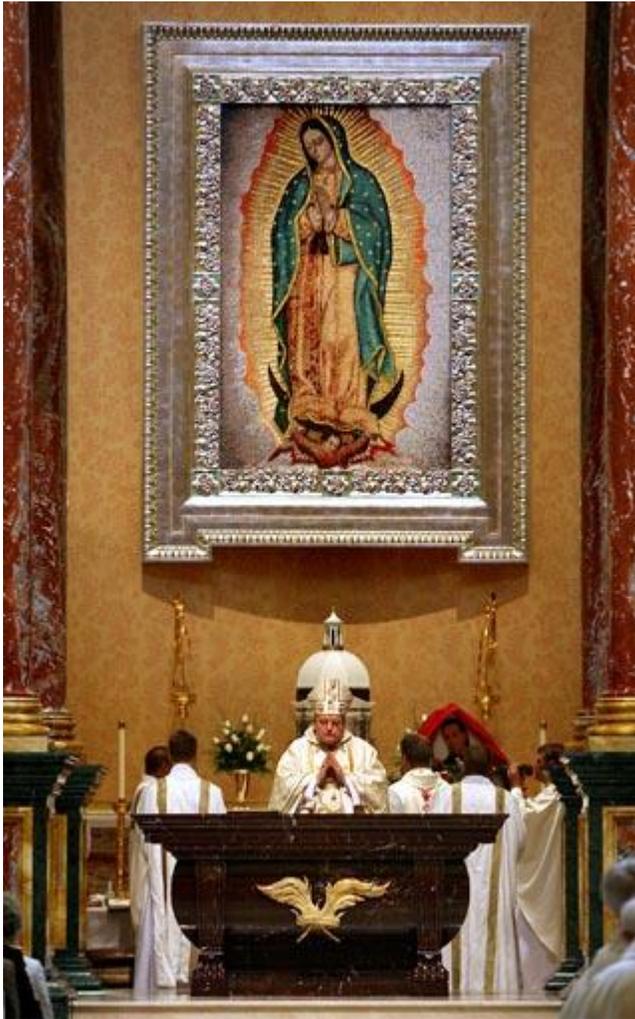




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This Silence Is Shameful

By Pastor Ralph Ovadal, Pilgrims Covenant Church, Monroe, Wisconsin, USA



Archbishop Raymond Burke, former bishop of the diocese of La Crosse, prays during the deposition of the relics portion of the Mass of Dedication for the Shrine Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe

I begin this article by posing a "what if" scenario to my fellow Christians. What if a powerful, international sodomite organization purchased over one hundred acres of land near La Crosse, Wisconsin and spent multi-millions constructing a lavish building complex on that land? What if this complex was to be a mecca for up to 200,000 sodomites a year who would come from around the world to commit perverted acts there? Finally, what if a grand dedication day for the sodomite shrine, attended by high-profile sodomite leaders and celebrities, was highly publicized in the mainstream media?

Thankfully, it is clear what would happen. Christian radio talk show hosts in our state, and region, would fill the airwaves with denunciations of such an abomination and call for a Christian witness against it. Christian pastors would preach, including to the world, what the Scriptures teach about such evil. Leaders of various Christian ministries as well as some pastors would organize to protest and preach in front of the sodomite complex. Press releases and letters to the editor would join the public protests and preaching in warning the public and the church against the dangerous evil which had set down its roots in La Crosse. I praise the Lord that this

no doubt would be the response to the "what if" scenario I have presented.

But allow me to briefly tell you readers about a real life situation which has unfolded in the beautiful countryside just outside of La Crosse. What I am about to



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describe is a greater evil than even my imaginary scenario because it was, and is, a gross spiritual perversion, an orgy of paganism and idolatry masquerading as Christian before a gullible, ignorant world. It was, and continues to be, nothing less than an open assault upon the very person, work, and word of our Lord Jesus Christ--and yet an assault carried out in His own precious name by a church held by billions to be Christian!

Thursday, July 31, 2008, was Dedication Day for the 103-acre "Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe" in La Crosse, Wisconsin. No expense has been spared, and in fact, materials have been brought in from around the world to erect the extravagant church, rosary walk, friars' residence, Memorial to the Unborn, outside Stations of the Cross, various shrines to saints, outdoor plazas, Mother of Good Counsel Votive Candle Chapel, many graven images, and so on which have been reared up on the Guadalupe shrine grounds. On Dedication Day, in addition to a large number of "pilgrims," two hundred Roman Catholic priests, including bishops, cardinals, and the Vatican's "Prefect of the Apostolic Signature," drove through the gates to "Our Lady of Guadalupe's" shrine. The vast majority of the pope's men, along with a large contingent of nuns and some monks as well, arrived in luxury cars and limousines. I know because I was at the front gate of the shrine, along with a small group from our church, as a Christian witness with our signs, tracts and with our voices as the Lord gave opportunities. As I stood in front of the grounds of the lavish Guadalupe complex, watching luxury cars full of priests arriving, I could not help but recall that the Roman Catholic Church vigorously, relentlessly lobbies our state and federal legislators for ever more tax-funded programs for the poor! But what better way to endear the poor to the pope *et al.* than to use the strong arm of the civil power to extract money from the working man to fund unbiblical entitlement schemes? Such a strategy is all gain and no pain--for the Vatican, that is, which has a long history of using the civil power to advance and strengthen popish power.

I might interject that there was one priest who arrived on the shrine scene on foot, having walked fifty miles because, as shrine coordinator Susan Swanke said in a television interview, "It's very fitting that he would walk because there is a little bit of suffering in a pilgrimage as well." I suppose the well-publicized priest thought I was adding to his suffering when I joined his walk sixty yards or so from the shrine gates in order to confront him with truth from the Word of God.

By the way, the Romanists in charge of the shrine acted in the finest tradition of popery in trying their best to convince the police on hand to sweep clean our witness from the public property in front of the shrine's gates. Spearheading that task was an intense nun in full uniform, or habit if you will, who looked as though she would have preferred a flaming pyre for us rather than a simple expulsion. Due to the lawfulness of the fine police on hand, she got neither. But she, and those with her, did get a dose of unwanted truth from us. It might interest you to know that a police officer also offered the nun a tract which we had given



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him, in order, he said, that she might read what we were handing out. The dutiful daughter of Rome curtly refused the tract, adding, "Do you think I'm crazy?"

But as much as I would like to share more on our ministry efforts, for the sake of space, I must not. Suffice it to say, I am convinced the Lord richly blessed our labor as we contended for the faith once delivered unto the saints and shared truth with Romish priests and pilgrims as well as police and media personnel.

Estimates by local tourism officials are that the shrine will soon enough be bringing in up to 200,000 pilgrims per year, resulting in up to 10 million dollars being pumped into the economy of La Crosse. Perhaps that is why the press, especially in the La Crosse region, gave the shrine dedication such extensive coverage. On the other hand, I can only speculate as to why the editor of the Rochester, Minnesota *Post-Bulletin* newspaper called our church's witness there "religious intolerance." But that same editor, apparently to showcase our bigotry, also posted our entire press release on the newspaper's blog, and his newspaper ran a story in which they quoted me calling what takes place at Guadalupe's shrine "gross idolatry"! It is not just the heart of kings that is in the Lord's hand. He also is well able to turn the heart of a newspaper editor "whithersoever he will."

Another editor--this one of the *Houston County News* (La Crescent, Minnesota)--wrote to inform me, "I feel sorry for you and the ugly heart your church has." Meanwhile, the largest paper in the La Crosse region, the *La Crosse Tribune*, carried this quote from me in their otherwise very favorable account of Dedication Day: "The things they're saying about their lady of Guadalupe are completely unbiblical. They give her attributes and power and authority that belong only to God." A local television station also did an in-depth interview with me in front of the shrine gates.

We thank God for such opportunities to reveal truth to a public deceived into thinking that the darkness of Romanism is the Christian faith. I share these things only to show how valuable and essential it is to raise a public voice against the sort of dark deceptions which were showcased as "Christian" in La Crosse last week. But this brings me back to the main purpose of this article.

The idolatrous, blasphemous orgy which recently took place in La Crosse was not done in the dark. The Guadalupe shrine had been covered by the media, off and on, since the project began in 1999. In the weeks leading up to Dedication Week, the media in the La Crosse region were saturated with shrine coverage. Stories also appeared in the media statewide, including such newspapers as the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, and in the nearby Minnesota media. Due to this, the Christian media also knew full well what was happening in La Crosse. Yet, search as we may, we have yet to find one instance in which a Christian media source exposed and reprovved that pagan spectacle in La Crosse. On Dedication Day, the Roman Catholic Eternal Word Television Network broadcast live from the shrine to 140 nations, while Relevant Radio, also Roman Catholic, went live nation-



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wide. Meanwhile, Christian radio was shamefully silent. And while I am certain far from all pastors in our state were aware that the largest shrine to "Our Lady of Guadalupe" in North America was having its "grand opening" last week, in part thanks to the Christian media blackout, surely some were aware of that statewide and virtually all in the La Crosse region. I will not presume to self-righteously pass judgment on every pastor in this matter, but one would think a good number, at least in the La Crosse region and a few from elsewhere in the state, should have taken up the cause of Christ against such an onslaught by Antichrist! Yet, for all our efforts, we cannot find one instance in which another pastor has uttered a public word concerning that monstrous abomination. For the record, our church is 160 miles distant from La Crosse.

Meanwhile, what did the world hear and read about in press reports concerning the "Christian" ceremonies that took place at the Guadalupe shrine last week? What did they learn from the lips of Roman Catholic leaders and clergy? Well, the unwary and the ignorant were informed that "Our Lady of Guadalupe," the "Mother of America" and "Patroness of the Unborn," "is known to be a powerful intercessor. Being the mother of God, when Jesus' mother asks him to do something, it's known that Jesus generally will do what his mother asks."

They were taught that "the mother of God desired that a chapel be built, to which she could invite her children to come on pilgrimage." They were assured that the shrine and its rituals are God's will. They were catechized concerning the "miraculous appearances" of the Roman Catholic goddess and given desensitizing, perhaps initiating, insight into Romish rituals, including the blasphemous mass.

In fact, the public was treated to in-depth secular media coverage, including pictures, of the dedication mass and the mass procession. The latter spectacle, we were breathlessly informed, was led by white-robed Knights of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, which dates back to the pope's Crusades. Another well-covered event was the blessing of the statue of "Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha," a Mohawk woman whose "relics"--more simply put, pieces of her dead bones--were carried into the dedication mass to be venerated and put inside the altar, along with a piece of bone from "Blessed Father Miguel Agustín Pro." On hand for that statue blessing, and honored by Archbishop Burke, was Sister Kateri Mitchell. The sister comes from the same Turtle Clan of the Mohawk Nation as "Blessed Tekakwitha," who is destined to become a "saint." Nun Mitchell was good enough to authoritatively teach the public, via the media, that one can walk a "holistic path" and that both the turtle and the Christian cross, which she called the "tree of life," are "sacred." The utterances of the "Christian" nun in the mainstream press coverage of the relic ritual included this: "The spirituality of the turtle is one of sacredness and closeness to the Earth. The Earth is the center of our lives physically, but spiritually it's a real center for me." This is the sort of hellish indoctrination the gullible world heard from "Christian" leaders of the Roman Catholic Church.



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By the way, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* coverage of the Tekakwitha statue blessing contained this: "'Two young eagles began circling, cavorting in the air, dipping down toward the statue and loudly calling out,' said Jack Socha, a shrine spokesman. 'It only happened during the blessing. They were not seen afterward. To Native Americans, this is significant. It was a very moving moment.'" Eagles are sacred to many American Indian tribes. It has always been the Romish way to blend local heathen superstition with the Roman Catholic brand of "Christian" worship and doctrine--the better to grow the pope's empire.

When Paul saw the city of Athens filled with idolatry, "his spirit was stirred in him" and he zealously took up a witness for the one true God. Last week in Wisconsin, the church of Antichrist boldly paraded before the world the brand of raw idolatry which I have only briefly described here. In fact, the various media were literally filled not just with the sort of "teaching" of which I have given samples but also with pictures of Romish idols and popish high priests. This was put forth as the true religion of Jesus Christ. If Paul's spirit was stirred in him by the idolatry of the heathen Athenian philosophers who in no wise claimed to be Christians, how much more should the spirit of Christian pastors be stirred to action by such an idolatrous mockery of the faith of the gospel by priests claiming to be ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ? But where was the true church of Jesus Christ last week? Where were those pastors whose spirits ought to have been stirred within them to contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints as Romish clergy preached their perverted religion while posing as ambassadors for Christ? Where were those who truly love the souls of the Roman Catholic people held in bondage by the devil and the pope? And where were the "conservative" Christian media? These are crucial questions that demand answers. But thanks to an ignorance of history, shallow doctrine, and ecumenical corruption, most Christians don't even see the need for the questions, let alone the answers.

***Pilgrims Covenant Church. PO Box 314, Monroe, WI 53566. 608-328-4841.
www.pccmonroe.org***