

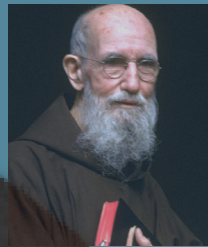
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ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY

JANUARY 2018

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 1

Take Action:
Stability in
Lebanon



Blessed
“Barney:”
Beatificaion
of Fr. Solanus
Casey
CARLOS X. COLORADO

Lent, Easter and
Pentecost 2018
Calendar



IN GOOD FAITH
CARLOS X. COLORADO

WHEN I WAS A student extern to Hon. Margaret Morrow (Ret.), one of my responsibilities in court every morning was to fill the water pitchers at counsel table.

In a sense, it was the most menial of responsibilities. It did not seem to relate to the substantive functioning of this federal courtroom. It did not summon any legal skill or training that I was getting at USC Law School across town. But in my imagination, I saw it as a rarified ritual of this secular priesthood I participated in through my role as a functionary (albeit, a lowly one) in this vast justice system.

The California Attorney Guidelines of Civility and Professionalism states that “[t]he dignity, decorum and courtesy that have traditionally characterized the courts and legal profession of civilized nations are not empty formalities.” [Section One.] Instead, “[t]hey are essential to an atmosphere that promotes justice and to an attorney’s responsibility for the fair and impartial administration of justice.” [Id.]

Dignity, decorum and courtesy are essential to our system of justice. They should be most familiar to us as Catholic lawyers:

Dignity is an important concept in the social doctrine of the Church. We recognize the dignity of work because it allows us to be productive, to engage our creative genius, to exercise our private property rights and partake in economic initiative for self-realization and fulfilment. The court, the office, and the other places where we work are spaces where this dignity should be upheld and exalted.

Decorum holds pride of place in our sacred worship. The

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IDEALS OF ST. THOMAS MORE

The legal profession is a high calling with corresponding responsibilities to society. The principal objective of every lawyer is to promote and seek justice. Catholic Lawyers pursue the truth in both their spiritual and professional lives. The duty of a Catholic lawyer is to remain faithful to Jesus Christ, His Church and its teachings at all times despite the personal consequences.

THE OBJECTIVES OF STMS

- encouraging its members to live a Christian life and apply the principles and ideals exemplified by St. Thomas More in their lives and encourage same in the legal profession.
- promoting and foster high ethical principals in the legal profession generally and, in particular, in the community of Catholic lawyers.
- assisting in the spiritual growth of its members.
- encouraging interfaith understanding and brotherhood.
- sponsoring the annual Red Mass for elected and appointed officials and members of the legal profession.

MEMBERSHIP IN STMS

Each member of the Society is committed to:

- strive to live an exemplary Christian life and apply the principles and ideals exemplified by St. Thomas More in their daily lives and encourage same in the legal profession.
- attend monthly meeting of the Society and provide personal support to the St. Thomas More Society.
- attend and support the Red Mass.

LAWYER'S PRAYER

Give me the grace, Good Lord, to set the world at naught; to set my mind fast upon thee and not to hang upon the blast of men's mouths; to be content to be solitary; not to long for worldly company but utterly to cast off the world and rid my mind of the business thereof.
- ST. THOMAS MORE

EDITOR@STTHOMASMORE.NET



via

ACTION ALERT:

Ask Your Congressperson to Support the Stability and Security of Lebanon

THE ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY IS asking its members to take two minutes of your time to ask your local congressperson to support H.Res 252, which is aimed at promoting the stability of Lebanon in light of the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis which is further threatening Christianity in the Middle East, including Lebanon.

As many of you know, Christians are being heavily persecuted throughout the globe, particularly in the Middle East. Lebanon is a tiny country of 4 million people, with the highest percentage of Christians in the region (used to be majority Christian before the 1975-1990 Civil War shifted power to the now majority Muslims). Unfortunately, the Syrian refugee crisis is further destabilizing Lebanon, as the flood of 2 million refugees into tiny Lebanon is taking a huge toll, particularly on ancient Christian communities.

H.Res 252 is aimed at protecting the stability of Lebanon and ending the Syrian conflict, which has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and displaced millions. The establishment of safe zones within Syria would be an important step in that direction. These safe zones would protect Syria's vulnerable civilian populations, particularly Syria's Sunni Muslims, and prevent them from having to leave their country and live as refugees (i.e. in Lebanon).

The DC based non-profit "In Defense of Christians" has been promoting H.Res. 252 in furtherance of its mission for preserving Christianity in the Middle East, including Lebanon.

"A stable, secure Lebanon is in the best interest of the United States, it is in the best interest of the region," said Congressman Darin LaHood (IL-18) at the IDC Solidarity Dinner. That is why LaHood and Congresswoman Marcy

Kaptur (OH-9) have introduced House Resolution 252 for the "long-term stability in Lebanon". 12 other Congressman have co-sponsored, but he needs your representative to co-sponsor too. Tell them to co-sponsor today!

Lebanon has borne the largest share of the crisis created by Syria's civil war. Lebanon is hosting more refugees proportionally than any country in the world—the people of Lebanon have shown great generosity in receiving more than 2,000,000 refugees from Syria, even as Lebanon struggles to accommodate a refugee population equal to nearly a half of its native population, resulting in exorbitant pressure on Lebanon's resources.

Lebanon is one of the few remaining countries in the region with a large and politically empowered Christian population. It has a Christian President and has successfully accomplished smooth transitions between governments through its democratic elections. Unfortunately, the refugee crisis is destabilizing Lebanon's social and economic fabric.

Ending the Syrian conflict, which has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and displaced millions, should be a foreign policy priority for the United States, and the establishment of safe zones would be an important step in that direction. These safe zones would protect Syria's vulnerable civilian populations, particularly Syria's Sunni Muslims, and prevent them from having to leave their country and live as refugees.

Please TAKE ACTION and contact your member of Congress asking them to co-sponsor H.Res. 252 to support the stability of Lebanon and the establishment of safe zones in Syria.

IN GOOD FAITH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

devotion.” [GIRM, 106.] In the 1917 Code of Canon Law, canon 124, “clerical decorum” referred to an ideal of inner holiness and outward comportment for clerics, which we can extrapolate to our vocation.

Finally, Christian courtesy is properly understood as a

General Instruction of the Roman Missal states that ministers and lay faithful should perform liturgical actions “with decorum, order, and

function of justice. “The poor,” says Solomon, “use entreaties, but the rich answer roughly.” [Proverbs 18:23.] In the words of a Jesuit I met in El Salvador, “we should be meek with the meek and mighty with the mighty” (when, instead, said the wise Jesuit, we fall into the discourtesy of talking down our noses to the meek and kissing up to the mighty).

The civility guidelines call on us to assume the solemnity of our jobs and to be mindful of the awesome responsibilities we exercise. When I was a law student filling the water pitchers in a federal courtroom, I began to understand this sacred duty. How more sober is this obligation now that I am a lawyer!

St. Thomas More, pray for us!



ONE MINUTE WITH FRANCIS

Silence in the Liturgy

The Pope’s Prayer Intention for February 2018 is: “That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.”

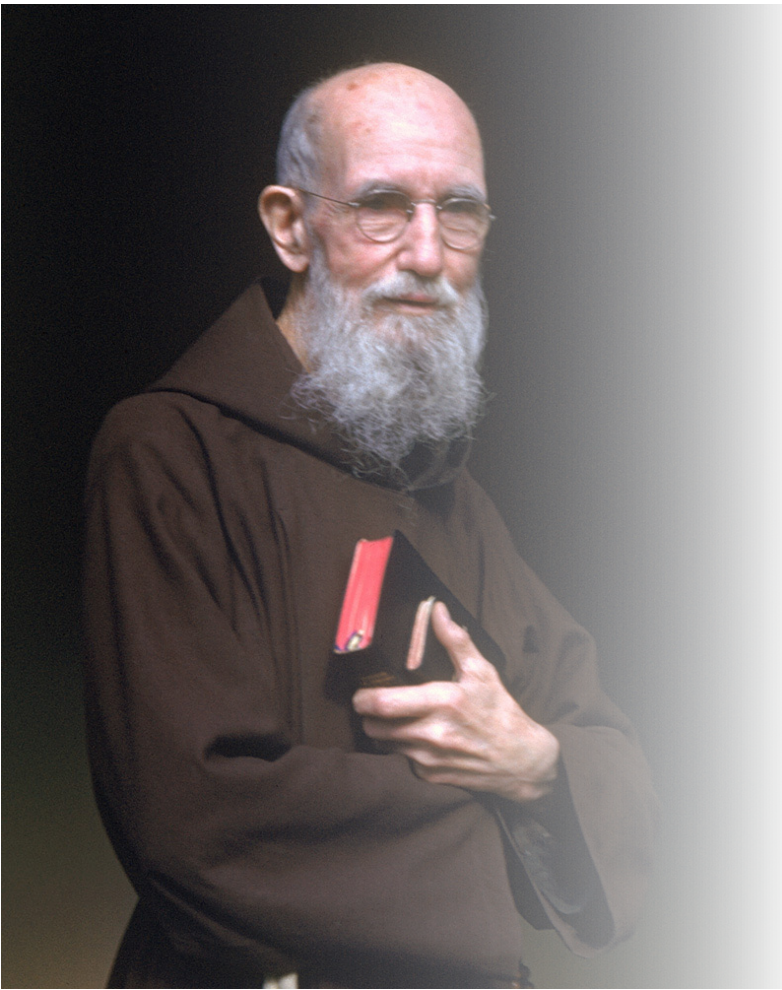
With the invitation “let us pray”, the priest encourages the people to recollect themselves with him in a brief silence, so that they may be conscious that they are in God’s presence and so that all can formulate within their own heart the personal petitions with which they are participating in the Mass.

The silence is not confined to the absence of words but rather to preparing oneself to listen to other voices: the one in our heart and, above all, the voice of the Holy Spirit. In the Liturgy, the nature of sacred silence depends on the moment in which it takes place ... Thus, before the opening prayer, silence helps us to recollect ourselves and to contemplate why we are there. This, then, is the importance of listening to our heart, so as to then open it to the Lord. Perhaps we have

experienced days of toil, of joy, of pain, and we want to tell the Lord about it, to invoke his help, to ask that he be at our side; we may have relatives and friends who are ill or who are undergoing difficult trials; we may wish to entrust to God the future of the Church and the world.

I strongly recommend that priests observe this moment of silence and not rush: “Let us pray”, and let there be silence. Without this silence, we run the risk of neglecting the recollection of the soul.

(By His Holiness Pope Francis, January 10, 2018 General Audience)



Blessed “Barney:”

Beatification of Fr. Solanus Casey

CARLOS X. COLORADO

his First Holy Communion, Barney first felt the Spirit stir within him, eagerly loving the lessons and the Bible. Attending Midnight Mass one Christmas Eve, Barney secretly wondered whether he could be a priest. This stirring continued to grow until the age of 21 when he entered St. Francis High School Seminary in Milwaukee to study for the diocesan priesthood.

After his ordination, Bl. Solanus spent 20 years in New York, Harlem, and Yonkers. He was assigned to St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit where he worked for 20 years, August 1, 1924-July 23, 1945.

One of the keynotes of Bl. Solanus’ spirituality might be an Attitude of Gratitude which he called “the first sign of a thinking, rational creature.” The prayer of “Thanks be to God” poured continually from his lips. “Love for God and neighbor” is another recurring theme of his writings along with obedience, trust, humility, and patience. During his time at Our Lady of Sorrows in Manhattan, Bl. Solanus started a new notebook, writing about his favorite Biblical themes of resignation, patience, gratitude, injustice, the Eucharist, and the Blessed Virgin.

“I have two loves,” said Fr. Solanus: “the sick and the poor.” During his final illness, he said, “I’m offering my sufferings that all might be one. If only I could see the conversion of the whole world.” Fr. Solanus saw in himself the limitations and weaknesses of being human.

On July 31, 1957, Fr. Solanus up his soul to God at St. John Hospital, Detroit MI. ♦

via

FR. SOLANUS CASEY BECAME THE THIRD American-born person to be beatified in the U.S. when he was beatified on November 18, 2017 before 70,000 people at Detroit’s Ford Field. He is one of three Americans who currently hold the title of Blessed, one step away from being named a Catholic saint.

Bl. Solanus Casey was born Bernard Francis Casey on Nov. 25, 1870 on a farm near Oak Grove, Wisconsin along the Mississippi River. Barney, as he was called during his childhood, was the sixth child in a family of ten boys and six girls born to Irish immigrant parents who left Ireland after the famine years, the scourge of the Emerald Isle.

His childhood was rich in love, steeped in Catholic tradition. The children shared a love for sports, hunting, fishing, swimming, skiing, and skating. The ten boys formed their own baseball team: The Casey Nine. Barney played catcher, usually without a glove. The other boys enjoyed boxing, but Barney would not participate. Inflicting pain on another person was not aligned with his values.

In 1883, before turning 13, Barney spent a few weeks at St. Patrick’s church in Hudson WI. During instruction for

LENT, EASTER & PENTECOST CALENDAR

2018

February 14, 2018

Ash Wednesday

March 3, 2018

USA: Saint Katharine Drexel

March 25, 2018

Palm Sunday

March 29, 2018

Holy Thursday

March 30, 2018

Good Friday

March 31, 2018

Holy Saturday

April 1, 2018

Easter Sunday

May 10, 2018

The Ascension of the Lord [Thursday]

May 20, 2018

Pentecost Sunday