

LAY WITNESS

February 2, 2019

Presentation of the Lord

Vol. 37, No. 1

to unite the faithful from all walks of life in order to support, defend and advance the efforts of the teaching Church

A Letter from the Chairman

Dear Fellow Members and Friends of CUF,

Philip thought you all might be tired of hearing from him and asked me to share with you why I became a member of Catholics United for the Faith almost 50 years ago. I hope that parts of my experience resonate with you in your desire for fellowship on the journey to Heaven. I am confident that, after reading what follows, you will be relieved to hear from him rather than me!

The Second Vatican Council opened on October 13, 1962. At that time, I was a 27 year old single man, living in Cincinnati and a nominal Episcopalian, so I barely noticed. Little did I realize that when the Council closed on December 8, 1965, I would be living in southern California with my wife and newborn daughter and would be received into the Catholic Church two months later. I will not burden you with the details of how this transformation took place, for that is a whole other story.

As the Council continued and I was coming closer to the Church, I began to follow the proceedings with growing interest. It became apparent that some Council Fathers, with support from the news media, were pursuing an agenda that was driven by special interests. And it seemed to me that these interests were impossible to reconcile with the teaching of the Church. The most obvious example was the constant drumbeat for a repeal of the traditional teaching on contraception, much as the Anglican Communion had done at the Lambeth Conference in 1930. Moreover, many Catholic clergy and laity were saying things on this and other issues that were very similar to what I heard growing up as an Episcopalian in the 1940's and 50's.

One of the few bright spots during the postconciliar turmoil was the news of the formation of Catholics United for the Faith in 1968. However, it was not until we moved to Houston in 1972 that I could find a chapter within driving distance and it was just what I was looking for! My wife and I were delighted to find a group of Catholics who loved the Church and were determined to live by her teaching on faith and morals. We also understood that it is not for the lay faithful to stand on the sidelines and hope that our Church thrives. Nor was it our portion to pray only. The CUF chapters identified a time and a place dedicated to the authentic renewal of the Church.

In 1976 we made another move from Houston to San Antonio, where we are now and still living in the same house for 46 years. Unfortunately, there was no CUF chapter here; but I remained a member while pursuing my business as a manufacturers' representative in the printing and packaging industry. To make a long story short, I looked for ways by which

continued on page 2

Prayer of Catholics United for the Faith

O God our Father, who sent Your only-begotten Son to suffer and to give His life for the life of His Church, rule, protect, and nourish her continually, we beseech You. Teach us of Catholics United for the Faith to direct our zeal first of all to the renewal of our own hearts. Then, if it be Your holy will to allow us to be in any way Your instruments in the wider renewal of Your Church, give us the grace to know what services, small or great, You ask of us, and let the Holy Spirit teach us to perform them in obedience, patience, and charity, leaving entirely to You what fruits they may bear. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of that Holy Spirit, one God,

forever and ever. AMEN.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. Holy Mary, Mother of the Church, intercede for us. St. Joseph, Head of the Holy Family and Patron of the Universal Church, pray for us.

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continued from page 1

faithful Catholics could defend their rights to true worship and true teaching. The revised Code of Canon Law, promulgated by Pope St. John Paul II in 1983, opened the way to make this possible. After consultation with many friends, including Lyman Stebbins, we formed the St. Joseph Foundation in 1984, with the vindication of Catholic rights as its sole mission. It did not take long for the work of the Foundation to grow to the point where my wife and I were working full time —without full time compensation. Fortunately, my former business provided the resources for us to continue until the Foundation could provide regular but modest paychecks. Meanwhile, I maintained my membership in CUF and, after a few years the two organizations agreed to have the CEO of each serve on the board of directors of the other. This lasted until the Foundation's growth made my serving on two boards impossible; although we cooperated on matters of mutual interest.

I have always continued my CUF membership because of the many resources it placed at my disposal. For thorough, penetrating answers to questions about the Church, her teachings, history and discipline, CUF has no equal. Most important of all is the reality of belonging to a spiritual communion of believers. As baptized Catholics, we have all been adopted into God's family. As members of CUF we choose to manifest this communion by praying for each other and the apostolate daily. It is a spiritual family whose prayers I have come to rely on.

It is no secret that CUF, while financially stable, suffered from managerial issues. Its office staff dwindled to one part time employee and its directors seriously considered dissolution. Our affiliation with the Saint Joseph Foundation in 2017 proved a boon to both. Our staff of three is working hard to reestablish CUF as the premier "grass Roots" lay apostolate.

If you have been thirsting for friendship and communion with likeminded and faithful Catholics, I invite you to seriously consider whether membership in the renewed Catholics United for the Faith and participation in one of its chapters is not just the thing you've been looking for.

God bless you and yours, Charles M. Wilson Chairman of the Board

Lighthouse of Faith

By: Philip C. L. Gray

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to You; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to You (Psalm 139:11-12, RSVCE).

As I sit at my desk, I have before me a model of Gray's Harbor Lighthouse, complete with foliage and driveways to the buildings. The actual lighthouse is located in Westport, Washington, to safely lead mariners into Gray's Harbor. The model was given to me by my Aunt Bea after my Uncle Paul passed away. At the time, I was reminded that the work I do in the Church must be a light to lead others to the safety of Christ's Truth. She once asked me, "Do you have that lighthouse on your desk?" I do; and I am reminded.

Christmastide is a Season of Light. We celebrate the Word of God made flesh; the coming of the Light of the World. Within the public liturgies of the Catholic Church between December 25 and the First Week of Ordinary Time, we read the First Epistle of St. John, both during Mass and in the Liturgy of the Hours. The first two chapters of 1 John proclaim that God is Light and in Him there is no darkness. Those who live in Him live in Light; all others are in darkness.

This theme of Light runs through much of the Sacred Scripture written in St. John's hand. Depending on the translation used, the word "light" is found about 30 times in

the books he was inspired to write. Only two other inspired authors use the word more; the Psalmist (31 times) and Job (35 times). Even the Book of Isaiah uses the term only 23 times. Considering that the accumulated works given through St. John contain fewer chapters than either the Psalms, Job, or Isaiah, the theme of Light is prominent.

For God, "darkness is as light" (Psalm 139:12) because He is Light Himself. In the beginning, He created the heavens and the earth, and darkness covered the deep. On that first day, He brought forth light from darkness, then separated the two into night and day. Light and darkness were co-mingled at the very beginning of creation (c.f. Gen. 1:1-4). In the light of day, God created Man in His image and likeness (Gen. 1:26-27), but sin would cover man in a darkness of mind and soul (c.f. Is. 59:9, Mt. 6:23, et al.). Jesus, the Word made flesh and splendor of the Father, became the New Adam so as to restore us to God's Light. Of course, that means to free us from sin.

All of us know these simple truths about the origins of man, sin, and the coming of Jesus. And, we think of these powerful images of light and darkness when we hear the readings from Isaiah during Advent or the Gospels on Christmas day and throughout Christmastide. If you are like me, you find consolation in these passages during difficult and trying times.

Page 2 Volume 37 • Issue 1

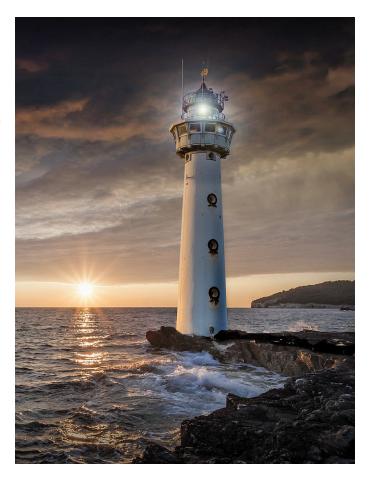
Don't get me wrong, not all the passages in Sacred Scripture that talk about the theme of light sound very encouraging. Consider Amos 5:20 or Luke 11:35. Even when the theme is presented in a grave way, Sacred Scripture compels us to look for the Light and live in it. Man was originally created in Light, and our Baptism restores us to that Light. Like plants which break out of the darkness of the earth and grow toward the light, living their entire lives in a growth that reaches up to the sun, so must we break out of the darkness of our tombs of sin and always reach toward the Son; we must walk in the Light of Christ.

Sometimes, it's not easy to see the Light we live in. We wake up and pray, making an offering of our day and sufferings to God. We possess the continual sanctifying grace of our Baptism and Confirmation. Perhaps we go to Mass and receive Our Lord and make good confessions regularly. We read the Bible and participate in parish or diocesan activities directed toward spiritual growth. And yet, we are troubled by issues at work, plagued with temptations to old sins, struggle with difficulties in our families, question what is happening to our country, and become sick over the troubles in our Church. Perhaps you or someone you love is a victim of injustice, and there seems to be no correction in sight. For all the grace, light and virtue that we surround ourselves with, we seem to live in darkness more than light. If we are honest, the circumstances that surround us in darkness pretty well encompass our entire lives. We do live in a sinful world after all. Despite the continual darkness, we wake up each day and push forward in the Light of Faith.

The Light of Faith has been a strong theme in my life for a very long time. I would guess that most of you reading this newsletter have been guided by that theme too, even if you did not think of it in those words. As members of Catholics United for the Faith (CUF), it must be a constant theme guiding us.

Lighthouse of Faith

As we begin 2019, I recall that CUF will close its 50th anniversary on September 5th of this year. For 50 years, CUF has been a guiding light—a Lighthouse of Faith—for thousands of Catholics wanting to pursue the Light of Faith in our increasingly dark world. As attested to by H. Lyman Stebbins (*Lay Witness*, 36.5), the Church badly needed CUF in 1968. As his wife Madeleine attested in her letter to me (*ibid*), the Church badly needs CUF today. As attested by Chuck Wilson in this issue of *Lay Witness*, CUF is playing a vital role in preserving the Faith for the next generation and being a catalyst for authentic renewal today. When Chuck was struggling to find like-minded Catholics after moving to Houston, Texas, he found them in the local CUF Chapter. Those acquaintances would become a catalyst to



encourage his founding of The Saint Joseph Foundation. As attested in his own story, Scott Hahn often thought he was the only zealous Catholic after his conversion until a chance visit to the local CUF Chapter in Milwaukee. The Chapter President at the time, Al Szews, gave Scott his first opportunity to speak publicly about his conversion, and introduced him to a large network of faithful Catholics. You know the rest of that story.

I could go on and on about the many people who have found in CUF a community and spring-board from which to found further ministries; apostolates that have become lighthouses of faith for those seeking the Light of Christ. At least as important—and probably more significant in their outreach—are the thousands of CUF members who never founded apostolates, never published books, never went on speaking circuits, but who devote their lives for the renewal of the Church and the conversion of sinners. Waking up each day, these members offer their sufferings with those of Christ for the conversion of sinners and the renewal of the Church. They act justly in their work places. They act charitably. They speak kindly and with encouragement. They repent of their sins and forgive others. Their very lives are lights that make a personal difference to those they encounter. That is the ministry that will change the culture and renew our Church.

continued on page 4

People like me, who travel and speak, who write and teach, serve the missionaries of Faith. We help provide the oil for your lamps so you, like the wise virgins, will have bright lamps when the Bridegroom comes (c.f. Mt. 25:1-12). Those of you working in the world (that includes stay-at-home moms) are the real Lights of Faith. You engage the culture with grace and virtue. You plant seeds of Faith by how you act and what you say. You nourish those seeds with your sacrifices and offerings. CUF supplies the oil. You give meaning to our work and ministry.

Why CUF Today?

In 1968, there were few Catholic apostolates pursuing authentic renewal and encouraging fidelity among Catholics. Roe v. Wade had not occurred. The liturgical and catechetical revolutions were only beginning. Apologetics was not a household concept. Bible studies for Catholics were few and far between. Many of the original CUF members and chapters were directly involved in the pro-life movement. They focused efforts on preserving or strengthening the laws that protected life. Those same members were engaged in catechetical and liturgical work aimed at preserving newly emerging programs from grossly distorted presentations of the Faith. CUF promoted devotion to Sacred Scripture and made apologetics a household name. Today, there are thousands of Catholic apostolates doing incredible work to defend the unborn, bring about liturgical and catechetical renewal in the Church, equip the faithful with Bible studies and tools for apologetics, and much more. So, why CUF today when there are so many other apostolates to choose from and support?

It's a good question, and one that each of you must personally answer. I have given my answer before, and I'll do it again using different words. I offer four reasons: Longevity, Stability, Fidelity, and Leadership.

CUF is long-lived. I do not remember where I saw the statistic, but I recall reading that less than half of new Catholic non-profits actually survive through the life of their founder. Less than half of those do not survive the transition to new leadership. CUF has survived, and recently survived one of its most difficult transitions. CUF has proven itself resilient over a long period of time and over changing circumstances. This is one indication that God is not finished with CUF yet. CUF is long-lived and has a reputation and history that very few Catholic apostolates can claim.

CUF is stable. With a small staff, resources shared with The Saint Joseph Foundation, and a portion of our income guaranteed by royalties from the *Faith and Life* series as well as various Emmaus Road titles, CUF has made a concerted effort to regain a firm financial footing. This means

that more of your financial gift is going directly into the initiatives and resources that serve as a light for those lost in a secular world. CUF also enjoys a stable Board of Directors, Officers, staff, and office resources. This means that I can say with confidence, CUF is situated to continue serving the Church for decades. We still depend greatly on the generosity of our members and donors, especially as we plan for the expansion of our chapter program and the creation of new resources. Rather than dissuading you from donating, I hope CUF's stability gives you confidence that a financial gift entrusted to CUF's stewardship is an investment in the renewal of the Church that will outlast all of us.

CUF is faithful. Fidelity to Jesus Christ, His Vicar on earth, and His Bride the Church is a hallmark of CUF. It is why we were founded. It is our Mission. CUF has been and always will be faithful to the Truths of our Catholic Faith. Our longevity and stability bear witness to our constant fidelity. We are not going away, and we are not changing.

CUF is a leader in the Catholic apostolic world. Undoubtedly, there are many worthy apostolates engaging the culture effectively. Many were founded or staffed by CUF members. It was CUF members who became leaders of the pro-life movement. It was CUF members who became leaders in the fight against heterodox catechetics and liturgical abuse. It was CUF that developed strong apologetic material, even before apologetics was a common practice in Catholic circles. It was CUF who embraced a mission to unite the faithful in their diverse activities. CUF forms leaders and provides a network of resources and contacts that allow members to be effective Lights of Faith in our fallen world and wounded Church.

CUF is not going away. We are long-lived, stable, and faithful to Christ and His Church. And we will continue to unite the faithful and provide resources for any authentic and legitimate endeavor our members and chapters need. We will be a leader for leaders and offer the oil that keeps lamps burning bright during the long nights of waiting.

Membership Explained

In the recent past, membership in CUF occurred when a person made a donation of a particular amount. That is not how it was done in the beginning, and not how it will be done today. If you wish to be a member of CUF, we ask that you make that intention known to the International Office or through a local CUF Chapter. At the time of making your intention known, I ask that you identify an apostolic activity you plan to pursue in keeping with your own state in life. Being a prayer warrior is just fine. continued on page 6

Page 4 Volume 37 • Issue 1

Morsels of Mirth The Feast of the Presentation

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Find the answer to each question hidden in the word search.

The Feast of the Presentation celebrates this child.

The Holy Family followed the prescriptions under the Law of _____.

They brought a pair of _____ or ____ to be sacrificed.

The devout man who witnessed to the coming of the Messiah at the Presentation.

This Person revealed the child's identity to the above man.

These two people marveled at what was said of their child.

The child's mother was warned that a sword would pierce her own ____.

This prophetess gave thanks to God and told many about the child.

continued from page 4

We desperately need prayers. If possible, make a donation. When we receive your statement, we will send you a welcome packet that includes a membership card.

In the August 2018 issue of Lay Witness (Vol. 36.4), I offered a list of membership benefits and obligations. I summarize it here:

Benefits of CUF Membership

- 1. Spiritual support and assistance
 - a. Masses offered regularly for members, and as need is identified for specific members and their families.
 - Intentions remembered daily during our office Angelus and weekly during our office Mass and Adoration Hour.
 - c. United in prayer with other members throughout the world.
- Publication of *Lay Witness* newsletter to connect you
 with like-minded members and other like-minded apostolates so you can be a lay witness in today's
 world.
- 3. Chapter Membership and Development
 - a. Access to local chapters to collaborate with like-minded Catholics in apostolic activities, prayer, and fellowship.
 - b. Assistance to develop and charter a new Chapter if one does not exist in your local area.
 - c. Formation materials for Chapters.
- 4. Personal Formation Assistance: This provides unrestricted access to Information Services (non-members have limited access), including access to over 270

Have questions about the Catholic Faith? FAITH FACTS THE ANSWERS YOU NEED

1 (800) MY FAITH

FAITH FACTS. Our Information Services also provides in-depth research tailored to your unique questions about the Catholic Faith. Since our affiliation to The Saint Joseph Foundation, members also have unique access to canonical experts who can answer questions about Canon Law and provide advice regarding concerns in your parish or diocese. Members also have access to our research library.

5. Speakers Bureau to help you make a local event formative and successful.

Obligations of CUF Membership

- 1. Agree with and accept the CUF Mission as a guiding principle in your life
- 2. Support CUF spiritually. We are united in the Faith. Our prayers are powerful. Members should pray for each other daily.
- 3. Support CUF morally. Use our resources to light your lamp, share our resources with others, and encourage participation in our apostolate.
- 4. Engage in apostolic activity in keeping with your circumstances and state in life. First and foremost, we want you to commit yourself to being faithful to Christ and His Church by developing a personal prayer life, offering daily sacrifices for the conversion of the world and the renewal of our Church, and frequenting the sacraments. To be a CUF member means to commit yourself to holiness and live in sanctifying grace. We also urge you to join a Chapter, start a Chapter, participate in local activities organized by others, or organize your own activities. You can be a Prayer Warrior, lead a Bible study in your home, parish or at work, participate in pro-life activities, or any other host of possible outreaches that bring light to our dark world.
- 5. When possible, support CUF financially. Our current annual budget stands at around \$190,000.00. If 1700 members made a \$10.00 donation each month, we would more than meet our annual budget on member donations alone. Recognizing that we have 2400 people on our mailing list currently, this is a very reachable goal.

A Call to Membership

In the August 2018 issue of Lay Witness (36.4), I explained that I would soon begin a process of identifying members and further developing our resources. When I became President of CUF in February of 2017, there were just over 2400 addresses on our active mailing list. About half that number were life-time large donors. Almost all

Page 6 Volume 37 • Issue 1

those who received our mailings were waiting to see what would happen with CUF. Between 2014 and 2016, you received notices about CUF restructuring, Lay Witness was no longer published, and there were no activities coming from the International Office. Less than 10% of you actively donated. CUF's obligations were limited to one part-time employee and some incidental expenses.

Over the past two years, I hope you have received a glimpse of light coming from CUF's lighthouse. I have outlined my immediate vision for CUF. We have engaged the Chapters, and I continue to visit them. We have a full staff and are providing a wide range of services and resources. We published the general expectations of membership. We also published an article written by our Founder to demonstrate that the mission of CUF 50 years ago is the mission of CUF today.

There are many activities we have pursued that are not immediately evident to those on our mailing list. We have restructured through the process of affiliation with The Saint Joseph Foundation. This provided CUF with substantial, immediate infrastructure and resources. It allowed us to consolidate financial resources to ensure continued longevity. We have updated our database software to make it easier to serve you. It will allow us to track membership and Chapters more effectively. These changes have opened doors for CUF to be a light to those in dark places. As expected, our Information Services department is sending out an increasing number of FAITH FACTS, research letters, and other materials. In addition to my usual duties, I am booked for seven speaking engagements in as many months, with several pending. And, we are adding members.

It is now time for CUF to count its members. Will you be an active member today? Will you add your light to the Lighthouse of Faith our generation of Catholics badly needs? In addition to members, CUF also recognizes associates; those who are attached to CUF in some way,

but do not want the obligations of membership.

By identifying those of you wishing to be members and associates, we can remove from our mailing list those who do not want to be there and save valuable resources from waste. Practically speaking, people who don't want to be on a mailing list usually do not respond, and those who want the engagement, do respond. That is the premise we will operate under.

Between now and the mailing of our third issue of *Lay Witness* this year (May-June 2019), everyone currently on our mailing list will continue to receive *Lay Witness*. We will also publish reminders to return your intention card to the

International Office. After the third issue of *Lay Witness* this year, those who have not responded to our invitations will be removed from the mailing list. In this way, we can identify our active membership and avoid sending material to those who don't want to receive it.

And so, I ask you to complete the enclosed reply card and send it back in the self-addressed envelope. Please put a stamp on the envelope. It is not postage paid. Even if you do not send a donation, if you wish to remain a CUF member, or be an associate, please let us know. By identifying our members and associates, we can focus our resources and materials in the best possible manner and communicate more effectively with you.

As I write to you, I am watching the shadows cast by a full moon on the glistening snow during the coldest night we've had this winter. Even my yak herd is huddled together for warmth. The moon is so bright, I could read by its light. Nights like this provide another illustration of the Light Christ. The sun is on the other side of the world. It is night, and my house is in the shadows of a very cold night. The full moon brings light to my house and fields and hope for the warmth of the sun to come. In the same way, faithful Catholics must reflect the Light of Christ in the dark shadows of our fallen world and wounded Church. We cannot remove darkness or heal all ills, just as the full moon cannot bring the same warmth of the sun, but we can bring light and give Hope. Our Blessed Mother reflects this reality most perfectly. In her purity and perfection, she reflects the full Light of Christ, just as the full moon reflects the full light of the sun.

Whether you decide to join CUF or not, please, do not be like the foolish virgins who did not purchase enough oil for their lamps. Choose instead Mary as your model. Build a relationship with God, work to root sin out of your life, and engage in a life of virtue so as to be a Light of Faith and preserve your life on the Last Day.



CUF LINKS

Chapter News

St. Catherine of Siena Chapter (Anchorage AK) recently hosted Fr. Patrick Brosamer to speak on *Immaculate Misconceptions? Correcting Common Mistakes About Catholic History.* "I counted about 100 people in attendance. Fr. Patrick's talk is part of an ongoing monthly speaker series sponsored by the St. Catherine of Sienna Chapter. We take over the upper room of a local Mexican Restaurant, give attendees a chance to order food and drinks and then begin the presentation. It's a

fun night out and you learn about the faith!" — Joel Davidson, *St. Catherine of Siena Chapter Chairman*

This month St. Gregory VII Chapter (Milwaukee WI) will host Fr. Nathan Reesman for a presentation entitled *Clarity & Charity: Ministering to People with Same-Sex Attraction*.

Want us to feature your chapter's activities? Keep us up to date by emailing administrativeassistant@cuf.org

Information Services

I am looking forward to a busy 2019 in Information Services, but not before recounting some of the things that I learned from my first year working at the CUF office. As a person who has been lucky enough to have had a predominantly Catholic education growing up, I sometimes forget that not all Catholics are aware of some of the resources that are available to us. One such resource is the Catechism of the Catholic Church. In responding to your questions, often our letters to you have included a reference to a passage from the Catechism. I can't emphasize enough what a wonderful tool the Catechism is for Catholics. The Catechism presents the essential elements of our Faith in clear and understandable language. Here in the office, I use the Second Edition (with the Green cover) that is produced by the USCCB. I can't speak for all editions, but this edition includes both an excellent glossary and index that makes using the Catechism even easier. If you don't already own a copy of the

Catechism of the Catholic Church, I strongly encourage you to purchase one.

Since our last Information Services update we've received a variety of questions including: What is the Church's protocol for genuflecting at adoration?; Which person of the Trinity is responsible for the Creation of the Heavens and the Earth?; and What do we know about the nature of the Last Judgement? Additionally, we have seen a few of our Faith Factsremain perennial favorites. Among our most requested are: Christ's Descent into "Hell"; Mary's Role in our Salvation; Should I Attend?; and Making "Sense" out of Scripture: The Four Best Kept Secrets of Biblical Studies Today. The Faith Fact discussing the One Hour Fast Before Communion is quickly becoming a favorite for 2019. As always, please don't hesitate to contact us at 1-800 MY FAITH if you would like to receive a complete list of all of our Faith Factsor if you have a question regarding the Catholic Faith.

St. Joseph Foundation Update

With a new year, it means inventory and introspection. As for inventory, the Foundation inherited 41 active cases at the start of 2018 and processed a total of 65 cases throughout 2018! Our normal case volume has consistently hovered between 40 and 45. Last year, I had taken note of an uptick in cases involving church closures and lay associations. This too has been consistent. The start of 2019 has 45 active cases

with 15 cases pending before the Roman Curia.

As for introspection, my second year at the apostolate was quite an amazing year. There were a few battles such as the Catechism Change and the Crisis, but also, dare I say, a few "canon law miracles" i.e. victories in the here and now that are understood in the here and now. *Onto the next...* Best regards, Natasha.

Yakin' About

CUF president, Philip Gray, recently presented a talk entitled "The Spirituality of Communion" to members of the Apostolate for Family Consecration. For a DVD copy, please contact our office at 1(800) MY FAITH. While CUF is happy to provide the talk free of charge, please consider a donation of \$5 to offset the cost of production and shipping.

Morsels of Mirth Answers: Jesus, Moses, turtledoves, pigeons, Simeon, Holy Spirit, Mary, Joseph, soul, Anna

Page 8 Volume 37 • Issue 1