

Fire & Light

St. Symeon Orthodox Church

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✠ **August 17, 2014** ✠

Postfeast of the Dormition

Hieromartyr Myron of Cyzicus (250)

**St. Theodoret, Enlightener
of the Lapps, Finland (1571)**

What songs of awe did they
offer thee then, O Virgin!
When all the Apostles
of the Word
stood around thy deathbed
and cried out with wonder:
The Palace of the King
is now departing!
The Ark of holiness
now is raised on high!
Let the gates be lifted up
that the Gate of God
May enter in with great joy!
Unceasingly asking
great mercy for the world!

**Most-Holy
Theotokos
save us !**

- + **Friday Memorial – 6:00pm: Nadya Karell's mother,
Valentina (1 yr) and Alexander Pereboev (2 yrs)**
- **NO VESPERS – next Saturday, August 23**
 - **Next Sunday - Baby Shower for Kathryn Simmelink**

The Blue and the Red

More often than not, icons of our Savior show Him clothed in a red tunic with a blue cloak wrapped over it. The red signifies His Divinity and the blue His humanity, and so this indicates to us that He is God Who has become man. Conversely the icons of the Virgin show her clothed in a blue tunic covered by a red wrap, indicating that she is human but by the Grace of God has put on the Divine, becoming a god by Grace. None of us will ever achieve such glory as is hers, for she is "more honorable than the Cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim," but our Orthodox Faith does call us not simply to be good, to escape judgment, to go to Heaven, but also to become, through God's grace and love towards us, "partakers of the Divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4). So many of us pay little heed to this truth, and consider that our church commitment only means superficial Sunday-only service attendance, occasional half-hearted prayer, superficial confession and unfocused partaking of Communion.

The holy Apostle Peter teaches us another way: Add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity. These things require constant attention and struggle, but the recompense thereof is gloriously revealed in the life of the Holy Mother of God and of the Saints well-pleasing to God in every generation.

St. Gregory Palamas – On the Incarnation from the Virgin

"... The Archangel... flew down from on high, and God's messages and salutations reversed Adam and Eve's condemnation, and healed the curse which was upon them, turning it into a blessing (cf. Lk. 1:28-38). For the King of all desired the secret beauty of the Ever-Virgin, as David foretold (cf. Ps. 45:11). He bowed the heavens and came down (cf. Ps. 18:9), and overshadowed her (cf. Lk. 1:35), rather, the power of the Most High came to dwell in her in His very Person. He did not reveal His presence through darkness and fire, as He did to Moses (cf. Ex. 19:16, 18), nor through a tempest and cloud, as He did to Elijah (cf. I Kings. 18:45), but the unveiled power of the Most High directly overshadowed the Virgin's perfectly pure womb with nothing intervening, neither the air of earth or heaven, nor anything visible or invisible. For this was not overshadowing but pure union. Since anything that overshadows something else naturally gives it its own form and character, what came to pass in the Virgin's womb was not just union but the formation, out of both the power of the Most High and her all-holy virgin womb, of the Incarnate Word of God. The Word of God in the flesh made His abode in her, came forth from her, and appeared on earth and went about among men. He made our human nature divine, and bestowed on us, according to the holy Apostle, 'things the angels desire to look into' (I Pet. 1:12). **Such is the extraordinary honor and all-surpassing glory of the Ever-Virgin, which defeats the mind and speech of all, however angelic they be.**"

This and That

It's not true that all wars are fought in the name of religion, as some atheists assert.

Of 1,723 armed conflicts documented in the three-volume "Encyclopedia of Wars," only 123, or less than 7 percent, involved a religious cause. Hitler's genocide, Stalin's bloody purges and Pol Pot's mass murders certainly make the case that state-sanctioned killings do not need the invocation of a higher power to succeed.

"Toleration" is perfectly compatible with — indeed, it presupposes — disagreement. That's why it's called tolerance and not endorsement or affirmation. Reading the irate responses to the Hobby Lobby decision, I get the feeling that some liberals not-so-secretly long to see social conservatives suffer for the sin of upholding sexual teachings that clash with liberal norms." —Damon Linker, as quoted by

- Rod Dreher

In evolutionary principle, traits that lead to more surviving children proliferate. In practice, when people learn how to have fewer or no children, they do. Whole industries exist to provide prophylactics, vasectomies, and abortions, attesting to great enthusiasm for non-reproduction. Many advanced countries are declining in population. How does having fewer surviving children lead to having more surviving children? Less cutely, what selective pressures lead to a desire not to reproduce, and how does this fit into a Darwinian framework?

...Does not genetic determinism...lead to a paradox: that the thoughts we think we are thinking we only think to be thoughts when they are really utterly predetermined by the inexorable working of physics and chemistry? (That was fun. I recall Samuel Johnson's remark on the existence of free will: All theory is against it, but all experience is for it.)

- Fred Reed

On Abiogenesis (the hypothesis that life can come into being from nonliving materials): This is not going to be a fair question as there is no way anyone can know the answer, but I pose it anyway. The theory, which I cannot refute, is that a living, metabolizing, reproducing gadget formed accidentally in the ancient seas. Perhaps it did. I wasn't there. It seems to me, though, that the more complex one postulates the First Critter to have been, the less likely, probably exponentially so, it would have been to form. The less complex one postulates it to have been, the harder to explain why biochemistry, which these days is highly sophisticated, cannot reproduce the event. Question: **How many years would have to pass without replication of the event, if indeed it be not replicated, before one might begin to suspect that it didn't happen?** For all I know, it may be accomplished tomorrow. But the check cannot be in the mail forever.

~ Fred Reed

- Curious that "Those who insist on the absence of spiritual authority" (i.e., each one with his Bible — *Sola Scriptura, sola fide* — *the Bible alone, faith alone*) will turn around and agree that the lawyer who attempts to defend himself in court has a fool for a client! Even the psycho-therapist knows better than to attempt being his own therapist. Surely objectivity is a crucial component of spiritual authority and is (or should be) as valuable to the Christian sojourner as it is to the lawyer or therapist.

- Internet comment

"How do I know that pornography depraves and corrupts? It depraves and corrupts me."

~ Malcolm Muggeridge

"Do not be proud of the fact that your grandmother was shocked at something which you are accustomed to seeing or hearing without being shocked. ... It may be that your grandmother was an extremely lively and vital animal, and that you are a paralytic." ~ G.K. Chesterton

Steadfast Protection of Christians



In the festal hymn (Troparion) of this glorious Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God we sing:

In giving birth, thou didst preserve thy virginity: in thy Dormition thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos. Thou wast translated to life, O Mother of Life! And by thy prayers thou dost deliver our souls from death!

And in the Sunday Liturgy we often sing:

Steadfast Protection of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator! Do not despise the cry of us sinners, but in thy goodness come speedily to help us who call on thee in faith! Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos! For thou always protectest those who honor thee!

Let us consider these two hymns today, brothers and sisters, for their words are strong and full of meaning. The Virgin was a human, born of the fallen nature like us. How, then, can we call her a "protection of Christians'?"

In a way, all the great Saints can be called by us "protectors of Christians," for by their great struggle and cooperation with God's grace, they have defeated the power of Satan. Filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit and having Christ abiding in them, they have become a terror to demons. In them, we clearly see the liberation from bondage made possible by Jesus Christ. Each of their victories has weakened the power of Satan and undermined his influence over human nature. Their victory, through the grace of the Holy Spirit and the indwelling of Jesus Christ is, to all who live according to the Orthodox Faith, a shield and a protection against the power and deceits of Satan. The Most-Holy Theotokos is the greatest of all the Saints, made the holiest and most grace-filled of all humanity by God's will. It is clear, then, that she has the power of grace and that she, above all the holy servants of God, is a terror to demons and a weakening of their power. Therefore, she has been made a "protection of Christians" by the Grace of God and the power and authority of her Son Jesus Christ.

If the Scripture says, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Jesus Christ," (1 Tm. 2:5) how can we then refer to the Holy Virgin as a "constant advocate (mediator) unto the Creator?"

Ask yourselves, Orthodox people: Is Jesus Christ truly God, or is He only some sort of "semi-god" or just an especially holy prophet? If Jesus Christ is God, then how is He a mediator between God and man?

Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man because He alone united God and man together. Because He is God and became also a man, He is the One who

brought together - God and man, because in Him, God and man are united as one Person. The human nature is brought together with the Divine nature because He is both God and man. Moreover, Christ, Who was 'obedient unto death', mediated our salvation by fulfilling righteousness for us, thereby reuniting each of us with God.

The Virgin Mary is called "Mediator" in two senses: first of all, God became man through her. The union of the Divine and human took place in her womb, therefore, in this sense, the mediation of our salvation took place in her. Secondly, by her prayers and life, and the fact that she has already experienced the victory over death, she draws us nearer to God, and so in this sense, she is a mediation, not of our salvation, but of our nearness to God, for she draws us closer to Him.

The Theotokos is a very special human being who has been united with God in a very special and unique way in human history. She is a vessel of Divine Grace and, therefore, she hears our prayers and offers us spiritual comfort. The Theotokos aids us in our struggle against the power and influence of Satan when we call on her for help. Like any good Christian, she intercedes and makes supplication for us, as the Scripture commands. (1 Tm. 2:1).

The repose of the Virgin was marvelous and full of wonder! In her falling asleep, the hope of the Resurrection was confirmed for all of mankind. The Theotokos being raised and taken bodily into Heaven after three days by her Son assures us all of the truth of the promise that we will all be raised on the last Day.

"Through death, He destroyed the one who had the power of death... and delivered those who, through fear of death, were all their lifetime held in bondage" (Heb. 2:14-15).

When we meditate on the miracles in the life of the Most-Holy Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary Theotokos and on her wondrous falling asleep, our hearts are filled with wonder and joy. In her we see clearly the love which God has for us humans. She was born in the flesh like us, born into the fallen human nature. Because "a servant cannot have two masters," God freed her completely from the master of this world and made her His servant alone. Since Satan held all mankind in bondage and the fear of death, God delivered her from this fear and would not leave her most pure body in the grip of death. Though every human being must die (Heb. 9:2-7), it was not proper that the Mother of Him Who conquered death, should remain under the power of death. The Theotokos fulfilled the Scripture by tasting death, but the Holy Spirit fulfilled the promise in her by raising her up and taking her into Heaven after three days. By this we know that she is especially glorified by God and counted higher than all other humans.

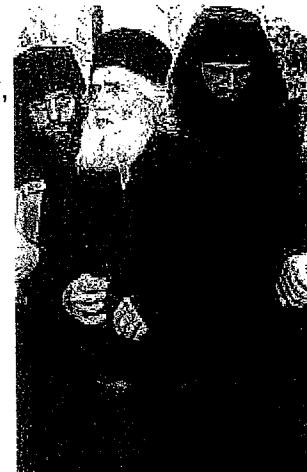
Thy life has taught us, O Most pure Virgin, that the more fully we serve God, the more His Grace liberates us from the bondage of the master of this world and makes us His own. Thy glorious repose has taught us that all the faithful will follow our Lord Jesus Christ in death, resurrection and ascension into the Kingdom of Everlasting Glory!

- Adapted from Orthodox Teaching on the Life of the Theotokos

ON POSITIVE THINKING - Elder Paisios of Mt. Athos (+ July 12, 1994)

"For perverse thoughts separate men from God" (Wisdom 1:3)

Elder Paisios always urged us to think positively. Our positive thinking, however, should not be our ultimate aim; eventually our soul must be cleansed from our positive thoughts as well, and be left bare having as its sole vestment divine grace granted to us through Holy Baptism. "This is our aim," he used to say, "to totally submit our mind to the grace of God. The only thing Christ is asking from us is our humility. The rest is taken care of by His grace. In the beginning, we should willingly try to develop positive thoughts, which will gradually lead us to the perfect good, God, to whom belongs every glory, honor and worship; on the contrary, to us belongs only the humility of our conceited attitude."



"We must always be careful and constantly question the nature of our thoughts. When someone is preoccupied and trusts his own way of thinking, he becomes vulnerable to the devil, who is capable of transforming us into sly persons, even when we are honest by nature. The older fathers never trusted their own thoughts. Even for minor problems to which they had to give answers, they prayed to God, or fasted, as a way to "force" divine grace to reveal the answer according to God's will; and after they got the "information", they gave the answer. In our days, when someone has a serious problem and asks for advice, we tend to interrupt him and provide an answer without letting him finish his question first. In this case, we do not only seek the assistance of divine grace, but we also misuse our logic, which was granted to us by God. We are ruled by our own thoughts and unhesitatingly rely on them, very often having to face the disastrous results of our acts."

"Almost all of us consider our thoughts to be simple and natural, therefore, we spontaneously rely on them. On the contrary, we should neither trust, nor accept them. We must not have any thoughts in our mind or heart, neither positive ones, nor negative ones, for this space inside us belongs to the grace of God. We are obliged to keep it clean, not only of our various thoughts but also of the slightest and most elusive slip of the mind. We can only achieve this, if we fervently love Christ and unhesitatingly trust Him. As a result, we humble ourselves, and divine grace, naturally, will be revived inside us, for it is only granted to the humble ones; "God opposes the proud, but gives Grace to the humble." (1Pet 5:5).

"We must have positive thoughts, otherwise none of the spiritual fathers- not even the saints- can help us. When Jesus was on the Cross and all the terrible events were taking place, two thieves were also being crucified with Him. "And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour" (Mk 15:33). "...And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split; the tombs were also opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs, after his resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many." (Mt 27:51-53). Each one of them had a different attitude towards Him, even though they were both placed next to the same God; a God who had never been blamed for, or accused by anyone for the slightest sin. On the contrary, many people were benefited by Him: some had cured of a specific disease, others had been resurrected and all these miracles took place in public. Now, even nature was reacting against the injustice done to Him.

The thief placed on the left cross had created inside his mind a "factory", which produced only negative thoughts. "...One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying 'Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us'." (Lk 23:39). Although he could see what was going on around him, he never questioned himself about it. The one on the right, who had a positive way of thinking, reacted as follows: "But the other rebuked him saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds;

but this man has done nothing wrong.' And he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'" (Lk 23:40-42). Both thieves had the same almighty God placed between them who could help them. The negative thinking of the one on the left prevented God from helping him, whereas the one on the right- who had committed terrible crimes and was legitimately being punished- was able to "move" Jesus with his positive attitude. And He said to him: "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Lk 23:43). We should keep in mind that God "cannot" help us, even if He really wants to, unless we acquire a positive way of thinking. Concerning the spiritual progress of a disciple monk, it is more important for him to develop good thoughts than to be guided by a spiritual father who is considered a living saint..."

Looking at this subject from a different point of view, Elder Paisios stressed and greatly emphasised the specific characteristic of love, that is, that "love is not irritable or resentful" (1Cor 13:4). He used to say that "we should never, even under the worst circumstances, allow a negative thought to penetrate our soul. The person, who, under all circumstances, is inclined to have positive thoughts, will always be a winner; his life will be a constant festivity, since it is constantly based on his positive thinking. Our acts depend on and are determined by the "machine" we have inside us, and not by the "material" we digest, or the environment we live in. I will give you an example, so you can better understand what I am trying to say:

If one has a machine that produces bullets and feeds it with the highest quality material, -let's say gold- the machine will still convert gold into bullets, golden but destructive bullets; if he feeds it with silver, then it will produce silver bullets; if he feeds it with iron, it will produce iron bullets, or if he feeds it with clay, it will produce clay bullets. In other words, no matter what material he feeds his machine, it still produces bullets, because it was made to manufacture these destructive products. If someone converts the machine into one that produces holy chalices instead of bullets, then whatever material he feeds it, it will always produce holy chalices. If he puts in the machine clay or iron, it will manufacture clay or iron chalices respectively.

I will now tell you a story regarding a very old father from Kapsala. The old father's "machine" was the kind that produced only positive thoughts. He only saw the good things in life and he was blind to every evil. Once, a group of people visited him and brought him a small radio as a present. The old father took it in his hands and examined it with lots of admiration. He asked where it was manufactured and the visitors told him in Japan. As he was looking at it, suddenly he was filled with joy and started kissing the radio saying:

"Glory to God!" The visitors asked him why he was glorifying God and he explained to them: "You see, I am very pleased that the Japanese Christians put the sign of the Holy Cross on the products they manufacture."

The old father had noticed the positive and negative pole (+,-) of the batteries and thought it was the sign of the Cross. His mind produced a simplistic and positive thought for the radio the visitors brought him. Considering he was an ascetic, he could have developed negative thoughts and get angry at them for bringing him such an unsuitable present.

Someone asked the same old father why he was making the sign of the Cross when he saw an airplane. And he simply answered: "Don't you see, my child, that its shape looks like the sign of our Holy Cross?"

The old father ignored the negative thoughts associated with the sight of an airplane, such as wars and bombing. His mind was attracted by the similarity of its shape to the sign of the Holy Cross; the sight and noise of the airplane made him think of the crucifixion of Christ."

"A few years ago, I went to Athens for business and I stayed at the house of a fellow Christian. The area was very noisy as the house was located near a central road. My friend told me that he had trouble sleeping at night due to the noise, so he ended up taking sleeping pills. After we had dinner, he took me to my room and told me:

-Elder, this is your room and I hope you will be able to sleep, despite the noise of the traffic.

Next morning, when I got out of my room, my friend said:

- I couldn't sleep all night due to the terrible noise. How about you?

- I have never slept so well, not even on Mount Athos.

- How is this possible, Father Paisios?

Then I told him what had happened since I entered into my room. (At that time the Vietnam War was taking place, and everyday we heard sad stories in the news and I used to pray to God to help people in Vietnam).

When I went into my room, I knelt in front of the bed. I put my head and hands on the bed and started praying for all the soldiers who were fighting and getting killed in Vietnam. I could hear the noise of the traffic, but as my mind was concentrated on the Vietnam War, I converted the traffic noise into the noise of the war tanks that were destroying buildings and killing people. Once in a while, a motorcycle was passing by making a very loud noise that made the windows creak; I immediately associated this noise with the one of the airplanes bombing Vietnam, and I could see helpless children and old people getting killed. I felt a sweet grief inside me, and I was crying for the situation in Vietnam, and I despised myself for enjoying the luxury of a nice meal and a clean room and for not having any problem. As I was crying, I was filled with a peaceful spiritual calmness, and finally fell asleep kneeling in front of my bed. The traffic noise did not interrupt my sleep at all, as my thoughts were directed to those suffering in Vietnam.

You can do the same thing: Think about wars, the people who are being killed or dying of hunger, the houses that are being bombed; and also think about yourself living in a luxurious home, eating plenty of food, having a job, being safe and sound. Then, the association of the traffic noise with the noise of the war will become a very good reason for you to glorify God and will prevent you from taking sleeping pills. There is only one solution: to have positive thoughts."

-Father Paisios, when I walk in the streets of Thessaloniki, I face the following problem: As I walk, I come across various beggars most of whom are women holding babies in their arms, and claiming they are ill and in need of financial assistance. I always think they are lying to me. What would you do in my place?

-I, too, came across one of these women who asked for help, he replied. I immediately sympathised with her problem but I had very little money on me. I gave her 500 drachmas and told her: "Please forgive me as I do not have more money on me. However, I will give you my address so you can write to me and send me your own. When I go back to Mount Athos, I will try to collect some money to forward you."

She took my address and I felt she was touched by my offer. After some time, I received a letter from her which did not include her address. Instead, she had enclosed the 500 drachma bill I had given her, and was asking me to forgive her for putting me in a difficult situation and thanked me for my kindness. I believe that if someone develops positive thoughts, even in the case of the woman beggar, he will not be a loser, because God, who knows our deepest intentions, will do him justice.

Once, a journalist, who had a negative way of thinking about everything, visited Elder Paisios. He began asking the Elder about various things and making him feel in distress. At one point, he asked him:

- Why are staying here in the peace and quietness of Mount Athos feeling carefree, and you are not going out in the world to help people who have so many serious problems?

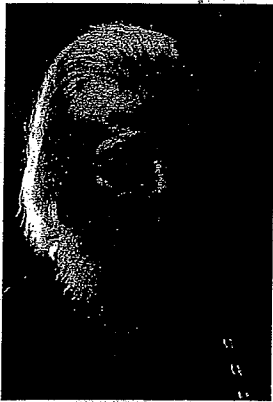
The Elder, slightly raising his tone of voice, told him:

- Your mind machine is a broken one and produces only negative thoughts. You misunderstand everything you see or hear. Now, you see me living here and ask me why I am not going out in the world. If I go to live in the world, you will then say that it is unsuitable for a monk and that I should go back to the quietude of my cell. For this reason, I will only tell you one thing: Repair your broken mind-machine and bear in mind the old saying, which says that "traffic lights are made for noisy streets, whereas lighthouses for deserted rocky mountains."

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE: HOW DID WE GET HERE? AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?

By Archpriest Lev Semenov, May 14th, 2012.

President Barack Obama recently affirmed his personal support for the legalization of same-sex marriage. For a perspective from Russia on this momentous development, we offer the following commentary by Archpriest Lev Semenov, Dean of the Faculty of Further Education at St. Tikhon's Orthodox University and cleric of the Church of St. Nicholas in Kuznetskaya Sloboda, both in Moscow.



† † †
 The political heavyweight of the Western world has taken a step towards the abyss. If we are to believe the news report broadcast on the radio, and later confirmed in the press, President Barack Obama has made his first public statement in support of the legalization of same-sex marriages.

One can only sympathize with the citizens of this country who hold the Christian faith, just imagining how they must have felt when they heard this statement from their head of state. There are quite a few Orthodox in the United States (my internship at New York University in 1999, when I met clergy and laity of four Orthodox jurisdictions, convinced me of this) and I think they were not pleased by the President's statement.

In connection with this shocking news, two questions naturally arise: How could this have happened? And what comes next? It seems obvious that the willingness of the leader of a major world power to recognize same-sex marriage as normal, destroying all grounds of traditional morality and familial structure, has its distant origins rooted in the process of secularization that began to gain strength at the threshold of the modern era.

The pinnacle of its manifestation is now the West's general fascination with such notorious idols as "political correctness" and "tolerance," all the while misconstruing them; as a result of which, in defiance of common sense, everything is being turned upside down: human rights are being turned against humans, causing irreparable harm to their freedoms, including their freedom of conscience. One does not need to look far to find examples. "Old Lady Europe" has long been in training to break the records of political correctness. But the New World has since begun to catch up with it.

This tendency towards secular extrapolation began to show itself most clearly with regard to the historical past, an example of which are the attempts at silencing the very place

of Christianity in the history of European culture. Thus, despite Christianity's enormous role in its formation and development over many centuries, contemporary European community legislators, as is well known, have removed the very mention of the Christian roots of European culture from the constitution of the European Union.

Instead of ensuring human rights as regards freedom of conscience, people are in fact deprived of the right to demonstrate their religious identity in even the most restrained manner. In Italy the courts examined the question of the permissibility of having crucifixes on the walls of educational institutions. In Great Britain, the new edition of the Oxford Junior Dictionary, designed to expand the vocabulary of school children, has eliminated the words "abbey," "altar," "bishop," "chapel," "christen," "monk," "monastery," "novice," "saint," and a host of other Biblicisms. A stewardess for a British airline was fired because a Christian cross was visible in the neckline of her uniform. In the United States serious intentions have been expressed, on the grounds of having a politically correct attitude towards non-Christians, officially to change the terms Christmas and Easter to "winter" and "spring" holidays.

This epidemic of fundamentally shattering the millennia-old traditional family, which began in Europe some time ago and has now spread to the United States, threatens the moral health of society, the stability of the monogamous family, and the interests of children growing up in families.

It would be interesting to hear from gays and lesbians preparing to form marital unions (if one can call it that), who often express the intention of acquiring children for such "families" by adopting orphans, what kind of upbringing the unfortunate children of such "families" will receive if same-sex marriage is legalized. Are the democratic societies of Western countries prepared for the prospect, in the very near future, of the mass reproduction, through the upbringing received in such "families," of entire generations with a similar sexual orientation?

It would be naïve to suppose that those taking the bit between their teeth in this mad rush towards destroying the traditions of Western society will stop here. Elementary logic dictates that, following the rejection of the commandment *thou shalt not commit adultery*, the violation of other commandments will ensue; then, surpassing all the horrors of Kafkaesque absurdity, the rejection of the commandment *thou shalt not kill* will arrive. It is not difficult to imagine how "civilized" (read: secularized) humanity, having desired to free itself from the burden of Christian moral values as being too burdensome for their perverse aspirations, would one morning wake up to hear that an American president has expressed his support for the "inalienable" right of every person... to commit murder.

May God grant that this nightmarish dystopia never come into being! But only fidelity to those traditional religious foundations upon which all world culture has been built can serve to bar the way to its realization.