



LAY WITNESS

February 22, 2023

Ash Wednesday

Vol. 41, 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 President

Dear Friends,

“Grace to you, and Peace from Him Who is, Who was, and Who is to come” (Rev. 1:4).

I am pleased to use this issue of *Lay Witness* to provide a status report on Catholics United for the Faith (CUF). CUF is a member driven apostolate. In our pursuit to unite the Faithful from all walks of life so they might support, defend, and advance the Teaching Office of the Church, CUF relies on its chapters and members. This report does not provide information on the mission and apostolic work of CUF’s chapters and members, but only the status of the apostolate as a whole from the lens of the international office in Hopedale, Ohio. Each of our active chapters provide spiritual life-lines to those they serve in the specific activity they pursue. In turn, CUF members involve themselves in individual apostolic activities devoted to the Mission of CUF, as each member’s circumstances allow. It’s what makes us “members” of CUF. That being said, I always welcome reports from each of our Chapters and individual members on their own apostolic endeavors.

I am pleased to report that CUF demonstrated stability and consistent growth in 2022. I will report under six headings that encompass the CUF apostolate: Information Services, Faith and Life, *Lay Witness*, Members/Chapters, Financials and Miscellaneous Comments.

Information Services

We have had two employee changes in 2022. Hannah Stoutz served in a temporary position doing an important work unrecognized by most members or associates. She worked tirelessly on our Tickler File Project and completed about 90% of the work before leaving in March 2022. Her cataloging and file sorting had a direct impact on our research and writing in all departments within the office. She was married in March and moved out of state. We miss her, we are grateful for her significant contributions, and we wish her all the best!

Gregory Downs joined us in August 2022 as an Information Specialist. He has exceptional abilities in research and a heart for defending the Church. If you have called our toll-free hotline since August, you’ve likely spoken with him. Under his diligent care, IS is caught up on research letters. His most comprehensive work—a presentation on the errors and dangers of the Society of St. Pius X (SSPX)—was published in summary form in the last issue of *Lay Witness*. The complete work is being edited at this time and will be available in the near future for distribution. We are excited to have him with us.

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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 the 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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Here are the statistics for IS and the requests filled in 2022.

Requests for Information:	137
Individual FAITH FACTS distributed:	1340
FAITH FACTS Collection (binder/thumb drive):	162
Research Letters:	36
Misc. Material (articles, position papers, etc.):	2917
Total items distributed:	4734

These numbers represent a four-fold increase in the number of materials distributed from the previous year. Our position papers on the crisis in the Church and on *Traditionis Custodes* were the most sought-after documents we distributed. Our FAITH FACT on Obedience to Authority was the most widely distributed FAITH FACT of 2022.

Faith and Life Series

We renewed our contract for the online publication of the acclaimed *Faith and Life* series catechism. The new contract includes an update of the online presentation. The update is really a complete overhaul of how the series is presented. CUF's *Faith and Life* series is available in traditional written format, as an on-line program, and as an e-book. These multiple platforms allow CUF to offer the catechetical series to a wide range of parents and educators. I am very grateful to Ignatius Press for its continued and strong commitment to making *Faith and Life* readily available and continually relevant.

Lay Witness

We kept to our publication schedule and published six issues of *Lay Witness* with four authors writing articles. We expect the same kind of diversity in 2023.

Our *Lay Witness* distribution list in January 2022 was 1378 households. Our distribution list for our sixth issue in December was 1564 households. This was an increase of 186 households over the year (13%). This is about the same growth rate we saw in 2021 (11%). We send *Lay Witness* to members, associates, and those who request and use our services. There are 501 households receiving *Lay Witness* who are not members or associates. These are the households we target with an annual communication encouraging participation in the apostolate. For the second year in a row, this number doubled from the previous year's statistics. If you are part of that number, please consider becoming a member or associate.

Members/Chapters

Member statistics are as follows. The first number in the table represents the beginning of the year, the second number represents the end of the year.

	<u>2022</u>
Member households:	564/576
Total members:	780/794
Associate households:	497/496
Associate members:	644/692
Non-member households on mailing list:	501

CUF remains an international association with 22 foreign addresses, mostly from New Zealand and Canada. Though this is a decrease of two from 2021, several CUF members and associates correspond with our International Office via email, because of the challenges associated with delivering mail to their more remote locations in Burma, Qatar, and more.

We started 2022 with eight active chapters in the United States and ended with nine. My attempts to begin a chapter in Texas have not yet borne fruit, but we still hope to charter that chapter in the first half of 2023. The new chapter is in Indianapolis and is dedicated to the Holy Innocents. You'll have the opportunity to learn more about this Chapter's mission and activities in this issue's featured article, 2411.

I am grateful to see the increase in membership, even if it continues to be modest. If you will recall, a main focus of our reconstruction of CUF was to move it from being a subscription/donation-based membership to a focus on a unity of apostolic activity. With membership now focused on mission and not donation, it is encouraging to see that growth. "*To unite the Faithful from all walks of life so that they might support, defend and advance the Teaching Office of the Church*" continues to be my primary focus and goal as President of CUF.

The increase in non-member households on our mailing list almost doubled. I believe this is due to my travels and speaking engagements. This continues to be the primary reason for increased membership. As you can see from the statistics, the largest growth came in non-member households on our mailing list and in associate memberships. This is encouraging since these are the people most likely to choose membership after having exposure to our work.

Financials

Below is the raw data from 2021 and 2022 receipts.

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>	
Total Income	\$238,169.73	\$221,340.19	(\$ 16,829.54)	7.0% decrease
Donation Income	\$ 71,375.04	\$ 82,303.13	\$ 10,928.09	15.3% increase
Expenses	\$217,474.00	\$212,026.23	(\$ 5,447.77)	2.5% decrease
Bottom Line	\$ 20,695.73	\$ 9,313.96	(\$ 11,381.77)	54.9% decrease

In looking at the financials for CUF, I have no concerns. Total income dropped by almost \$17,000.00 (7%). This can be attributed to the fact that the *Faith and Life* royalties for the second half of the year's sales were received at the start of 2023, rather than at the end of 2022. Donations increased by almost \$11,000.00 (15%). I believe CUF must move away from most of its income coming from royalties and sales to the majority coming from donations. On average, non-profits in the US obtain only about 20% of their income from donations. They rely on grants and sales of goods for the rest. 30% of CUF's income came from direct donations in 2022. This is exceptional given the economic downturn in our

country and the high rate of inflation, but that number needs to increase.

As a side note, out of 1072 member and associate households, only 355 households donated to CUF in 2022. This is an increase of 39 from 2021. It's encouraging to see an increase in the number of donors, even if the increase is small. We will keep working on it.

Our expenses decreased slightly. Nonetheless, the loss of royalty income was greater than the increase in donations and decrease in expenses, resulting in a bottom line about \$11,000.00 below last year's number. We still ended the year in the black.

Miscellaneous Comments

I am pleased to report a stable year in 2022 for CUF regarding apostolic activities, membership development, and finances. Growth is slow, but it is growth.

In 2023, I have set four goals for the International Office:

1. Increase member and associate donations by 25%: While membership is not linked to paying an annual due, CUF cannot exist if it cannot pay its bills. The fluctuations in royalty and investment incomes require us to have a stable level of income from donations. That should come from members who value the work of the apostolate. We will keep working on that.
2. Launch a new website: The current website badly needs updating and correction. It's functional, but a completely new website that is professional, crisp in presentation, and functional for all is being developed at the time of this publication. I hope to launch the new site before the summer.
3. Increase membership and chapters by 10%.
4. Increase distribution of materials from Information Services (IS) by 20%: IS distribution of materials is the main apostolic

activity of the International Office. IS had a 100% increase in distributed materials in 2022 over 2021. I would like to see this rise to levels I once knew when I served as IS Director (1998-2001). During that time, we averaged about 1 thousand items distributed each month, and 1 million pages/year. We would have to triple our current activities to reach those levels again. It is my long-term goal to see that happen before I retire, but I know we need to take this in increments. For now, I will be happy to see a 20% increase over last year's distribution. Help us do that. Encourage your family and friends to call 1-800-MY FAITH with their questions and concerns about the Catholic Faith.

In closing, I thank all of our devoted chapter officers, members and associates for their loyalty and support of the CUF Mission. We remember you every day during our daily prayer and weekly Mass. You are why CUF exists and you are our greatest asset. Please know we are here for you.

God bless you; St. Joseph keep you.

Peace,
Philip C. L. Gray
President



Prayer Before a Crucifix

On each of the Fridays of Lent, a plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who, after Communion, recite the “Prayer Before a Crucifix” before an image of Christ crucified:

Look down upon me, good and gentle Jesus while before Thy face I humbly kneel and, with burning soul, pray and beseech Thee to fix deep in my heart lively sentiments of faith, hope, and charity; true contrition for my sins; and a firm purpose of amendment; while I contemplate with great love and tender pity Thy five most precious wounds, pondering over them within me while I call to mind the words which David Thy prophet said of Thee, my Jesus: “They have pierced My hands and My feet, they have numbered all My bones.” Amen.

– Sent to us by Lay Witness and Christifidelis reader, Sean from El Macero, California

Painting: *Christ on the Cross* by Carl Heinrich Bloch, c. 1870

Modern, secular culture places an inordinate emphasis on maximizing personal independence and using that independence to gratify immediate desires. As such, it is a culture that is forgetful of society’s most vulnerable members. Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Kappes are striving to change that. CUF advises that the tragedy they outline in the pages that follow deals with the underbelly of the abortion industry and contains some graphic details. That being said, the story they share must be shared. We pray it serves to convince all CUF members that each one of us must do more to carry out the Church’s mission of spreading the Gospel, which is the Gospel of Life, and caring for the least among us. It is with a sense of pride, mixed with immense sorrow that I share the words of the co-founders of one of CUF’s newest chapters, Holy Innocents Chapter of Indianapolis, as they discuss their ongoing initiative: 2411.

2411

By Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Kappes, O.F.S.

“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more” (Jeremiah 35:1).

“Show me the manner in which a nation cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness, the tender mercy of its people, their respect for the law of the land and their loyalty to high ideals.” – William Gladstone, statesman.

2411 has been initiated at a time in our nation’s history when we have never been better poised to enact tremendous protections for the unborn. The events that spurred the creation of 2411 have shed a spotlight on the truly heinous nature of abortion and the warping effects it has on those who traffic in it.

For those unfamiliar with the news that has rocked communities in both Illinois and Indiana, 2411 is an

organization created to recognize and memorialize those 2,411 children whose remains were secretly and unjustly kept by now-deceased abortionist Dr. Ulrich George Klopfer.

A Staggering Tragedy

Klopfer died on September 3, 2019. On September 12, 2019, an attorney representing the abortionist’s widow contacted the Will County Coroner’s Office concerning human remains found on his client’s estate.¹ When police investigated, they discovered the remains of 2,246 aborted children, individually stored in plastic zip-top bags at Klopfer’s residence. An additional 165 remains were found in the trunk of his Mercedes Benz, stored in Dolton, Illinois, for a total of 2,411 human remains. The bags, filled with formalin, were adjoined by medical records indicating the

date of the abortion – 2000-2002 for those stored in the garage at the deceased's home, and 2003 for those stored in the trunk of his car – and that all were “Indiana residents.”

An Illinois resident at the time of his death, Klopfer was licensed to perform abortions in Indiana from 1979 until his medical license was permanently revoked in 2016 due to “poor record keeping, failure to provide appropriate anesthesia to patients, and performing abortions on thirteen year old patients without proper reporting to the state.”² In his 37-year career, Klopfer aborted tens of thousands of children in his clinics in Gary, South Bend, and Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Honoring the Dead

Because the children were determined to be from Indiana, their remains were transferred from the custody of the Will County (Illinois) Sheriff to the St. Joseph County (Indiana) Coroner. The Attorney General provided for all 2,411 fetal remains to be interred.³ This, it would appear, was due in large part to the efforts of an unnamed couple who pleaded with the Office of the Attorney General not to cremate the remains. The burial service was held at Southlawn Cemetery in South Bend on February 12, 2020.

(Fr.) Frank Pavone of Priests for Life attended and was very helpful in providing a dignified service. It is regrettable that the Attorney General left the burial site immediately after the burial service to hold a press conference, because those who remained at the graveside to participate in the religious ceremony that followed were excluded from participation in that conference. It was a sacrifice they were ready to make, so preoccupied were they with bringing closure to those grieving the loss and mistreatment of these children.

Who would have believed that over 200 people from all across the country would have braved a frigid Indiana winter day to grieve in a show of support and respect for children whom they had never met? The ceremony was powerful for all those involved. One woman, moved by the display of solidarity, testified that she had had an abortion in 1970 and carried it with her, hidden in her heart, all these years. This ceremony proved the first time she was able to speak about it publicly, as she sought forgiveness and healing. This testimony inspired a younger woman, the mother of one of the many children memorialized that day, to step forward

and ask, “Why did this man have my baby in his personal possession for all these years?” The horror expressed by this grieving mother demanding answers about the mistreatment of her child's remains, brought home the ugliness of this gravely evil act all the more.

Unanswered Questions

Unfortunately, this tragic episode gives rise to so many questions, many of which may never be answered this side of eternity. How is it that this man had in his private custody 2,411 human remains, stored in zip-top bags full of formalin for nearly 20 years, without any of his friends, family or colleagues realizing? The transport alone of these children's remains, from the abortion clinics wherein Klopfer operated to his home, would have had to occur virtually non-stop over a four-year timespan. How is it possible for a doctor to steal thousands of aborted fetuses and their medical records without a single person at any

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The Virgin and Child Surrounded by the Holy Innocents
by Peter Paul Rubens, circa 1618

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of his three abortion mills even noticing? When a young woman returned to the abortion clinic, did no one notice that her records – all patient records – were missing, and report this to the authorities?

The final report issued by the Attorney General states that of the 84,000 medical records abandoned, 2,625 belonged to mothers under the age of 18. As of today, 35,888 of these records remain in the hands of the Indiana State Police, who will dispose of them in 2024 if they are not claimed before

then. We can't know for certain how many of the mothers of the 2411 were underage themselves, although it has been confirmed that among the mothers were at least one 10-year-old, two 11-year-olds, and two 13-year-olds. Knowing these heartbreaking facts, it is a matter of grave concern that, due to the mismanagement of the abortion mill's records, we may never learn how many more of these mothers were victims of abuse, were illegal aliens, or suffered from disabilities.

Because the Attorney General's report specified that there were "fetuses over 27 weeks" gestational age among those in the abortionist's possession, we are right to ask: How many of these children were full-term? How many had their body parts harvested and sold? The galling nature of this crime, combined with what we know of the rife corruption and abuse in the abortion industry, leads us to ask serious questions about the potential for other illegal activity to have been taking place in the abortion mills wherein Klopfer operated. Further investigation must be done. At this time, we still have more questions than answers.

A Call to Action

For those who attended, spoke at, and participated in 2411's first annual remembrance ceremony, the horrific events that led to that day are a call to action. They witness to the price of abortion; the price paid not only in the lives of our children, but in the grief of our mothers and families, and in the trauma done to the souls and psyches of all those involved in the abortion industry.



The Triumph of the Innocents by William Holman Hunt, circa 1876

2411 is a game changer for the people of life to join together to understand that we may no longer sit by; rather, our prayers must *make us take action* in a spirit of constructive dissent to the policies of our people, and of our government. In words attributed to Edmund Burke, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

The fourth annual memorial Mass said for these 2,411 children was celebrated Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 1pm at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Beech Grove, Indiana.

Notes

1. *Final Report on the Investigation of Dr. Ulrich Klopfer*, Curtis T. Hill Jr., Attorney General, Office of the Indiana Attorney General, December 28, 2020, pg. 10.
2. *Ibid*, pg. 3.
3. *Ibid*, pg. 2. See priestsforlife.org/frontlines/trip-home.aspx?trip-id=1686 for photos and video of the 2020 ceremony.

**Have questions about
the Catholic Faith?**

FAITH FACTS

THE ANSWERS YOU NEED

1 (800) MY FAITH

A Reflection from Our Founding President

How great a mystery is enacted every time we pray! Even at the beginning it is hard to understand how the infinite gap was bridged between the Creator and the creation, so that man could have converse with God. It is as though we had been suspended over an abyss of infinite depth by the thread of God's grace; and then we deliberately cut the thread, and all of humanity fell into the depths. So the infinite distance separating us from God was infinitely increased. And there I was as a member of this fallen race.

And then I started this seemingly endless series of personal sins, thrusting myself ever further and further away so that in the nature of things communication with God, or any relationship at all except the relation of King and traitor, was impossible.

And now, as though it were the most natural thing in the world, I go on my knees and pray to Him, hardly noticing what a mystery this is. God's Son has Himself fallen this infinity of infinite distances into the depths to rescue me. He has taken our place, has paid our price. It is as though the King's beloved son were to walk in front of me into the presence of the King, saying, "You cannot shoot your arrows at him, because they will land in My heart." It is as though the King's beloved son had married the traitress, saying, "Now she is Mine, you

cannot act against her. From now on, you must credit her with all the good she does, and you must put to my account all the bad she may do; and when she speaks in My name, you must hear her as You would her Me." And the King were to answer, "Let it be so – with all my heart!"



King David in Prayer by Pieter de Grebber, circa 1635-1640

How should this ransomed outcast accept this redemption? Should the memory of her treason make her refuse the gift, unable to believe in the reality of her forgiveness? Or, on the contrary, should she say, "Now I'm forgiven, and that's that," – and associate on intimate terms with the King, as by right? No, neither one or the other; but rather, ever remembering her treachery, to rejoice in this wholly unexpected, underserved redemption, and to accept in boundless gratitude and love the charity that has been shown her, and the degree of intimacy, whatever it may be, to which it may please the King to call her.

What it is impossible to think of her doing is saying, "Yes, I have been ransomed, I have escaped my fate. I see that; indeed I do; but somehow I have to say that it just doesn't affect me very much, one way or the other."

*Reflection of H. Lyman Stebbins
dated October 6, 1955.*

CUF LINKS

Chapter News

We are so grateful for the efforts of Mr. & Mrs. Kappes to spearhead the 2411 initiative in Indianapolis. Still more, I'll like to express our gratitude that they took time out of their demanding schedules to write for our *Lay Witness* readers such a stirring account of the tragedy that spurred the creation of the Holy Innocents Chapter

and the good work they are doing. CUF's international office would welcome the accounts of other members and chapters as well. Please send any written accounts and pictures of your Chapter's activities to administrativeassistant@cuf.org.

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Information Services

A lot of recent inquiries deal with current issues, such as the SSPX or the Frank Pavone case. In the case of the SSPX, increased interest has prompted us to expand the planned FAITH FACT to a Position Paper, which will be somewhat longer. If you requested the FAITH FACT, you will receive the Position Paper when it is published. I have worked a good deal on this paper, and I have one important takeaway to share with you now: The SSPX issue is important to a lot of people. While it may *directly* affect only a small group of people (although this group is growing), it involves real spiritual and theological problems that a *much wider* group of people is wrestling with in the Church today. For this reason, I highly suggest getting in touch with us to be put

on the list to receive the SSPX Position Paper.

CUF and the Saint Joseph Foundation also have a number of in-depth papers dealing with controversial issues such as the Church's Covid response, clerical sex abuse, and the changes to the Catechism regarding the death penalty. Get in touch with us at 1-800-MY-FAITH or is@cuf.org to request these free resources. And don't worry. The perspective of our apostolates, and the perspective of the Church, is fundamentally one of trust. God made the Church, and He made it *good* like He made all things. He will protect it from all its enemies, within and without.

Peace in Christ and Mary – Greg Downs, Information Specialist

Saint Joseph Foundation Update

The numbers are in, and the Saint Joseph Foundation had a very productive year. In 2022, the Foundation received 81 new inquiries (a 47% increase over the previous year). 41 of those inquiries became active cases (50%). Added to the cases carried over from 2021, we had 90 active cases throughout the year (11% increase). We drafted 94 appeals (45% increase), not including other documents prepared for clients or consultations we provided.

By way of comparison, in 2020 only one-third of our inquiries became active cases and in 2021 almost half (47%) did. Prior to 2020, only about 25% of inquiries became active cases.

We were able to close 26 cases throughout the year. Of the 90 cases that were active in 2022, 35 are currently pending in Rome, with 15 at the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura (Supreme Court of the Church), 19 at various dicasteries, and one at the Roman Rota.

When the Foundation was founded in 1984, the primary focus of cases was liturgical or doctrinal (formative) issues in parishes. A fair number also included parish mergers and church closures. Over the past few years, the predominant issues we address have become parish merger, church closure, and priest/permanent deacon cases. If January's workload was any indication, 2023 will be an equally busy year for the Foundation. Please keep our staff and clients in your prayers.

Yakin' About

In the fall, CUF's Administrative Assistant/Office Manager, Therese, will be returning to school to pursue a degree in Occupational Therapy. Although she will be missed, CUF needs to look towards the future and train a replacement before Therese leaves the office. If you, or someone you know is interested in a fulltime position at CUF's International Office in Hopedale, Ohio, please send an email to administrativeassistant@cuf.org to learn more about the position. An ideal candidate will have excellent verbal and written communication skills, have a knack for problem solving, and be comfortable coordinating a large number of tasks and deadlines. If you're not looking for a career change, please remember to offer a prayer that that right applicant throws their hat in the ring! PG

If this issue's Saint Joseph Foundation Update hadn't already convinced you, CUF's sister apostolate is busy!

To assist with the increasing caseload, the Foundation is taking applications for a second Case Administrator. This new hire will work alongside our wonderful existing Case Administrator, Natasha. An ideal candidate will be meticulous, an excellent communicator over the phone, and have a resilient constitution fueled by a love for the Church and Her faithful. Again, please pass the word to anyone who may be interested and email aa@stjoseph-canonlaw.com for a detailed job description. PG

CUF is always looking for an opportunity to showcase the spiritual life of our members in *Lay Witness*! Submit your original prayers, meditations, and articles with your reply card or email administrativeassistant@cuf.org. Thank you for sharing!

Got an announcement? If your event is CUF friendly, and we have space to spare, we will gladly post it here!