

April 1, 2025

Tuesday of the Fourth Week in Lent

Dear Friends of Catholic Tradition,

The date of this letter marks the final week in Lent before we move to the more intense part of Lent known as Passiontide. We begin looking ever more deeply toward the Cross. Yet, as you read this letter it will likely already be the season of Easter. As we stare upon the cross, we can look through the cross, in a certain sense, to the resurrection. We know that it is through this portal of the cross that we must pass to reach the resurrection. We must die with Christ to rise with Him.

This edition of the paper, as you will discover, has two themes running through it. One is a deep examination of the crusades. The crusades (and especially the first) marks in many ways the high point of Christendom. All Catholics no matter their race or nationality united to defend the holy sites of the Holy Land, and most especially the site of the Crucifixion. This was not really the “first” crusade. The first crusade was called by Christ Himself from the Cross and from the Mount of Olives when he commanded his Apostles to preach the good news to all nations. The crusades of the eleventh and twelfth century were merely a battle in this grand crusade.

As discussed in our March 2025 conference, a summary of which also appears in this issue, an important front line in the current installment of this grand crusade is being fought on the line of gender. Women and mothers are the target that Satan and the forces of organized naturalism have been carpet bombing for over a century in the hopes of destroying the Catholic family and ultimately Catholic civilization. Defending motherhood is an essential need of this phase of the conflict. Thus, we chose to combine these two themes with a description of our conference.

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I wish you a holy end to your Lent and the greatest joys for Easter.

Stans iuxta Crucem,

Brian McCall

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"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)

Understanding the Crusades

Part One – The Islamic Aggression

By Phillip Campbell

The Crusades are a topic of perennial debate. Despite ending more than 750 years ago, they still provoke passionate discussion among Catholics and non-Catholics alike. For some, the Crusades are a sign of the vibrancy and strength of medieval Catholicism at the pinnacle of its influence. For others, the Crusades are reprehensible acts of religious violence – a blot on the Church's legacy that Catholics should be ashamed of.

As with other historical controversies, the truth about the Crusades tends to be overshadowed by partisan bickering; people get so invested in what they think the Crusades symbolize that the actual history becomes obscured. They are less interested in learning history and more interested in using the Crusades as a club to

bludgeon home a point. Today we will begin to rectify this with a series of articles on the Crusades, beginning with the backstory of the Crusading movement, which will give important historical context to the events that unfolded during the crusading era.

Too many histories of the Crusades begin with 1095, when the First Crusade was summoned at the Council of Clermont by Pope Urban II. This is an undesirable starting point, as it deprives us of the important background context that leads up to Clermont. Today we will focus on understanding the history of Islamic-Christian relations in the East up to the eve of the First Crusade, which will set the stage for further study of the Crusades proper in future installments.

The essential point we should understand at the outset is that the Crusades were primarily defensive



Templar Knights, by Giuseppe Rava

wars – they were a Christian response to increasing Islamic aggression in the Middle East. They were also an act of Christian solidarity, witnessing Latin speaking

Christians of the West aiding Greek speaking Christians of the East despite the tragic schism that had split the two churches back in 1054. We should keep these points

in mind when reviewing the history of this period.

The religion of Islam traces its origin to the year 610

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The Modern Crusade: The Church vs Organized Naturalism

Brian M. McCall

Catholic Family News held its first in person conference since 2019 on March 1 and 2 in Florida. The theme was Christ's Program for Peace v. Satan's Plan for Disorder according to the writings of Father Dennis Fahey. About 100 people attended from around the country. Traditional Latin Mass was offered each morning by our two invited priest speakers, Father Michael McMahon, SSPX and

Father Matthew, OSB. We had a public recitation of the Rosary every day after lunch. For those who purchased the meals, there was a great opportunity to visit with the speakers and to get to know new Catholics from around the country.

Saturday opened with Mass being offered by Father McMahon. We knew the devil was not happy at the goal of this conference to expose his plans. During the Post Communion the hotel's

speakers started blaring pop music. As a few men scrambled to find a hotel worker to shut it down, I realized all the devil could do is lash out with little annoyances and this meant our goal was worthwhile.

The Six Point Plan

After breakfast the conferences opened with an introduction of the overall theme and the six points of Christ's Plan for order, according to Father Fahey:

- The Church is supernatural and supernatural. All people must acknowledge the nature of Christ's Church as the only means of salvation.
- Nations are obligated to recognize Christ's Church and that the Church has the power to intervene in temporal



affairs as guardian of the divine and natural law.

• The Christian family

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