



Cardinal Gibbons Assembly 783
Newsletter
August 2014



REFLECTIONS FROM ONE OF OUR FOUNDING FATHERS

"Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God."

"Search others for their virtues, thyself for thy vices."

Dr. Benjamin Franklin

http://www.quotationspage.com/quotes/Benjamin_Franklin/41

**7 REASONS CHRISTIANITY IS THE MOST PERSECUTED
RELIGION IN THE WORLD**

Laura McAlister

Last night, I asked my family what percentage of religious persecution in the world they thought was directed at Christians.

They guessed about 30%. After all, they said, Christians are about one-third of the global population so that would make sense, right?

When I told them it was closer to 80%, they initially refused to believe me. Safe in our prosperous, post-Christian Australian culture, it seemed almost absurd. Yet, we have daily, horrifying proof of this reality.

From Northern Iraq to Nigeria, from China to India, the cries of Christian suffering pierces the heavens: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." (Mt 2:18)

In all this, our own hearts cry out asking why. Why is this happening? Why do Christians suffer so much persecution today? Why have there been more martyrs to the faith in the 20th Century than the preceding 19 put together?

In his book *The Global War on Christians: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Anti-Christian Persecution* John Allen cites the work of German scholar Thomas Schirrmacher, an Evangelical Christian human rights activist. Although Schirrmacher acknowledges the deep complexity of this global tragedy, he shows that there are some significant socio-political reasons Christians are so disproportionately persecuted.

He gives 10 points but I think we can summarize them in six — with one more reason which is by far the most important.

1. Christianity — Catholic, Evangelical and Pentecostal — is growing dramatically in the what is often called the Global South. Such growth is only possible because Christians actively evangelize, sharing the gospel of salvation with others. This missionary zeal is seen as a threat and directs attention towards Christians.
2. Christianity is growing rapidly in some of the most dangerous areas of the world, particularly in parts of Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and even in the Middle East. In these volatile areas, any disruption of the fragile status quo is potentially disastrous and Christians are suffering because of it.

3. Christianity is often seen as a form of Western imperialism and identified with “the West.” This makes Christians a natural target for many nationalist movements. Nationalism invariably seeks to unify the nation by excluding minorities. They create unity through hate and Christians, who live for another kingdom, are often the target of this nationalist hatred. An example of this is extreme Hindu nationalism which targets Christians as anti-Indian.

4. Christians are often at the forefront of promoting human rights and democracy as well as opposing violence, corruption, and exploitation of the poor. As such, they are often targeted by the powerful, whether governments or mob groups, who don’t hesitate to use violence or other forces of coercion to get what they want. For example, the Latin American drug lords who murder Catholic priests and other Christian leaders because they are the only ones defending the rights of the poor.

5. Christians have their ultimate allegiance to the Kingdom of God which is not of this world. As such, they are viewed with suspicion by totalitarian governments who, as their name suggests, want total control over the bodies and souls of the people. This is the reason behind much of the persecution in places like China and even more so in North Korea.

6. Christians, on the whole, reject violence and retribution. Persecution is invariably the strong oppressing the weak — or in the case of Christianity, the meek – simply because they can.

7. Christians are persecuted because Christ is persecuted. Satan “knows that his time is short” and so, unable to get to Christ or His Mother (Revelation 12:12), he makes war “on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and bear testimony to Jesus.” (Revelation 12:17) This is the hidden reality behind all persecution. The world and the devil continue to persecute Christ through His people (cf. Acts 9:4-5) just as Christ said they would: “If they persecuted me, they will persecute you.” (John 15:20)

It’s important to understand the social, historical and political reasons why Christians are being persecuted. Understanding them more fully might be able to help us reduce persecution. We must do whatever we can to protect our Christian brothers and sisters, not just in providing short-term relief but helping to build a global culture of religious freedom.

At the same time, we can’t lose sight of the fact that the real enemy here ultimately isn’t the terrorist with the gun or the bureaucrat with the agenda. They need our prayers and yes, our love.

The real enemy is Satan.

If we forget that and believe that people are our true enemies, then we will hate our neighbor and imperil our souls. We will forget the heart of the Christian faith, the merciful Heart of Jesus who willingly bore the persecution of the world for our sake.

Then, we will truly be lost.

From *Ignitum Today*: <http://www.ignitumtoday.com/2014/08/10/7-reasons-christianity-persecuted-religion-world/>

DEGREE CEREMONIES

First & Second Degree Ceremony: 21 August 2014. Location: Council 14632, Raeford, NC. For more details go to: http://www.kofcnc.org/09_10Files/calendar.htm?pli=1

Third Degree Ceremony: 13 September 2014. Location: Council 7225, Lumberton, NC. For more details go to: http://www.kofcnc.org/09_10Files/calendar.htm?pli=1

Fourth Degree Exemplification: 15 November 2014. Location: Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center 4700 Emperor Blvd., Durham, NC 27703 (RTP). For more details go to: <http://www.kofcnc.org/FOURTH%20DEGREE/Exemplification%20Page.htm>

If your Council is hosting a Degree Ceremony send an email to COOP5614@yahoo.com with the information and I will place it in the next Assembly Newsletter and on the website Calendar page.



CARDINAL GIBBONS ASSEMBLY HONOR GUARD

NEW HONOR GUARD COMMANDER WANTED

Faithful Navigator Bob Testa will not be to continue as Honor Guard Commander. If you are interested in becoming Honor Guard Commander contact him or any of the Assembly Officers to volunteer.

UPCOMING HONOR GUARD EVENTS

BISHOP GREGORY MONSOUR VISIT

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Maronite Catholic Church, 806 Arsenal Avenue, Fayetteville, NC 28305

Date: September 21, 2014

Show Time: 10:00 AM

Start Time: 10:30 AM

Completion Time: 11:30 AM (Approximately)

Sign-up at: <http://cardinalgibbonsassembly783.weebly.com/bishop-gregory-monsour-visit.html>

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Location: TBD

Date: April 17, 2015

Show Time: TBD

Start Time: TBD

Completion Time: TBD

More details will be sent out when they arrive.

SERVITE MONASTIC ORDER

SK Christopher R. Cooper

The Servite Monastic Order is a mendicant order founded in 1233 A.D. (Fish Eaters, 2014) The full name of the Order is the Order of the Servants of Mary (O.S.M.). (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2014) The founders of the Order wanted to leave the secular world. They devoted their lives to prayer. The Order adopted the *Rule of St. Augustine* to follow for their community. The Mission of the Servite Order is preaching the word of Christ, administering parishes, missionary work, and devotion to the Blessed Mother. The Servites have spread throughout the world and have internet resources. First, let's look at the founding of the Servite Order.

The Servite Order was not founded by one individual, but seven. These seven men are known as the Seven Holy Founders or Servite Seven Founders. (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2014) The Founders came from wealthy families of Florence in modern day Italy. They were Buonfiglio Monaldo, (their leader) Alexis Falconieri, Benedict dell' Antella, Bartholomew Amidei, Ricovero Uguccione, Gerardino Sostegni, and John Buonagiunta. (EWTN, 2014) They withdrew outside the Walls of Florence to devote their lives to prayer and penance.

While praying on the Feast of the Assumption the Servites has a vision of the Blessed Mother. (EWTN, 2014) They decided to live in seclusion after the vision. After a short time they could not continue their lives as hermits due to all the people who visited them for prayer request. The Servites decided to move to an isolated area on Mt. Senario in Tuscany, Italy. Around April 13, 1240 A.D. the Servites received another vision from the Blessed Mother accompanied by an Angel with a scroll inscribed with the words "Servants of Mary". She held in her hand a black habit for the Servites to adopt and told them they would be her servants. The Blessed Mother instructed them to

follow the *Rule of St. Augustine*. The Servites received formal recognition from the Vatican on February 11, 1304 A.D. from Pope Benedict IX. (Griffin, 1912)

The Servites Order grew throughout the years and first made its appearance in the United States in 1852 A.D. (Friar Servants of Mary, 2014) Fr. Antoninus Grundner of the Servite Order attended to the Pastoral needs of German speaking Catholics in New York City and later in eastern Pennsylvania. Father Grundner passed away in 1876 A.D after serving as Pastor to the Faithful of St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church, Philadelphia, PA. There was no permanent presence of the Servite Order in the United States at the time of his death. In 1870 AD Bishop Joseph Melcher of the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin invited the Servites to in his Diocese. Bishop Melcher put the Servites in charge of St. Charles Church in Menasha, Wisconsin. Bishop Foley of the Diocese of Chicago, Illinois, requested the Servites become part of his Diocese in 1874 A.D. Chicago became the hub of the Servite presence in the United States and was formally recognized in 1909 A.D.

The Servites have resources on the internet. The monastery the Servites founded on Mt. Senario is still there and is called Monastery of Montesenario. There is a YouTube video about the area around the monastery: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2ZuPbnJpxQ>. The website for the Servite American Province is <http://www.servite.org/>. I did not find any monasteries or convents in the North Carolina, but any of the clergy or nuns who have O.S.M. following their name is a member of the Servite Order.

Works Cited:

Encyclopedia Britannica. (2014). *Servite*. Retrieved August 13, 2014, from Encyclopedia Britannica: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/536016/Servite>

Encyclopedia Britannica. (2014). *Seven Holy Founders*. Retrieved August 13, 2014, from Encyclopedia Britannica: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/536466/Seven-Holy-Founders>

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Griffin, P. (1912). *Order of Servites*. Retrieved August 13, 2014, from New Advent: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/13736a.htm>

IN MEMORIAM:

Please keep in your prayers for the repose of the souls of:

Deceased Knights of Columbus and U.S. Armed Forces

ARTICLES FROM THE ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP

Any Sir Knight who wants to submit an article to the Newsletter, turn the article into Faithful Scribe SK Chris Cooper at the next Assembly meeting or send it via email to COOP5614@yahoo.com.