



# CHILDREN OF THE IMMACULATE HEART

Restore All Things in Christ ~ Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking

October-November 2019

## A Message from the President

In his epistle to St. Titus, St. Paul says, “To the pure all things are pure, and to the corrupt and unbelieving nothing is pure” (Titus 1:15, RSVCE). “Why is this?” we may ask ourselves. Another passage comes to mind from the mouth of Our Lord as recorded by St. Matthew: “It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles” (Mt 15:11). What exactly is it that constitutes purity, and in regard to the wider mission of Children of the Immaculate Heart, what is the relation between purity and chastity?

Dorothy Day once wrote, “How presumptuous it is to try to treat of such a subject [purity]...when great books (like Dietrich von Hildebrand’s *In Defense of Purity* have been written on the subject.” I will therefore take everything I have to say on this subject from the man whom Venerable Pope Pius XII called “a 20<sup>th</sup>-century Doctor of the Church” - a title I strongly agree with!

Today we often encounter chastity speakers and people within the Church who lack reverence when they approach this subject. Von Hildebrand makes clear the following:

“Reverence is a fundamental component of purity. The pure man lives in an attitude of reverence for God and His creation, and therefore reveres sex, its profundity, and its sublime and divinely ordained meaning. Indeed, and we have now reached the factor that is decisive for both purity and for the character of sex, the pure man understands that sex belongs in a special manner to God, and that he may only make use of it as explicitly sanctioned by Him. Only with God’s express permission may he eat of the fruit of this tree.”

Like Gertrude von Le Fort in her book *The Eternal Woman*, he uses the image of the veil, which covers the mystery of this domain which can only be entered when God gives permission, and only in such a way that a person “surrenders himself without reserve to the beloved, but not to the specific quality of sex.” Most of us intuitively understand that even in marriage, and even within a sacramental marriage, a husband and wife can use each other. We understand implicitly how terrible this is and what a burden it becomes, but it is not always easy



*The Virgin Mary as a Child Asleep*  
by Francisco de Zurbarán

to understand where things went wrong. Nor is it always obvious how to attain such a high degree of purity ourselves.

The key is that while we can make virtuous acts to avoid sins against purity, that does not thereby make us pure. Purity, like any other virtue, actually has a positive character. Purity in man is always a reflection of and participation in the purity of God. In the words of Von Hildebrand:

“Simple and open, [the pure man] is distinguished by a limpid radiance of soul. He remains at a distance from his secret so long as God does not call upon him to unveil it. With spirit serene and bright and in an attitude of humility he leaves it in God’s hand. We are here

brought face to face with an absolutely essential element of purity. In a special sense the pure man walks with God. He never departs from the Divine Presence...He will never consent to anything incompatible in its quality with the light of holiness which shines upon us from the countenance of Jesus.”

This is the path to purity – prayer, reverence, contemplation, participation in the sacramental life! Sitting at the feet of Jesus and letting ourselves be washed in His radiance! By contact with He who is Purity and the source of all purity, we shall become pure! During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Mt. 5:8). This seeing of God and purity of heart go hand in hand. We cannot make ourselves pure insofar as purity is a positive virtue. We can make acts of the will to not commit sins against chastity, but purity as such is a positive quality given to us through contact with God, and is thus a specifically Christian virtue.

If you wish to read more on this subject, I highly recommend *In Defense of Purity* by Dietrich von Hildebrand. Our society is in much need of purity and there is only one way to bring about positive change – by starting with ourselves. God bless you! May the hearts of Jesus and Mary always be our guide.

Yours in Christ,

Grace Williams, President/Executive Director



# CIH NEWS



WETZEL  
FOUNDATION

Thanks be to God, for the second year in a row we have been selected for a grant from the **Barbara Wetzel**

**Foundation!** This year they gave us \$18,000 for our program for formerly trafficked women with children to help them with transportation, groceries, hygiene products, children's needs, and medical care. God reward you!



Children of the Immaculate Heart is featured in Gwen Adams' new book *By an Unexpected Way*, published by the Augustine Institute! Each chapter covers true stories of modern men and women living and sharing their faith within their own communities in ways that we can all imitate. The book is meant to provide guidance for evangelization and forming Christian culture wherever one may be. Our dear friend Chris Check, President of Catholic Answers, has this to say: "The heroic men and wom-

en whose labors of charity are described in these pages chose to stay in their communities and work for their renewal. That's the Catholic option."

The book is available at the link below or on Amazon.

<https://store.augustineinstitute.org>



CIH was blessed to have a booth at the 2019 Catholic Answers Conference! Thank you for always welcoming us back each year.



A special thank you to Holy Martyrs, St. Martin de Tours and Corpus Christi for hosting our "Little House in the Parish" coin drive! Thank you for your support and generosity! Please contact us if you are interested in holding a coin drive for CIH at your parish.

## St. Bakhita's Program for Women

The Adult Women's Program at CIH has continued to grow and provide critical services necessary for client stability and healing. This past month, the program served 12 women and 17 children with assistance including:

- Housing and Shelter
- Therapy
- Transportation
- Food
- Medical
- Legal advocacy
- Employment prep
- Clothing
- Hygiene
- Survivor support/ life skills class
- Childcare

Our goal is to educate, empower and provide oppor-

tunities for skill-building that perpetuate client growth and positive change. The goal of healing and long-term transformation is underscored by a foundation of love, compassion, consistency and the shared hope of a merciful God who is faithful, and whose Providence guides each of our lives.

CIH has created an environment that is physically, psychologically and emotionally safe for our women and children. Client collaboration and building on individual strengths will lead to a renewed sense of control over their own lives.

We are so grateful and blessed for the many committed partners within the CIH community that provide for our women and children. You expand the possibilities of services and honor Our Lord by your faithfulness and generosity.



*Madonna & Child with the Infant St. John the Baptist* by Francisco de Zurbarán, recently featured at the San Diego Museum of Art in the "The Golden Age of Spain" exhibit

## Children of The Immaculate Heart's 7th Annual Gala

February 8th ~ 6:30-9:00 PM

Our Mother of Confidence Parish, 3131 Governor Drive, San Diego, CA 92122

We are so excited to have Chris Check, President of Catholic Answers, as our Keynote Speaker this year, speaking on Catholic Culture! Join us for an evening of good food, a silent auction, friends, and an opportunity to learn more about human trafficking in San Diego. Our apostolate is growing all the time, so come be a part of helping us serve the poorest of the poor in our society.



*7th Annual Gala  
Benefitting Trafficking Survivors*



*Thank you to all those who attended  
our 2nd annual Oktoberfest!*



### *Little House in the Parish Coin Drive*

If you participated in our coin drive and would like to return your blue house, please do so at your parish office or at St. Anne's Parish office at 2337 Irving Ave.



Interested in having CIH come do our coin drive at your parish? Contact our office for more information!



Children of the Immaculate Heart has a meal train for our weekly women's group. We hold a support/development group for our clients every week, giving them the opportunity to be together, support each other, and grow in their personal human development. If you are interested in cooking for our ladies, please visit this link!

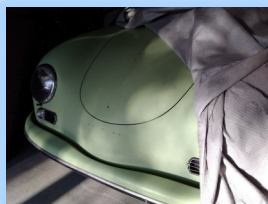
<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/q3nk71>

### **CIH Wish List**

- Dressers
- Pull-out couch
- Gift cards
- Diapers: size 6
- Children's clothing
- All-in-one microphone/amplifier system
- Hygiene products
- Dry and canned food

### *CIH has a Car Donation Program!*

Please consider donating your vehicle to CIH! *Car Easy* will come pick up your car, boat, or trailer whether it is running or not! Cars can be donated from anywhere in the country. To start the process just call **855-500-7433** or type <http://careasy.org/details?4567> into your web browser. Proceeds go to support our programs!



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