



The Armor of Faith
Topic Summary: Our Lady of America
Part V: Saint Joseph and Fatherhood



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Introduction

[Greeting:] → Welcome to “The Armor of Faith,” a show where we hope to bring our listeners closer to the Word of God and the blessings we receive through living in the fullness of the Catholic faith. My name is Doug and I will be your host as we discuss the blessings of the Church Christ built upon Peter.

I am joined today by my panel: [names]

Helen is a lay-Dominican with a love for music ministry. The Dominicans, I always mention, are also known as the Order of Preachers. Sharon is still our only cradle Catholic on the team, and, as everyone knows by now, I am simply here to ask questions because in my experience in school, I always found the questions to be easy – it was the answers which were hard, so, we leave the hard part to the panel. Anyway, to answer my questions, correct my pronunciation, and make sure I know which century I am talking about is why we have our panelists, so welcome to our panelists as well as to our listeners.

Let us open with a prayer:

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts in thanks and praise for this opportunity to open and share your Holy Word this day. We pray that You are with us and all our listeners as we share with one another the blessings of faith. We pray You will grant us wisdom and understanding as we seek to learn Your Holy Truth.

Dear Lord, we also lift up the prayers in our prayer basket. You know what is written on each one and you know the hearts of those who offer their thanks and praise and their petitions for the blessings of Your great mercy.

We pray especially today for understanding how we may draw together, as children of Your creation, to stand against the evil ideologies of men and how we may live as examples of Your great mercy and love.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

If you would like to add your prayers to our prayer basket, send us an email at armoroffaithradio@gmail.com. Please include the word “prayer” in the subject line so that we will give it priority and capture it for our prayer basket. Just so you know, Sharon and I lift up our prayers with those in the Armor of Faith Radio prayer basket during our daily prayers.

If you haven't discovered, yet, you can listen to us on any device where you can connect to the Internet, including your smartphone. In addition to wcatradio.com/armoroffaith, we are available through a number of streaming services, such as iHeart Radio, Spreaker, iTunes, and CastBox, among others. Simply search for “Armor of Faith Radio” and select the episode you desire. We will be happy to keep you company wherever you are and wherever you are waiting.

We would also like to ask your assistance in evangelization. By sharing the URL for our show, you can help us spread knowledge of our faith. All you need to do is share the URL, wcatradio.com/armoroffaith via email or social media and tell family and friends as well. Several of the streaming services through which we are available on demand also have share options, so we invite you to join the evangelization and help us spread the good news of the Gospel and our faith in Jesus Christ. You can also help us by selecting the follow or subscribe option associated with the service through which you listen to our show.

Current Day Commentary:

As we opened the last two episodes, I mentioned the open letter of Archbishop Vigano to the President of the United States. In this letter, Archbishop Vigano discussed the existence of a “Deep State” and a “Deep Church.” This obviously peaked my interest because of what we discussed in our series, “By Their Fruits You Shall Know Them,” episodes 57 – 68. As I began to learn about Fatima and Our Lady's warning that Russia would spread her errors to the world, I began to notice the tactics I experienced during the Cold War with Russia, which were directed against our Constitution and Western institutions of freedom, were the same tactics being directed against the Catholic Church and for far longer than most of us realize. I mentioned that I viewed Archbishop Vigano's letter as confirmation of my observations.

I was not surprised by the responses of the critics. They confirmed my observations as well, for the fingerprints of style are unmistakable. They reveal, much like a regional accent, the values by which the critics are groomed. Of course, “tactics” can be used by anyone, but word and phrase usage often points to certain “birds of a feather.”

I noted with interest that those who criticized from the conservative side attacked what they believed to be issues of content and perhaps the parsing of words and doctrine, while those on the liberal side essentially dismissed the content and attacked the person as a means of discrediting the message without the need to present any dissenting evidence in opposition, or perhaps more accurately, in defense.

The most common attacks from Progressives were of the nature of “conspiracy theory,” and “Viagano is a bad person.” Other approaches included painting Archbishop Vigano as a “marginal figure,” or that he is dribbling on in search of a “spotlight.” Examples of adjectives used against Archbishop Vigano included, paranoid, disturbing, imagined, fringe, absurd, and insulting; many of the same adjectives the Progressive media directs against the President of the United States. The content is simply dismissed as “crazy.” If the person is defined as crazy, then, we do not need to address the content of the message.

The result is a distraction from the content. Attention of the audience is redirected through fallacious attacks designed to appeal to emotion rather than to address the substance of observation. By villainizing the person, there is no need to address the truth of the message which warns of the wolves working in the clothing of sheep.

It is important for us to notice style and tactics of style, for it will help us see the “birds of a feather.” We turn to our media so we may be informed, but, we must be wary as they are also used to manipulate and “values groom” us, sometimes even using our faith against us, just as Satan attempted to do with Jesus during the 40 days in the desert, of which we are told in Matthew 4:11.

If we are to discern truth, we must look for the evidence presented and the context of that evidence. If an article presents nothing but demonizing or emotional adjectives without substance of argument, it is an important flag.

We must remember that propagandists go after our emotions because our emotions prompt us to action without the temperament of logic or reason. When we see evidence of *ad hominem* attacks and fallacious reasoning, we must ask ourselves, from what are we being distracted or to what are we being manipulated? If we are in doubt, we must pray for the Holy Spirit to help us see truth.

As I mentioned in previous episodes, it is not about whether liberals or conservatives, or whatever group, is right or wrong, it is a matter of whether we understand what God asks of us. The world will endeavor to “values groom” us to its desires, but we must live our faith by what God desires of us. The more we know our faith, the more difficult we make the task of the one who would deceive us away from it. We must also know our history, for it reveals to us the path of the spiritual battle and how the forces engaged brought us to this moment.

If we find ourselves confused. If we find ourselves in doubt about what is happening in our day and how we may apply the gifts and talents God has created within us, then, we must turn in prayer to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to be our guide. We must also shed our allegiance to the flawed ideologies of men and the ever changing rules of political correctness so we may first look to the wisdom of God.

Why Catholics Do What We Do:

Spring – Part X:

We have arrived at the end of our Spring cleaning journey folks. The last two of the commandments talk about coveting. Since they are so very similar, we will discuss them together.

Commandments 9 and 10.

Exodus 20:17

You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, his male or female slave, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Deuteronomy 5:21

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. You shall not desire your neighbor's house or field, his male or female slave, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Today's modern translation

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
You shall not covet our neighbor's goods.

One commandment talks about coveting the wife of another and the other commandment talks about coveting the belongings of another person. We differentiate between the two as one refers to the dignity of a person and the other to the rightful ownership of property. We must also consider that failure to follow these commandments may harm others, but they also harm us as we waste ourselves in the desire of what does not belong to us. So what does it mean to covet?

Let's to go our friends Mirriam-Webster who defines covet this way:

to wish for earnestly -- covet an award

to desire (what belongs to another) inordinately or culpably. The king's brother coveted the throne.

To feel inordinate desire for what belongs to another.

Let us check out the questions that will help us to examine our consciences as we prepare for confession.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

- Have I had any sex before or outside of marriage?
- Have I engaged in unnatural sexual activities?
- Have I engaged in prostitution or paid for like services?
- Have I seduced someone or allowed myself to be seduced?

- Have I purposely dressed immodestly?
- Have I committed fornication or adultery?

You shall not covet our neighbor's goods.

- Have I stolen any object, committed any shoplifting or cheated another of their money?
- Have I knowingly deceived someone or committed fraud?
- Have I been greedy or envious of another's goods?
- Have I allowed financial or material concerns to come before my duty to God, to Church, to my family, or my own spiritual well-being?
- Have I been envious of someone's property?
- Have I desired that the property of others should be my own?
- Have I taken delight in the misfortunes of others?

As we live out our lives, we need to be mindful of the distractors that come before us. We need to be alert to all the evil that is placed in our path so that we might fall and lose our relationship with God. There are sooo many temptations and we need to know what they are. Once we understand what God meant when He gave the 10 Commandments to Moses, we will be able to live our lives with far more calm. After all, God gave the Commandments so that we could live healthy, happy lives in His company, mercy, and grace. He loves us and wants us all to enjoy the life He envisioned at creation.

Let us all do our best to examine our consciences, go to the Sacrament of reconciliation as often as possible and live happier lives. Time to clean house and throw out the trash!!

Have a blessed week All. Remember, you are loved dearly by God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and yes, by us as well.

If you would like to learn more about Spring Cleaning of the Soul and Examination of Conscience, we invite you to follow the links in the reference section of the topic summary for this show. You can obtain the topic summary by visiting <https://wcatradio.com/armoroffaithstudyguides/> and look for episode 152.

Discussion:

As we continue with our discussion of Our Lady of America and consider our faith and the events which surround us, we must ask ourselves, do we believe because of a miracle or apparition, or do we believe because of the wisdom we derive from the Holy Word of God as well as the fingerprints of God we observe as we experience the blessings of our lives? Certainly, God has captured the attention of generations through what only He can do and what

we experience as supernatural, but a miracle means little if we do not look for the message which God desires we understand.

As I have mentioned before, Satan cares not how we miss the mark of what God asks of us, only that we do. In our zealousness for the law, we may forget its purpose. That was part of the criticism Jesus had for the Pharisees when they sought to trap Him within questions of the law. In our selfishness, we are tempted to disregard the law; caring not about its purpose. Either way, the purpose of love which God intends and desires for us, is not accomplished.

If we hope to walk the righteous path, if we truly desire a relationship with God, we need to spend time with His Word, we need to spend time in prayer, and we need to live as examples of His love. His Word reveals the wisdom by which we are called to live. As we learn His Word, we may better understand the light silent sound of our Lord within our hearts. As we turn our understanding into devotion, and our devotion into action, we express the love to which we are called.

It should be of no surprise to us that Our Lady calls us to respect and protect the family as she has done through the apparitions the Catholic Church has approved, so while the writings of Sister Mary Ephrem cannot be discussed as supernatural, we should still consider their content within the context of what we understand through scripture as well as the magisterial teachings of the Catholic Church.

Today, we will discuss a concern raised by Bishop Rhoades in relationship to Saint Joseph, but before we do, I would like to follow-up with Donna Mae concerning her accounts from the 1993 World Youth Day conducted in Denver, Colorado, which we discussed during our last episode.

(Question 1: Donna Mae, we ran out of time during our last discussion as you were telling us the story of the youth carrying the statue of our Lady during the visit of Saint John Paul II. **Can you tell us about that moment?)**

Turning to the main topic of our discussion today, I want to go back for a moment to the statement of Bishop Rhoades and pertinent ordinaries regarding the devotion to Our Lady of America. The statement raises a doctrinal concern over one element of Sister Ephrem's writings. The statement reports:

Regarding the alleged revelations themselves, much of what is expressed does not contain any doctrinal error. However, there is a claim regarding Saint Joseph which has never been expressed as Catholic doctrine and must be seen as an error, namely, that he was a “co-redeemer” with Christ for the salvation of the world. (Rhoades)

If we look in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the word “co-redeemer” is not contained within it, or at least that I can find. Of course, we have heard discussions as to the dogma of Mary as co-redemptrix, but that discussion is also not considered approved doctrine. In our discernment, we must consider the following scripture:

(John 14:6)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

(1 Timothy 2:5)

For there is one God. There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, himself human, 6 who gave himself as ransom for all.

(Matthew 28:18-19)

18 Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

(Mark 9:38-41)

38 John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." 39 Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. 40 For whoever is not against us is for us. 41 Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward.

(Question 2: As we consider this concept of co-redemption, we must consider the concern. Why do we think there is an issue concerning this concept?)

- We have but one redeemer, Jesus Christ (John 3:16)
- There is but one path to the Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ (John 14:6)
- There is but one mediator between God and man, but can no one call others to Christ? (1 Timothy 2:5)
- The prefix "co" means cooperative, it does not mean equal.
- Co-workers are not always co-equal in their rank or contribution
- Does "one path" mean no one can assist Jesus by calling souls to Him?
- If there are co-redeemers, what earns the title?
- If we acknowledge a co-redeemer, does this detract from the One redeemer?
- If the Church has not adopted the dogma, reference to it could be considered error in the moment, but is the discernment of co-redeemer doctrine over?
- We must follow the guidance of ecclesiastical authority → remember Christ's response to Saint Margaret Mary Alcoque

– Jesus to Saint Margaret Mary Alcoque

It is for this reason that I wish thee not only to do what thy Superiors shall direct, but also to do nothing that I shall order thee without their consent.
Without obedience no one can please Me. (Philip, 53)

As we look at the writings of Sister Mary Ephrem, she attributes the following to Saint Joseph:

Fathers must come to me, small one, to learn obedience to authority: to the Church always, as the mouthpiece of God, and to the laws of the country in which they live, insofar as these do not go against God and their neighbors. Mine was perfect obedience to the Divine Will, as it was shown and made known to me by the Jewish law and religion. To be careless in this is most displeasing to God and will be severely punished in the next world.

(Question 3: As we look to our fathers, we look at them as authority figures. Why might we expect that Saint Joseph wants fathers to come to him “to learn obedience to authority?”)

(Matthew 1:18-25)

18 Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. 19 Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. 20 Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. 21 She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means “God is with us.” 24 When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. 25 He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.

(Matthew 2:13-15)

13 When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.” 14 Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. 15 He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

(Matthew 2:19-23)

19 When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt 20 and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” 21 He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he

had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee. 23 He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazorean."

- God is our ultimate authority, those in authority are accountable to Him
- Much of what scripture reveals of Joseph is in comment to His following the instructions of God and that he is a righteous man
- For one to know how to lead, they must also know how to follow
- If we are to teach our children, we must first learn what to teach
- Servant leadership is different than selfish leadership
 - ➔ Servant of God → teacher and example of faith
 - ➔ Selfless caring for and protection of those entrusted to a father by God

Sister Mary Ephrem also attributed the following to Saint Joseph:

Jesus and Mary desire that my pure heart, so long hidden and unknown, be now honored in a special way. Let my children honor my most pure heart in a special manner on the First Wednesday of the month by reciting the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary in memory of my life with Jesus and Mary and the love I bore them, the sorrow I suffered with them. Let them receive Holy Communion in union with the love with which I received the Savior for the first time, and each time I held Him in my arms. Those who honor me in this way will be consoled by my presence at their death and I myself will conduct them safely into the presence of Jesus and Mary.

(Question 4: The actions requested here are actions of devotion. On the First Wednesday of the month, we are called to pray the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary as well as to receive Holy Communion with love. Some might criticize that this is idolatry. Why is a devotion such as this not idolatry?)

- Honor or veneration is not worship → worship is for God alone
- The honor of Joseph is in memory of His obedience to God
- We often honor someone by continuing to do what they would have justly done
- The focus, though, draws our attention to Christ → pray the Joyful Mysteries
 - ➔ Annunciation of the birth of our Lord and Savior
 - ➔ The visitation of Elizabeth where John leapt in the womb at the presence of His Lord (Luke 1:41-44)
 - ➔ The birth of our Lord
 - ➔ The presentation of the baby Jesus at the temple
 - ➔ The finding of the child Jesus at the temple
- We are also called to receive the Eucharist → Joseph calls us to Christ

Quotes:

– *St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090 - 1153)*

St. Joseph was chosen among all men, to be the protector and guardian of the Virgin Mother of God; the defender and foster-father of the Infant-God, and the only co-operator upon earth, the one confidant of the secret of God in the work of the redemption of mankind.

– *St. Teresa of Avila (1515 - 1582)*

Though thou hast recourse to many saints as thine intercessors, go specially to St. Joseph, for he has great power with God.

– *Saint John Paul II (1920 - 2005)*

Saint Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families.

– *Saint Alphonsus Liguori (1696 - 1787)*

Since we all must die, we should cherish a special devotion to St. Joseph, that he may obtain for us a happy death. All Christians regard him as the advocate of the dying who had honored him during their life, and they do so for three reasons: First, because Jesus Christ loved him not only as a friend, but as a father, and on this account his mediation is far more efficacious than that of any other Saint. Second, because St. Joseph has obtained special power against the evil spirits, who tempt us with redoubled vigor at the hour of death. Third, the assistance given St. Joseph at his death by Jesus and Mary obtained for him the right to secure a holy and peaceful death for his servants. Hence, if they invoke him at the hour of death he will not only help them, but he will also obtain for them the assistance of Jesus and Mary.

Final Thoughts:

Saint Joseph is mentioned several times in the early life of Jesus, but we do not hear of him after Jesus is grown. Much of what we know about Saint Joseph, we must infer from what scripture tells us about Saint Joseph's obedience to God. In the first instance, we see Joseph draw from his understanding of what God asks of him as to forming his plan with regards to divorcing Mary quietly. Of course, the old joke is, if you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans.

God sent His angel to Joseph, but just like Mary, part of the plan of God rested in the obedience of Joseph to accomplish what God entrusted to him, which was to provide for and protect the only begotten Son of God and His Virgin Mother. This was not done with a great trust fund, but it was done with the trust of God and trust in God.

From a few segments of scripture, we might not think there is much we can learn, but if we reflect, we might observe there is much for us to study and grasp, especially by those who are entrusted with the fatherly care of another. We certainly did not have time to go into all of that today, but as timing would have it, there is a new book available, written by Father Donald Calloway, MIC, which Scott Hahn describes as, “a summary of the whole of the study of St. Joseph — the wisdom of the saints, the teachings of the popes, and the reflections of theologians.”

The title of the book is Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father. It is available for purchase through the website, www.consecrationtostjoseph.org or www.fathercalloway.com. We invite you to visit those sites to explore more about this book which outlines for us, the love of Saint Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church and the Terror of Demons. We are also pleased to announce that Father Calloway has agreed to join us for our 16 Jul 2020 show, where we will discuss his book and what Saint Joseph brings to the faithful.

Wrap Up: Well, our time has come to an end. We hope you will be able to join us next week as we turn our discussion to our call to family and purity.

Let us conclude with a prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this opportunity to share the blessings of our trust and faith in You. We pray that as we go our separate ways, You will continue to walk with us and help us to see how we may put on the armor of **truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation**, and the **Word** of the gospel not only for the benefit of our lives, but also the lives of all who cross our path. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Thank you all and God bless.

Next Session: Our Lady of America – Part VI: Family and Purity

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