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).

Do not fret because of the wicked; do not envy those who do evil; for they wither quickly like grass and fade like the green of the fields…. Commit your life to the Lord, trust in Him and He will act, so that your justice breaks forth like the light, your cause like the noon-day sun (Psalm 36[37]:1-2, 5-6; Grail)¹.

These verses from Psalm 36 [37] summarize the attitude every faithful Christian should have during this dark time. And the time is dark. I know that members and associates of Catholics United for the Faith (CUF) are distressed over the policies recently enacted by our President that advance the Culture of Death. Many of you live in dioceses where the right to receive Our Lord or even pray in a church has been unjustly limited or denied while openly pro-choice politicians are accepted at the communion rail. Articles that justify abortion and euthanasia in various forms continue to be published in Catholic circles. A common goal of such publications is to advance unholy alliances between Catholic health-care providers and abortion providers. At very least, such arrangements allow abortion providers to divert large sums of money from “morally licit” practices to gravely immoral ones. Justification for these mergers usually boils down to optics; maintaining an appearance of doing good while the Culture of Death is advanced.

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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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As in 1968 when CUF was founded, these concerted attacks on human life and our Catholic Faith are often advanced by bishops and priests with strong support of influential laity. As in 1968, a general lack of formation allows such activities to be widely accepted with little or no challenge. Contrary to the Mission of the Messiah, the bruised reed is being broken and the smoldering wick is being quenched (c.f. Is. 42:3; Mt. 12:20). Today, who will act in defense of the Truth so his Faith will be credited to him as Justice?

This issue of Lay Witness is devoted to providing a status report on the apostolate, and a call to action. We live in a dark time; we need to be lights in this darkness.

I will address the elements of my update under four general categories: 1. Finances, 2. Staff/Infrastructure, 3. Projects, and 4. Membership. Because CUF is an association of the faithful, its members constitute the apostolate. You are our greatest resource and the cause of our work in the International Office. And so, I will address my call to action under the Membership update. Before offering this status update, I want to offer some preliminary remarks.

First and foremost, thank you to each and every one of you who supported CUF as a member or associate through your personal means during 2020. We are a remnant, but a faithful remnant; and I am very grateful for your fidelity to CUF’s Mission. I am especially grateful to our chapters and individual members who continued apostolic activities through the COVID lockdown and the continued constraints caused by the pandemic. If we cannot find ways to remain active in our Faith during a crisis, then when? It’s why CUF was founded, and it’s what we do. I am so grateful for the expressions of courage and forbearance you have shown during this difficult time.

**Finances**

CUF remains financially solvent. This solvency is due primarily to the low over-head costs at the International Office and the continued royalties we receive from the Faith and Life (F&L) catechism series. Before giving you the figures for 2020, I want to preface with three pieces of information.

Each year, CUF files a non-profit tax return known as a 990. That extensive filing provides a bit more information than provided below; it’s also more than 10 pages long. You can obtain a copy of our tax filings either by calling our office and asking for one, or by visiting www.guidestar.org. Except for churches, all non-profit corporations with an income over $50,000.00 must file these tax returns. Because the organization benefits from a tax-free status and your donations are tax-deductible, the financial information on a 990 is public domain. Please feel free to examine past and present tax returns to compare how we are doing.

Second, when I became President of CUF, its fiscal year ran from August 1 to July 31. That meant that our tax returns were filed seven months later than the individual tax returns. It also made budget projections a bit weird because we were not operating within the usual quarterly and annual time frames used by banks and general accounting practices. We changed this in 2019. So, if you visit guidestar.org, you will see that the 2018 tax form only covers four months: from September through December 2018. It makes comparison of the years a bit tricky because of that.

Third, our 2020 taxes won’t be filed until later this Spring, so the figures used below are taken from our accounting records. I’ve also rounded the figures to the closes $100.00 for ease of reference. The figures found on our 990 forms are rounded to the nearest dollar.

In 2020, we brought in $52,500.00 in donations from members and associates and just over $250,000.00 in F&L royalties. Additional income from the sale of Emmaus Road Publication (ERP), royalties on select ERP books, income from trusts and bequests, and other miscellaneous income gave us a total income of $399,800.00. This is just slightly lower than the $402,000.00 we received in 2019.

The lower income is due to a 25% drop in member donations in 2020. We received just over $70,000.00 in member donations during 2019. We almost made up the difference with a substantial increase in the F&L royalties. It is likely the drop in donations is an effect of job loss due to the pandemic. I also suspect the increased royalties are the result of an increase in homeschooling brought on by pandemic related restrictions. In 2019, Ignatius Press arranged for the F&L series to be offered as eBooks. The royalties are generally higher for the eBook as the overhead cost of production is very low. In 2020, we reaped the benefits of that increased exposure. Thank you Ignatius Press! And thank you to those of you who use the F&L catechism series.

CUF’s greatest expense is employee salaries. As an apostolic association of the faithful, our primary mission is not related to delivery of goods but a delivery of services; services “to unite the Faithful from all walks of life in order that they might support, defend and advance the Teaching Office of the Church.” Because of the affiliation to The Saint Joseph Foundation (SJF), CUF International
Donation Options

We are immensely grateful for each and every donation we receive. Read below to learn about ways to financially support our mission that you may not have considered:

**Check/Cash Donations:** By far the most common donation type, and the least expensive for us to process. We are grateful for all checks received.

**One Time Credit Card Donations:** You can provide your credit card information by phone or mail for our staff to process or visit www.stjosephcanonlaw.com to give online. Please keep in mind, when a credit card is processed, CUF is charged 4% of the donation in fees.

**Automatic Recurring Donation:** This is a convenient way to give that is growing in popularity. We arrange with our secure third-party provider for an automatic donation to be made with your credit card in any amount you choose. While most donors arrange their donations monthly or quarterly, we can schedule your gifts in whatever way is most convenient for you. If you would like to set up an automatic recurring donation, please call and ask for Barbara.

**Securities:** On occasion, someone will donate stocks to CUF. We do have a securities account and can receive these donations readily. If you would like to make a securities donation, please contact our office to obtain the necessary information.

**Corporate Donations:** As a 501(c)3 organization, CUF is eligible to receive monies from the charitable giving programs of many for-profit companies. For example, Charity Mobile and AmazonSmile will donate a portion of your bill payments to CUF if you direct them to do so. CUF also qualifies to receive matching donations from many corporations that provide this benefit to their employees. A small portion of our income comes from these sources. Please explore these possibilities with your employer or service providers. It allows you to direct donations to us from corporate sponsors without affecting your usable income.

**Bequests and Memorial Donations:** We are so grateful to those supporters of CUF who remember our work in their wills. The generosity and foresight of a small few have provided a boon to our efforts either with bequests or requests that donations be made to CUF in their memory. I pray that the prayers and Masses we offer for these donors provide comfort to their families and spiritual aid to their souls. If you haven’t already, please consider these means of leaving a legacy that will continue to serve the Church.

Way back in 1957 before Vatican II, my wife composed a prayer while we were still only engaged, and she told me about it on our wedding night. We’ve prayed this prayer together, every day, ever since, during our 63 years of marriage. Here is the prayer:

> O, my God, help us by thy grace. We pray that our love may be always true and strong and pure. May we love one another always as we do now, only stronger and more deeply. Amen.

Ed & Frances, from California

Have questions about the Catholic Faith?

**FAITH FACTS**
**THE ANSWERS YOU NEED**

1 (800) MY FAITH
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maintains a very low infrastructure cost. Our expenses for the year amounted to $194,800.00, giving us a net income of $205,000.00. In 2019, our expenses were $237,000.00, with a net income of $163,000.00.

Just as the pandemic affected people’s salaries and our donations, it also lowered our expenses. I did not travel as much and salary expenses were lower. By lowering expenses $40,000.00, we were able to finish the year with a much higher net income than we did in 2019.

What do we do with the surplus? As good stewards, it is being invested to provide ongoing financial stability for CUF. It is also used to provide grants or financial support for worthy endeavors being pursued by like-minded apostolates. Throughout its 50-year history, CUF has suffered through a number of financial challenges. It is my goal to provide greater financial stability so those challenges do not become distractions to the important work we pursue. I am very grateful that our Lord has provided us the opportunity to establish this stability.

Staff/Infrastructure

In early 2020, just before the COVID lockdowns began, our Information Specialist took a job at a local community college. About three months later, one of our seasoned interns, Brandon O’Nan, took the position as a temporary full-time Information Specialist. Brandon fulfilled the duties for most of 2020 and plans to continue with us at least for the foreseeable short-term. I am beginning a formal process to fill the position on a more permanent basis. CUF’s income will allow us to make the necessary hire and keep Brandon as well, so as to allow for a smooth transition. If you know someone with a strong Catholic formation who is adept at research and writing and who may wish to apply for the position, please have the person contact the CUF International Office to inquire.

As noted above, the affiliation to the SJF allows CUF to enjoy a low-cost infrastructure. The extensive research library of the SJF is available to CUF. Office equipment is up to date. Aside from the hopeful hire of a full-time permanent Information Specialist, I do not anticipate any changes necessary in staff or infrastructure in 2021.

Projects

As noted above, CUF’s members are its greatest asset. Providing assistance and resources to members who are pursuing the CUF mission is a primary role of the International Office. Expanding those resources is a constant project. Because the second part of our mission is focused on defending, supporting and advancing the Teaching Office, ecclesiastical research is the backbone of the International Office. At a practical level, a significant project aimed at assisting in research is the organization of our “Tickler File”.

Presently, there are three historical offices “merged” at the location of the International Office: CUF, SJF, and my own personal private practice office in canon law. Though my private practice closed at the start of 2015, I maintained a large volume of correspondence to and from a variety of bishops and Vatican offices for almost 25 years. I also kept record of articles and opinions that affected the Church. The SJF did something similar for over 35 years, as did CUF for almost 50 years. Most of CUF’s historical material was lost between 2015 and its affiliation to SJF in 2017. Some archival material was kept, particularly the correspondence of Mr. Stebbins and some of the research completed in the earliest years of CUF. Between the three collections, we have a very large archive of material that is beneficial for research on a large variety of topics. In 2020, I hired an intern to organize the material in a searchable electronic format. We call this the Tickler File. The project is too big for one intern to complete during a summer employment, but she made significant progress. I for one have already utilized the Tickler File for research and found it very helpful. In the long run, we hope to include scanned copies of the documents and make this research file available to members. Because we are constantly adding to the Tickler File, the project will be ongoing.

We continue our usual activities. They include the continued development of the Faith Fact program, our research initiative through Information Services and its toll-free hotline (1-800-MY-FAITH [693-2484], speaking engagements, development of the chapter program, keeping in contact with members through Lay Witness, and generally assisting the members in their personal endeavors. On the topic of Lay Witness, we are planning lead articles that will focus on current trends in our Church today.

We are always open to suggestions on what to address, so please let us know your thoughts. I value engagement from CUF members, and I love hearing from you. Please let me know your ideas about topics to address or projects we can consider. I want to hear from you.

Membership

We began 2020 with 720 members and 586 associates from 950 households in the United States. In addition, we had eight active chapters. Those numbers remained consistent throughout 2020 with only a slight increase in membership and no new chapters chartered. Our newest
chapter was chartered in 2019; St. John Henry Newman Chapter of West Virginia. 16% of our members belong to one of these eight chapters.

It is within our membership that I am placing a primary focus on planning and development. And I need your help.

CUF members are a remnant compared to what our numbers were 20 years ago at the turn of the millennium. This does not concern me. It is not the number of members that makes CUF, it is the active pursuit of its mission by its members that makes CUF alive and well. God only gave Gideon 300 men to defeat the Midianites (Judges 6-8) and Jesus started the Church with only 12 apostles and 120 disciples (Acts 1). If God can raise up children to Abraham from stones (Lk 3:8), He can raise up as many members of CUF as He wants. More importantly, He can use whatever number we have to accomplish His work through us. For our part, we must be courageous with forbearance and fortitude. We must commit our lives to God and trust in Him so He will act (c.f. Psalm 36:5). We must be lights in our dark world.

I call you to action.

1. Form chapters, even “Family Chapters”. We cannot weather the storms of this world alone and God did not intend us to. Reach out to those who are like minded and begin meeting regularly, in person ideally, but virtually where necessary, to pray and support one another. Our spiritual and intellectual formation in the Faith is vital and we cannot neglect it. I recognize that many of you are in areas where you do not know other CUF members. Contact our office. We can help put you in touch with like-minded members in your area. If you can, form a chapter with your family. It is a naturally organized chapter and can become the backbone of a larger Faith movement. Let us know how we can help. The International Office is here for you.

2. Pursue a necessary good. Find a need and work concretely to fill it. Everywhere we look we find the unborn in need of defense, poorly catechized Catholics in need of formation, the hungry in need of food, the faithless in need of the Gospel, the lonely in need of a visit. God has placed some of the needs of your neighbors within your sphere of influence. Prayerfully discern what he is asking of you, of your CUF chapter, and begin to work in earnest. Keep a vision of Heaven so that at the end of your life, you can be greeted by the King “Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Mt 25: 34b).

3. Keep us informed of your activities and the ways we can better assist you. Our resources, research, and experience are at your service. When you form chapters, even family chapters, register with us, so that you can become a resource for others.

4. Encourage your family members and friends to join CUF’s efforts to unite the faithful, from all walks of life, to support, defend, and advance the efforts of the teaching Church.

In closing, I am excited to announce that the CUF staff will begin a 33-day preparation on February 15th to consecrate CUF to Saint Joseph on March 19th. We plan to follow the 33 days of consecration to Saint Joseph as arranged by Father Donald Calloway in his book, *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*. We will make the consecration on March 19th during a special Mass offered for the SJF and CUF. I invite you all to embrace the countless graces offered during this Year of St. Joseph. Join us for this beautiful and worthy devotion.

God bless you; St. Joseph keep you!

Peace,

Philip C. L. Gray

(Endnotes)

1 The Grail translation (1963, 1991) of the Psalms is used in the English translation of the Liturgy of Hours. The translation was inspired by the work of four French scholars, three Dominican and one Jesuit. They were part of the group that developed the Jerusalem Bible translation from the original Hebrew into French. That work also inspired the English version of the Jerusalem Bible translation. The Grail translation was intended to preserve the rhythmic patterns found in the original Hebrew. As such, the translation is well suited for chanting and liturgical reading. As a translation intended for liturgical music, it uses the Greek numbering of the Psalms as found in the Douay-Rheims translation. It is a beautiful translation, and well worth using in private devotion. It is my favorite translation of the Psalms. Unfortunately, it is not printed within a full translation of Sacred Scripture. Copies can be obtained from Paulist Press under the title, “*The Psalms: A New Translation, Singing Version*” by Joseph Gelineau.
Suggested Chapter Activities

While not attempting to provide an exhaustive list, following are practical ways that a chapter may implement its threefold mission of prayer, formation, and apostolic activity. A chapter can mix and match activities. If you need more ideas, call the International Office.

Mission of Prayer: Being Prayer Warriors
A: Suggested Forms

- The Rosary
- The Liturgy of the Hours
- Scripture reading followed by meditation or reflection (Lectio Divina)
- Host a day of recollection lead by the Chapter’s Spiritual Advisor

B: Make it intentional. Offer the prayers for a specific purpose or person.

Mission of Formation
A: Suggested Methods

- Bring CUF speakers to your area to speak on different issues (call CUF for recommendations)
- Read and discuss the Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Read and discuss a particular Church document, such as an encyclical
- Study the lives of the saints
- Hold a Catholic Bible study
- Listen to or watch recorded presentations of outstanding Catholic speakers

B: When planning, identify specific formation needs of your chapter members. Plan to meet those needs.

Mission of Apostolic Action
A: Suggested Methods

- Evaluate catechetical materials and make available the written evaluation
- Begin or support prolife ministry in your area
- Keep abreast of diocesan and parish events, and engage the bishop and pastors in collaborative dialogue to voice opinions and concerns
- Sponsor and teach religion classes in your parish and school
- Sponsor and teach RCIA classes
- Keep abreast of non-religious activities and events and engage the local and national secular authorities in collaborative dialogue to voice opinions and concerns
- Watch the obituaries and regularly send condolences and attend funerals, even of non-Catholics
- Collaborate with and support a local convent or monastery
- Write letters to congressmen and other political figures on prolife or other issues that affect the Catholic faithful

B: When you choose your apostolic activity, do it with a firm purpose. Utilize the talents in your chapter.

Did You Know…

Saint Francis de Sales

St. Francis de Sales, along with St. Nonna, is the patron of CUF’s Information Services. As a priest and later Bishop of Geneva, St. Francis wrote much defending the faith and encouraging and guiding those under his spiritual direction. Our staff in Information Services strive daily to imitate his example of using the written word for the glory of God. In his most famous work, An Introduction to the Devout Life, St. Francis expounds on the universal call to holiness, whatever one’s state in life. “It is an error, or rather a heresy, to try to banish the devout life from the regiment of soldiers, the shop of the mechanic, the court of princes, or the home of married folk.” What a fitting intercessor and friend to our lay apostolate!

St. Francis de Sales, pray for us!

Wisdom from Our Patron Saint

Do not look forward in fear to the changes of life; rather look to them with full hope as they arise.

God, whose very own you are, will deliver you from out of them.

He has kept you hitherto, and He will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will bury you in his arms.

Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day.

He will either shield you from suffering, or will give you unfailing strength to bear it.

Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imagination.

St. Francis de Sales
CUF LINKS

Chapter News

Help other chapters by sharing how yours has continued to pursue CUF's mission in these difficult times. Send updates and pictures to administrativeassistant@cuf.org

Information Services

Last month, Information Services handled a question about Pope Francis's modification of Canon 230 of the Code of Canon Law, which will allow women to enter the Church’s ministries of Acolyte and Lector instead of being just servers and readers. If you would like to know more about these ministries or about the meaning behind the development, we would be happy to answer any related questions.

The season of Lent is almost upon us. If you would like to prepare yourself and learn more about the meaning of this season, we would recommend our FAITH FACTS: Life in the Fast Lane: Why Catholics Abstain; Lent: Discipline and History, and Lenten Traditions in the Home; as well as Eastertide: Determining the Date for Easter.

We are always pleased to provide our services and research to anyone who requests it. If you would like to request a copy of these FAITH FACTS or if you have any question about the Catholic Faith, please do not hesitate to contact us at 1-800 MY FAITH (693-2482).

St. Joseph Foundation

Happy New Year CUF members! For the first issue of 2021, I will provide stats on the Foundation. At the start of 2020, the Foundation had 48 active cases; and throughout the year, we received roughly 95 inquiries, 35 of which became active cases. All in all, the Foundation processed 83 active cases and closed 29. As of January 2021, we begin with 55 active cases. Of these cases, 38 are in Rome (Signatura 22; Congregations 14; Rota 2). The drafting activity included 57 actions at the local level and 78 actions to the Holy See (62 to various Congregations and 16 to the Signatura).

The COVID-19 restrictions did churn out several batches of recourse. The Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of Sacraments has not offered any definitive decisions for recourse dealing with this specific matter. Instead CDW officials refer to Let Us Return to the Eucharist with Joy, a circular letter to Episcopal conferences by the Prefect. However it is not a legislative document and must be understood not just by its text but also its structure.

Philip wrote a few articles within the Foundation’s newsletter, Christifidelis, on the Doctrine of Conscience. This particular doctrine will be key in understanding the issues which surround the COVID-19 restrictions and soon the virus’s vaccination(s). For those interested, on 21 December 2020, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued: “Note On the Morality of COVID-19 Vaccines.” It is available on the Vatican website. I call your attention to Article 5. Members should anticipate more material on this issue as both apostolates confront the questions, and in many situations the canonical cases, of the Christian Faithful. -Natasha

Yakin’ About

The staff of CUF and the St. Joseph Foundation will begin a 33-day preparation to reconsecrate the sister apostolates, their staff, members, clients, and donors to St. Joseph. We will be following the program outlined by Fr. Donald H. Calloway, MIC in his book, Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father. The book offers a daily meditation based on the titles of St. Joseph found in the Litany of St. Joseph as well as chapters on the 10 wonders of St. Joseph, and prayers and devotions to this beloved saint. For those wishing to participate, CUF’s reconsecration prayers will begin on February 15th and culminate on March 19th, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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As part of our preparation, CUF’s staff will be praying the Litany of St. Joseph at noon each day, following the Angelus. On March 19th we will be praying the consecration on the prayer card included with this newsletter following our staff’s weekly 12:15 Mass. CUF’s members are invited to spiritually unite with each other and our staff by joining us in this practice. If you are not able to make the consecration simultaneous with us, there are still 5 more feasts on which to make the consecration in 2021! Or, just make the consecration when convenient for you. If you wish to use the consecration program outlined by Fr. Calloway, you can obtain more information or buy a copy of his book by visiting www.ConsecrationToStJoseph.org.

We want 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!

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The Litany of St. Joseph

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.

God the Father of Heaven,
God the Son,
   Redeemer of the World,
God the Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity, One God,
Holy Mary,
St. Joseph,
Noble Offspring of David,
Light of Patriarchs,
Spouse of the Mother of God,
Chaste Guardian of the Virgin,
Foster Father of the Son of God,
Zealous Defender of Christ,
Head of the Holy Family,
Joseph Most Just,
Joseph Most Chaste,
Joseph Most Prudent,
Joseph Most Courageous,
Joseph Most Obedient,
Joseph Most Faithful,
Mirror of Patience,
Lover of Poverty,  
Model of Workmen,
Glory of Domestic Life,
Guardian of Virgins,
Pillar of Families,
Comfort of the Afflicted,
Hope of the Sick,
Patron of the Dying,
Terror of Demons,
Protector of the Holy Church,  

Lamb of God,  
   who takes away the sins of the world, 
   spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God,  
   who takes away the sins of the world, 
   graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God,  
   who takes away the sins of the world, 
   have mercy on us.

V. He had made him lord of his household,
R. And prince over all his possessions.

Let us pray: O God, in your ineffable providence you were please to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your Most holy Mother; grant, we beg you, that we may be worthy to have him for our intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our Protector: You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.