The Director’s Note

I would like to take this opportunity to greet all of you. I have had the privilege of serving the church as a Capuchin Friar for the past 31 years and as a priest for the past 21 years. I have been a member of the Province of St. Augustine long enough to have personally known the venerable Friars who have served the Christian Mothers for the past seven decades: Father Bertin Roll, Fr. Lester Knoll and Fr. Angelus Shaughnessy. All of these distinguished men have served the church nobly and with great generosity. It is truly humbling to be asked to participate in an apostolate with such distinguished predecessors.

As I look at the statistics for the growth of the Christian Mothers it is obvious that the Holy Spirit has played the fundamental role in the history and continued vibrancy of this apostolate. Many organizations in the church served wonderfully for a time and are now part of our history. The Christian Mothers on the other hand continue to grow. New members are joining confraternities all over the United States and Canada. There is tremendous growth of the organization in Guam and in Nigeria. We thank God for the many blessings that He continues to bestow upon us and upon the church.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the coming months and years. If I can be of assistance to you please let me know.

Father Bertin carried out his role with the Christian Mothers for 62 years. He had no other official ministry aside from his work with the Christian Mothers. I have been assigned by my Superior for the past two years to serve the church as a preacher. I travel the country and abroad giving retreats and missions to parishes, priests, religious and other groups. In years gone by Fr. Bertin would travel the country all year long visiting the various confraternities of the Christian Mothers. Father also had the help of five secretaries who helped to plan out his travels and appointments. His work was immensely fruitful and foundational for the organization of the Christian Mothers in the United States. The Christian Mothers continue to grow and expand, obviously a gift from the Holy Spirit. While it is not possible for me to travel the way Fr. Bertin did, new technology can help us find new ways to stay in touch on a regular basis including the newsletter and access to our website.

If you have special gatherings or anniversaries and you would like my presence I will be happy to join you as I am able. I would ask only that you contact me ahead of time.

I thank God for the opportunity to work with all of you. Having known the Christian Mothers during my various assignments in the Pittsburgh area and elsewhere, I know what good women you are. You do great work on the parish level and for the universal church. As we begin this new relationship I ask for your prayers. In coming newsletters I hope to reflect with you on the challenges that I believe we face as an organization and in terms of our apostolate for the new evangelization especially in regards to the family.

For now let me just say that I will remember you at the altar and in my daily prayers.

Father Joseph Tuscan, OFM Capuchin
The First Society: The Sacrament of Matrimony and the Restoration of the Social Order

Everyone seems to admit that Western Civilization is in trouble. The problem is that no one agrees on what has gone wrong or what to do about it. Some think we have too much government; some not enough. Some think we have too much capitalism; some not enough. Some think we have too much sexual freedom; some not enough. But what if the problem is much more fundamental? What if the problem goes to the very root of who we are as human beings in a relationship with God?

In “The First Society: The Sacrament of Matrimony and the Restoration of the Social Order,” Scott Hahn makes the startling claim that our society’s ills and its cures are rooted in whether we reject or accept the divine grace made available to us in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

Man, he argues, is social in his very nature. We were created for community. As it was in the beginning, so it remains today; and the family, constituted through the Sacrament of Matrimony, is the most basic building block of every society, whether we like it or not. If we corrupt marriage we will have a corrupt society. If we get marriage right, our society, through grace, will flourish.

This is so because Matrimony, like all the sacraments, heals and elevates human nature. Matrimony is the sacrament of the lay vocation, of the vocation that builds our economies and our governments, that raises our children and fights our wars. Without it, our ambition towards a just social order will remain forever foolhardy. With it, the seemingly impossible, a truly peaceful and humane civilization, becomes possible.

Marriage is Our Hope.

Book Recommendations

“Western Society is deeply affected, indeed wounded, by sin, by rebellion against God and His plan for our eternal happiness. The most deadly wound has been inflicted by the ferocious attack on the fundamental truth of marriage, which seeks to obscure and sully the sublime beauty of the marriage state as God intended it from the Creation. Today we must be ready to suffer, as Christians have suffered down the ages, to honor and foster Holy Matrimony.

As Scott Hahn shows in his inspiring and challenging work, only a society radically obedient, through cooperation with sacramental grace, to the reign of Our Lord, Christ the King, can truly flourish. A society formed and animated by sacramental grace is established and flourishes in the very first society, the family. Such a society, in fact, becomes a reality in Christian
families who, by their heroic example, witness to the splendor of the truth about marriage.”

- Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke
Former Head of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura

“Please don’t open ‘The First Society’ expecting a timid sermon. Hahn does not shy away from the very direct criticism of secular liberalism as the culprit in undermining both marriage and the just social order. A secular view of marriage, claims Hahn, is as unworkable as a secular view of society. Amen!”

- Benjamin Whitaker, PhD
Professor of Political Science and Director of Human Life Studies at Franciscan University of Steubenville, and author of “In Defense of Nature.”

“At a time when legal word definitions of marriage all over the western world turn marriage into an utterly private affair, Dr. Hahn convincingly shows how and why marriage is of utmost social and political significance. He does so by demonstrating that the way people live their sexuality has immediate repercussions for the rightly understood common good. The central thesis of what, according to its author, is not an optimistic, but rather a hope-filled book, is that as Christians, we are allowed to reckon with the power of God who heals our frailty and elevates our nature. Christian marriage, based on the grace of the sacrament, has the power to transform an entire culture as it lays the grounds for authentic solidarity.”

- Stephen Kampowski, STD
Professor of Philosophical Anthropology at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family, Rome, and co-author of; “Accompanying, Discerning, Integrating.”

“In ‘The First Society’ Scott Hahn delivers... a practical program for defending the family in our hostile secular world. No more confining ourselves to ‘secular’ or ‘scientific’ or ‘natural law’ reasons for our beliefs. While there is nothing wrong with those reasons, they are not enough. We have been leaving our best player, Jesus, on the bench for far too long. Marriage defenders: read this book, and follow its counsels!”

- Jennifer Roback Morse, PhD
Founder and President of The Ruth Institute

Available In Hardcover, Paperback, Audiobook and e-book

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

– Revelation 19:7-8

MARRIAGE AND FAITH IN CRISIS

“The theme of marriage... deserves special attention. The message of the word of God may be summed up in the expression found in the Book of Genesis and taken up by Jesus himself: “Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh” (Gen 2:24 Mk 10:7-8). What does this word say to us today? It seems to me that it invites us to be more aware of a reality, already well known but not fully appreciated: that matrimony is a Gospel in itself, a Good News for the world of today, especially the dechristianized world. The union of a man and a woman, their becoming “one flesh” in charit, in fruitful and indissoluble love, is a sign that speaks of God with a force and an eloquence which in our days has become greater because.... marriage, in precisely the oldest regions evangelized, is going through a profound crisis. And it is not by chance. Marriage is linked to faith, but not in a general way. Marriage as a union of faithful and indissoluble love, is based upon the grace that comes from the triune God, who in Christ loved us with a faithful love, even to the Cross. There is a clear link between the crisis in faith and the crisis in marriage. And, as the Church has said and witnessed for a long time now, marriage is called to be not only an object but a subject of the new evangelization.

- Pope Benedict XVI, Homily for the Mass for the opening of the Synod of Bishops, October 7th 2012
“If Catholics would simply live the Sacrament of Matrimony for one generation, we would witness a transformation of society and have a Christian culture.”


**Highly Recommended**

Every Christian Mother in the world should have and be using the “Mother Love” prayer book. Therein is the relationship with God and others that we expect our Mother to live by day-by-day.

**MotherLove Prayer Book**
$15.00 Plus S&H

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“Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh”

Gen 2:24; Mk 10:7-8