

identify themselves as spiritual, but not religious. This non-religious spiritualism is a new paganism, where God is not the God of revelation who makes Himself known to us, but a god or gods that are fashioned in our own image to re-enforce our own desires. Dreher gives his assessment of the status of Faith in America: "... God may not be quite dead, but he is in hospice care and confined to bed."

III. A CRISIS OF FAITH

Our culture is indeed experiencing a crisis of Faith that leads to a denial of truth. Once the relationship between man and God is severed, man becomes just a highly developed organism. Human life becomes just another thing in a world of things. Materialism reigns and breeds utilitarianism—our value is determined by our usefulness. We no longer possess inalienable rights that are God-given and from which no human being can deprive us.

The pursuit of pleasure becomes the highest goal. This hedonism is a futile seeking of greater and more intense pleasures that in the end leave us more and more empty. Suffering and death become the great enemies that we strive futilely to eliminate or at least impede.

It is this loss of a sense of God that also leaves us vulnerable to lose sight of the innate value of each and every human being. We consider those who are profoundly disabled as more vegetable than human. We experience their care as a burden rather than an opportunity for the expression of the noblest form of love.

We begin to see human life at its earliest stages as something too tiny to have rights, but something very useful to destroy in order to exploit its components in the hope of healing or restoring youth to those already born. This loss of a sense of God also leaves us helpless to find meaning in suffering. Suffering becomes the other real evil and thus to be avoided at all costs. If it is impossible or perhaps difficult to eliminate the suffering, then it becomes acceptable to eliminate the one suffering.

IV. THE ESSENCE: AN ENCOUNTER WITH A PERSON

Pope Emeritus Benedict, in his writings and speeches reflecting on the essence of what it means to be Catholic declared it is not our dogma and doctrine. Obviously, it is not that he thought these to be unimportant, after all he had been the Prefect for the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith—he was the architect of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Yet, important as they are, they are not the essence of Catholicism. Similarly Pope Benedict maintained that living an ethical life is not the heart of what it means to be Catholic. Again, he was not claiming this is insignificant, but it is the fruit of our Faith, not its essence.

Pope Benedict asserts the essence of Catholicism is an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ. Without that personal encounter, our dogma and doctrine makes no sense. Without this encounter we will not have the capacity to persevere in living a virtuous life.

V. JESUS, THE MAN WHO LIVES

Malcolm Muggeridge—the late BBC television personality, while an agnostic, filmed a documentary on Mother Teresa of Calcutta entitled *Something Beautiful for God*. Muggeridge made Mother Teresa a household name in the English speaking world. Muggeridge's experience of Mother Teresa's selfless love changed the trajectory of his life.

The BBC subsequently assigned Muggeridge to do a documentary on Jesus. In Bethlehem at the Church of the Nativity

while observing the prayerfulness of Christian pilgrims venerating the spot commemorated as the birth place of Jesus, Muggeridge was inspired to name his documentary—*Jesus, the Man Who Lives*. Muggeridge realized Jesus was not just another historical figure, but he was still alive and animating the lives of his disciples like Mother Teresa and millions of other saints canonized and uncanonized for the past 2,000 years.

It is this same Jesus we encounter every time we open our hearts to His presence in prayer. It is this Jesus, the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, who conquered death and is alive, whom we receive in the Eucharist.

It is this Jesus who transformed Peter from the coward of Good Friday to the martyr in Rome, who changed Paul from a persecutor of His disciples to the greatest Christian missionary, who inspired Francis of Assisi to abandon a frivolous life of comfort and through simplicity and poverty to awaken the world to the Gospel. It is this same Jesus who motivated Thomas More to resign as Chancellor of England and die a Martyr's death rather than betray his conscience, who emboldened the North American Martyrs to make the perilous crossing of the Atlantic to evangelize Native Americans well aware that they would meet violent deaths, who led St. Damien to provide pastoral care for the lepers of Molokai knowing the probability that eventually he would succumb to the dreaded disease, and who gave Blessed Stanley Rother, a farm boy from Oklahoma the courage to stay with his flock in Guatemala despite being a target of the death squads. This is to name only a tiny fraction of some of the more well-known disciples who found abundant and eternal life in losing their lives following Jesus, the Man Who Lives.

VI. A GOD WHO DIED BUT IS NOT DEAD

The Original Sin was the decision by our first parents to push God out of their garden in order to become their own gods. This is the archetype of every sin. God's response to humanity's rebellion is mercy. God does not abandon us to dwell in the darkness created by our rejection of His love. Instead, God comes to rescue us just as he saved Israel from the slavery of Egypt. Sin masquerades as freedom but in reality enslaves us to disordered cravings. Jesus came to liberate us from the bondage of sin and to vanquish death destroying its power to rob life of its meaning and render it absurd.

The method of this rescue was not to use His almighty power to force us into submission to His will, but it was through His incarnation to become one with us in all things but sin. Like a special operations soldier dropped behind enemy lines, Jesus entered fully into our humanity, enduring unspeakable suffering because of our sin.

Jesus defeats humanity's twin enemies, sin and death, by walking through death to eternal life. We believe in a God who died but is far from dead. The triumphant, risen Lord is still animating the lives of those who open their hearts to encounter His love. Thus for the Christian, we are never without hope.

In recent years, I have been drawn to read the memoirs of former atheists who have become Catholic. Two of my favorites in this genre are Jennifer Fulwiler's *Something Other Than God* and Sally Read's *Night's Bright Darkness*. Both of their conversions illustrate, if we just open a crack in our hearts, God's amazing grace will come rushing in.

VII. A NEW GREAT AWAKENING

In our prayer this morning, let us pray for a religious revival in our nation, another great awakening. For those of us who have encountered the Risen Jesus we have a responsibility to bring His love and mercy to others, especially as Pope Francis so often

reminds us to those on the peripheries. We are called to be Missionary Disciples, communicating the love of Jesus to others and bringing others to encounter the Risen Lord.

We have no permanent enemies, but only confused brothers and sisters who have yet to encounter the Lord of Life and to experience His unconditional love and amazing grace. We are called to renew our nation, not primarily by enacting laws, but by announcing the Joy and Hope of the Gospel of Jesus to individuals in desperate need of its good news. It is our task to reclaim our culture one mind, one heart, one soul at a time.

RECOGNIZING THE INSPIRING LIFE OF EVA SCHLOSS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Ms. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eva Geiringer Schloss, who lives such an inspiring life as a Holocaust survivor of Auschwitz. Ms. Schloss is the stepsister and good friend of Anne Frank.

Ms. Eva Geiringer Schloss was born in 1938 shortly after the annexation of Austria by Germany. She studied art history at the University of Amsterdam and went on to become an accomplished author detailing the experiences of her family. Mrs. Schloss is also the co-founder of the Anne Frank Trust UK, and recorded virtual reality answers to numerous questions for museums everywhere in the world ensuring we never forget those tragic events. Ms. Schloss is an inspiration to all of us in remembering the Holocaust and honoring the lives of those lost.

It is because of dedicated women such as Ms. Eva Schloss that I am especially proud to serve in Congress. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally honor Ms. Eva Schloss today as an inspiration to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on May 24, I missed Roll Call vote 229. Had I been present, I would have voted NO to reject the motion to table the appeal in order to allow the House to debate Mr. Thompson's timely amendment to strengthen the gun background check system.

CONGRATULATING DR. LINDA L. M. BENNETT

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett as she retires as the third president of the University of Southern Indiana.

Dr. Bennett's steady leadership, wise counsel, and dedication to academic excellence

has vaulted this still-young state university to a heightened stature. She raised the profile of its academic offerings, particularly in nursing and engineering, and expanded its reach through statewide involvements, community service, and online programming. During her nine-year tenure, USI experienced dynamic growth and diversity in its student population, attracted top-flight faculty, and became a higher-education destination throughout Indiana and across the globe. The campus, itself, took on a signature personality with new structures that helped define an enduring physical character.

A highly regarded civic leader, Dr. Bennett has lent her talents to countless organizations and civic causes, and she has been widely recognized for her thoughtful contributions, many, of which, were conducted outside the public eye.

I am grateful for Dr. Bennett's legacy of stewardship in guiding USI's development, and join all Hoosiers in extending my best wishes in her retirement.

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF ASTANA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Astana on its 20th anniversary. In this short time, the capital city of Kazakhstan has hosted high-level political and diplomatic events, including several international forums for a nuclear weapons-free world.

Most recently, Astana hosted the successful EXPO 2017, which focused on the future of energy. Kazakhstan has shown promise not only as an important economic partner of the United States in the energy sector, but also as a strong proponent of clean energy. It joined the Paris Agreement and many other international efforts to curb climate change and improve our environment.

In its 20-year history, Astana has become one of the most modern cities in Central Asia. It continues to serve as a hub for the region and link between the East and the West.

I look forward to a long partnership between Washington and Astana. A partnership that will include productive cooperation on shared economic and security priorities, as well as efforts to advance the development of an independent, stable, and politically free Kazakhstan. With these advances, Astana would become a model for other nations and a central partner on so many shared objectives.

EMILY OGATA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emily Ogata for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Emily Ogata is a student at Warren Tech North and received this award because her

determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Emily Ogata is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Emily Ogata for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

SUPPORTING THE PHILADELPHIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S HIS- TORIC EUROPE AND ISRAEL TOUR

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise with great honor to salute the Philadelphia Orchestra on its upcoming historic tour through Europe and Israel. I have had the privilege of working to support them over the years during my time in the Pennsylvania Legislature, and now here in Congress. I can't think of a better cultural ambassador for our country, the Commonwealth, and our great city, than the finely-tuned Philadelphia Orchestra.

With support from Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf's Department of Community and Economic Development and State Department diplomats, and more than 150 Pennsylvania musicians, non-profits, and business leaders, this historic journey starts in Brussels, Belgium, and will wind its way through Luxembourg, France, Germany, and Austria. These historic countries are iconic in their musical backgrounds, having given birth to such artists such as Beethoven, Brahms, Poulenc, Wagner, and Mozart.

I take special pride in the Philadelphia Orchestra's visit to Israel, in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. This visit not only confirms and solidifies the distinct, and unique cultural, political, and humanitarian bond amongst the City of Philadelphia, the Jewish community, and the State of Israel. Israel and its people have been continually under siege for ages from the time of Judea to Sumeria, and by recognizing their dignity, honor, and courage, the Orchestra's visit serves to underscore how important Israel to the Middle East writ large, and to America. And let me add that the Philadelphia Orchestra should be noted for the diversity of its musicians and staff orchestra's diversity complements.

I would like to give special recognition to the Philadelphia Orchestra's director, Yannick Nezet-Seguin, the chairman, Richard Worley, and the woman at the top who has helped forge ties both near and far, Philadelphia Orchestra Interim Co-Presidents Ryan Fleur and Matthew Loden. And I also wish to salute Naomi Adler, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia and Director of Government Affairs, Robin Schatz for their leadership, and special role in informing us on the unwavering dignity and humanity of Israel.

I am proud to represent a city that boasts some of the most iconic music heard around the world. I salute our well-traveled Philadelphia Orchestra and look forward to my next symphony.

TRIBUTE TO PHILIP FAGAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Philip Fagan on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Mr. Fagan shares his birthday with his twin sister, Phyllis. They both reside in Adair, Iowa.

Our world has changed a great deal during Philip's life. Since his birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Philip has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-two Governors of Iowa. In his lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Mr. Fagan in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish him a very happy 90th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Philip Fagan on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing him even more health and happiness in the years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JUDGE CLARE JUPITER

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Judge Clare Jupiter of Orleans Parish Civil District Court, who died on May 18, 2018 at the age of 65.

Born in Chicago, Illinois where her father was attending art school, Judge Jupiter came to New Orleans as a toddler and spent the rest of her childhood in the city. She was the second-oldest of 12 children. She graduated from St. Joseph Academy in New Orleans and earned a B.A. degree from Yale University in 1974 before returning to New Orleans to work as a reporter for the States-Item, the city's afternoon paper, she was known as a gifted writer who took the time to understand the topic at hand.

Judge Jupiter left journalism to attend law school, graduating in 1978 from Duke University School of Law, and then returned to New Orleans to practice law. She was admitted to the Louisiana State Bar in 1979. She became part of the firm Jefferson Bryan and Gray, which later became Bryan and Jupiter.

Judge Jupiter worked as outside general counsel for the Orleans Parish School Board and supported causes such as WWOZ Radio, the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Covenant House, and New Life Ministry. She was one of the first female attorneys at what had been an all-male firm and became the