2008, on our web-page)

"But in terms of the eternal salvation of souls, ultimately what is worst of all is that the rejection of *Humanae Vitae* has led to a calamitous erosion of faith, faith in the Gospel of Christ as well as in Christ's Church. Belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist is one of the earliest casualties in a contraceptive culture. There too, no surprise. If you have decided to do habitually what the Church has declared to be a mortal sin, and if, misled by the counsel of false prophets, you nevertheless insist on presenting yourself for Holy Communion, the lingering reproaches of a vestigially Catholic conscience are most easily allayed by a denial that Christ is really there. And one after another the articles of a creed once cherished will begin to seem unreal. The supernatural virtue of faith, no longer nourished by a life lived habitually in the state of grace will begin to wither and ultimately will die. Massive apostasy follows on the heels of the widespread practice of contraception."

October 2012 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.

Board of Advisors

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President Emeritus, Catholic Views Broadcasts

Fr. Paul La Fontaine, Pastor, St. Charles Borromeo, St. Anthony

Msgr. Matthew Odong, Rector, Sacred Heart Seminary, Uganda

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

The Marriage Amendment--- an amendment to the Constitution of the State Of Minnesota that would define marriage to be between one man and one woman--- will be on the ballot this November. An organization that supports this initiative, Minnesota for Marriage, was at the recent Minnesota State Fair educating and seeking voter support. Opponents of the amendment posed several recurring arguments: one was that not allowing "same-sex marriages" was "bigotry" akin to not allowing marriages between those of different races. Another was that those with same-sex attraction are "...born that way. What difference does it make to you or your marriage if they get married?" Yet another was, "I know two gay parents who are doing a

better job of raising their kid than a lot of male/female parents. Why can't these two gays get married?"

Sometimes these arguments are difficult to answer because of their illogic or false assumptions. But there are reasonable answers:

1) Marriage attaches mothers and fathers to their children and to one another, thereby protecting the right of the child to know his parents and to have a mom and a dad. Children need a mom and a dad. This is the optimal environment for raising children. It's unjust to conceive a child with the intent that he will not have a relationship with one or more of his biological parents, and lack a mom or a dad.

2) Not allowing "same-sex marriages" is not similar to past unjust laws preventing interracial marriage, because an interracial marriage does not change the male-female definition of marriage.

3) There is no proof that those with same-sex attraction are "born that way." In studies of identical twins, if one twin is attracted to the same sex, more often the other is not. Same-sex attraction is not an immutable genetic trait, but a *behavior* that in many cases has been successfully changed, if the individual wills it, through therapy. But even if someone was "born" with same-sex attraction, why would we treat this differently than one born with a sexual attraction to children, or impaired vision, or a curved spine--- and not try to correct it?

4) It would make a difference if we change the definition of marriage because everyone would be forced to live with the new definition. For example, if a couple had a son who felt sexually attracted to males, and the son said, "Dad, this doesn't seem normal to me: The purpose of sex is propagation of the species, and I'm attracted to guys? I don't want to be this way. Where can I find a therapist?" His parents would not be able to find a therapist, because would-be therapists who thought this attraction disordered would not have been granted certification.

Finally, if someone says they "know two gays who are doing a fine job of raising a child," even if this were true, that is no reason to redefine marriage. For example, if a woman is raped, has the child, and the child becomes an exemplary adult parent, one can't reason backward that, therefore, rape should be legal.

If same-sex marriage becomes legal, all those who oppose this redefinition become bigots. In a conversation I had with one young lady, I pointed out that in Massachusetts, which has legalized "same-sex marriage," Catholic Charities, who specialized in finding parents for hard-to-place children, was forced out of the adoption business because they would not place children with same-sex couples. She thought this was okay. I told her that the logic behind this is that would-be adoptive parents who think that a child needs a mom and a dad are bigots, and that if a home screener for the adoption agency asked a couple if they thought a child needed a mom and a dad, and they said "yes," the screener might block the adoption and instead place the child with a same-sex couple who didn't think the child needed a mom and a dad. "Would this be fair to the child?" I asked. She thought so. This is where we are going if the definition of marriage is changed.

The definition of marriage as between one man and one woman predates Christianity. Marriage is the lifelong, loving, faithful union of one man and one woman that is ordered toward the begetting and educating of children. At the fair, I asked several amendment opponents how they would redefine marriage. None were able to provide a definition that wouldn't open a Pandora's box: allowing a grandfather to marry his grandchild, multiple husbands/wives, or group marriage.

What has happened to our culture that people have the hubris to think they can change the definition of marriage? Surely, the slow subversion of our educational system, which has infected the judicial system, the entertainment industry and journalism is partly to blame. To re-evangelize the culture, we need to pray, educate ourselves, and bring the Good News to others in word and deed. St. Michael Broadcasting can help with this education and evangelization. Please support this apostolate with your prayers, by telling others, and if possible, a financial contribution.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

[Excerpts for October 2012 ...](#)

New programs this month include: *Hope in the Lord*, by Fr. Benedict Groeschel (Sat. 7 pm); *The Moral Magisterium of John Paul II*, by Msgr. Wm. Smith (Thurs. 7:30 pm); and *Galileo*. You may also want to see the recently added but repeating *The Catholic Family in these Days of Turmoil*, by Fr. Hardon, and our own *The Commoditization of Human Beings*.

Programs for 16.3 that begin at 6 pm will replay at 12 midnight, 6 am and noon the following day. **Latin Mass** on 16.1 (Tirentine form) appears Monday-Friday at 12 noon, 5 pm, and 10 pm. The **Movie schedule** appears on the top of page 4 of our monthly newsletter. [[Click here to download.](#)]

September 2012 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.

September, 2012 A.D.

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

On July 2, 1937, Amelia Earhart and her expert navigator, Fred Noonan, took off from Lae, New Guinea, on the third-to-last leg of their World Flight. Their destination, Howland Island (a mid-Pacific island about 1 1/3 miles long and 1/2 mile wide), was about 2556 miles, or 20 hours, east. About 18 hours into the flight, or about 200 miles from Howland, Earhart made radio contact with a ship at Howland, but couldn't hear their response. She never found the island, ran out of fuel, and crashed. What happened? One theory is that her navigator, Noonan, who was using *celestial navigation* (the stars and sun) to chart their course, used the incorrect tables in his calculations as a result of crossing the International Date Line. Therefore, he was *off course*, looking for the island 60 miles west of its actual location. He made a *human error*.

In the course of our lives, we are prudent to use "celestial navigation." We can't simply follow our unaided consciences, or guess, or follow some hedonistic philosophy such as "If it feels good, do it!" Truth is an objective reality to which we must defer. If our goal is Heaven, we must chart our course by referring to the Natural Law, the Ten Commandments, the *Catechism* and the *Magisterium of the Church*. Our vessel is the "Barque of Peter," the Church. Our "fuel" is the graces supplied by the sacraments.

Marriage, in western culture and in many other cultures, is the lifelong faithful union of one man and one woman that is *ordered* toward the begetting and educating of their children. There is now a serious discussion about whether it's okay to redefine marriage so as to include those of the same sex. It's worth asking, "Why does sexual attraction exist?" It is God's or "nature's" way of propagating the species. Therefore homosexual acts are "un-natural," or "dis-ordered." How did we get so *off course*?

One reason is contraception. As early as 1903, playwright George Bernard Shaw, an anti-Christian socialist, critic of marriage, and supporter of contraception, wrote that "The essential function of marriage is the continuation of the race, its accidental being the gratification of the amoristic sentiment of mankind. The artificial sterilization of marriage makes it possible to fulfill the accidental function whilst neglecting its essential one. **The most revolutionary development of the nineteenth century was the artificial sterilization of marriage.**"

Fr. George Welzbacher, in St. Paul, wrote about the consequences of contraception in a 2008 parish bulletin: "Yet another consequence of the contraceptive mind *is the rampant rise of homosexuality throughout the Western world. Again this should be no surprise. There are after all no rational grounds for disapproval of*

homosexual behavior once one has endorsed contraception, since in endorsing contraception one must necessarily concede that the sexual power may habitually be used as an end in itself for the sake of the pleasure attached to its use with explicit repudiation of its procreative function. Once one makes that concession, how can one argue convincingly that homosexuality is wrong?"

In 2010, Professor Emeritus Charles Rice from the Notre Dame Law School said that "The fight against same-sex marriage is a guaranteed loser unless the American people experience a reconversion to the authentic Christian position on contraception."

In this sense, the fight for traditional marriage and against the HHS "Obamacare" mandate that requires employers to cover contraceptives, sterilization and abortifacients are the same fight. If unchecked, the damage done to the institutions of marriage and the family will have cataclysmic repercussions for civilization.

Your station is bringing these problems to light and can help each us navigate our lives and influence our culture so that it conforms to true human happiness. Please continue to support it through your prayers, financial contributions and by telling others. Contributions in August did not meet expenses.

Sincerely in Christ,

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpts for September 2012:

New Shows for September include: *Life Unexpected*; *Donahue v. Hitchens* debate; *Enneagram*; Catholic Parents Online, *Religious Freedom*; *Commoditization of Human Beings* (produced in our studio); *Catholic Family in these Days of Turmoil* by Fr. Hardon; *Church Family and the Constitution*, Bernard Yoh; *Modernism*, Fr. Miceli.

Programs for 16.3 (See [specials link](#) under TV Schedules) that begin at 6pm-12am will replay at 12midnight, 6am, and noon the following day.

Latin Mass on 16.1 (Tridentine form) appears Monday-Friday at 12noon, 5pm and 10 pm.

August 2012 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

The children's story, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, tells of how two charlatan tailors pretend to make the Emperor a beautiful set of new clothes that, they say, appear "invisible" to those who are unfit for their rank, or stupid. The Emperor can't see the non-existent clothes, but deludes himself into thinking he can. The Emperor then parades proudly before his subjects to show off his "new clothes." His subjects praise him, believing what they've heard about the clothes--- instead of their eyes--- until a child says to his father, "He isn't wearing anything!" and the delusion is broken. To save face, the Emperor marches proudly on.

Books have been written about this tendency to self-deception. One, called *Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds*, tells of how in 1630's Holland prices of the recently introduced tulip bulb skyrocketed and *one* could cost as much as four years' labor. Then prices crashed. In the stock market, this same phenomenon sometimes plays out. A money-losing company with no sales comes public

at a fantastic valuation based on their “story.” If a broker talks his customer out of buying a stock like this and the customer doesn’t participate in a price run-up, the broker looks bad, even if the stock soon crashes. The broker is tempted to “see” some value and *buy the story* of the next “story stock” that comes along. When asked why the price of a “story stock” is so high, the broker might joke, “They found the cure for death!”

In the United States we are living under the delusion that, though our government spends 40% more than it takes in, this isn’t an urgent problem. Cassandra* economists who warn of hyper-inflation and call for a return to the Gold Standard are ignored like the boy who cried “Wolf!” too many times. Instead, congress and the president have passed the “Affordable Care Act” and *increased* spending! There is no plan to ever even balance the budget much less pay off the debt. Something has to give: we must increase tax revenue, cut other programs, ration medical care or risk hyper-inflation. The “story” is good--- low-priced health care for all--- but not credible based on our current economic model. If it does to some extent work, it might extend our lives for a few years, but it is not the “cure for death.”

Western countries are currently suffering from the delusion, or *buying the story*, that it is possible to have a just society without God; that we can defy the moral law and not suffer the consequences. But the concurrent fear of having children and birth dearth belies their supposed confidence in their governing models, and makes their welfare promises appear fraudulent as their debt becomes unserviceable. *The Emperor has no clothes.*

The Good News is that the Catholic Church has something better than the “cure for death”: the promise of eternal life. Jesus died and rose from the dead! And this health plan is not only affordable, but paid for! Jesus paid the price with His death on the cross. But, as the adage goes, “You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t force it to drink.” Each of us must repent and avail ourselves of the graces we need, especially the sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion. We must return God’s love for us by living by God’s laws.

Our role as the laity is to make Christ known to the world. St. Michael Broadcasting helps us increase our understanding so that we can do this. The station also reaches non-Catholics. Recently a fellow with a Muslim sounding name called in and asked for a schedule. He said, “My name Muslim, but I love Jesus!” This station--- your station, we hope--- costs money, and though we currently have no paid staff, our modest expenses continue to exceed our contributions. Please continue to support the station through your prayers, telling others and financial support.

Dominus Vobiscum!

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

*(In Greek mythology, Cassandra was a woman who had the gift of prophecy, but the curse that no one would believe her.)

Excerpts for August 2012: Quote from Archbishop Fulton Sheen: "Goodness"....

New Programs this month include *Fatal Addiction*, serial killer Ted Bundy’s final interview before execution in which he tells of the effect of pornography on his behavior; the *Christendom College 2012 Commencement Address* featuring Fr. Baker and others; the International Catholic University course *Nature and Grace*; and *To Rescue Our Young from the Sexual Revolution*.

We need volunteers with skills in Windows, Mac, or Linux for various projects including video editing, video production, archiving, scheduling and acquisitions, maybe even web-site design. These require anywhere from 4-6 hours/week. Some can be done from home. Please contact the station via info@stmichaelbroadcasting.com if you want to know more about these opportunities.

Fundraising volunteer needed. If you would like to write grant proposals to foundations or can come up with other creative fundraising ideas, we need your help! Set your own hours. Email or call the station.

Goodness

What makes a thing good? A thing is good when it attains the purpose for which it was made. I have before me now a watch. Is it a good watch? How will I know whether it is good? By asking what the purpose of a watch is. The purpose of a watch is to keep time. Does it keep time? Yes. Therefore it is a good watch. Now let us apply that to our ultimate end. Why were we made? What is the purpose of living? The purpose of living is to be supremely happy. How do we become supremely happy? By attaining the life and truth and love which is God. Abp. Fulton J. Sheen

July 2012 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

Fyodor Dostoevsky, in his novel *The Brothers Karamazov* (1879-80), warned of the insidious threat that atheism and its associated philosophies of materialism and nihilism posed to Russia, as they spread from Europe into Russian culture. Upper class intellectuals in his country wanted to achieve social justice and equality based on reason and logic alone, but Dostoevsky argued that without Christ, these cannot exist, in that without God each man becomes a god unto himself, determining right and wrong. His character Mitya famously argues, "Without God... everything is permitted... if He doesn't exist, man is the chief of the earth... how is he going to be good without God?"

Another character, the holy Fr. Zossima, tells his fellow monks that "Equality is to be found in the spiritual dignity of man..." and his monks must provide the model: "We preserve the image of Christ, and it will shine forth like a precious diamond to the whole world. So may it be!" But he warns, "They... want to base justice on reason alone, but not with Christ as before... They aim at justice, but by denying Christ, they will end by flooding the earth with blood."

Dostoyevsky's fears came true: Thirty-seven years later, atheistic communists violently seized control of his beloved Russia. The Christ-less regimes of Lenin, Stalin, Hitler and Mao killed over 100 million people. Still, the belief persists---in our country among the entertainment, education and news elites--- that we can achieve social justice based on reason alone, and that Christians thwart achievement of this objective. If this belief is not parried, the record would indicate that our country too will devolve into a totalitarian state that persecutes Christians and other citizens.

Pope Benedict, in his *Faith and Reason* speech at Regensburg (2006) argued that both 1) reason that excludes God, and 2) *fideism* ---faith that excludes reason (e.g. forcibly "converting" someone) --- are unreasonable. Experience leads us to believe that the former tends to a secular totalitarian state and the latter to a religious totalitarian state. Both *faith and reason* must exist together, like the wings on a bird, for a just society to exist.

In the *Declaration of Independence*, God is mentioned four times: as "Nature's God," "Creator," "divine Providence" and "Supreme Judge of the Universe." In George Washington's *Farewell Address* he exhorted us as to the importance of religion: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity,

religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens... Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice ? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education..., reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

War veterans remind us that "Freedom is not free." Many fought, suffered and died for the liberties we enjoy today. Just as patriots bought our freedom with their lives, so Jesus bought our salvation with His life. As members of the Body of Christ, we are called to bring His light "like a precious diamond" into the world, and if necessary, lay down our lives (John 15:20). Archbishop Fulton Sheen once wrote that "It is our solemn duty as Catholics to be conscious of our duty to America, and to preserve its freedom by preserving its faith in God." By helping us know the faith better, the programs of St. Michael Broadcasting can help us all fulfill that duty. Please support St. Michael Broadcasting through your prayers, volunteering or telling others, and financial support. Expenses continue to exceed contributions.

God bless you this 4th of July. Have a blessed summer.

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpts for July 2012: Quote from Archbishop Fulton Sheen, ...

*"It is not our economics which have failed; it is man who has failed -- man who has forgotten God. Hence, no manner of economic or political readjustments can possibly save our civilization. We can be saved only by a renovation of the inner man, only by a purging of our hearts and souls. For only by seeking first the Kingdom of God and His Justice will all these things be added to us." - Abp. Fulton Sheen, *The Prodigal World*, 1936*

New Programs this month include: *The Pill Kills* lectures from the 2012 American Life League symposium; *Making of the Missal*; *Marriage in Minnesota* interviews with Jason Adkins and Teresa Collette; *Called: the Postulant*, a show on being called to the religious life; Msgr. Wm. Smith's popular *Moral Theology* series; and Fr. Pacwa's popular *Islam and Christianity* series. On Channel 16.1, we repeat the May priestly *Ordination Mass* at 10 am all Saturdays.

We need volunteers with skills in Windows, Mac, or Linux for various projects including video editing, video production, archiving, scheduling and acquisitions, maybe even web-site design. These require anywhere from 4-6 hours/week. Some can be done from home. Please contact the station via info@stmichaelbroadcasting.com if you want to know more about these opportunities.

June 2012 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

This last month, our founder, Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., received an honorary degree from Christendom College in Virginia. We congratulate Fr. Baker for this award, and thank him for his service to the Church. As some of you may know, Fr. Baker edited a magazine called the *Homiletic and Pastoral Review* for forty years. Long before I met Fr. Baker, I subscribed to this magazine and looked forward to reading Father's editorials. Below is a reprint of one I especially liked and saved from December, 1993. It remains timely and more urgent than it was then.

God is the Source of Freedom

By Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., Dec. 1993

During the month of December we celebrate the season of Advent and the great feast of Christmas. Christmas is a time of personal and familial joy because we commemorate the coming of God into the world in the Person of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. For those of us who believe in Christ and rejoice in his coming, there is a focus and purpose for our whole existence. Our Christian faith tells us that God loves us, that he created each of us individually, and that he has destined us for eternal happiness with him in heaven if we return his love.

"If you love me, keep my commandments," Jesus tells us in the Gospel of St. John. Since we live in a covenant relationship with the Lord, in order to fulfill our part of the bargain we must abide by God's law. That law is very clear since it is expressed in the Ten Commandments and summarized in the Great Commandment of love of God and love of neighbor. Those who live according to that law will find a basic happiness and contentment in this life, and life everlasting in the next world.

The modern world began about 500 years ago with the Renaissance when Western intellectuals began to move away from Christianity and the Church. What they wanted to do was to liberate themselves from God. It was a type of revolt against God which involved elevating man to the place of God. Gradually the idea became common that man could solve all his problems by reason alone, without the help of God and revelation.

Many thinkers like Solzhenitsyn, Dostoyevsky, Eric Vogelin and Paul Johnson have pointed out that the roots of the modern ideologies that lead to totalitarianism and the dehumanization of man are to be found right here in this idea of the revolt against God. This is the source of positivism, utilitarianism, hedonism, fascism, National Socialism, and communism in our recent past; it is also the source of the newer ideologies of feminism, abortionism and environmentalism. Not to be excluded from this list is the currently popular "liberal democracy," which is the ideology behind our own government and the other Western democracies. What they all have in common is the belief that man can be good and virtuous without God, without belief in transcendent Truth. According to them, man is the measure of all things, can produce order in the world, and can provide for the happiness and contentment of most human beings. This belief has given us the 20th century horrors of fascism, Nazism and communism.

Many were scandalized at Solzhenitsyn when, in his Harvard address some years ago (1978 ed.), he equated liberalism with communism in that both lack a spiritual foundation. For, if man's dignity and rights do not come from a transcendent God, then they are postulated by man and can be changed or abolished by man. If there is no difference between good and evil, and man cannot perceive that difference, then everything is permitted. This is exactly what we have in our public schools where children are taught how to fornicate, how to commit sodomy, and how to put on a condom. This is an explicit admission on the part of adults who, presumably, know more than the children, that there is no difference between right and wrong. The only thing left is ideology or what is "politically correct," and that is determined by the strong. So in the *Dred Scott* decision black people were declared to be possessions to be used as one saw fit; in *Roe v. Wade* unborn children were declared to be nonpersons and so can be killed at will.

In this country right now, as God and religion are pushed out of the public square into the privacy of one's basement, our government is usurping the place of God and moving rapidly toward some sort of liberal totalitarianism. We all sense that we are less free now than we were forty years ago. Let us pray for men of faith and courage in public life who will work for the restoration of the public recognition of the absolute importance of morality and religion in public life. For if God goes, our freedom and dignity go with him.

Your station is trying to help educate both Catholics and non-Catholics so that all of us can know and speak to the need for religion and morality in public life. If we do not succeed at this urgent mission, there is no reason to believe that horrors that lie ahead won't be worse than those of the 20th century. Please support this apostolate by telling others, volunteering, sending in a financial contribution and/or the charity of your prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ, Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpts for June 2012: Quote from Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen:

"Have you noticed that as men lose faith in God, they become selfish, immoral and cruel? On a cosmic scale, as religion decreases, tyranny increases; as men lose faith in divinity, they lose faith in humanity. Where God is outlawed, there man is subjugated".

New Programs this month include: Religious Liberty in the United States by the late William Bentley Ball; The Apostle of Life, A look at the life of Fr. Paul Marx; St. Germaine, the story of a shepherdess who overcame the cruel treatment of her stepmother to become humble, charitable and patient toward others; the Life and Legacy of Mother Catherine Aurelia; To God Who Giveth Joy to My Youth; and, the Faithful Witness: the Life and Legacy of Fulton J. Sheen.

May 2012: Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

The clerical sexual scandals that have come to light over the last 20 years or so make a person wonder: How could one with so much learning--- about scripture, the saints, and moral theology--- who has preached and presided at Mass every day *in persona Christi*, and actually changed bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ--- how could he succumb to such temptation, and if he did, what hope is there for the rest of us?

The words of the holy parson (priest) in Chaucer's (1343-1400) *Canterbury Tales* come to mind:

...if gold ruste, what shal iren do?

...if gold rust, what shall iron do?

For if a preest be foul, on whom we truste, (translation)

For if a priest be foul, on whom we trust,

No wonder is a lewed man to ruste.

No wonder if a layman yield to lust.

But then Judas, who presumably touched Jesus, heard Him speak, saw Him perform miracles and was even present at the Last Supper, also betrayed Him. He *knew* enough, but he, because of intellectual pride or obstinacy, did not wish to conform his will to the will of Christ. Despite all the proofs, he still lacked faith.

Bishop Sheen provides some insight into this mystery: “*Every theologian ought to be a mystic; every Doctor of Divinity ought to be a saint. He knows enough to be one; but he does not will it or work hard enough at it.*”

In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraph 143 says, “By faith, man completely submits his intellect and his will to God.” Faith isn’t just intellectual assent, but *submission of the will*.

St. Paul, in Romans 7:15-23, speaks of the difficulty he has making his actions conform to what he wills: “I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate... The willing is ready at hand, but doing the good is not. For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want.... I take delight in the law of God, in my inner self, but I see in my members another principle at war with the law of my mind...”

On the other hand, we have the examples of very young saints such as Dominic Savio or Maria Goretti who had strong faith despite a relative lack of learning: “Unless you become like little children...” Matthew 18:3

The lesson from all this is that though knowledge can help us give the assent of faith (the desire to know, love and serve God), knowledge is not enough. Going to daily Mass isn’t enough if our participation is only on an intellectual level. Neither is spending time in front of the Blessed Sacrament if all the time is spent reading a book about how to spend time in front of the Blessed Sacrament and thereby avoiding *doing*: praying, adoring and listening.

This brings to mind the song *Show Me* from the musical *My Fair Lady*. In that song, Eliza complains that her suitor--- who seems more in love with the *idea* of loving her than her---- keeps making wordy declarations of love instead of showing her by touching her:

*Don't talk of stars, burning above
If you're in love, show me!*

*Tell me no dreams, filled with desire
If you're on fire, show me!*

We are all subject to the difficulties experienced by St. Paul. One’s faith has to be brought to the here and now by attempting to conform one’s will (including actions) to the will of Christ. Each of us can strengthen his will, and help his actions conform with his will, though *prayer* (expressing our dependence on God), *fasting* (attempting to master the desires of one’s body: for love of God and to offer up the attendant suffering in reparation for our personal sins and those of others), and *almsgiving* (not wrapping up our identity in our possessions, but trusting in God).

If you would like to strengthen your will through fasting and prayer, you may wish to join the **Ninevites**. The **Ninevites** is a group of people across the U.S. and in several other countries, who are united by their desire to fast and pray on Wednesdays and Fridays in reparation for the sins of our country, especially the sin of abortion and the contraceptive mentality from which it stems, in order to reclaim and rebuild traditional marriage and strong families. The movement was formed by a small group of people in the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis who wanted to be like the “10 righteous people” on whose behalf God would have spared Sodom and Gomorrah. It grew quickly following the request of the U.S. Bishops to fast and pray in response to the HHS mandate. The group receives an email reminder on Wednesdays and Fridays that includes a brief spiritual message of hope and encouragement. Members are asked to fast as much or as little as they can, and offer it to God as an act of love. To join the group, contact ninevitesgroup@gmail.com.

Your station needs your help! We need more volunteers (see front page). We also need more contributions since for the last few months funds received have not met operating expenses. Please support the station through your prayers, by telling others, sending us your ideas for serving and growth, and with a financial contribution if you are able.

God bless you this Easter season,

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpt for May 2012 --

Programs for 16.3 (below) that begin at 6 pm-12 am will replay at 12 midnight, 6 am, and noon the following day.

Latin Mass on 16.1 (Tridentine form) appears Monday-Friday at 12 noon, 5 pm and 10 pm.

Movie schedule appears on top of page 4 of our newsletter. [Click here to download.](#)

April 2012: Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

The late Monsignor William Smith is famous for his maxim "All social engineering is preceded by verbal engineering."

What does this mean? According to Monsignor Smith, "...before the unthinkable gets thought, and the undoable gets done, the unspeakable must be spoken of in a different way. And that's how it happens. The way we think about things is the way we speak about things, which eventually affects the way we do things."

Social engineering refers to attempts by influential groups, or the government, by means of incentives and penalties, or force of law, to force changes in morals, attitudes and behavior so that these conform to the political agenda of an ideology. *Verbal engineering* means creating a more appealing word or phrase for one with a highly negative connotation, or brazenly "redefining" a word so that it conforms to the ideology. As an example of verbal engineering, Msgr. Smith would cite an editorial in the September 1970 issue of *California Medicine* which said that "doctors needed to separate the notion of killing from abortion." There soon appeared new phrases such as "terminate a pregnancy," and "remove the product of conception". He also observed how those who favored legalized abortion studiously omitted the word "abortion" by referring to themselves as "pro-choice" without saying *for what*. For example, the late Senator Paul Wellstone, who was "pro-choice" as regarded abortion might be alive today if his airplane pilot weren't "pro-choice" as to flying without proper certification. As an example of redefining of a word, Msgr. Smith would tell how in certain pre-1980 dictionaries "euthanasia" was defined as "mercy killing," but in later editions the word "killing" disappeared. Now, the word "euthanasia" is often replaced by "the right to die."

In her autobiography, Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood (an organization whose name is yet another example of verbal engineering), tells of how she and a few friends created the term "birth control." She says they considered "family limitation," "neo-Malthusianism," "conscious generation," "population control," "race control," and "birth rate control." Someone said "drop the *rate*" and the verbal engineering was done. In 1922, GK Chesterton lamented the acceptance of this verbal obfuscation, saying, "Imagine if we had called it *life prevention*"?

The word "conception" has also been subjected to verbal engineering. For example, in 1918, Margaret Sanger wrote that "if one (sperm) enters the ovum and is absorbed into it, this process is called fertilization, conception or impregnation... any attempt at removing it or stopping its further growth is called abortion." This concurred with the US Department of Health which in 1963 defined abortion as "all measures which impair the viability of the zygote at any time between the instant of fertilization and the completion of labor." But in 1965, before abortion was ruled legal, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists,

knowing the abortifacient effects of birth control pills and “intra-uterine devices” (devices *for what?*), issued their first “Terminology Bulletin” which redefined “conception” as “implantation of the fertilized ovum.” Though this illogical definition still isn’t accepted by most doctors or dictionaries, this allows Planned Parenthood to now refer to drugs which “stop the further growth,” that is, *kill* a developing human being by preventing his or her implantation, as “emergency contraception.”

There are other examples. “Reproductive health” means legal access to abortion; the terms “homosexual acts” and “sodomy” are being replaced by “gay sex.” But the current word undergoing verbal engineering is “marriage.” If marriage is redefined to mean that any ponderable combination of males and females has the same value as the union of one man and one woman for life, open to the conception of children, it will drain marriage of its meaning, with catastrophic consequences for the family and society. According to historian Paul Johnson, “...the disappearance of the legally constituted family will remove a formidable defensive barrier which, at the moment, still stands between the vulnerable individual and the burgeoning state.... We must ensure that it retains its legal personality and constitutional status.”

Those most affected by redefining marriage would be defenseless children. They need the security of being brought up by their biological mother and father, or an adoptive mother and father. Barbara Davis White made this point before the Minnesota House Civil Justice Committee in February, 2010:

“Some claim that all children need is two loving people in a committed relationship. In my experience this is simply not true. We tried this in my community, the black community, and found it to be wrought with failure. For decades we’ve tried to raise our sons with two loving people, a mother and a grandmother, and we know it doesn’t work. But is anybody listening??? There’s a mountain of sociological data that prove that children are far better off in a home with a mother and a father, not just two people in a loving relationship.”

At St. Michael Broadcasting we are listening and trying to argue the urgent need to protect marriage amidst the silence and complicity of the educational establishment and media outlets. Help St. Michael Broadcasting combat the attempt to redefine the word *marriage* so that we can avoid the disastrous social engineering that would soon follow. Please continue to support this station through your prayers, by telling others, and if possible, a financial contribution.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

[Excerpt for April 2012:](#)

Special programming on 16.3 this month includes actual testimony for marriage presented at the State Capitol. These play at 11 pm Wednesday (11 am and 5 pm Thursday), and 8:30 pm Thursday (8:30 am and 2:30 pm) Friday. There are many changes this month, so look at your schedule carefully. We call special attention to: *Isabel of Spain*, Monday night; a new time for Fr. Groeschel’s *Psychological Growth*; Tuesday, Professor Carol’s *Music History*; Wednesday, *Des Hommes a Part*, about the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter; Thursday, *Beginning Homeschooling*. **EWTN** is also having many specials this month, too many to list here. Please visit ewtn.com (program specials and schedules) for more info.

Programs for 16.3 (below) that begin at 6 pm-12 am will replay at 12 midnight, 6 am, and noon the following day.

Latin Mass on 16.1 (Tridentine form) appears Monday-Friday at 12 noon, 5 pm and 10 pm.

Movie schedule appears on top of page 4 of our printed newsletter. See Newsletter download page.

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

Archbishop Fulton Sheen said that the modern world “understands freedom too often as the right to do whatever you *please*... This is not freedom, but *license*, and very often anarchy. Freedom is the right to do whatever you *ought*, and *ought* implies a goal, purpose, morality, and the law of God.” Inversely, we are *not free* when we cannot legally do what we ought. Laws which compel us to do evil are unjust laws.

Martin Luther King, in his *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, said this about unjust laws: “...one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. I would agree with St. Augustine that *an unjust law is no law at all*... How does one determine whether a law is just or unjust? A just law is a man-made code that squares with the moral law or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law. To put it in the terms of St. Thomas Aquinas: An unjust law is a human law that is not rooted in eternal law and natural law.”

During World War II, after the Nazis moved into Holland, they began deporting Jews to concentration camps and made it illegal to hide Jews. The Dutch bishops publicly criticized the deportation policy. Shortly thereafter, some “law-abiding” citizen betrayed the hiding place of fifteen year-old Anne Frank who was soon found and sent to her death in a concentration camp. She, and her family, had been “unlawfully” hidden in the home of Miep Gies, a Catholic.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHS) recently mandated that, with very narrow exceptions, all health plans *must* include coverage for contraceptives, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs. This is an *unjust law* and an *assault on freedom*. Pregnancy is not a disease, and our government has *no right* to require us to help send nascent human beings to their deaths. This mandate affects anyone, Catholic or not, who objects for moral or religious reasons. If not rescinded, it will irreparably harm those who refuse to comply, such as Catholic schools, charities, hospitals, insurers or Catholic owned businesses, in that they will face ruinous penalties that drive them out of business.

In 1937, as the Nazis imposed their ideology on Catholics in Germany, the Pope smuggled an encyclical into Germany which was read from every pulpit on Palm Sunday. In it, he encouraged German Catholics to remain steadfast: “...open measures of intimidation, the threat of economic and civil disabilities... violate(s) every human right and dignity... The believer has an absolute right to profess his Faith and live according to its dictates. Laws which impede this... practice of Faith are against natural law.” (*Mit Brennender Sorge*)

Our bishops, like their Dutch predecessors, are speaking out about against this unjust law and asking us to help rescind it. If we don't want to be put in the intolerable position of Miep Gies, we must ACT NOW! Before you contribute to St. Michael Broadcasting this month, it's imperative that *you* write, email, or call:

Senator Amy Klobuchar, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, Ph. 202 224-3244 (klobuchar.senate.gov); **Senator Al Franken**, 309 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, Ph. 202 224-5641, (franken.senate.gov); **Your US Representative**: e.g. Keith Ellison, Betty McCollum, Erik Paulsen, John Kline, Michele Bachmann, etc.: (Name), U.S House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515, ph. (general) 202 224-3121 or (house.gov). Your senators and representative are the most important person to contact, but you may also contact **President Barack Obama**, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, D.C. 20500, Ph. 202 456-1111, (whitehouse.gov); DHS **Secretary Kathleen Sebelius**, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20201. You may read more about this and contact your representatives through the US council of Catholic Bishops website: USCCB.org. Get at least one other person you know to write too!

Please keep your comments polite but firm. You might say or write something like, "I oppose the mandated coverage of contraception, sterilization and abortion drugs in the new health care law as unjust, immoral and a violation of religious freedom. Please pass my comments on to _____."

Martin Luther King learned natural law from St. Augustine and Thomas Aquinas and so can you! See the programs "*The Good Code*," and "*Natural Law*" by Dr. Charles Rice on the current schedule. Please continue to support this apostolate with your prayers, financial contributions and by telling others.

Sincerely in Christ,

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpt for March 2012: New Programs this month include: *Metaphysics* by Dr. Ralph McInerry; *Life and Love in the 21st Century*; *Devotion to Christ*; *26 Martyrs of Nagasaki*; *Veil of Deception: The Impact of Same-Sex Marriage on Youth*. **A contract engineer** that works with the station has time available to take on an additional project. His company, ElectroSoft Engineering, Inc, (www.eElectroSoft.net) specializes in electronic and software design, and their interface to other machines and to human operators. If you know of someone who could use his expertise, please call him, Tom Roman, at (612) 781-2723, or email him at tom@iwe.us.com to use his expertise. **Programs for 16.3** that begin at 6 pm will replay at 12 midnight, 6 am and noon the following day. **Latin Mass** on 16.1 (Tirentine form) appears Monday-Friday at 12 noon, 5 pm, and 10 pm. The **Movie schedule** appears on the top of page 4 of our monthly newsletter. [[Click here to download.](#)]

February 2012 - Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

You are feeling ill. Your symptoms: fever, chills, vomiting, headache, etc. You go to the doctor. He enters the room, and says, "Your sins are forgiven." You might say, "Well thanks Doc, but, I'm *sick*, and what exactly do my sins have to do with my health?" Yet that's exactly what Jesus does in Mark 2:5: The paralytic man is lowered through the roof, and Jesus tells him, "...your sins are forgiven." After this, He cures his paralysis. To the Divine Physician, the paralyzed man's eternal soul came first.

The first hospital in North America north of Mexico City was built in 1639 in the City of Quebec, Canada. It was staffed by religious sisters. When a patient showed up at their hospital for care, the usual procedure was that he first had to go to confession, and second, a sister would wash the patient's feet. (See John 13:1-17, Jesus washes His apostles' feet.) Then he was admitted to the hospital. What were the sisters doing? They were imitating Jesus, showing that the health of one's soul is more important than one's physical health, and *being Jesus* to those who came to the hospital, serving both their spiritual and physical needs.

Each Lent, we renew our commitment to imitate Jesus. How do we begin? How did Jesus begin His public ministry? He began it by spending forty days in the desert, fasting and praying and overcoming the temptations of Satan. In the first temptation, Satan asks Jesus to "turn these stones into bread." But Jesus answers, "Not by bread alone does man live, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

So here too, Jesus is saying that one's soul is more important than the body. It's interesting to recall that when Lenin called for revolution in Russia, in 1917, his slogan was "Bread, peace, land." A mere 15 years later, in 1932, the poor Ukrainians had none of these, as the Russian communists killed them, redistributed their land and stole their wheat, thereby starving an estimated 7 million of them to death. I had a Ukrainian neighbor who experienced this first hand. His family had no food, so he as a teenager left his weeping mother so they could have more. He was conscripted into the Red army. He never saw his mother again.

In his book *Jesus of Nazareth*, Pope Benedict writes: "Constructing a world by our own lights, without reference to God... that is the temptation that threatens us in many varied forms... The German Jesuit, Fr. Alfred Delp, who was executed by the Nazis, wrote: 'Bread is important, freedom is more important, but most important of all is unbroken fidelity and faithful adoration.' When this ordering is no longer respected, the result is not justice or concern for human suffering. The result is rather ruin and destruction even of material goods themselves."

The lesson we can draw from this, is that it behooves us this Lent to put care for our souls, and love of God, *first* in our lives: before care of our body, or entertainment, or work--- even charitable works--- or political activism. We might do this by starting each day with prayer and by going to confession more frequently. Fr. Baker, our founder, in his book, *Preach the Word*, says this: "The purpose of Lent is conversion of heart--- turning away from inordinate attachment to creatures and turning to God... The weapons we need to overcome temptation are well known: prayer, fasting, almsgiving, self-denial, the sacraments, reading the Bible, avoiding the near occasions of sin, such as immoral television, videos, music, magazines, books and internet pornography. We should know our faith well and be familiar with the Bible, especially the New Testament."

G.K Chesterton was once asked to write an article for publication on the topic of "What's Wrong with the World?" His submission was the shortest: "I am." Chesterton seemed to be saying, "If we want a better and more just society, we must have more people living holy lives, seeking the Supreme Good. I am part of what's wrong for my failings in this regard." We can work on external evils and injustices, but our efforts will prove futile unless we, like the good sisters in Quebec 375 years ago, imitate Christ and bring Jesus to others through interior holiness, which is then expressed in words and deeds. St. Michael Broadcasting can help each of us know our faith better so we can do this. Please support this apostolate through your prayers, by telling others and financial contributions.

May you draw closer to the Bread of Life this Lent. - Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

[Excerpts for February 2012: "Christ came .. to free us from sin..."; New Programs this month; Compliments; Latin Mass is on Ch. 16.1; Programs on Channel 16.3 TV \[see schedule grid on page 2 of our monthly newsletter\]; Movie schedule is on page 4 of our monthly newsletter \[downloadable\].](#)

"Christ came into the world to free us from sin and from the ambiguous lure of seeking to plan our lives without God. He did this not with high-sounding proclamations but by struggling personally with the Tempter, all the way to the Cross. This example holds true for us all: that the world is improved by beginning with ourselves, by changing, with God's grace, what is wrong with our lives." Pope Benedict XVI

New programs this month include *De-Christianization of Culture and the Catholic Counter-Revolution* by Raymond DeSouza; *St. Augustine: His life and Spirituality* by Fr. Groeschel; *Depression: the Silent Epidemic*, by Our Lady's Tears in Mankato; *Carmel of Allentown*, a documentary about this holy order of nuns.

Compliments We volunteers thank all of you who call and leave compliments on our answering machine and in notes enclosed with your contributions. These encourage us very much.

Programs for 16.3 that begin at 6 pm will replay at 12 midnight, 6 am, and noon the following day.

Latin Mass on 16.1 (Tridentine form) appears Monday-Friday at 12 noon, 5 pm and 10 pm.

Movie schedule appears on top of page 4 of our monthly newsletter. Refer to the link in the top header banner of each page.

January 2012 - Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

In the 1960's, Bob Dylan wrote a song called *Masters of War*, which contained these lines:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>You've thrown the worst fear</i> | <i>For threatening my baby</i> |
| <i>That can ever be hurled</i> | <i>Unborn and unnamed</i> |
| <i>Fear to bring children</i> | <i>You ain't worth the blood</i> |
| <i>Into the world</i> | <i>That runs in your veins.</i> |

Who are those that incite fear of having children? It is those who adhere to *materialism*, the philosophy which holds that material goods, and emotional and physical pleasures, are the main reason for human existence. Materialists are far more concerned with material considerations than spiritual realities. Those who believe that the world's problems are caused by unequal distribution of wealth, or over population, or that having a child will hinder one's personal growth and future prosperity are materialists. Consequently, materialists often favor contraception and abortion. This includes organizations such as the Population Council, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), USAID, the Sierra Club, and of course, Planned Parenthood.

Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, began pushing for the legalized distribution of contraceptives in about 1916. On the cover of one magazine she edited, *Woman Rebel*, it said "No Gods, No Masters." The cover of another, the *Birth Control Review*, shows a mother in handcuffs nursing her baby. Together, these reflect Sanger's *materialist* ethic. In 1921, the then Archbishop of New York, Patrick Hayes, responded in a Christmas pastoral letter to her promotion of contraception:

"Heinous is the sin committed against the creative act of God, Who through the marriage contract invites man and woman to co-operate with Him in the propagation of the human family. To take life after its inception is a horrible crime; but to prevent human life that the Creator is about to bring into being is satanic. In the first instance, the body is killed, while the soul lives on; in the latter by frustrating God's laws, not only a body but an immortal soul is denied existence in time and eternity."

In her writings advocating contraception, Margaret Sanger confidently derides her critics. But in the book *Margaret Sanger: A Biography of the Champion of Birth Control*, author Madeline Gray includes this entry from Sanger's diary that betrays Sanger's doubts:

"Dreamed last night that a large glossy, spotted snake lay full length in my bed, head up, looking defiantly at me. I looked for a weapon and found a large saw, which I took and struck at him with, but alas struck the baby who was in the bed--- hurt it severely---cut him. The snake glided away---the baby cut and in a fever. I awakened anxious and worried." (p. 262)

Sanger wasn't able to understand her dream, but it seems clear it was her conscience, that "still small voice" (1Kings 19:12) trying to reach her. In Revelation (12:4-9) it says that "the dragon," the "ancient serpent," wanted to "devour the child." The snake (Satan) tempted her to fear for herself. Instead of striking Satan, with her crude weapons of contraception and later, abortion, she struck the innocent child and "hurt it severely." Satan, the "liar and the murderer," left, mission accomplished. Both women and children would be the victims of Sanger's *materialist* ethic.

In this same section of Revelation (12:7), it says "Michael and his angels battled against the dragon." That is the purpose of this station. Last month, Planned Parenthood opened its huge new abortion mill in St. Paul. This month is the anniversary of the infamous *Roe* decision of January 22, 1973, that legalized the killing of the unborn and upended the rule of law in our country. Let us recall Mother Teresa saying, "The greatest destroyer of peace is abortion." St. Michael Broadcasting is committed to exposing and fighting this great evil. By imparting the Catholic faith, your station can expose the poverty of materialism and help restore the fundamental right to life that underlies the rule of law. Please continue to support the station financially, by telling others, and/or through your prayers.

God bless you in this New Year,

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

[Excerpts for January 2012: New This Month; International Catholic University; Financial Needs; Fundraising Ideas Needed; Catholic Programming Needed; Latin Mass on Ch. 16.1, Movie Schedule.](#)

New This Month: This month we will begin our evening programming at 6 pm. There are many new programs: *Christ in the City* (Fr. Rutler) at 6 pm, and *Chesterton: The Apostle of Common Sense* (Dale Ahlquist) at 6:30 pm. We begin showing **International Catholic University** classes in philosophy, natural law, art history, sexual ethics, etc. These classes can be taken for master's degree credit. Special programming includes Dr. Charles Rice's *Christendom College Commencement Address*. Programs related to abortion and its effects include *Life Unexpected* (produced in our studio), *In the Wake of Choice*, *Suffering in Silence* and *Crossroads of the Heart*.

Financial Needs We need a new computer for filming off-site. Cost with software is \$3800. We would like to broadcast a Spanish language Catholic station from Mexico, *Maria Vision*. Cost for related equipment and labor is \$12,383. If you can fund either of these please contact the station.

Fundraising Ideas Needed Despite having no paid staff we continue to operate at a loss. If you have fundraising ideas, such as a fundraiser event, or sponsorships, or leasing a channel, please call, email or write the station.

Catholic Programming Wanted We would like to broadcast a daily *Liturgy of the Hours*. If you the *Liturgy*, also known as the *Divine Office*, on the internet with visuals, or other Catholic content on the internet that you think viewers might enjoy, please contact the station.

Latin Mass on 16.1 (Tridentine form) appears Monday-Friday at 12 noon, 5 pm and 10 pm.

Movie Schedule appears on top of page 4 of our monthly newsletter. You may download it by clicking on the Download button on the top banner of this web site. Follow the instructions to download it. See "Download our newsletter" in the top banner and click on it.

December 2011 - Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.

Dear Friends and Family of Michael Broadcasting,

Most of us know people to whom we feel indebted, people who have done things for us that we can never repay. These might include our parents, a friend, or a teacher.

This past year, Sister John Baptist, one of the beloved sisters at my daughter's school, died. The sisters of her community and the students wept. Sr. John Baptist could have married and had children, or had some satisfying career. But instead, she answered God's call to serve. In the *Prayer for Vocations* we ask God "...to bless us with worthy priests, brothers and sisters, who will love Thee with their whole strength, and gladly spend their entire lives, to serve Thy Church, and to make Thee known and loved." Sr. John Baptist was one of God's answers to that prayer.

Sr. John Baptist gave her life, her *entire* life, so that the girls at her school would receive an excellent education, and learn about God through her words and example. How can the girls repay her? In a way, they can't: she is no longer there. But in another way, they can, by applying themselves to their education, by growing in virtue, and by growing in knowledge and love of God.

This brings to mind the movie *Saving Private Ryan*. In this movie, which takes place in World War II, General George Marshall is informed that three of four brothers in the Ryan family have all died within days of each other and that their mother will receive all three notices on the same day. The fourth brother is in a combat area. Marshall orders that Private Ryan be found and sent home immediately. A squad of seven soldiers is assigned this task. While on this mission, four in the squad are killed. In the last firefight, Private Ryan's captain is mortally wounded. Before dying, he says to Private Ryan: "Earn this. Earn it." By this he means, "If you survive, *do something with your life; earn* what we've sacrificed for you. Make your life worthy; don't let our suffering and deaths be for naught."

Years later, Private Ryan, now an old man, visits his captain's grave. In a soliloquy, addressing the captain in the grave below, he says "I tried to live my life the best that I could. I hope that was enough. I hope that, at least in your eyes, I've earned what all of you have done for me." With a tear in his eye he then turns to his wife and says, "Tell me I've led a good life. Tell me I'm a good man."

At this time of the year, we celebrate the fact that our Savior and the Savior of the World came into history. Bishop Sheen, in his book *Life of Christ*, says "...every other person who came into this world came into it to live. He came into it to die." (p. 20) He says that Jesus' saving us ---Jesus' name means "Savior"--- was the reason for His coming and that His death on the Cross was the fulfillment of His coming. On some crucifixes, the artist shows Jesus with His eyes open, looking straight at the viewer. They seem to be saying, "Earn this." How can we? We can't. We can't repay those who've gone before and we can't repay God. But in another sense we can, as members of His Mystical Body: by emulating His life, by following His Commandments, by joining our sufferings with His, and through a cheerful and peaceful disposition that's based on Christian hope. What is that hope?

That hope is that we will one day we will be "told that we led a good life" when He says "Well done, good and faithful servant... Inherit the Kingdom prepared for you..." (Mat. 25:21&34) It's the prospect of meeting all those to whom we're now indebted, in unending joy, in the presence of the Holy Trinity. That prospect is Heaven.

St. Michael Broadcasting exists to bring what Malcom Muggeridge called "this stupendous hope, born of the Incarnation... to revivify a world as tired, bored and decadent as ours." This is the apostolate of this

station, your station. We hope that you will support it with your prayers, by telling others, and if possible, a financial contribution.

May the joy of Jesus' birth be yours this Christmas, Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpt for December 2011 - St. Michael Broadcasting is a 501(c)3 corporation which means that your financial contribution may reduce your taxes. --

St. Michael Broadcasting is a 501(c) 3 corporation, which means your financial contribution may reduce your taxes. You may contribute stocks, bonds, property or gold. If you would like to make a gift, call the station at 612 724-2265 and leave a message, or email the station at info@StMichaelBroadcasting.com. You may also go online to our website (www.StMichaelBroadcasting.com) and make a gift via PayPal.

For a list of movies on 16.3 this month, please see the top of page 4. There are many specials on EWTN (16.2) this month. These include: Fr. Barron's *Catholicism* series Ep. 3, Dec. 10, 5 pm; Ep. 4, Dec. 11, 10 pm; Ep. 5, Dec. 12, 9 pm; *Nicholas, the Boy Who Became Santa*, Dec. 6, 3 pm, Dec. 23, 3 pm and Dec. 24, 10 am. For other special EWTN programming, go to ewtn.com, then to "television," then to "program schedules," or "television specials."

November 2011 - Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

Auschwitz ---the name brings to mind the most infamous of the concentration "camps" that were run by the Nazi government of Germany during World War II. It's estimated that 1.1 million people perished within it. Often people ask, "Why didn't the people from nearby villages do anything?" How could tradesmen have helped build it and merchants supply it? How could then respected companies, like I.G. Farben, have allowed their products, such as the pesticide gas Zyklon B in Farben's case, to be used to kill innocent human beings?

Yet history repeats. In our country, Johnson and Johnson regularly shows up on surveys of "most respected companies," but manufactures and distributes birth control pills which prevent the implantation of human embryos. In other words, their products cause these tiny developing human beings to die of starvation. Both Johnson and Johnson and GE (through its Geron alliance) use live cells from destroyed human embryos to further their research.

Locally, we have our own mini-Auschwitz: Planned Parenthood is expanding. Local contractors and tradesmen are helping build it. According to Pro-Life Action Ministries, this includes businesses such as:

DJR Architecture
Cemstone
Flannery Construction
Eilen and Sons Trucking
Braun Intertec
Central Roofing
K.A. Kamish Excavation
Gresser Co.
I.H. Bolduc Company
On Site Sanitation
Keller Fence
Atomic Recycling
J. Becher & Assoc.

If you would like to contact these businesses and charitably ask them to cease their involvement in this project, contact Pro-Life action Ministries (www.plam.org) for their addresses and phone numbers.

Last year, Planned Parenthood's Minnesota branch surgically killed more than 4000 unborn people at its Ford Parkway site. At the new greatly expanded Vandalia (St. Paul) site, it's estimated that they could easily kill twice as many. We helped pay for this. Planned Parenthood Minnesota last year received a government grant of \$5.2 million from Minnesota taxpayers, or about \$1 from every man, woman and child in the state. Its revenue of over \$30 million ranked only \$7 million behind that of Catholic Charities, who received no government grants. Nationally, Planned Parenthood receives \$350 Million in funding from us taxpayers, or about \$960,000 a day.

What can we do about this locally? We have to oppose it. In Leviticus 5:1 it says, "You shall not stand idly by while your neighbor's life is at stake." We must peaceably oppose all organizations that promote the taking of innocent life. We must help organizations that strive to protect life. We should vote for politicians that defend life. We should, like St. John at the foot of the cross, show our solidarity with the victims of abortion and pray for the conversion of those involved in this *malum terrible*. We must strive to convert ourselves and our culture so that each human life, "Made in the image and likeness of God," is valued and respected. This is part of the mission of this station whose name in Hebrew, Mikha'el, is the name and battle cry of the angel: "Who is like God?"

This month, we are beginning a series called *Life Unexpected*. *Life Unexpected* features interviews in which local life advocates tell about their work. In one of these, Kalley Yanta discusses her efforts to dissuade employees of the above firms from working on the Planned Parenthood death center. These programs are produced in the SMB studio through the efforts of our all-volunteer workforce. Your contributions help make this possible.

Please continue to support your station by telling others about it, through your prayers, and if possible, with a financial contribution.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam,

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

[Excerpt for November 2011: Weekend Movies, New this Month: Latin daily Mass, and Fr. Barron's "Catholicism" series on EWTN.](#)

Weekend Movies See the top of the back page of our [printed newsletter](#) for a listing of weekend movies.

New this Month: We will begin broadcasting the daily (not weekend, yet) **Latin Mass on 16.1**. This Mass comes, time delayed, from Christ the King Parish, Sarasota, Florida. We will show it at noon, and 5 and 10 pm. The priest is Fr. James Fryar, FSSP. Our new series on the history and art and Western Music, by **Professor Carol**, continues. Check this out if you haven't already. This month, Fr. Barron's series called **Catholicism** will appear on EWTN. In it, Fr. Barron visually teaches about the faith and its history as he visits sites and shrines from around the world. This is superbly filmed and narrated. This is the **Broadcast schedule for "Catholicism" on channel 16.2:**

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------|------------------------|--|--------------|----------|--------------------|
| Wed 11/16/11 | 8:00 PM | CATHOLICISM (overview) | | Sat 11/19/11 | 1:00 PM | CATHOLICISM: EP. 2 |
| Wed 11/16/11 | 9:00 PM | CATHOLICISM: EP. 1 | | Sat 11/19/11 | 3:00 PM | CATHOLICISM: EP. 3 |
| Wed 11/16/11 | 10:00 PM | CATHOLICISM: EP. 2 | | Sat 11/19/11 | 4:00 PM | CATHOLICISM: EP. 4 |
| Thu 11/17/11 | 10:00 PM | CATHOLICISM: EP. 3 | | Sat 11/19/11 | 5:00 PM | CATHOLICISM: EP. 5 |
| Fri 11/18/11 | 9:00 PM | CATHOLICISM: EP. 4 | | Sat 11/19/11 | 9:00 PM | CATHOLICISM: EP. 1 |
| Fri 11/18/11 | 10:00 PM | CATHOLICISM: EP. 5 | | Sat 11/19/11 | 10:00 PM | CATHOLICISM: EP. 2 |
| Sat 11/19/11 | 12:00 PM | CATHOLICISM: EP. 1 | | | | |

October 2011 - Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

In 1962, the movie *The Last Days of Sodom and Gomorrah* was released. Its plot went something like this: Lot and his Hebrew tribe settle in the vicinity of Sodom, farming and raising livestock. The queen of Sodom sends a high ranking slave to ask him to enter into a military alliance with Sodom against a common enemy. When the slave introduces herself as a slave, Lot says "Owning slaves is evil." To which she replies, "Evil? How strange you are. Where I come from, nothing is evil. Everything that gives pleasure is good."

Lot's tribe is attacked, and Sodom comes to their defense, but the Hebrews' crops and livestock are devastated. The queen invites Lot and his people to live in Sodom. Lot's people argue about whether to accept the invitation. One side says Sodom is evil: don't go there. Others say, we have no choice and perhaps we can influence Sodom for the better.

Lot and his tribe move to Sodom, but instead of influencing them for the better, he finds that he, his family and his people are becoming worldly and immoral like the Sodomites. The slaves revolt and seek sanctuary with the Hebrews, but the Hebrews won't help: they bar their doors. The slaves are caught and tortured to death.

Like the Hebrews in this story, Catholics in the United States, instead of evangelizing the culture, have to a great extent been converted by it. The legalized killing of the unborn would not stand if Catholics stood as one against it. Nor have Catholics proved immune to the corrupting philosophy of "Everything that gives pleasure is good." Catholics once influenced what Hollywood would produce, fought against the legalization of contraception, made Sunday more a day of rest, were more faithful to their marriages, and so on. But now Catholic behavior isn't that much different from that of others. Our religious faith has weakened. Historian Paul Johnson says Nietzsche foresaw that as religious faith weakened, it would be replaced by "secular ideology." What does this mean?

"*Secularism*," according to Fr. John Hardon, "is a faith believing that only the world of space and time exists. Only this world matters." God and His revealed truth is denied or ignored. An *ideology* is a set of ideas that constitute a comprehensive vision, or way of looking at things. Communism, Nazism, socialism and extreme environmentalism are examples of secular ideologies. Catholics have been affected by secularism, with the result that many feel free to reject revealed truth, and to assert that each of us can decide for himself what is right or wrong based on human reason. The name for this heresy of "subjective Christianity" is *modernism*.

"*Modernism*," in the words of Fr. Hardon, "is basing one's faith on one's own inner mind and feelings rather than conforming the mind to God and His objective truth." When Catholics wrongly interpret the social justice teachings of the Church as an endorsement of socialism and simultaneously say that they are "following their conscience" when rejecting Church teaching on contraception, homosexual acts, same-sex marriage, voting for pro-abortion politicians and so on, they are falling, or have fallen, into modernism.

Monsignor William Smith, in his (Monday nights, 7 pm) series on moral theology, addresses this problem. He says, "Conscience does not make law. Conscience does not invent right and wrong. Conscience applies what's right and wrong to the here and now." In other words, the natural law, divine Revelation and the Magisterium of the Church, summarized in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, tell us what is right and wrong: conscience applies this knowledge to particular situations.

St. Paul, in Romans 12:2, tells us "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." St. Michael Broadcasting can help each of us renew our minds so that we can know and do God's will. It can help each of us so that we can leaven the culture instead of conforming to it. The arguments against *secularism* and *secular ideologies* are found on this station in a way that they are on no other.

Please make this apostolate your own. We are not breaking even and need your financial support. But if you can't contribute this way, offer up this suffering for the success of the station, keep the station in your prayers and support its mission by telling others about it.

Dominus vobiscum,

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpt for October 2011: Pope Leo XIII, *Rerum Novarum*, 1891 and Pope Pius XI *Quadragesimo Anno*, 1931

“The main tenet of socialism, community of goods, must be utterly rejected.” “Paternal authority can be neither abolished nor absorbed by the state...socialists... in setting aside the parent and setting up a State supervision, act against natural justice, and destroy the structure of the home.” Pope Leo XIII, *Rerum Novarum*, 1891

“...no one can be at the same time a good Catholic and a true socialist.” Pope Pius XI *Quadragesimo Anno*, 1931

Latin Mass Fund If you would like your contribution to go to our efforts to broadcast the Mass in Latin (Tridentine form), please include a note with your contribution.

Large Donation needed. We have the opportunity to broadcast *Maria Vision*, a **Catholic Spanish language station** from Mexico on one of our sub-channels. We could help those who for whom English is a second language know their faith better and in turn help the United States become a better country. Equipment and installation charges for this would cost \$12,383. If you can fund this project, please contact the station.

Weekend Movies See the top of the back page of our October newsletter for a listing of weekend movies. Our newsletter can be downloaded in PDF format. [Click here.](#)

New This Month: Professor Carol's *Discovering Music: 300 Years of Interaction in Western Music, Arts, History, and Culture*. This delightful series shows how music and art reflect Western culture. We thank Professor Carol for allowing us to show this on our station. We also have some programs on vocations: *Completely Christ's: The Consecrated Life*, and *Answering the Master's Call*. A sadder story is *The Tragedy of Thomas Merton*.

September 2011 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

According to the 2010 Minnesota Department of Public Safety *Uniform Crime Report* there were 76 rapes in Minnesota in 1960. By 2010 the population of Minnesota increased 54%, but the number of rapes increased to 2230, or 2800%, from one every five days, to six per day. In 1960, records weren't kept on the number of sex offenders living in Minneapolis, but according to the Minneapolis Police Department, in 2010, there were “over 1300” sex offenders (i.e., one convicted of a sexual offense such as child molestation, rape, possession of child pornography, etc.) living in Minneapolis. This means that there is one convicted sex offender per 294 residents, which equals about 24 per square mile, or 1 every 4.7 city blocks. This figure, of course, does not include sex offenders who have not been caught and convicted.

What caused this dramatic increase in sex crime? There are no doubt multiple causes, but one is certainly the increased availability and use of pornography. Pornography is big business. A few years ago, a news story said that the highest price ever paid for an internet address was \$9 million for “porn.com”. Pornography is cheap to make and lucrative. Research has shown that pornography is highly addictive “*the addiction effect*.” Then the user wants something more deviant or sadistic. This is

called the “*escalation effect*.” Then the user becomes desensitized, and what was once shocking or repulsive no longer seems so. This is called *desensitization*. Next, there is the tendency to *act out sexually* what one has seen. It’s not uncommon to see stories where the one who molested or assaulted someone says he was copying what he saw or read. For example, the headline of a story in the *Washington Post*, February 1996, reads “Boy, 11, Who Raped 5-Year-Old Says He Copied Cable TV.”

One study of forty child molestation cases in Los Angeles found pornography present in every case. Infamous serial sex murderers such as cannibal Jeffrey Dahmer (17 murders), John Gacy (33 murders) and Ted Bundy (30-100 murders) were all voracious consumers of pornography. Bundy testified to the “see-fantasize-do” effects of pornography: “*You become addicted to pornography... you keep craving something harder... you reach that jumping-off point where you begin to wonder whether doing it would give you that which is beyond just reading it or looking at it. I know that it had an impact on me that was central to the violent behavior that I reached... Lots of kids are going to be dead tomorrow because of the things that are available.*”

Nonetheless, the ACLU defends the availability of pornography and portrays this as an increase in freedom. The exact opposite is true: it enslaves those who use it, and women and children are less free to go about unmolested. How strange that tobacco use is attacked because of its adverse effect on physical health, while the adverse effect of pornography on mental health is ignored, and its effect on others far more lethal than "second-hand smoke." Years ago, the late Dr. William Marra said that “The purpose of the law is to objectify justice, to protect innocence and to make virtue easy.” Pornography does none of these. It degrades those who make it, warps those who use it, undermines marriages, and leaves dead people in its trail. To quote Fr. John Hardon, S.J.: “Sexual perversity leads to homicide: that’s the verdict of world history.”

We should do what we can to make this a more just and safe society. That includes fighting pornography. A local organization fighting pornography by trying to encourage businesses not to carry *City Pages* is the Christian Action League of Minnesota (www.calofmn.com) P.O. Box 2712, Minneapolis, MN 55402 . The Christian Action League also recommends porn-free hotels (www.cleanhotels.com).

We will have a safer and more just country when we have more virtuous people. Resisting the attraction of pornography is difficult, and for many, if not all, requires the graces that come through the sacraments. Your station can help viewers understand the faith better and to seek the sacraments, thereby helping them to both resist the enslaving effects of pornography and to live more virtuous lives. Please participate in this apostolate through your financial support (if you are able), through your prayers, and by telling others about the station.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam,
Volunteer

Michael Bird, President and Chief

Excerpt for September 2011: From the *Man of Law Tale* by Geoffrey Chaucer (1343-1400)

From the *Man of Law Tale*, by Geoffrey Chaucer (1343-1400)

“Foul lust of lechery, behold thy due!
Not only dost thou darken a man’s mind,
But bringest destruction on his body too,
In the beginning, all thy works are blind
And in their end are grief. How many find
That not the act alone, but even the will
To set about it can deprave and kill!”

August 2011 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

In his book *Life of Christ*, published in 1958, Bishop Fulton Sheen says, “In the life of every individual and every nation there are three moments: a time of visitation or privilege in the form of a blessing from God; a time of rejection in which the Divine is forgotten; and a time of doom or disaster. Judgment (or disaster) is the consequence of human decisions and proves that the world is guided by God’s presence... in disobeying His will, men destroy themselves; in stabbing Him, it is their own hearts they slay; in denying Him, it is their city and their nation that they bring to ruin.” (pp. 263-4)

It would seem we are currently in “the time of rejection in which the Divine is forgotten.” It is our duty to help turn this around.

In 1994, the late Fr. John Hardon, S. J., gave a talk titled *How to Reconvert America*, and said “America needs a massive conversion...the culture is reverting back to the worst days of the Roman Empire... and is more estranged from God than... at the dawn of the first century. Our nation is wiping out the family. Unless we convert those who have either lost their faith, or never knew Jesus Christ and His Church, the days of America are numbered.”

All of this sounds discouraging, but Fr. Hardon enjoins us to “avoid discouragement like the plague.” God in His providence has placed us here, now, for this work. We should “practice cheerfulness and cultivate the spirit of interior joy... Never complain about the cross... Our greatest joy on Earth should be suffering out of love for Jesus Christ. According to Pope John Paul II the 21st century will be the most glorious in human history on the condition that we who have the true faith are *living* our faith, *suffering* for the faith, and *enjoying* it.”

“Suffering and enjoying it”: This is a tall order, easier said than done. Nonetheless, it’s what we are called to do, to strive to do. To re-evangelize our country, we, each one of us, the laity, have certain obligations. Again, according to Fr. Hardon, we need to **understand** the faith, to **live** it faithfully (in public and private), to **pray** our faith (strengthening our relationship with God through Mass, the sacraments, daily prayer and adoration of the Real Presence), to **share** it through personal conversation and evangelization, and finally, to **suffer** for our faith by uniting our trials ---physical and spiritual--- in union with Christ, for the conversion of sinners and the extension of Christ’s kingdom.”

As it becomes more difficult to live our faith, we will continually face the choice: compromise and “go with the flow,” or stand up for the truth and expect the white martyrdom of scorn, loneliness and ridicule, or the red martyrdom or blood and death. This requires superhuman strength that can only come from a supernatural source. This strength (grace) comes from God. Father Hardon says, “If we’re going to convert America

back, someone (each of us) has to merit the grace. We contribute to the conversion of America by living lives of heroic virtue.”

St. Michael Broadcasting helps with this re-evangelization by helping us understand the faith and fortifying us that we might suffer for it. Please make this apostolate your own through your financial contributions, by telling others, and with your prayers. The station needs the help of all who benefit from it and want it to succeed.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpt for August - Fr. John Hardon; Volunteers Needed; Large Donaton Needed; Latin Mass Fund.

“Jesus needs us to supply, as St. Paul says, what is wanting in the sufferings of Christ. What are we being told? Did not Christ’s death redeem the world? Yes, but conditionally. What is the condition? The condition is that we unite our sufferings with His, our blood in body and spirit with His. Martyrdom is not an appendix to Christianity. It belongs to its essence. If we unite our sufferings for the faith with the Precious Blood of Christ, we shall be cooperating with Him in the redemption of the world. The secret is to love the cross. Why? Because our Love was crucified and we wish to be crucified with Him. Why? Because then we shall be glorified with Him.” *Fr. John Hardon, S. J.*

“Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in Heaven.” Matthew 5:11

Volunteers Needed! We volunteers are overwhelmed with work! If you have skills in “digitizing media,” we *desperately* need your help. We have a huge backlog of programs on VHS and DVD and older media that we need to convert into video files. Candidates should possess knowledge of digitizing, editing and encoding; familiarity with digital audio editing techniques; knowledge of Final Cut Pro, web skills (ex., familiarity with video files and codecs); knowledge of MS office, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, on-line editing and color corrections. If you have all or some of these skills, please email the station: info@stmichaelbroadcasting.com.

For a more complete list of the volunteer tasks and the skills needed, please see the back of this schedule.

Large Donation needed. We have the opportunity to broadcast **Maria Vision**, a Catholic Spanish language station from Mexico. We could help those who don’t yet know English well enough to know their faith better and in turn help the United States become a better country. Equipment and installation charges for this would cost \$12,383. If you can fund this project, please contact the station.

Latin Mass Fund If you would like our contribution to go toward our goal of broadcasting the Mass in Latin (Tridentine), please indicate this when you contribute.

July 2011 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

A few years ago, at the invitation of advisory board member Msgr. Odong, I visited Uganda. Juxtaposing their society and ours made me wonder, “What does it mean to be ‘civilized’?” Generally, Ugandans have very few material goods and modern conveniences. Few have cars or even bikes, so most people walk. Roads, even rural roads, often have many people walking along each side. I recall one woman hobbling

along on crutches. Part of one leg was missing, yet she was carrying something on her head and had a bag in one hand. I couldn't help but think that in the USA a van would have dropped her off at a supermarket and the supermarket would have had an electric cart for her convenience.

Most households lack running water, gas and electricity, so many of those walking on the roadsides are carrying wood for cooking, or jugs to contain the water they hand-pump at a well. Sr. Grace, the principal at a Catholic boarding school of 760 girls, told me her school had no electricity. I saw no motorized farm equipment during my entire time in the country, but did see entire families out in the field, hoeing. You get the impression that few people, if any, are sitting at home collecting unemployment while they look for a job. It's more like, if you want to survive, you work.

By these measures, Uganda seemed less "civilized" than the US. But are these the right criteria? Single women would walk along the side of the road in the dark, something you would never see in the U.S. for fear of sexual assault. Most people I met were gracious and mannerly. Parents had larger families. Children are less likely to be intentionally killed by trained doctors before they are born. One blessing of little electricity is that people were spared the corrupting influences of Hollywood and the porn industry. Abortion and homosexual acts are illegal. And even though most families have little money, they try to send their children to schools that reflect their--- not the government's--- values. Often these schools are Catholic, and the students learn solid subjects: reading, writing, math and their faith ---avoiding the social engineering so prevalent in the U.S.

I couldn't help but think that should a great catastrophe decimate what is still called "Western Civilization," Uganda might play the noble role that Ireland once did during the Dark Ages, and keep it alive. This quote from Fulton Sheen comes to mind:

"The Church is like Noah's Ark... carrying eight persons to salvation. The world today is tearing up the photographs of a good society, a good family, a happy, individual personal life. But the Church is keeping the negatives. And when the moment comes when the world wants a reprint, we will have them."

The first Catholic missionaries arrived in Uganda in 1879. Only seven years later, in 1886, their first converts, young men who refused to accommodate the homosexual advances of their king, were, at his command, burned alive. One, Kizito, was only 13. The most famous, Charles Lwanga, was 26. Before he was burned, he said, "My friends, we shall before long meet again in Heaven... Keep up your courage and persevere to the end."

"The blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church." Today, over 41% of Uganda is Catholic and, though I think even many of them don't know it, a light of civilization in a darkening world. Let us take courage from the 22 martyrs of Uganda as we see how much Christianity has affected Uganda for the better in a mere 130 years.

At St. Michael Broadcasting, we strive to keep civilization alive by bringing the Light of the World to all those within our broadcast area. Please help make this apostolate your own by praying for its success, telling others, and if possible, by making a financial contribution.

St. Charles Lwanga, help us persevere!

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpt for July 2011 -- Fr. Barron's 10 Part Series called the "Catholicism"; Fr. Corapi's broadcasts of his popular programs that are faithful to the Churches teachings are hoped to be resumed in the future; and Saturday's Specials for July 2011

Fr. Barron has in production a 10 part series called the *Catholicism*. In this gorgeously filmed work, Fr. Barron travels the lands of the Bible, to the great shrines of Europe, to America, Asia, Latin America, to Africa (Uganda) - and beyond, to witness the passion and glory of the faith that claims over a billion of the earth's people as its own. St. Michael Broadcasting will host a screening of two of these 50 minute episodes at St. Charles Borromeo Church, St. Anthony, on Sunday, July 31, at 7 pm. A "screening" is a rough draft of a film about which viewers offer criticisms, so that editors can make the final cut. If you would like to attend this free screening, please call the studio at 612-724-2265 and leave a message stating the names of those who will attend and a call back number, or register online by emailing us at info@stmichaelbroadcasting.com. Seating is limited to 200. Please call and register today!

Fr. Corapi Beginning in July, based on the advice of our priest advisors, we are suspending broadcasts of Fr. Corapi. On June 17, Fr. Corapi announced "I am not going to be involved in public ministry as a priest any longer. There are certain persons in authority in the Church that want me gone, and I shall be gone." All we know is that Fr. Corapi has been accused of some sort of non-criminal impropriety by a female employee, a charge he denies. He strenuously objects to the investigative process set up by the bishops as he believes it unjustly straightjackets his ability to establish his innocence. Since Fr. Corapi's programs are very popular and faithful to the teaching of the Church, we do this with great sorrow. We hope to resume his programs in the near future.

Saturday Specials this month include *Christianity's Message to the Middle East* by Monsignor Sharbel, July 2; *Theology of Human Suffering*, July 9; *In the Wake of Choice*, July 16; *Archdiocesan Ordination Mass*, July 23; and *Beginning Homeschooling*, July 30.

[June 2011 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.](#)

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

The weekend of April 29 I attended the national meeting, held in Mundelein, Illinois, of the **Institute on Religious Life (IRL)**. At this meeting, the founder of this station, Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., received the *Pro Fidelitate et Virtute* (For Faithfulness and Valor) award. IRL gave Fr. Baker this award "...to express their respect for his fidelity as a Jesuit and for his dedication as a priest, theologian and Catholic journalist. Father's unwavering fidelity to the teachings of Christ helped His Church to navigate through the murky waters of renewal following the Second Vatican Council." At the award banquet, Father gave a talk called "Catholic and Proud of It." Congratulations, Father Baker!

Though I first met Father personally 3 years ago, this was the first time I learned his biographical information: He joined the Jesuits in 1947 and spent two years in novitiate. He studied Latin and Greek for two years. He studied philosophy for three years. He taught high school for three years. He took four years of theology, and in the third year of this (1960), was ordained a priest. He spent another year in the novitiate, called "tertianship," undergoing intense spiritual training. Then for two years he taught philosophy at Gonzaga in Spokane. Then he spent three more years in graduate school. Finally, in 1967, he received his Ph.D. He speaks Latin, Greek, German, Italian, and French and has a reading knowledge of Spanish. I told Father, "No wonder it seems like you know everything!"

The **Institute on Religious Life** was founded in 1974 as a response to the dramatic fall-off in vocations to the consecrated religious life. Founders included Fr. John Hardon, S.J., Blessed Mother Teresa, Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, Servant of God, and many others. Its purpose is to support the growth, development and renewal of consecrated life---particularly vowed religious life--- as a gift to the entire Church and an evangelical witness to the world.

At the meeting, there were priests and sisters from everywhere. I met two sisters from North Viet Nam from the Lovers of the Sacred Heart, who are studying at Marquette. There was a new order of young, fervent sisters from Ohio called Children of Mary. There were Passionist Nuns, Poor Clares, Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, Canons Regular of St. John Cantius, Rosminians, Norbertine Fathers, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, and so on. A number of the orders had very young members. It was very inspiring to see so many Priests Brothers and Sisters who, as it says in the prayer for vocations "....love Thee with their whole strength and gladly *spend their entire lives* to serve Thy Church and to make Thee known and loved." Like the Blessed Mother, they are giving a whole-hearted "Yes" to God. All of us, like them, in whatever our capacity: young, old, single, married--- are called to serve.

If you are like me, you don't know that most of these orders even exist, much less what they do. One of the questions that came to my mind was, "How did these people find these orders and how did these orders find these people?" We would like to devote some broadcast time to these faithful orders. If you would like to volunteer to contact these orders for informational DVDs that we could play, please contact the station.

We need your help! Many of our listeners write in, saying they are glad the station exists because they've never seen anything like it before. Programs like *Maafa 21*, *Demographic Bomb*, Fr. Barron, *Stop Planned Parenthood*, Msgr. Smith's series on Moral Theology etc., are simply not available elsewhere. We continue to operate at a loss. Please help the station grow and thrive by making regular financial contributions if possible, by telling others about the station, and by praying for its success.

Sincerely yours in Christ, Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

You may reach the Institute on Religious Life at P.O. box 7500, Libertyville, IL 60048

847-573-8975 www.ReligiousLife.com

New shows this month include: Michael Voris, *Armor of God II*; *Catholic Underground*, a show geared for a younger audience; Fr. Baker's *Theology of the Old Testament*; Fr. Corapi, *Come Home to the Catholic Church and Heaven and Hell*; Fr. Groeschel, *The Sacraments and the Catechism*. Because of the continuing dispute about marriage, we will once again show Dr. Jennifer Roback Morse's four part series *Same Sex marriage Affects Everyone*.

Fr. Barron has in production a 10 part series called the Catholicism. In the series, Fr. Barron travels the lands of the Bible, to the great shrines of Europe, to America, Asia, Latin America, to Africa - and beyond, to witness the passion and glory of the faith that claims over a billion of the earth's people as its own. St. Michael Broadcasting will host a screening of two of these 50 minute episodes at St. Charles Borromeo Church, St. Anthony, on Sunday, July 31, at 7 pm. A "screening" is a rough draft of a film in which viewers critique what they like, what was unclear etc., so that editors can make the final cut. If you would like to attend this screening, please call the studio and leave a message and call back number, or register on the Word on Fire website: wordonfire.org.

Excerpt for June 2011 - My Mission in Life by John Henry Cardinal Newman (1848)

God knows me and calls me by my name.... God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission—I never may know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. Somehow I am necessary for His purposes... I have a part in this great work; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do His work; I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling. Therefore I will trust Him. Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him; In perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him; If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. My sickness, or perplexity, or sorrow may be necessary causes of some great end, which is quite beyond us. He does nothing in vain; He may prolong my life, He may shorten it; He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends, He may throw me among

strangers, He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide the future from me— still He knows what He is about.... Let me be Thy blind instrument. I ask not to see— I ask not to know—I ask simply to be used.

May 2011 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

Throughout his pontificate, and before as Cardinal Ratzinger, Pope Benedict XVI has criticized the West for the limitations it has placed on reason. The West, he says, believes it can only reason about what it can empirically test. The problem with this is "...this method excludes the question of God, making it appear an unscientific or pre-scientific question. Consequently, we are faced with a reduction of the radius of science and reason...." By placing God and moral truth are beyond the "radius of reason," we predetermine the outcome of our reasoning. This brings to mind the old song by the Statler Brothers called *Flowers on the Wall*. In that song, the prisoner "plays solitaire 'till dawn, with a deck of fifty one." He can't win. Neither can we win if we imprison ourselves by limiting reason: "...the subjective conscience becomes the sole arbiter of what is ethical... In a world based on calculations, it is the calculation of consequences that determines what should be considered moral..." These "calculations" can prove deadly.

Were the Nazis "reasonable"? In 1920, German jurist Karl Binding and psychiatrist Alfred Hoche released a book called *The Permission to Destroy Life Unworthy of Life*. Within twenty years, the Nazis were killing the mentally handicapped and deformed and then those unwanted by the state. A "calculation" had been made. Communists made the same "calculation" as they murdered tens of millions in their efforts to impose their "Workers' Paradise." In our country, about 90% of women who receive a Down's syndrome diagnosis for their unborn child choose abortion. A calculation is made, ignoring the rights of the innocent, weak and voiceless.

Some ancient Greek philosophers believed one could reason about ethics and God. Aristotle reasoned there was an "Uncaused Cause." The Roman Cicero reasoned that "the universe is to be regarded as a single commonwealth, since all are subject to the heavenly law and divine intelligence of Almighty God." Similarly, St. Paul, in Romans 1:18-32, says that God can be known through His creation and that truth is accessible. But, says St. Paul, the Romans don't want truth, because they don't want the demands the truth would make on them: "Claiming to be wise, they became fools." Pope Benedict warns "...the question of God is ineluctable; one is not permitted to abstain from casting a vote." We must either live as if God does, or does not, exist: "...the attempt, carried to extremes, to shape human affairs to the total exclusion of God leads us more and more to the brink of the abyss, toward the utter annihilation of man."

What can we do? According to the Holy Father, "Our greatest need in the present historical moment is people who make God credible in this world by means of the enlightened faith they live... We need men whose intellect is enlightened by the light of God, men whose hearts are opened by God, so that their intellect can speak to the intellect of others and their hearts can open the hearts of others. It is only by means of men who have been touched by God that God can return to be with mankind.... a believer who allows himself to be formed and guided by the Church's faith, no matter what his weaknesses and difficulties may be, ought to be, a window opened onto the light of the living God; and if he genuinely believes, that is what he is. The believer ought to be a force of opposition to the powers that keep the truth a prisoner and to the wall of prejudices that prevents people from seeing God... Just as the Samaritan woman became a living invitation to meet Jesus, so too, in the darkness of a world that is largely opposed to God, the faith of believers is an essential reference point in the search for God."

St. Michael Broadcasting can help us all "enlighten our intellects by the light of God." Archbishop Fulton Sheen once wrote that "Immorality is anti-reason." Here we show why abortion and "same-sex marriage" are

anti-reason. Here we show why the “freedom” to view pornography is slavery and destructive of marriage and civil order. But we need your help! The last few months, contributions to your station have only come to about \$3000/month, and it takes about \$11,700/month to operate. So please contribute if you can, pray for our success, and help expand viewership by telling others about the station.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Excerpt for May 2011 -- May Specials and Latin Mass Fund

May Specials Specials for this month include a four part series by Fr. Corapi on the Blessed Mother called ***The Moon Under Her Feet***. Another is a 5 part series by Fr. Pacwa called ***Islam and Christianity*** which is helpful for Christians wishing to understand Islam, and Muslims wanting to understand Christianity. In addition we are presenting some programs by Bishop Sheen on **Alcoholism**, a program by Fr. Corapi titled **Socialism**, and an interesting program by E. Michael Jones called ***How Contraception Causes Drive-by Shootings***.

Latin Mass Fund If you would like your contribution to go toward our efforts to broadcast a weekly Mass in Latin, (Tridentine form), please include a note with your contribution.

April-2011 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, at St. Michael Broadcasting.

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

The *Twilight Zone* was a television series that ran from 1959-1964. It was unique in that its episodes often covered themes such as life after death, time travel, survival after a cataclysmic disaster, and so on. One episode titled “*Eye of the Beholder*,” went something like this:

A woman is in an operating room with her head wrapped completely in a gauze bandage. She has had an operation on her face. The doctors and nurses surround her, their faces covered with surgical masks. The patient says that she hopes that the operation was successful because she wants to fit in and look like other people. A doctor assures her that they did the best they could, but tells her that if the operation was not successful, not to worry, she can go live among people that look like her where she will fit in.

Slowly the bandages are removed until finally they are all off. The doctors and nurses turn away: they have failed. The woman asks for a mirror, looks into it, and screams. Finally the audience gets to see the woman's face: she is beautiful. The doctors and nurses take off their surgical masks: they are grotesque. A handsome man arrives to take the woman away to where she can live “with her own kind.”

This story is an allegory with a message for those trying to follow Christ. Increasingly, those who know that contraception, pornography, fornication, feticide, euthanasia, human cloning, euthanasia and homosexual acts are immoral are called “extremists,” while those who think all these are okay are described as “moderates.” Like the doctors and nurses, the intelligentsia and university professors look on the “extremists” as freaks and wonder how they failed. Those who know the truth must resist the desire to “fit in” and the pressure to think that they are “extreme.”

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches us that there is a connection between truth and moral beauty: “Truth is beautiful in itself.” (CCC 2500) Truth is not a matter of subjective judgment or majority

opinion. We have great examples of those who have sought and found the truth: St. Paul, whose scales fell from his eyes, and St. Augustine who wrote, "Late have I loved You, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved You! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for You." More recently, we have Dr. Bernard Nathanson, the Jewish-atheist abortionist who died in February. After being touched by "The Hand of God," he "turned away from his sins," (Ezekiel 18:21) and became an indefatigable defender of the unborn.

The patron saint of this station, St. Michael the Archangel, is often depicted with a sword and a shield emblazoned with the inscription "Quis ut Deus?" which means "Who is like God?" We have to fight the presumptuous tendency within ourselves and in society to arrogate the right to determine what is good and what is evil. St. Michael Broadcasting can help viewers discover the truth, submit to it, and fortify us to fight for it. Please help your station continue its mission through a financial contribution, by telling others, and by praying for its success. We who volunteer our time need your help.

Sincerely in Christ,

Michael Bird, President and Chief volunteer

Excerpt for April 2011- Quotation from Pope Benedict XVI, Dec. 20, 2010

"Alexis de Tocqueville, in his day, observed that democracy in America had become possible and had worked because there existed a fundamental moral consensus which, transcending individual denominations, united everyone. Only if there is such a consensus on the essentials can constitutions and law function. This fundamental consensus derived from the Christian heritage is at risk wherever its place, the place of moral reasoning, is taken by the purely instrumental rationality... To resist this eclipse of reason and to preserve its capacity for seeing the essential, for seeing God and man, for seeing what is good and what is true, is the common interest that must unite all people of good will. The very future of the world is at stake." Pope Benedict XVI, December 20, 2010

April Specials Since many weren't able to receive our March programming due to our transmitter problems, we are repeating some of those programs this month. Specials for April include two shorts: ***Mystical Revelations of the Sacred Heart to St. Margaret-Mary Alacoque*** and ***Germaine: Requiem of a Soul***. Both of these were produced by Our Lady's Tears Productions in Mankato and are very good. Other specials include: ***A Lenten Retreat for Women*** by Bishop LeVoir; ***Portraits in Courage***, a documentary about those struggling with same-sex attraction; ***Demographic Winter/Bomb***, two films that predict the dire economic and social consequences of low birth rates; and a rare **six part series by Fr. John Hardon, S.J.**

Latin Mass Fund If you would like your contribution to go to our efforts to broadcast the Mass in Latin (Tridentine form), please include a note with your contribution.

March 2011 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

This month I asked Fr. Kenneth Baker, president of our predecessor station, and a good friend and wise advisor to St. Michael Broadcasting, if he would write us a few words about Lent. He kindly obliged:

Fasting during Lent

Fasting during Lent is an ancient Christian tradition. In the Bible we read that Moses fasted for forty days on Mt. Sinai and Jesus fasted for forty days after his baptism by John and before beginning his public life or

proclaiming the Good News of salvation. The three religious practices connected with Lent are fasting, prayer and almsgiving (see CCC 1434).

Before Vatican II Lent was serious business for observant Catholics. They had to fast every day except Sundays. That meant one full meal in the evening, with a few ounces of food for breakfast and lunch which taken together was less than a full meal.

Well-meaning Catholics often ask why it is necessary to fast. Many of the saints were rigorous fasters—St. John Vianney is an example that comes to mind. There are several purposes. Fasting and denying oneself food brings on physical weakness and a certain amount of pain. This experience of weakness brings home to us that we are very fragile beings who are totally dependent on God; fasting helps us show due reverence to Almighty God and to grow in humility so that we are subject to God and will not want to offend him by committing a mortal sin. Fasting strengthens our will power so that we can control our passions and emotions which can lead us into serious sin. Fasting is also recommended as a way to make reparation to God for our past sins; this means that when one dies he will spend less time in purgatory because he has already made satisfaction for his sins. One can fast also in order to beg God for special graces; often the purpose is to beg grace for the conversion of sinners, especially those in our own family, or for the grace to find God's will in some important choice.

We can also express our interior penance by almsgiving or donating to charitable causes. It is easy to link this Lenten practice to fasting, since the money saved by eating less can be donated to help feed those who are in need. One can do this, for example, by donating the amount saved to Blessed Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, who run many soup kitchens and provide shelter for the homeless, or to some local charitable work.

Recently a friend asked me whether or not it is acceptable to fast during Lent with the purpose of losing weight. Here, like good Thomists, we must make a distinction. The fasting required by the Church has to be done for a religious motive—to worship God or do penance. Fasting to lose weight is a good purpose, but it is secular and for good health. Fasting during Lent is a religious activity and that should be its main purpose. But many things we do have several motives, not just one. Thus, one can legitimately fast during Lent as a penitential act as the main reason, and also hope that one will lose some weight in the process. But if it is just to lose weight then obviously it has no religious significance and will not merit special graces.

Currently the Church requires only two days of fasting during the year—Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. According to Canon Law all adults are bound by the law of fast up to the beginning of their 60th year. All persons who have completed their 14th year are bound by the law of abstinence from meat on Friday (Canon 1252).

The purpose of the law of fasting and abstinence is to help Catholics grow in the love of God and neighbor.
—Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J.

On behalf of all of us at St. Michael Broadcasting, I thank you, Fr. Baker, for your past service, and for this short instruction on Lent.

God bless you all this penitential season,

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

[Excerpt for March 2011 - Lent begins Wednesday, March 9th -- Latin Mass Fund -- We need your support!](#)

Lent begins Wednesday, March 9. Specials for Lent include *Conversion*, by Fr. Barron; *Lenten Power Pack* by Fr. Corapi; *Lenten Retreat for Women* by Abp. John LeVoi. Other March specials include *Portraits in Courage*, a documentary about those struggling with same-sex attraction, and *Demographic Winter (or Bomb)*, two films that predict the dire social and economic consequences of falling birth rates.

Latin Mass Fund If you would like your contribution to go to our efforts to broadcast the Mass in Latin (Tridentine form), please include a note with your contribution.

We need your support! Last year it cost about \$141,000 to keep St. Michael Broadcasting on the air (not including needed new equipment). That is about \$368/day. Some weeks we don't get \$368.00! So help out financially if you can. If you can't, well, don't worry. Keep those prayers coming and telling others about the station!

February 2011 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

In the old *Baltimore Catechism*, one of the very first questions for grade school students after "Who made you?" is "Why did God make you?" To which the answer is, "God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him on Earth, and to be happy with Him forever in Heaven." It's remarkable how easy this is to remember--- thanks to my dedicated and much under-appreciated Dominican Sisters. What's perhaps more remarkable is that there are so many highly intelligent and educated adults that don't know the answer to this question.

"Why did God make you?" "To know Him, to love Him... to be happy with Him forever..." When a young man and woman meet and there is an attraction, each wants to know more and *understand* more about the other so that their love can grow. They might marry and remain *faithful* for their entire lives. So it is with God and man. God is our origin and our destiny. There is an attraction. In the words of St. Augustine, "You have made us for Thyself Oh God, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee." There is a need, a longing, to know more and to understand more about God and His will for us, and a desire to be with Him forever.

In his book *With Us today: On the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist*, Father John Hardon, S.J., mentions the parable of the sower whose seed bore no yield because the birds of the air came and picked up the seed. When the disciples pressed Jesus to explain the meaning of this parable, Jesus replied, "The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the Word of the Kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart." (Mat 13:19) Says Fr. Hardon, "Because they failed to *understand* the Word of God, the evil one came like a bird of prey and stole the Word of God from their hearts."

Our goal at St. Michael Broadcasting is to broadcast programs that will help all people grow in their understanding of the "Word of the Kingdom." One recent caller to the station, who identified herself as an older woman, said that in the last two years she had learned more about her faith than she had in her entire earlier life. Another viewer said that though his firmly held beliefs differed with Catholicism, he liked Bishop Sheen. He suggested that we broadcast video lectures on Philosophy, "perhaps by a Jesuit teaching Metaphysics, Epistemology, or Aquinas's Commentaries on Aristotle... There is an audience." He's right. Just as there is mathematical truth, there is metaphysical (beyond the physical) truth that is true for both Catholics and non-Catholics. Bishop Sheen often lectured and argued from this basis. There *is* an audience, and we would like to broadcast such programs.

Whereas other stations are busy producing "reality shows," our programming focuses on the ultimate reality show, which is Life, soon to be followed by Death, Judgment, Heaven or Hell. The stakes are eternal. Please help your station continue to bring its unique content to others by praying for its success, telling others, and if possible, supporting it with a financial contribution. Your station can increase your and other viewers' understanding so that we may all one day "be happy with Him forever in Heaven."

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael Bird, President

The Holy Eucharist, the Presence Sacrament

(Excerpted from Chapter 1 of *With Us today: On the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist*, by Fr. John Hardon, S.J.)

“This should be etched in bronze: We need to have the Word of God not only in our hearts, but also in our minds... The Catholic faith cannot just be believed to be retained, it must be understood... The one virtue upon which all the other virtues depend is faith. It is so important to remember this: We believe with the intellect. Either our minds are thoroughly convinced and our conviction keeps growing with increased intelligibility, or the inevitable happens---not only will the other virtues be weakened and lost, but faith itself will disappear. That is why the strength of the Catholic Church in any period of her history depends on the depth with which professed Catholics understand their faith...

Is there one basic mystery whose weakening has been at the root of this crisis of faith? Yes there is. The single most fundamental mystery of Christianity that... needs to be strengthened and deepened if we are to preserve the Catholic Church in our day is “The Mystery of Faith” itself. It is the mystery of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ on earth today in the fullness of His divinity and the fullness of His humanity in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the altar... We believe Christ instituted the Church so that through the Church the graces of salvation might be communicated to a sin-laden world.

The main source of these salvific graces is Christ Himself in the Holy Eucharist, and the foundation of the Eucharist is the Real Presence.”

Since February is the month of Valentine’s Day, we will continue to broadcast programs that strengthen the understanding of marriage. See the series “Same-Sex Marriage Affects Everyone.”

Complementing this is programming that focuses on the love of God and man in the Eucharist. See the programs by Michael Voris, Fr. Barron and Fr. Corapi.

You too can “earmark”! We are continuing to raise money so that we can buy the equipment to broadcast the Latin Mass (Tridentine form). If you would like your contribution used for this purpose, please let us know. Also, we thank you viewers who have responded to our survey. If you haven’t yet sent yours in, please do so. This will help us improve our programming and attract sponsors.

Note: If you send in a contribution by mail, and you have an e-mail address, please include this if you don’t mind. This way we can send you an acknowledgement by e-mail and save on postage.

We do not share contributors’ names or e-mail addresses with anyone.

January 2011 Letter from Michael Bird , President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

January, 2011 A.D.

The 1994 *Guinness Book of World Records* includes the entry: “Murder, Government-sanctioned.” Top spot goes to Mao Tse-tung’s communist China under which as many as 63 million were killed. Second place goes to the Soviet Union, under Lenin and Stalin, who killed 40 million of their countrymen. Coming in a distant third is Germany, under Hitler and the Nazis, who killed 5-6 million Jews and 1-2 million *goyim*. Fourth is Cambodia, under, surprise, the communists again, who killed about 2.7 million, or one in three, of their countrymen. One thing that’s notable about these is that in all cases the countries were governed by Godless ideologies. Not one was a “theocracy.”

It’s also interesting that this information slowly disappears from the *Guinness Book of World Records*. In 1995, there’s no mention of the Soviet Union. In 1998, China disappears. In 1999, the entire entry disappears. It’s like something out of the book *1984*, by George Orwell. In that book, the government removes information from books that undermine its ideology. Why did *Guinness* remove this information? Was there a political motive? Whatever the reason, if one thinks of legalized abortion as “government-sanctioned murder,” those countries with the most legal or forced abortions would take the top spots. According to the website Life Dynamics, there have been approximately 52

million abortions in the United States since *Roe v. Wade*, which would rank us above Stalin. It's painful to think that our country, which is so good in so many ways, allows such evil. We must pray for our country.

In January, St. Michael Broadcasting will remember the ignominious *Roe* decision by including many shows on the subject of abortion in our programming. We hope to encourage viewers to keep up the noble fight against abortion by featuring the series *Stop Planned Parenthood*, which talks about the history of Planned Parenthood and what we can do to oppose them. We will show *Maafa 21*, a powerful documentary about the eugenic roots of Planned Parenthood, and Planned Parenthood's targeting of minorities, from its inception to the present day. We will also show an interview with Theresa Burke, the founder of Rachel's Vineyard, an organization that helps women with post-abortion healing.

This month we are sending out a questionnaire. We need to get sponsors in order to break even and grow. Sponsors like to know the demographics of their audience. So if you could fill out one of the enclosed sheets and send it in that would help your station. There is no need to sign your name. We're not trying to get your personal information, just general demographic information. If you are concerned about this, and you want to send in a check, send in your contribution in a separate envelope; that way we wouldn't have your check, and the questionnaire you hope to keep anonymous, in the same envelope.

This month we are also going to begin repeating our programming at various times during the week, so if you miss an evening program, you can possibly see it another time. These times will appear on 16.1.

In the past year, your station changed channels from 19 to 16, vastly increasing our broadcast range. We have changed from analog to digital, and now have five channels where before we had only one. We have a bulletin board channel (16.1), EWTN (16.2), our local Catholic channel (16.3), and will soon find unique Catholic programming for 16.4 and 5. We have increased our viewership. We have a small group of dedicated volunteers and have begun filming again. We have much to be thankful for. Please help St. Michael Broadcasting continue to grow by praying for its success, telling others, and possibly sending in a contribution.

God bless you and yours this coming year. Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

There is No Stopping Abortion without the Eucharist

“We receive as much grace from Holy Communion as our wills are detached from everything, everything, everything in this world. That is why I have said so often, suffering is such a treasure, such a blessing from God. Because through suffering, God weans our wills from the creatures in our lives... As believing lovers of the Holy Eucharist we are to make the next century (the 21st) the most self-giving and self-sacrificing century since Jesus offered His first Mass, which as we know, began at the Last Supper on Holy Thursday night, and ended on Calvary on the first Good Friday.

“Lord Jesus Christ, really present in the Holy Eucharist, you want to convert the millions who are behind the worldwide homicide in our day. You want to convert these murderers. You want to use us as the channels of your grace. Give us, dear Jesus, a deep, deep faith in your Real Presence and a total detachment to everything in this world so that we may love you our God become man with all our hearts by faith here on Earth and face-to-face in that Eternal Sunday for which we were made.

“Hail Mary full of grace...”
S.J.

by Fr. John Hardon,

December 2010 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer, St. Michael Broadcasting.

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

Advent is here, a time sometimes called a “little Lent,” a time of fasting and prayer, in preparation for the coming of our Savior at Christmas. Advent is an adumbration, a foreshadowing, of the Second Coming, for which each of us is supposed to prepare his entire life. This Second Coming is portrayed as a wedding feast, which we prepare for by having the light of faith lit, fueled by the oil of charity in our lamps (souls). Mat. 25:1-13

Each year at this time, the Guthrie Theater produces a play based on Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*. Our tax code teaches us that a donation to the Guthrie Theater is a “charitable contribution.” But *A Christmas Carol* teaches us that Christian charity has a more personal dimension, which is to “love your enemies, and to pray for, and do good to those that persecute you.” (Mat. 6:44 and Luke 6:27) Why is this story so popular year after year? It is its portrayal of Christian charity, repentance, and redemption.

Dickens’ story seems based on the parable of the rich man, Dives, and the poor man, Lazarus. (Luke 16:23) After dying and going to a place of misery, Dives isn’t allowed to return to warn his brothers who, we are told, would not repent anyway, even if someone should “rise from the dead.” But in *A Christmas Carol*, Scrooge does heed the ghost of his deceased partner, Jacob Marley, who warns him that he may yet escape his fate.

Cratchit, Scrooge’s employee, is like the poor man, Lazarus, whom the rich man (Scrooge) ignores. Even though Cratchit is ill-treated by the parsimonious and cantankerous Scrooge, Cratchit responds with Christian charity, toasting Mr. Scrooge before his family as the “Founder of the Feast.” When Mrs. Cratchit derides Scrooge, Cratchit implores her: “My dear, the children! Christmas Day.”

Nor does Tiny Tim, Cratchit’s consumptive, crippled child, wallow in self pity. Instead, on the way home from church he tells his father that “he hoped people saw him in church, because he is a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see.”

Scrooge’s nephew, Fred, presents another example of Christian charity. Despite Scrooge’s belittling comments, such as “What right have you to be merry, you’re poor enough?” and his rude refusal to come to dinner, Fred keeps his humor and resolves to invite Scrooge to Christmas dinner “in good temper, year after year.”

Fred imitates our Lord, who shows charity towards us by continuing to invite us, despite our unworthiness, or avarice, or scorn, to come to the feast. He, the Word Made Flesh, the Bread of Life, is born in a “manger,” whose Latin root, “*manducare*,” means “to eat.”

Let us honor the charity of Christ this Advent and Christmas season in our words and deeds.

Thank you for your support of St. Michael Broadcasting over this past year. It is a joy to see the station grow. Have a blessed Advent and a joy filled Christmas.

God bless Us, Everyone!

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Latin Mass Fund We would like to broadcast the Traditional Latin Mass and have established a separate fund for this purpose: to acquire remote control cameras, editing equipment, lights and related labor. Please indicate if your contribution is for this purpose.

Volunteer Needed We need someone to look up copyrights on various productions so that we can write the copyright holder for permission to broadcast, or know for certain that the material is in the public domain. This is

computer and phone detective work that can be done from home. Please call or email the station if you would like to do this.

Support your station! Contributions through October came to about \$60,000, while ongoing expenses came to about \$110,000. These expenses do not include the \$300,000 expense of changing to digital and the new equipment needed for the sub-channels. We who operate the station are volunteers, and like you, viewers. You too, can contribute by volunteering, telling others, sending in a contribution and by praying for the success of the station.

Charity

“...there is a thing crudely called charity, which means charity to the deserving poor; but charity to the deserving is not charity at all, but justice. It is the undeserving who require it, and the ideal either does not exist at all, or exists wholly for them.”
G.K. Chesterton, from *Heretics*

The Gentle Voice in the Night

“It is the conscience that tells us when we do wrong, so that we feel on the inside as if we have broken a bone. The bone pains because it is not where it ought to be. Our conscience troubles us because the conscience is not where it ought to be. Thanks to the power of self-reflection that we have, we can see ourselves, particularly so at night. As the poet put it, “Every atheist is afraid of the dark.” It’s a gentle voice saying, “You are unhappy. This is not the way.”

Abp. Fulton Sheen, from *Through the Year with Fulton Sheen*. P. 20

November 2010 - Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer at St. Michael Broadcasting

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

Last month, Abp. Nienstedt sent out a DVD on marriage to all Catholic households in this archdiocese. Many people complained in the local papers, including a disrespectful local priest. I sent the letter below to the StarTribune in defense of Abp. Nienstedt. This issue, in microcosm, exemplifies the need for our station.

The Archbishop’s Defense of Marriage

The December 23, 1940 issue of *Time* magazine quotes Albert Einstein saying, “Only the Church stood squarely across the path of Hitler's campaign for suppressing truth. I never had any special interest in the Church before, but now I feel great affection and admiration because the Church alone has had the courage and persistence to stand for intellectual truth and moral freedom. I am forced thus to confess that what I once despised, I now praise unreservedly.” Archbishop John Nienstedt, by speaking the truth about marriage through DVDs mailed to Catholics in this archdiocese, is attempting to warn of the dangers we face if the campaign to redefine marriage prevails. To cite one danger: Children thrive best when brought up by their biological parents in a life-long marriage. With same-sex “marriage” a child is guaranteed at most one biological parent, and would in all cases be deprived of either a mother or a father. How unfair. Just as in the case of abortion, the rights and needs of children are ignored. In defending marriage, the Church is defending the vulnerable and fostering a more civilized society.

Why do so many who proclaim their “tolerance” gladly suppress arguments for preserving marriage? People who haven’t even viewed the Archbishop’s 18 minute educational DVD send it to an “artist” who

destroys them. How different is this than “book-burning”? And last year, after TPT2 broadcast an hour long program that was a *de facto* commercial for same-sex marriage, I wrote them, critical that my tax dollars were used for this purpose. They wrote back: “...we are committed to presenting a wide spectrum of view points and opinions... part of our mission is to serve as a place where ideas can be explored, discussed and debated through informative programming.” I wrote back, asking if they would put on programming that defended marriage. No reply. I wrote asking if they planned to broadcast Archbishop Nienstedt’s DVD. Answer: No. This is bias and the suppression of “viewpoints and debate.”

It’s also disturbing to see those who want to protect marriage maligned as “hate-filled” bigots “imposing their religion” and violating the “separation of church and state.” The First Amendment says “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...” and Thomas Jefferson said this built a “wall of separation between church and state.” Yet as Governor of Virginia, Thomas Jefferson proposed that sodomy should be punished by castration. How likely is it that he would support “same sex marriage”? And in 1996, the late senator Paul Wellstone told his gay and lesbian supporters “...marriage was reserved for the union of one man and one woman.” He then voted for the Defense of Marriage Act and explained his vote: “I don’t think we should change the definition of marriage. It is the central institution of American life.” Is the late Paul Wellstone now too, an “intolerant, hate-filled bigot,” or did he, like the great pagan Cicero, make a wise judgment based on his understanding of the natural law?

Marriage *is* the central institution of American life. Historian Paul Johnson has written “To destroy marriage law is a step towards destroying the rule of law itself...Once the law is humbled, all else that is valuable in a civilized society will vanish, usually at a terrifying speed.” In the interest of presenting the case, suppressed by TPT2, for preserving marriage, Channel 16.3 will broadcast several programs in defense of marriage, including the Archbishop’s censored DVD, beginning October 23.

Please support your station, by praying for its success, contributing, and helping to increase our viewership.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael Bird, President

Both Sides of a Question

The Church is very wise because she always teaches us both sides of a question.... For example, everyone in the Catholic university where I taught knew the opinions of the modern world. In philosophy, for example, we knew Marx and Sartre, and Heidegger and Jasper and Freud and the like. But do you think that the teachers in the secular universities knew anything about Christian thought? They only knew one side of the question, not both... A communist once told me that the clearest and finest explanation of communism he ever read was in the Holy Father’s encyclical on communism. He gave both sides to the question. Look at... the *Summa Theologica* of St. Thomas. Every single question that great mind teaches begins with doubt and difficulty. Then he answers it. We know both sides of the questions. Those outside the Church only know one side. And frequently it’s the wrong side.

Abp. Fulton Sheen, from *Through the Year with Fulton Sheen*, p. 149.

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

October, 2010 A.D.

This month I would like to go over some housekeeping matters pertaining to your station.

Installation of the system that will allow us to broadcast unique programming on our sub-channels is now complete. We are now learning how to operate this equipment and loading programs onto a server, or what I would call an “electronic library.” This is more difficult and time consuming than we had anticipated. Right now, we are hoping and planning on having a recurring prime-time (e.g., 7-10 pm) block available by All Saints’ Day, November 1, on one sub-channel. You will receive an update on this in the next newsletter.

From time to time we receive understandable complaints that, during the Mass, at the moment of consecration, a banner goes across the top of the screen saying, “Please Send Donations to...” Viewers can’t understand how we can have such poor taste as to send this banner across the screen at this time. Please understand that *no one is at the station doing this*. The station is operated by volunteers, and the vast majority of the time, no one is here. The banner is pre-set to go across the screen on the half-hour. Sometimes the consecration occurs at this precise moment, and sometimes the timing mechanism misbehaves. We have not been able to resolve this problem without removing the banner completely. Know that we are aware of it, don’t like it, and want to resolve it.

We are looking into bringing in a Spanish language Catholic channel from outside the country via satellite, and dedicating one sub-channel to this use. One we are investigating right now is *Maria Vision* from Zapopan, Jalisco, Mexico. If you have thoughts or suggestions on this, please call, email, or write the station.

We would like to record and rebroadcast the Sunday Latin Mass from the Church of St. Augustine in South St. Paul. To do this, we need funds to buy three cameras, a board for operating the cameras, and to pay for installation expenses. We would like to have all the necessary cash on hand to do this before initiating this project. We are therefore setting up a separate fund, The Latin Mass Fund, dedicated to this purpose. If you would like your contribution to go toward this effort, please specify this at the time of your donation.

If you are a viewer who uses a computer, you might want to set your home page to “Good Search.” When you designate St. Michael Broadcasting as the organization you “Good Search” for, a small amount of money goes to the station. If you shop through the site, as much as 4% of your purchase price could go to the station.

We do not send acknowledgements for contributions of less than \$20. Those who send in less than \$20 a time should in no way interpret this as a lack of appreciation or sign of disrespect. Since the station operates at a loss, this is simply another way of saving money. We send receipts for the sum total of all contributions, including those of less than \$20, at the end of each year.

If anyone knows of a graphic artist that could volunteer to help develop a logo and other graphics, please put us in contact with him or her. We could look good on someone’s resume!

The station needs your contributions to grow and thrive. By way of comparison, our contributions for one year are less than the expenses of Minnesota Public Radio *for one day!* There are several ways we can increase revenue. One is for those who are not now contributing, but are able, to contribute something now. Another is for those who are contributing to contribute a little more if able. Another way is tell others about the station. More viewers should translate into more contributors: “Many hands make light work.” We at the station will look into ways of securing sponsorships. If you have experience selling TV advertising or sponsorships, we would welcome your advice. If you have any other suggestions for increasing revenue, please let us know.

The other thing we need is prayer. Our human efforts alone cannot build this station. Recall how in the Old Testament, when Moses’ uplifted arms grew tired and he lowered them, the battle went against him. Attendants were called to hold them up, and the battle turned his (the Israelites) way again. Those attendants are your prayers, because “Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build.” (Psalm 127:1)

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael Bird, President

An Army Like Gideon's

The Lord is testing His Church. This testing is like the story of Gideon. Here’s this great leader of the army of Israel, with an army of thirty thousand soldiers to do battle with an army of fifty thousand. What does God say to him? He said, “Your army is too great. Tell the cowards to leave.” How many cowards were there? Twenty thousand: two out of three. God thins His ranks. Then He said to Gideon: “Your army is still too great, for if you win it would seem it was through your own power. Send them over to the river and watch them drink.” Some of them threw themselves prone on their stomachs and drank leisurely, comfortably, and to the full. Others ran along the bank, lapping up the water with their hands, and drinking in the fashion of dogs. And God said, “That’s your army, three hundred, and I’ll be with you.” So God is thinning our ranks now as then, because we are preparing for a stronger and more holy Church.

From *Through the Year with Fulton Sheen*, page 29.

September 2010 - Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer at St. Michael Broadcasting

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

Margaret Sanger (1879-1966), the founder of Planned Parenthood, often opportunistically changed her message and strategy in hopes of achieving her goals. For example, in 1932 Sanger recommended “a stern and rigid policy of sterilization and segregation to that grade of population whose progeny is tainted, or whose... objectionable traits may be transmitted to offspring.” She proposed giving to 15-20 million “dysgenic” Americans “their choice of segregation or sterilization... apportioning farm lands... for these segregated persons where they would be taught to work under competent instructors for... their entire lives.” One can’t help but notice an eerie similarity between these “farms” and the “camps” established by the Nazis in 1933.

But in another article, Sanger argued against force, positing that a more effective approach would be to convince people that childlessness was in their self-interest: a material benefit and an enhancement of their freedom. This is the insidious genius of Sanger, and how she differs from Hitler. Sanger’s strategy

has prevented the birth of far more “unwanted” people than Hitler’s. One wonders how many people should exist, but don’t, because of the popular delusion that equates contraceptive use and abortion with freedom.

At this same time, in 1932, Aldous Huxley (1894-1963) published *Brave New World*, his book about a future totalitarian state in which the people are controlled not by force, but by pleasure. The regime induces compliance by encouraging promiscuous sterile sex and by providing uplifting drugs and non-stop entertainment in exchange for economic security. Seditious “pornographic” books, such as the *Bible*, and the *Imitation of Christ*, are hidden away. Huxley’s book has proven strangely prophetic.

One can see the “soft censorship” of books and ideas in our public (and even some nominally Catholic) schools. For example, if a public school disallows a Catholic speaker, or a book that posits that “we were created by God and that our rights come from God” from its curriculum, this is portrayed as a sign of “tolerance,” of their respect for “separation of church and state,” and sensitivity to need for “diversity.” But by removing God, schools like this produce amoral “ethicists” like Peter Singer at Princeton who in 1993 suggested that no newborn should be considered a person until 30 days after birth and that the attending physician should kill some disabled babies immediately.

Catholic schools that *really are* Catholic shine a “light in the darkness.” About 1/3 of your property taxes and nearly 50% of every sales tax dollar goes to public schools. Catholic schools receive no forced funding. They can’t survive on the proceeds of candy bar sales and silent auctions. Please support them.

Through our programs, St. Michael Broadcasting supplies, or supplements, the education that many lack or were denied. Perhaps we can one day help the Archdiocese garner more support for Catholic education. But to do that, we need to exist! If you have the means, please send a contribution today, and pray for the success of the station.

God bless you, Michael Bird, President

“...the lust for power can be just as completely satisfied by suggesting people into loving their servitude as by flogging them and kicking them into obedience.” Aldous Huxley

* * * * *

From *The True Crisis of Our Time*, by Malcolm Muggeridge (1985)

Available on our website: www.stmichaelbroadcasting.com

“So the final conclusion would surely be that whereas other civilizations have been brought down by attacks of barbarians from without, ours had the unique distinction of training its own destroyers at its own educational institutions, and then providing them with facilities for propagating their destructive ideology far and wide, all at the public expense...”

“Christianity, I want to say, is indeed essentially a religion of hope. A new, stupendous hope, born of the Incarnation, and creating a tidal wave of creativity and joy to revivify a world as tired, bored, and decadent as ours. If now its impetus seems momentarily to be spent, we need not despair; history – a

continuing parable whereby God's purposes are revealed for those with eyes to see – will continue to surprise us.”

Note: St. Michael Broadcasting and EWTN are **not** the same entity. St. Michael Broadcasting rebroadcasts EWTN's signal. We will add more Catholic programming to our sub-channels over the coming year. We need the support of our viewers to continue, and to continue to improve, this service.

August 2010 - Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer at St. Michael Broadcasting

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting:

When George Washington was sworn in as first President of the United States in 1789, he asked for a Bible, had it opened, and placed his hand on Deuteronomy, chapter 28. Why there? The words of this chapter, edited below, reveal Washington's thoughts, and were both an exhortation and admonition for future generations.

“... if you continue to heed the voice of the Lord, your God, and are careful to observe all His commandments... the Lord, your God, will raise you high above the nations of the Earth... these blessings will come upon you and overwhelm you:

“The Lord will beat down before you the enemies that rise up against you... The Lord will increase in more than goodly measure the fruit of your womb, the offspring of your livestock, the produce of your soil... The Lord will open up for you the rich treasure house in the Heavens, to give your land rain in due season, blessing all your undertakings, so that you will lend to many nations and borrow from none.

“But if you do not harken to the voice of the Lord, your God, and you are not careful to observe all His commandments, these curses shall come upon you and overwhelm you:

“The Lord will bring... pestilence... plague... the sky over your head will be like bronze, and the earth under your feet like iron... The Lord will let you be beaten down before your enemies... You will be oppressed and robbed continually with no one to come to your aid... You will eat the fruit of your womb... The alien will lend to you, and not you to him. He will become the head and you the tail.”

We as a nation are not “heeding the voice of the Lord and observing all His commandments.” Already the curse of debt is upon us. If we are to avert the other curses, we must repent and reform like the citizens of Nineveh. If we fail to do so, much suffering lies ahead, and we need to know the Catholic faith better so that we can endure, and be a light in the darkness.

Either way, Channel 16 can help. We try to broadcast programs that help our viewers grow in the love and knowledge of God--- the Truth that makes men free in this life--- and our destiny of eternal joy in the next.

As I write this, technicians are installing the system that will allow us to broadcast more Catholic programs, including local Catholic programs, on our sub-channels, and by mid- August you should begin

to see some of these. So if you want to watch something other than what is on EWTN (16.2), try some of the other channels.

This station, your station, continues to lose money despite a no-fat budget and for the present, no paid staff. Meanwhile, communication companies covet our frequency and the FCC would love to auction it to them. We must make this station not just survive, but thrive! We can't realize the full potential of this valuable resource without sufficient capital. Please help the station grow: by telling others, by saying a prayer for its success, and if possible, by sending in a donation today.

Sincerely yours in Christ, Michael Bird, President

The Battleground of the Church

by Archbishop Fulton Sheen (1974)

The world in which we live is the battleground of the Church. I believe that we are now living at the end of Christendom. It is the end of Christendom, but not of Christianity. What is Christendom? Christendom is the political, economic, moral, social, legal life of a nation as inspired by the gospel ethic. That is finished. Abortion, the breakdown of the family life, dishonesty, even the natural virtues upon which the supernatural virtues were based, are being discredited. Christianity is not at the end. But we are at the end of Christendom. And I believe the sooner we face up to this fact, the sooner we will be able to solve many of our problems.

Thirty or forty years ago, it was very easy to be a Christian. The very air we breathed was Christian. Bicycles could be left on the front lawns; doors could be left unlocked. Suddenly, all this has changed; now we have to affirm our faith. We live in a world that challenges us. And many fall away. Dead bodies float downstream; it takes live bodies to resist the current. And this is our summons.

We will have to begin a different church. We are for a moment on a trapeze. We are in between the death of an old civilization and culture and the swing to the beginning of the new. These are the times in which we live. They are therefore wonderful days; marvelous; we should thank God that we live in times like this.

From the book *Through the Year with Fulton Sheen*, pages 27 & 28

July 2010 - Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer at St. Michael Broadcasting

Dear Friends and Family of Channel 16,

The equipment that will enable us to put unique programming on each sub-channel has not yet arrived, and now looks like it will be installed the second week of July. After this occurs we will immediately begin to put different programs on 16.1. The first programs will be the Ordination Mass that took place at the Cathedral in May and the Conference on Marriage and the Family that took place at the

University of St. Thomas in April. To begin with, programs will repeat frequently, until we get more programs loaded on to the system.

We can now more easily accept credit card contributions. You can go to the St. Michael Broadcasting website and contribute online via Paypal. Or if you want, you can call us at the station and leave a message. We will call you back and take your credit card contribution over the phone.

We need contributions! Minnesota Public Radio last year received about \$75 million in sponsorships, corporate and private contributions, and *your* tax dollars. St. Michael Broadcasting received less than \$80,000 in contributions. At this rate, it will take us 938 years to equal what MPR grosses in one year! So please help the station financially if you can, or by telling others about the station, or with your prayers. Already your prayers are bearing fruit: several dedicated volunteers have come forward to help with filming.

At this time of the year, let us thank God for the freedoms of our country. These blessings are due to our nation's religious heritage. Whether the irreligious recognize it or not, recognition of the truth that all of our rights and liberties come from God is the best protection of their and our freedom.

God bless you this 4th of July,

Michael Bird, President



Excerpts for July 2010

“Loss of Standards”

From *Thoughts for Daily Living*, by Fulton J. Sheen, pages 79 and 176.

“By shutting out God and morality as standards, there are those who think they are enlarging the sphere of the mind, whereas they are actually contracting it. By contracting the spiritual boundaries, one is imprisoning himself in a universe that is too small for the human heart. As God dissolves into the blue sky the shades of the prison house begin to fall and man begins to be his own jailer.

“Man can either, with enthusiasm and patience participate in the God-life, and thus produce a measure of human happiness, or he can revolt against God and divinize himself. At this stage the world produces dictators...”

“Totalitarian”

Historian Paul Johnson, in *The Quotable Paul Johnson*, page 362.

“While writing *Modern Times* (a history of the world from 1917 through the 1980's), I formed the unshakeable conviction that man without God is a doomed creature. The history of the 20th century proves the view that as the vision of God fades, we first become clever monkeys, then we exterminate one another.”

"Freedom"

From the Parish Bulletin, Church of St. Charles Borromeo Parish June 27, 2010

"What is freedom? For 'freedom Christ has set us free'. The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines freedom as "the power to act or not to act, and so to perform deliberate acts of one's own. Freedom attains perfection in its acts when directed toward God, the sovereign Good" (CCC 1744). To be truly free, to not submit to the yoke of slavery, we are called to choose the good, that which brings us closer to Christ as we serve one another through love. Is not this what we celebrate, those who have served our families, our neighborhood, our country, through love?"

June 2010 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer at St. Michael Broadcasting

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

Often in the newspaper, or on television, someone claims that increased use of contraceptives will decrease the number of out-of-wedlock births and abortions. And often this individual is associated with Planned Parenthood (PP). Yet their own research contradicts this claim.

For example, in 1936, PP board member Dr. Raymond Pearl wrote "...the number of induced abortions... are three to four times greater among contraceptors..." In 1955, Dr. Alfred Kinsey, speaking at a PP conference, said "...we have found the highest frequency of induced abortion in the group which... used contraceptives." In 1981, PP researcher Dr. Christopher Tietze wrote, "...women who have had abortions are more likely to have been contraceptors than women without a history of abortion."

Minnesota health statistics concur with this research. *Over 95% of abortion "clients"*

say they either were using, or previously used, contraceptives. In 1960, before the contraceptive driven "sexual revolution," and before abortion was legal, 2.9 % of the babies born in Minnesota were "illegitimate," versus 33.3% today. There are now nearly *two abortions for every ten live births*.

One reason for this failure is a phenomenon called *risk compensation*, or a person's greater willingness to engage in potentially risky behavior when he believes his risk has been reduced through technology. For example, in 2009, Pope Benedict was lambasted by the media when he said that reliance on condoms would not decrease, but *increase* the AIDS epidemic in Africa. But the head of the AIDS Research Project at Harvard, Dr. Edward C. Green, defended the pope, saying, "The protective effect...could... be offset by aggregate increases in risky sexual behavior."

Another reason for this failure is that reliance on contraception *changes the user*. In the words of French "family planning" pioneer Dr. Pierre Simon: "*This struggle is not merely technical, but philosophical. Life as a piece of material, there is the beginning of our struggle.*" Contraception, he wrote, will "...change the people themselves and the nature of their relationships... This does violence to the Christian ethic, which sees the body as a gift from God... society will be completely changed." Dr. Simon understood that the mentality fostered by contraception undermines and replaces Christian sexual morality with a materialistic ethic. This ethic undermines marriage and the family.

Maybe someday St. Michael Broadcasting can do a program exposing the damage wrought by contraception and the fraud of the organizations that promote it. To do this, we need your help. First, pray for the station, for our battle is against "principalities and powers." (Eph. 6:12) Second, tell others about the station and offer to help them find it on their TV's. Third, please send a contribution if you can, but if you can't, offer up that suffering for the success of the station.

Dominus vobiscum!

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

The National Council of Catholic Women on Birth Control (circa 1922)

“The immorality of Birth Control as it is practiced and commonly understood consists in the evils of the particular method employed. These are all contrary to the moral law because they are unnatural, being a perversion of a natural function. Human faculties are used in such a way as to frustrate the natural end for which these faculties were created. This is always intrinsically wrong--- as wrong as lying or blasphemy. No supposed beneficial consequence can make good a practice which is, in itself, immoral...

“The evil results of the practice of Birth Control are numerous. Attention will be called here to only three. The first is the degradation of the marital relation itself, since the husband and wife who indulge in any form of this practice come to have a lower idea of married life. They cannot help but come to regard each other to a great extent as mutual instruments of sensual gratification, rather than cooperators with the Creator in bringing children into the world. This consideration may be subtle, but it undoubtedly represents the facts.

“In the second place, the deliberate restriction of the family through the use of these immoral practices deliberately weakens self-control and the capacity for self denial, and increases the love of ease and luxury... A practice which tends to produce such exaggerated notions of what constitutes hardship, which leads men and women to cherish such a degree of ease, makes inevitably for inefficiency, a decline in the capacity to endure and to achieve, and for general social decadence.

“Finally, Birth Control leads sooner or later to a decline in population (e.g. Europe, ed.).... The further effect... will inevitably be the lowering of both public and private morals... Not only the married but also the unmarried will be thus affected; the ideals of the young contaminated and lowered. The morals of the entire nation will suffer.”

Quoted in *Pivot of Civilization*, by Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood, 1922.

May 2010 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer at St. Michael Broadcasting

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

One evening in June 2009, I was sitting, as Wordsworth said in his poem *The Daffodils*, “on my couch... in vacant or in pensive mood,” and reached for the channel-changer. After watching channel TPT 2/PBS for a while, I realized I was viewing what was in effect, if not in fact, an hour-long infomercial for same-sex marriage.

I wrote TPT 2 at the time and protested this tendentious program, especially since I and other objecting Minnesotans were funding it (over \$5.2 million last year) through our tax dollars. They wrote back: “As the Twin Cities public broadcaster, we are committed to presenting a wide spectrum of view points and opinions. An important part of our mission is to serve as a place where

ideas can be explored, discussed and debated through informative programming.”

“Please let me know when programs with an opposing viewpoint will air,” I replied, and volunteered to help locate such a program. TPT 2 never answered. Their “commitment to presenting a “wide spectrum of viewpoints” did not extend to intelligent and reasonable arguments against same-sex marriage. This brought to mind the following quote from Fulton Sheen:

“There are some people who love to boast of their tolerance, but actually it is inspired by egotism; they want to be left alone in their own ideas, however wrong they may be, so they plead for tolerance of other people’s ideas. But this kind of tolerance is very dangerous, for it becomes intolerance as soon as the ego is disturbed or menaced. That is why a civilization which is tolerant about false ideas instead of being charitable to persons is on the eve of a great wave of intolerance and persecution.”

In April, St. Michael Broadcasting moved from Channel 19 to Channel 16. We now have five “sub-channels.” These will allow us greater opportunities to, with love and respect, present the compelling Catholic arguments for the family and against contraception, abortion, divorce, euthanasia, cloning, embryonic stem cell research, pornography, and the redefining marriage. Since many of these arguments are based on natural law, and not solely Catholic Church teaching, we hope to provide a service to both Catholics and non-Catholics who know these things are wrong, but can’t say why, and to those who are open to questioning their beliefs.

Our signal should now reach far outside the Twin Cities area, possibly 40-70 miles depending on the terrain and location of the UHF antenna (indoor or rooftop). If you know others who use broadcast television, but haven’t been able to receive the signal before, ask them to “re-scan” or “auto-program” their television or converter box now. Please support this apostolate through your prayers, financial contributions, by sending in programming ideas, and by telling others. If you can afford a financial contribution, that would help, as the changeover cost alone will come to about \$300,000.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael Bird, President

Marriage and Law - May 2010

If marriage as a legal contract conveys no more privileges, and no more duties, than concubinage--- or any other social and sexual arrangement which human ingenuity may devise, from homosexual unions to polygamy to sex communes--- then we have a legal vacuum right at the heart of our social arrangements. Where the law leaves a legal vacuum, there is an inevitable tendency that force and anarchy will fill it. No system of law can long endure which implies that informal arrangements are no more or no less binding than formal and legal ones. To destroy marriage law is a step towards destroying the rule of law itself.... Once the law is humbled, all else that is valuable in a civilized society will vanish, usually with terrifying speed.”

Paul Johnson, historian, in *The Quotable Paul Johnson*, pages 218 and 198.

“Unless we have a moral principle about such delicate matters as marriage and murder, the whole world will become a welter of exceptions with no rules.” GK Chesterton

“I don’t think we should change the definition of marriage. It is the central institution of American life.” Senator Paul Wellstone, 1996 *StarTribune*“

If we don’t get this right on assisted suicide with the elderly, and if we really cave-in on same sex marriage, my personal opinion is that we’re finished as a society. If we end up killing the little children and the older folks, and we can’t figure out the difference between marriage and an aberration, our days are numbered as a civilized society.”

Moral theologian Monsignor William Smith to Mother Angelica, date unknown.

April -2010 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer at St. Michael Broadcasting

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

In late 1999 or early 2000, both the *Star Tribune* and *Pioneer Press* ran articles titled something like, “100 Great Minnesotans of the Last Hundred Years.” Most names mentioned were not well known, but the Mayo brothers, as in “Mayo Clinic,” were on both lists. There was no mention of the Sisters of St. Francis. This was a grave omission, for without the Sisters of St. Francis, it’s doubtful the Mayo brothers

would have become renowned. This example illustrates a problem with the news media, Hollywood, and schools: a tendency to sensationalize stories that show the Church in a bad light, and a counter-tendency to ignore or omit edifying stories of accomplishment and heroism.

When the Sisters of St. Francis came to Rochester in 1877, they were a teaching order, ultimately establishing 53 Catholic schools, including in 1894, the College of St. Theresa. After a tornado in Rochester in 1883, the Mother Superior of the sisters, Sr. Mary Alfred Moes, determined that Rochester needed a hospital. She asked Dr. Mayo if he would be the physician if her sisters built, staffed and administered a hospital. He agreed, and the sisters raised the funds. St. Mary's Hospital was established in 1889 with Dr. Mayo joined soon by his two sons as physicians. In those early days, sisters slept on the floor in the patients' rooms. In St. Mary's, there is a marvelous chapel with pews only long enough for two people, so that if any of the sisters' patients needed them while they were at Mass or prayer, they wouldn't have to clamber over other sisters.

As the hospital grew, many sisters that had degrees in teaching were asked if they wanted to go back to school for nursing degrees. My family knew one of these sisters, Sr. Amadeus Klein. She went back to school and received a master's degree in nursing. She set up the Department of Neurology at St. Mary's. She told us of how in those early days, after witnessing the same surgery hundreds of times, veteran nursing sisters would show young doctors how to perform a surgery. Once, when I asked her how she came to have the name "Sr. Amadeus." She said the bishop gave it to her when she took final vows. I asked her if she liked the name. She said that she didn't at first, but then after she found out what it meant, she did. "What does it mean, Sister? I asked. "Love God." (amor + deus) She said. After she could no longer work, she spent much time in prayer and lived a life of cheerful holiness.

Stories such as this are not told by the secular media. Instead, these heroic women are often portrayed as flighty airheads. We owe much to these women who gave their lives in the service of Christ and His Church.

At St. Michael Broadcasting we hope to bring edifying stories, such as that of these sisters, to our viewers. Through true alternative news, education and entertainment, we seek to "shine a light in the darkness" and leaven a culture rapidly losing its understanding of its Divine origin and destiny. Please support this apostolate financially, through your prayers, and by telling others. Your station needs you.

God bless you this Easter season,

Michael Bird, President

Important Note to Viewers - April 2010

In April, Channel 19 will change to Channel 16. We will be off the air for two days when this work occurs. As this goes to the printer, we do not know the exact days, but it is very possible this will conflict with our scheduled programming. When we return to the air, you will have to re-scan your TV or converter box. After you have done this, you will have **five** channels, all showing EWTN. As we collect sufficient programming, we will put this programming on channels 16.1, 16.3 and 16.4, leaving 16.2 the

sole EWTN channel. 16.5 will become a bulletin board channel listing events of interest to Catholics. As we learn more, we will post updates on the screen and on our website (www.stmichaelbroadcasting.com). Or, you may call the studio at 612-724-2265.

Selected quotes from *God Love You*, by Fulton J. Sheen

“Have you noticed that as men lose faith in God, they become selfish, immoral and cruel? On a cosmic scale, as religion decreases, tyranny increases; as men lose faith in Divinity, they lose faith in humanity. Where God is outlawed, there man is subjugated.”

“When democracies lose their spirit of religion they have no fulcrum for self-sacrifice; once the Cross passes out of their vision, selfishness enthrones itself. Then the plea for self-sacrifice becomes identified with persecution, Fascism, Communism, or what-have-you.

“The preservation of America is conditioned upon discipline and self-sacrifice, but since these are inseparable from religion and morality, the future of America depends on Americans’ attitude toward God and the Cross of His Divine Son.”

“A nation always gets the kind of politicians it deserves. When our moral standards are different, our legislation will be different. As long as the decent people refuse to believe that morality must manifest itself in every sphere of human activity, including the political, they will not meet the challenge of Marxism”

“Elders must not be too critical of the teen-agers... From one point of view, they are not in rebellion against restraint, but against their elders for not giving them a goal and purpose in life... Teenagers must have an ideal. In many instances today, they have no greater object of worship than to wrap their emotional lives around a movie hero, a movie star, a band leader, or a crooner. This sign of decaying civilizations will pass when the catastrophe comes. Then youth will look for a different type to imitate, namely, either heroes or saints.”

Pages 169, 77, 95 and 17.

March -2010 Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer at St. Michael Broadcasting

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

One year ago, on St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, ownership of one of Catholic Views Broadcasts’ stations, Channel 19, officially transferred to St. Michael Broadcasting. Since we will soon change to Channel 16 and go digital, this seemed a proper time to provide you with an update on the station: what has happened, what is happening, and future plans--- a sort of “State of the Station” report.

First, some history: In the late 1980's, the initial \$90,000 contribution to Fr. Baker's Catholic Views Broadcasts, for starting the station, came from out-of-state. In recent years, the station has cost about \$110,000 annually to run, and contributions have come to about \$60-\$70 thousand, for a shortfall of about \$40 thousand. This shortfall was made up primarily by Fr. Baker fundraising nationally for Catholic Views Broadcasts, and giving that money to Channel 19. If you have wondered how the station can always need money but somehow manage to stay in operation, this is how. Short term, I am providing working capital. The main point is that the station can no longer depend on Fr. Baker. We must become self-supporting!

One shortcoming of the station has been its broadcast "footprint," which is the area effectively covered by our signal. The station sends a reasonably strong signal to the southwest, but a very weak signal to the northeast. People only a few miles from our antenna on top of the IDS: in northeast Minneapolis, St. Anthony, and New Brighton, cannot receive the signal. The FCC would not permit us to send a strong signal to the northeast because there is a channel 19 in Duluth. But the mandated change from analog to digital created opportunities. As some frequencies were vacated, openings appeared for smaller stations. Our consultant advised us to use this opportunity to apply for Channel 16, as he thought this channel would allow us to have the broadcast footprint we desired. We applied and received permission. This was a glorious and happy day for your station.



The small circle on the map above shows the footprint of our station as Channel 19 and the larger circle our new footprint as Channel 16. As you can see, our new channel encompasses a much larger area. The larger circle isn't the outer range of our signal; it is the range in which 90% of the households can expect to receive our signal. Depending on terrain and obstructions, people as far away as St. Cloud, or Owatonna, or Menomonie, might receive the channel. Within the Channel 19 footprint live about 1.16 million people. Within the Channel 16 footprint, live about 2.73 million people. This is an increase of **135%**!

Moving to Channel 16 has cost more than staying on Channel 19: We needed a new antenna, a new transmitter and other costly electronics. These costs run to about \$300 thousand, about \$200 thousand higher than had we stayed on 19. But our fixed costs: rent, electricity, insurance, maintenance contracts, etc., will not increase very much. If our contributions increase in proportion to our larger demographic footprint, this would imply we should exceed our \$110-\$120,000 survival expenses. Most importantly, our signal will cover a much larger part of this

archdiocese. Bringing so many more people into our broadcast range for so little is a great bargain in the world of broadcasting.

There are other advantages to this move. Going digital will allow us to provide, in addition to EWTN, up to four more “sub-channels,” such as 16.1, 16.2, etc., which would allow us to broadcast much more Catholic programming. We could show more programs by Bishop Sheen, Fr. Corapi, Dale Ahlquist, etc., and locally produced programming. These could include the Latin Mass (from St. Augustine Church), programs on manners, literature, virtues, local history, talks, home-schooling, children’s shows, entertainment, discussions of local issues-- there are many, many, possibilities. We plan to use one channel as a bulletin board. We might lease out one sub-channel. If *you* have ideas, let us know.

As we add local programming, we should be able to get sponsors for those programs, which would improve our financial condition. When we have enough local content, we can ask the cable companies to carry the station, as the cable companies are supposed to accommodate a certain amount of local programming. If the cable networks carry us, we would have *excellent* coverage in the metro area. We also might begin to stream this local programming over the internet.

Assuming our finances improve as a result of more contributors and sponsors, we could begin to pay some staff. The station needs some paid staff, as it would run more efficiently. There is much to do: preview programs, create programs, pay bills, operate cameras, keep track of contributions, update the mailing list, advertise local events, cover local events, and comply with FCC requirements. This is a lot for an all-volunteer staff to do. Also, we should pay those who independently produce programs that we want to broadcast. Programs such as those on apologetics by Michael Voris and St. Michael’s Media, or on issues like same-sex “marriage” by the Dr. Jennifer Roback Morse, take a lot of thought and money to produce. These people deserve compensation for their efforts.

If finances permit, we would like to set up what are called “translator stations” across the state. This means establishing stations near the outer limits of our broadcast range that would pick up our signal and send it on farther. For example, a station in Faribault might pick up our signal and send it farther south, toward Rochester or Austin. However, if our finances do not improve, we will downsize the station. If our revenue hasn’t increased sufficiently by 2012, we will move off the IDS to a tower, which would bring the station very close to break-even at the current contribution level. But this would also decrease the size of our broadcast footprint.

This year we are trying to raise \$500,000. New equipment and fixed expenses will cost about \$420,000. The remaining \$80,000 would allow us to purchase new programming, and provide a slight cushion for unanticipated expenses.

Why is this station important?

Malcolm Muggeridge said that the West is suffering from “the loss of a sense of a moral order without which no order whatsoever--- social, political, economic--- is possible.” This station, your station, is trying to help our country recover this sense of moral order by bringing the Truth of the Catholic Faith to Catholics and non-Catholics alike. We show how by responding to God’s love, by imitating Christ, we find the most sanity and joy in this life, and that part of that joy is the confident hope that, through God’s help and mercy, we will one day find eternal happiness in the presence of the Holy Trinity.

This station receives calls from those who want a newsletter even though they’re not Catholic. A young convert has volunteered to help record local events. We hear stories of older home-bound Catholics who like to watch our station almost exclusively. So the station fulfills our mission, which is “to serve as an evangelization tool for the Roman Catholic Church in order to be an influential, educational and moral voice in our society.”

Pope John Paul II exhorted us to evangelize using new media--- meaning broadcasting, and the internet. This station is *your* apostolate. Please support it financially if you are able, pray for its success, and tell people about it. If you know people who have experience in television or radio, ask them if they could volunteer some time with the station to show us how to operate it more effectively. We welcome your ideas for programming and otherwise improving the station.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael Bird, President

The Paradox of Christian Freedom

From the *Homiletic and Pastoral Review* by our founder Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J.

“For freedom Christ has set us free” (Gal. 5:1). St. Paul tells us that faith in Christ makes us free. In the contemporary world there is a universal demand for more freedom—personal, political and economic. Freedom, however, is a slogan word that has many different meanings. Today freedom is often understood in the sense of a lack of restraint, so that one is free to do whatever one wishes to do. That is a form of licentiousness, not true freedom.

Freedom understood as licentiousness is a false freedom. Actually, it is not freedom at all, but rather it is slavery to one’s selfishness, passions and pride.

Christian freedom is something totally different. The Christian who submits himself to the law of love in Christ Jesus is the one who is truly free. Only God has absolute freedom because his will is identified with his being or substance. So God is essential freedom—he can do whatever he wills because he has absolute power over all things. But since God is also absolute truth and goodness, he can do only what is in accordance with his essence—everything he does is good. So God cannot deceive and he cannot do anything that is evil since that is contrary to his nature.

On the other hand, created freedom is limited and relative. But the more a created person (man or angel) approaches the goodness of God, the more he shares in the freedom of God. We have here what seems to be a paradox. Man wishes to be free, but the only way he can become truly free is by submitting himself to Christ by faith, hope and charity. St. Paul calls it the “obedience of faith” (Rom. 1:5). The saints who strive mightily to serve God in all things, whose whole being is centered on God, are human persons who are supremely free. Submission to the truth is what makes one free.

Sin is slavery because it is rooted in falsity, while the obedience of faith in love is based on truth and results in freedom. Sin is rebellion against God and glorification of self. Jesus expresses this truth in St. John’s Gospel (8:31-32), a text often quoted by Pope John Paul II: “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free.” So the saint is free and the sinner is a slave.

There you have it from the mouth of God himself: it is the truth that makes one truly free. The ultimate reason for this is that we are creatures made in the image and likeness of God. Why did God make us? What is our destiny? God made us to know him, to love him and to serve him in this life and to be happy with him forever in the next life. So since we were made for God and for truth and for goodness, nothing short of God will really satisfy us. Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life” (John 14:6). That is also why the eye is not filled with seeing and the ear is not filled with hearing. In other words, no created thing can satisfy the human heart. St. Augustine

put his finger on it when he said that our hearts are restless until they rest in God.

I am reminding you of the nature of Christian freedom because we are bombarded daily with the false notion of freedom in matters such as “freedom of choice” regarding abortion, contraception, same-sex marriage, assisted suicide and other moral issues. The assumptions of the secular humanists, who deny the existence of God and see man as descended from the apes with no immortal soul, have taken a commanding position in our culture and are proclaimed incessantly in the media and in the public schools and universities.

In order not to be infected with these false ideas, it is essential that we know our faith well, that we know the truth, and that we recognize and reject error and falsehoods when we encounter them. This is another reason why every family should have handy a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. It offers a detailed index, and there you will find the truth if you spend a little time looking for it.

February 2010 - Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer at St. Michael Broadcasting

February, 2010 A.D.

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

The first Western country to legalize abortion was The Union of Soviet *Socialist* Republics in 1920 under Lenin. The second was Germany in 1935 under the National *Socialist* Workers Party. In our country, abortion was legalized in 1973 when *socialist* organizations such as Planned Parenthood and the ACLU prevailed in the ignominious *Roe v. Wade* decision from the U.S. Supreme Court. In all three cases, these were undemocratic, top-down decisions.

In our country, these socialist forces have repeatedly turned to the courts to impose what they could not win democratically. Laws against contraception, pornography and sodomy have been struck down by activist judges. Therefore, we must expect that they will similarly attempt to invalidate all laws against “same sex unions” by bringing a case before the Supreme Court. Should such an attempt succeed, this will have disastrous consequences for Catholics and Catholic institutions across the country.

Winston Churchill said, as he watched Nazi Germany snatch countries in Europe, “We must arm!” So too, we must arm. We must fight against these enslaving perversions of freedom. Our arms are the Truth--- what John Paul II called *Veritatis Splendor* (the Splendor of the Truth) and laid out in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* --- and our sustenance is grace.

This war is not just political, but supernatural--- against “principalities and powers.”

Lent is a special time to grow in knowledge of the Truth, and to strengthen our wills through fasting and penance. Here we can learn from St. Thomas More. It was learning and prayer and penitential practices that gave Thomas More the strength to be the “The King’s good Servant, but God’s first,” and suffer martyrdom.

St. Michael Broadcasting can help spread this Truth, and encourage those striving to strengthen their wills. To do this, we need your financial support. Last year TPT 2 received over \$5.2 million in taxpayer money in addition to viewer contributions and sponsorships. We received less than \$80,000 in contributions. This year expenses will exceed \$400,000. So please help if you can, either by contributing, or by telling others about the station: “Many hands make light work.”

We will add at least one "sub-channel" when we move to channel 16. Please send us your programming suggestions for this channel in the enclosed envelope. What would you like to see that isn't there now? What would you like to see more of? We also welcome your ideas on how to increase funding for the station.

God bless you this Lent,

Michael Bird, president and chief volunteer

Penance and Reparation: A Lenten Meditation by Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J. (abridged)

In order to better understand the meaning of penance and reparation, we have to look for a moment at what happens whenever we sin. Two things happen:

- First: we incur guilt before God for the self-will that caused us to sin. We become more or less separated or estranged from God, depending on the gravity of our sin.
- Second: We deserve punishment for the disorder we cause by our sinful conduct. We become liable to suffering pain, again more or less pain, depending on how seriously we have done wrong. Against this background, we can more easily see the meaning of penance and reparation.
- Penance is the repentance we must make to remove the guilt, or to reinstate ourselves in God's friendship.
- Reparation is the pain we must endure to make up for the harm we brought about by our self-indulgence when we sinned.

... We are our brother's keepers. We are mysteriously co-responsible for what other people do wrong. There is a profound sense in which all of us are somehow to do penance and make reparation, not only for our sinful misdeeds, but for the sins of our country and, indeed, for the sins of the whole human race. Indeed, the calamities that we have so far seen in this present (20th) century: two world wars with more casualties than in all the previous wars of history, and the threat of a nuclear holocaust that hangs over us like a tornado cloud. All of this is God's warning to do penance and reparation. Why? Because God is not mocked. The divine logic is simple, awfully simple, and all we have to do is learn what God is telling us. Either we do penance and reparation because we want to, or we shall suffer (against our will) the consequences of our sins in this life, and in the life to come.

... (W)e could talk for hours about the theology of penance and reparation and end up, wiser perhaps, but not holier. We must take the next and final step, and ask ourselves, practically, what am I to do about it? In order to come to the point immediately, let me give you what I call seven rules, three for penance and four for reparation. They can be expressed in seven words, where each word is a divine command as follows:

Pray! Share! And forgive! Work! Endure! Deprive! And sacrifice!

God is good. He gives us the privilege of not only expiating what we have done wrong, but actually becoming more pleasing to Him by our penance and reparation.

In 1943, then Monsignor Fulton Sheen told this story of a German soldier in occupied France: The soldier, and his French wife who was expecting a baby, were in a hospital. The soldier noticed a crucifix on the wall and asked a sister to take it down. She refused. He insisted, saying he “did not want his child ever to look upon the image of the Jewish Christ.” Under threat, the sister relented. The child was born blind.

This story seems a metaphor for our own times. Public Television refuses to carry religious programming. Discussion of whether we were created by God is *verboten* in public schools, and crucifixes have been removed even from some nominally “Catholic” schools. Consequently, our culture suffers from blindness, and our countrymen grope for answers--- about the meaning of life, suffering, what constitutes moral behavior, their destiny.

In grade school in the 1950’s, my teacher, a Dominican sister, told us that child sacrifice was a characteristic of pagan cultures. It seemed so unreal, so *unthinkable*, then, sacrificing to *Moloch* and *Baal*. But here we are, this month, mourning the ignominious *Roe v. Wade* decision of January 22, 1973, when our Supreme Court once again allowed child sacrifice. Blind to a higher law, and to our own Constitution, they enshrined the *unthinkable* into law.

It’s our responsibility to turn this around, to be “signs of contradiction.” This month we will focus on abortion and what we can do about it. We will show the heart-rending pictures that other stations refuse to show, and how abortion harms those involved. As Catholics, we neither hate nor condemn: “There but for the grace of God go I.” Nonetheless, we must speak the truth with love, and try to help those women and men who have experienced abortion--- who suffer from inconsolable grief and debilitating guilt--- find forgiveness, healing and joy. This redemption is found through our Redeemer, who died on the cross.

Jesus says that some demons only come out through prayer and fasting (Mark 9:29). If all of us who are part of this apostolate fasted for just one meal or a few consecutive meals this month, and joined that with prayer, this would help end abortion.

Please support St. Michael Broadcasting. Monthly contributions are not meeting our monthly expenses of over \$9000, and the move to digital will cost another \$235,000. If you can’t financially contribute, that’s okay. Please pray for the success of this apostolate.

God bless you this new year,

Michael Bird, President and Volunteer

Abortion as Pagan Sacrifice

(excerpts) by Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.

...As believing Catholics, we know that behind the murder of unborn children is the superhuman mind and malevolent will of Satan and his minions. To know this is to also know that only divine power is a match for the demonic power behind abortion. This divine power is the power of the God who became man in order, as He told us, to conquer the devil as master of the world.

How did Christ provide for the conquest of Satan and his agents? He did so by dying on the cross. The one who died on Calvary was man, but this man was the living God. On these premises, Calvary is the divine sacrifice because it was God who assumed a human body and a human soul which could separate in a human death on Good Friday. Except for this divine sacrifice of Jesus Christ there would be no hope for the human race...

The graces which Christ pours out on a sinful world through the daily offering of Mass are the graces which a homicidal world needs to return to its worship of the one true God, and cease committing the crimes of abortion which are really acts of worship of the evil deities who we know are the evil spirits.

The Sacrifice of the Mass, therefore, provides us with the light and strength we need to live sacrificial lives. But we must use these graces and really live lives of sacrifice. If we do, and in the measure that we do, we shall obtain for the agents of death the miraculous graces they need to abandon their idolatry and return to the worship of the one true God.

Our faith tells us that the Sacrifice of the Mass is at once the sacrifice of Christ and our sacrifice, too. Christ has done all that He could by dying on the cross. We must do all that we can to follow in His footsteps and die to ourselves out of love for Him.

December 2009 -Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer at St. Michael Broadcasting

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

Moral theologian Monsignor William Smith, who died this year, was notable for his wonderful aphorisms. One of these was "God always forgives; man sometimes forgives; nature never forgives." Meaning, for example, God will forgive the drunk driver; the parent whose son the drunk driver ran over might also forgive; but nature will not bring the son back to life. We cannot transgress the natural law without suffering the consequences.

The legalization and acceptance of contraception is a violation of the natural law. The use of contraception, by separating sex from procreation and marriage, fosters the mentality that sex is more about self-gratification than self-giving, and the materialistic belief that my body is mine to do with as I please. In *Humanae Vitae*, Pope Paul VI foresaw these ill effects:

- Increased conjugal infidelity.
- Debasing of all standards of human morality.
- Lowering of respect for women and of woman's dignity.

- State legislation against human fertility.
- Desecration of the holiness of marital intimacy.
- Breakdown of personal responsibility.
- Cultivation of selfish individuality.
- Destruction of the family as the foundation of civilized society.
- Promotion of an utterly materialistic understanding of human existence.

We see the results: Abortion, using human embryos as research materials, euthanasia, increased out of wedlock birth, increased divorce, the difficulties of those brought up by just one parent, the acceptance of pornography, an aggressive homosexual movement seeking to redefine marriage, and a government growing ever larger as citizens trade liberty for security. Our most fundamental institution, the family, is foundering.

The current economic crisis is related to this mentality of selfish pleasure without responsibility. We are missing the financial and intangible contributions of those millions who should have been born. Citizens spend beyond their means. Despite an already formidable national debt, our leaders increase spending and the money supply and incur more debt with no plan to ever pay it back, thereby raising the specter of hyper-inflation, and saddling those who can't vote and haven't entered the workforce with the responsibility of servicing overwhelming debt. None of this bodes well.

But the cross is our hope. The Word made Flesh is our hope. The Light of the World, who has charged us to "let our light shine before men" is our hope. Jesus, who said "Man lives not by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God," has charged us to "go forth and teach all nations." This is the mission of St. Michael Broadcasting, to bring the Good News to others.

You are part of this apostolate. Please support it by telling others about the station and ask them if they would like to receive a newsletter. If they would like to, please send their name and address to us in the enclosed envelope. The move to digital will cost approximately \$235,000 in equipment and labor. If you can financially support this apostolate, please do so. If you cannot, please offer up this suffering for the success of the station.

God bless you in this joyous and holy season.

Michael Bird, President

[November 2009 -Letter from Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer at St. Michael Broadcasting](#)

Dear Friends and Family of Channel 19,

There are numerous events of interest to Catholics in the Twin Cities area that many of us never know occur. For example, the Cathedral has a "Faith and Reason" series of lectures that recently featured Fr. Brian Mullady and Dr. James Hitchcock. Frs.

Groeschel and Corapi have also spoken locally in the past. In October, Debra Braun, from Pro-Life Action Ministries, spoke at the University of Minnesota on sidewalk counseling.

St. Michael Broadcasting could record and broadcast these events if we had the funds to do so. But we do not. If there is some event such as those above that you would like to sponsor, let us know. The cost to professionally record and edit such an event comes to around \$1000.

We have received approval to move to Channel 16. However, we cannot move at present because the station currently occupying this space has asked for and received an extension that expires in February. So the changeover may not occur until May. We will then have more "channels," such as 16.1, 16.2, etc. If you have ideas on how to use this increased broadcast spectrum, tell us your ideas.

If you are still having trouble receiving Channel 19, please give the station a call at 612-724-2265. We will try to help you resolve reception problems. With the right adjustments, and maybe a few inexpensive electronic accessories, anyone who received Channel 19 before the digital changeover (for the large stations) should still be able to receive Channel 19. It is even possible to receive Channel 19 if you have cable TV by buying and hooking up an A-B switch and adjusting your TV reception from cable to standard.

September was the first time we have "broken even," or received more than \$12,000 in monthly contributions, thanks to several generous donors. Still, we need contributions. Thus far in October, we have received less than \$2000. So contribute if you have the means. If you don't, don't worry! God will provide. Please tell others about the station.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael Bird

P.S. This month we begin a series that will counter the specious arguments for same-sex "marriage," from both a Catholic and natural law perspective. Tune in.

Without God All Is Meaningless

"God made us and all things of nothing. We may look, and feel, pretty substantial, so much flesh and blood and bone; but the matter of our body God made of nothing (as he made our soul), and it has nothing but what God has given it. God holds us and all things in being... if he withdrew his will for our existence, we should be nothing. I do not mean that we should die; I mean that we should be nothing at all.

Not to know these two truths is to be wrong about everything. If we omit God, we do not see anything as it is, but everything as it is not--- which is the very definition of insanity.

God is the explanation of everything. Leave out God, then, and you leave out the explanation of everything, you leave everything unexplainable. Science studies the constitution of matter--- what things are made of. But no science can study the two far more vital questions--- *by whom* they were made, *for what* were they made.

... truth means seeing reality as it is. Men who do not know what God is, what man's soul is, what the purpose of life is and what follows death, are simply not living in the real world. They need to be shown the truths about God, the spiritual order, the world to come, for men cannot live according to a reality which they do not see--- nor dare we blame them for failing to live according to a reality which we have never shown them.

Above all they must come to see and know Christ Our Lord in whom all truths are contained and by whom they are announced to men.

Who is to show them these truths?

There is only one voice that can be heard, the voice of one person speaking to another--- speaking to the people next door, the people he works with, plays with, travels with.... The laity must convey the message one by one, to unbelievers one by one.”

From *Theology for Beginners*, by Frank Sheed, (1958). pages 51 and 178.

First National Day of Thanksgiving Proclamation (1789)

WHEREAS it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally, to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine.

G. Washington. (You may wish to read this at your Thanksgiving meal.)

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting:
October, 2009

In 1866, in Dakota County, Pierce Butler, the sixth of nine children, was born. Though Catholic, he attended Carleton College, and for his graduating oration spoke on “the greatness of the Roman Catholic Church and its good influence upon the world.” He went into law, and brilliantly argued several high profile cases. In 1915, in a speech to the National Catholic Educational Association titled “Educating for Citizenship,” he said:

“The Catholic Church holds that religion cannot be separated from morality, that morals rest upon religion, and that without it character will not be secure against the attacks of selfishness and passion... The educated man, whose character is not sound, whose conscience is not well instructed and whose conduct is not guided by religion and morality, is a danger to the state and to his fellowmen. ”

In 1922, Butler was nominated for the Supreme Court. Columnists objected, calling Butler “reactionary” and “intolerant.” The Socialist dominated Minneapolis City council passed a resolution calling his nomination a “crime against the people.” Nonetheless, Butler was confirmed.

In 1927, the Supreme Court was asked to rule whether a state could forcibly sterilize a “feeble-minded” girl, Carrie Buck, before releasing her to live independently. Buck’s attorney argued: “If this Act be a valid enactment, then the limits of the power of the State to rid itself of those citizens deemed undesirable have not been set... even races may be brought within the scope of such regulation, and the worst form of tyranny practiced.” Before the case was decided, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes said regarding Butler, “I wonder whether he’ll have the courage to vote with us in spite of his religion?” Holmes later wrote for the majority: “...the public welfare may call upon the best citizens for their lives. It would be strange if it could not call upon those who already sap the strength of the state for lesser sacrifices... It is better..., if instead of waiting to execute degenerate offspring for crime... society can prevent those who are manifestly unfit from continuing their kind... Three generations of imbeciles are enough.” Only Pierce Butler dissented. Carrie Buck was sterilized.

In 1933, the Nazis modeled their “Hereditary Health Law” upon U.S. law, and began their program of sterilizing and even killing the “genetically defective.” They expanded the “power of the state” to “races” as Carrie Buck’s attorney had warned. After the War, the Nuremberg Trials began, and the Nazi doctors were accused of “crimes against humanity.” Their defense counsel quoted Holmes’ words. This incident is preserved in the movie *Judgment at Nuremberg*. *Buck v. Bell* has never been overturned.

Like St. Thomas More, Pierce Butler developed his God-given talents, allowed his faith to guide his conduct, and had the fortitude to stand up for what was right. He died November 16, 1939, and is buried at Calvary Cemetery in St. Paul.

St. Michael Broadcasting is “Educating for Citizenship.” Please continue to support this apostolate with your contributions, through prayer, and by telling others.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael Bird, President

From "Educating for Citizenship" by Pierce Butler (1916)

“Growing extravagance in appropriations for supposed public purposes, heavily burdens the property and industries of the country ... Contemporaneously with the ever increasing activities of government, there is a tendency toward a kind of State socialism, which is destructive of individual initiative and development... (T)hey urge that the government should protect every individual against all the trials and vicissitudes of life. If doctrines such as these gain a substantial foothold, individual initiative will be dangerously impaired; the family, which is an essential unit of our society and the very cornerstone ...of the foundation of the republic, will cease to be the motive for morality, industry, thrift and independence; the State, transgressing the limits of its true functions, will undertake to stand in place of father and mother, husband and wife, brother and sister, and become one vast charitable machine to furnish employment and to dole out supplies to meet the needs of the people. Need we here suggest that any such program would, more than war, work the ruin of the nation?

It would weaken character and leave the individual man and woman without the motive or hope or inspiration necessary to freedom and morality.”

... It is even suggested that if the parents are unwilling to support their children, this burden should be borne for them at the public expense, and that if in any instance the marriage relation shall be found to be irksome, the bonds are freely to be dissolved...

September 2009 Letter from Michael Bird President and Chief Volunteer at St. Michael Broadcasting

Dear Friends and Family of St. Michael Broadcasting,

September, 2009

In 1924, a “crime of the century” occurred in Chicago that riveted the attention of the nation. Two brilliant Jewish teenagers, 19 year-old Nathan Leopold and 18 year-old Richard Loeb, both homosexual and from very wealthy families, brutally murdered 14 year-old Robert Franks, “for the thrill of it.” Both were atheists. Both had been influenced by Nietzsche. Leopold had written to Loeb: "A superman ... is, on account of certain superior qualities inherent in him, exempted from the ordinary laws which govern men. He is not liable for anything he may do." The famous attorney Clarence Darrow said this in the boys’ defense: “Is any blame attached because somebody took Nietzsche's philosophy seriously and fashioned his life upon it? ... it is hardly fair to hang a 19-year-old boy for the philosophy that was taught him at the university." The film *Rope*, by Alfred Hitchcock, is based on the “Leopold and Loeb” murder.

At the same time, the National Socialist Workers (Nazi) Party was growing in power in Germany. Nietzsche had influenced their “master race” philosophy. The head of their thug-like military wing, known variously as “brown shirts,” the “storm troopers,” or the “SA,” was Ernst Roehm, a homosexual, whose militia, which was larger than the German army, intimidated and bullied Jews. By 1934, Hitler recognized that his old friend Roehm had become a threat to his own power, and in an event called “Night of the Long Knives” murdered Roehm and the top SA officers, many of which were also

homosexuals. Nietzsche's philosophy had influenced murder: by Jews and of Jews, by homosexuals, and of homosexuals, by atheists and of atheists.

The late William Marra, a philosophy professor at Fordham, once remarked that people tend to think of philosophers as quaint people whose work is inconsequential, but that in fact they can exert a profound influence, the effects of which aren't apparent until about 50 years after they have published. Such was the case with Nietzsche.

Nietzsche's philosophy is still taught and poorly refuted at our universities, as the acceptance of abortion and the utilitarian use of embryonic stem cells will attest. And Catholic higher education, as a rule, has done a poor job of imparting the Catholic response to Nietzsche's "God is dead" philosophy. This job has fallen to individuals: preachers, philosophers and theologians, who try to reach others through the communications media. Channel 19 can help them reach you and others with the Truth. In the words of Fr. Corapi: "God isn't dead, He isn't even tired..." We are "made in the image and likeness of God."

Contributions in July came to over \$8000, *much* improved over the \$3200 received in June. Still, it costs about \$12,500/month for this station just to break even and \$17,000/month to grow a little. Please continue to contribute regularly and tell others about the station.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael Bird, President

The Pillar of Personality, by Abp. Fulton Sheen

"One could go through history and find a dozen historical instances to prove that, as men lose their belief in God, the State becomes an Absolute. Men must have a god, and if it will not be the God of Hearts, it will be the State god.... What are the effects of the absoluteness of politics? The most general is the dehumanization of man. Once man became loosened from his divine moorings, he became "autonomous," or an independent god... But no state could survive if every man was a god and a law unto himself...

In democracies, the dehumanization of man has taken an academic or quasi-scientific background. The whole tendency of our thinking for the last seventy years has been to destroy man's dignity by identifying him with nature, i.e., with the stones and the beasts. Evolution, for example, made him one with the animal in his *origin*; Behaviorism made him one with the animal in his *actions* and in his *nature*; Freudianism identified him with the animal in his *mental processes*; Pragmatism identified him with the animal in his *goals* and *purposes*. What follows? If man is one with nature, then why should he not be treated as nature, i.e., as a *thing*, or as a *means to an end*? Human rights and freedom lost their outside purchase in God, where the Declaration of Independence put them. In fact all rights and liberties disappeared, for nature has no rights. The result is that a new system of law, or political theory, has arisen which makes law merely a positive fact like a poker or a broom.

If the moral basis of politics is rejected, the nation falls, for unless the electorate votes from an informed conscience rather than on the basis of propaganda, a democracy can vote itself right out of democracy--- as Germany did." From *Seven Pillars of Peace*, (1944), excerpts, pages 67-70.

Dear Viewers and Supporters of St. Michael Broadcasting,

Some of you are still having trouble receiving our signal since hooking up your converter box. Here are our suggestions for remedying this situation:

1) Check to see that your converter box has "analog pass-through." If you were able to receive Ch. 19 before hooking up your converter box, you should be able to receive it now. We are still broadcasting in analog. Make sure it is hooked up properly and perform an "auto-scan."

2) If this doesn't work, you may need an "A-B switch." These are available at such places as Radio Shack.

3) You may need a better UHF antenna. Another possibility is to just remove your converter box and leave your TV as before. You will receive Ch. 19, but few other channels.

If none of these work, call the customer service number that came with the directions for your converter box. If you can't find your instructions, call the studio and leave your phone number and the model and make of your converter box. We will find the number for you and call you back.

4) You may also call Randy at Robin TV (763-533-1566). He may be able to help you correct the problem over the phone (at no charge), or come to your house. We believe he charges \$60.00 for a service call. If you use him, please call us at the studio and let us know if you were satisfied with his service.

Finally, if you have a digital TV you should receive us on Channel 19, not Channel 70. If you are receiving us on Ch. 70, go through the menu on your channel changer and switch the cable option to "off" or "standard."

There is good news. We have applied for a new channel. After we hear back from the FCC, we will transition to digital. Our best guess is that we will go digital late this year. After this transition occurs, it will greatly expand our ability to provide programming. We might have as many as five channels on our spectrum! So if you're not interested in what EWTN is showing at a particular time, you might switch to another channel and find Fr. Groeschel, Bishop Sheen, or programs featuring local speakers. This will surely help us become a somewhat stronger voice in the desert.

Of course doing this will require us to buy some new equipment and new programming. In June, our contributions came to about \$3200. This station needs \$10,000/month just to subsist, and closer to \$17,000/month to achieve our goal of modest growth. Please send in a monthly contribution if you are able. If money's tight, don't, and don't feel guilty! If on the other hand, you are in a position to contribute stocks, bonds, real estate, or even valuable items, please leave a message at the station: 612 724-2265, and we will call you back with directions.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael Bird, President and Chief Volunteer

Volunteers Needed

Ch. 19 Studio #: 612-724-2265

We need volunteers for three projects: First, we have a (1985?) Malcolm Muggeridge audio tape called *The True Crisis of Our Time*. Since the tape is still timely, we would like to make it available on our website in both the audio and transcribed form. It is about 1 hour long. Please call the studio if you can transcribe, or post the audio.

Second, we need a volunteer to locate other Catholic TV stations in the country. We have been told there are about 9. If you have the time to locate them via an internet search, we might be able to use them, and they us, as resources.

Third, we need some one to investigate the business model of Minnesota Public Radio and/or Minnesota Public Television. We need to know how they operate and how they generate revenue. Knowing this might help us both lighten the burden on our individual contributors and improve the operation of St. Michael Broadcasting.

A Plea for Intolerance, by Bishop Fulton Sheen

“What is tolerance? Tolerance is an attitude of reasoned patience towards evil, and a forbearance that restrains us from showing anger or inflicting punishment. But what is more important than the definition is the field of its application. The important point here is this: tolerance applies only to persons, but never to truth. Intolerance applies only to truth, but never to persons. Tolerance applies to the erring; intolerance to the error.

...America is suffering not so much from intolerance, which is bigotry, as it is from tolerance, which is indifference to truth and error, and a philosophical nonchalance that has been interpreted as broad-mindedness.”

From *Old Errors and New Labels* (1931), page 105.

-
- July Letter from the President and Chief Volunteer at St. Michael Broadcasting.

Dear Friends and Family of Channel 19,

At this time of the year, it is worth reflecting on these words from our *Declaration of Independence*: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by t heir Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

This premise launched the independence of our country, The United States of America, 233 years ago. But today, at say, the University of Minnesota, which department, faculty members, or students could argue for it? It seems few could. They *could* question

whether Truth exists. In fact, a few years ago the Director of the Office of Institutional Diversity at the University of St. Thomas wrote me, "*Clearly, the University acknowledges there is no absolute on the notion of 'truth'.*"

How could they argue that our rights came from our *Creator*? Government schools don't promote this belief. They avoid life's most important questions: Does God exist? What is the purpose of my life? What happens after I die? These are theological questions. Since the "U," the "marketplace of ideas," has no Theology Department, it excludes this all important discussion from its "marketplace."

In Muslim countries, where *dhimmi* (Jews or Christians living under Islamic rule) are allowed, the *dhimmi* must pay a *tax* or *tribute* called a *jizya*, whose purpose is to weaken and humiliate the non-Muslims, and simultaneously strengthen the Muslim community. *Dhimmi* cannot evangelize. How different is this than here in the United States, where Catholics and Christians must pay property taxes to secular government schools, where their children are taught what is inimical to their faith, such as: "Make no judgments about sex outside of marriage; Homosexual acts are normal, and those who don't think so are bigots; Belief in God is a private matter that doesn't bear much on anything except for when it becomes "divisive" and believers try to "impose their values" on others."?

If Catholic parents object, fine, they can *pay* to have their children sent to a private school, but still must pay *taxes* that benefit government schools.

The double standard "Piss Christ" incident of 1987 is a metaphor for this discrimination. Then, the taxpayer-funded National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) awarded a \$15,000 prize for a photograph of a crucifix immersed in the "artist's" urine. When Christians complained, they were reviled for censoring "art." Of course, the NEA would *not* have awarded a prize for a beautiful crucifix by this same "artist" on the grounds that they couldn't "promote a religion." Does anyone believe that if the "artist" had immersed in his urine a picture of say, Martin Luther King, the NEA would have honored this work?

By interpreting the First Amendment in such a way as to favor atheism and its concomitant philosophy--- man is the measure of all things--- over belief in a Creator who endows us with rights, our institutions insidiously undermine freedom. The Founding Fathers, in contrast, adjured us never to never forget the indissoluble link between religious Truth and Freedom. In the words of George Washington:

"Let us with caution indulge the superstition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds... reason and

experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

And James Madison, "Chief Architect of the Constitution":

"We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all our political institutions upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves... according to the Ten Commandments of God."

And Thomas Jefferson:

"And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis-- a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that His justice cannot sleep forever."

St. Michael Broadcasting is trying to bring people to the source of all freedom: Jesus Christ, "The Way, the Truth, and the Life," through the Church He founded: the Catholic Church. But 20 viewer contributions are not paying the bills. Please support this apostolate by sending a check in the enclosed envelope, or contributing an asset such as stock, bond or real estate. For more info, call the station at 612-724-2265, or email us at info@stmichaelbroadcasting.com.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael Bird, president and chief volunteer

-
- Excerpt from "Veritas Splendor", Pope John Paul II.

Revelation teaches that *the power to decide what is good and what is evil does not belong to man, but to God alone...* God's law does not reduce, much less do away with human freedom; rather, it protects and promotes that freedom...

Only God, the Supreme Good, constitutes the unshakable foundation and essential condition of morality, and thus of the commandments, particularly those negative commandments which always and in every case prohibit behaviour and actions incompatible with the personal dignity of every man. The Supreme Good and the moral good meet in *truth*: the truth of God, the Creator and Redeemer, and the truth of man, created and redeemed by him... "Totalitarianism arises out of a denial of truth in the objective sense. If there is no transcendent truth, in obedience to which man achieves his full identity, then there is no sure principle for guaranteeing just relations between people. Their self-interest as a class, group or nation would inevitably set them in

opposition to one another... Thus, the root of modern totalitarianism is to be found in the denial of the transcendent dignity of the human person who, as the visible image of the invisible God, is therefore by his very nature the subject of rights which no one may violate no individual, group, class, nation or State. Not even the majority of a social body may violate these rights, by going against the minority, by isolating, oppressing, or exploiting it, or by attempting to annihilate it".

... This is *the risk of an alliance between democracy and ethical relativism*, which would remove any sure moral reference point from political and social life, and on a deeper level make the acknowledgment of truth impossible. Indeed, "if there is no ultimate truth to guide and direct political activity, then ideas and convictions can easily be manipulated for reasons of power. As history demonstrates, a democracy without values easily turns into open or thinly disguised totalitarianism".

By Pope John Paul II, par. 35, 99 and 101.

- **Ownership Transferred from Catholic Views Broadcast to St. Michael Broadcasting**

A letter from Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J.

Dear Friends of Family TV 19,

For the past twenty years, Catholic Views Broadcasts has brought Catholic TV to the Twin Cities. In 1989, we began broadcasting quality Catholic programs from both EWTN and our in-house studio 24/7. We have continued this important media apostolate thanks to our dedicated staff of volunteers and generous donors.

Channel 19's operations have expanded since its inception. We increased the power and added a more effective antenna to reach a broader audience, encompassing most of the Twin Cities and outlying areas. Minneapolis and St. Paul are among just a few cities in the United States that have a Catholic TV station broadcasting 24/7. This is indeed a treasure that contributes greatly to the intellectual and spiritual growth of Catholics and others as evidenced by letters and phone calls received from our viewers.

It has been an honor for me to serve you over these past twenty years.
Looking ...

towards the future, Catholic Views Broadcasts transferred ownership to St. Michael Broadcasting in March. I am pleased to introduce to you Mr. Michael Bird, President of St. Michael Broadcasting. Mr. Bird has been a long-time supporter of

Channel 19. Channel 19 will remain a non-profit Catholic TV station and continue broadcasting EWTN and local programming.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of the volunteers and donors whose generosity has contributed to the success of Channel 19. Like his predecessor, the late Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI is urging Catholics to utilize the media for evangelization. Be assured of my prayers for you and your families, for Channel 19, and for its new ownership. May God bless you.

Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., President

April, 2009

----- Return to top -----

- Copyright