

Make an Informed Decision: Study before You Vote

As the midterm elections are a few weeks away, all of us have a duty to vote for the truth. But first we have a duty to learn the truth which the Church, headed by Jesus, teaches. Below is most of a 2016 article written by David Deavel, a Catholic scholar. Enjoy.

The Catholic Church on the Seven Deadly Sins of Socialism: However well-intended, socialism is a virus that drains human energy and degrades us.

What Is Socialism?

Numerous [news reports](#) this year indicated that “millennials” have embraced socialism as a choice, while at the same time those same people also support free markets, oppose government ownership of the means of production, and oppose a government-directed economy. What such people seem to mean by socialism is simply a large welfare state by which income is redistributed.

But perhaps we should take socialism to mean what its advocates and practitioners have really, [historically meant](#) by the word: a society in which “the major part of the means of production of goods and services is in some sense socially owned and operated, by state, socialized or cooperative enterprises”; where rights of private property and economic initiative are not acknowledged; where free markets are suppressed; and where the state usurps the God-given rights and duties of families and the Church. In these and other areas, the Catholic Church [has firmly warned us](#) that socialism exerts a de-Christianizing, even a dehumanizing influence.

Socialism’s Seven Deadly Sins

1. Socialism truncates the human person. Catholic teaching has at its heart a focus on the inviolable dignity and wholeness of every human person, as well as the need for personal transformation to transform society. While not all socialists have been atheists, the questions that socialists ask tend to focus on the care of the body instead of the soul — and the answers that they tend to give focus on systems, not people. In his landmark encyclical *Rerum Novarum* (“Concerning New Things”), Pope Leo XIII taught that even the satisfaction of bodily and material needs was dependent upon the care of the whole person: “And since religion alone, as We said in the beginning, can remove the evil, root and branch, let all reflect upon this: First and foremost Christian morals must be reestablished, without which even the weapons of prudence, which are

considered especially effective, will be of no avail, to secure well-being.” (82).

2. Socialism denies the rights of the family. Christian morals and natural virtues are taught and indeed “caught” most often in the family, which the Church has taught is the center of human society. *The Compendium of Catholic Social Teaching* affirms the “priority of the family over society and over the state.” (214) While socialists classically think in only two categories — the individual and the state — Catholic teaching emphasizes that “society and the State exist for the family” (ibid.). The omni-competent socialist state supplants the functions of families and shatters society into tiny atoms whirling around a single nucleus: the federal government.

3. Socialism crushes civil society. The Church teaches that the state exists to protect and empower families and other parts of *civil society* — those “little platoons” of professional, local, cultural, artistic, religious and other associations that fulfill people’s material, social, and spiritual needs. (This key principle is called [subsidiarity](#).) While prudence may dictate that in certain limit situations the state must step in and fulfill some needs that civil society or even a family or families cannot provide for, the *Compendium of Social Doctrine* observes that such “intervention” should always be seen as “exceptional” (no. 188). If someone outside the government *can* accomplish something without using coercion, it’s at best a dangerous lack of prudence and quite often simply a serious violation of justice to get the government involved.

4. Socialism tramples on the sacred human right to private property. Socialists assert that private property essentially belongs to the state to be used for the common good. While Catholics have always believed that the goods of this earth belong to the whole human race and are to be used by all, this does not mean that the state should control all of them. In *Rerum Novarum* Leo XIII defended not only the practical benefits of private property, but argued that those benefits came from the fact that private property was according to natural law: “The human race, he said, has found in the law of nature itself the basis of the distribution of goods, and, by the practice of all ages, has consecrated private possession as something best adapted to man’s nature and to peaceful and tranquil living together.” (11)

This right is of course accompanied by the duties to use private property to provide for the needs of one’s family and those in need. But it is still a right even if it’s sometimes abused.

5. Socialism promotes class warfare. Because of its Marxist origins, socialism goads workers into the unrelenting “class warfare” which Marx himself saw as the engine driving human history. Instead of partners in productivity and human cooperation, owners and investors are seen as workers’ enemies — as if all wealth were a fixed, unchanging pie over which citizens should fight for their limited share. Pope Pius XI condemned this view of society, urged socialists to renounce the very concept of class warfare, and warned Catholics of the dangers of cooperating with socialists under any circumstances: “Whether considered as a doctrine, or an historical fact, or a movement, Socialism, if it remains truly Socialism, even after it has yielded to truth and justice on the points which we have mentioned, cannot be reconciled with the teachings of the Catholic Church because its concept of society itself is utterly foreign to Christian truth.” (*Quadrogesimo Anno*, 117)

6. Socialism thwarts our right to take economic initiative. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states bluntly, “Everyone has the *right to economic initiative*; everyone should make legitimate use of his talents to contribute to the abundance that will benefit all, and to harvest the just fruits of his labor.” (2429) The abundance created by economic activity is clearly designed for the good of all, but this in no way negates the justice of entrepreneurs and inventors “harvesting” profits. Prevent them from doing that, and soon there will be no economic initiative at all — and perhaps no economy, as the unfortunate citizens of Venezuela are discovering.

7. Socialism replaces love with bureaucracy and class conflict. This right to economic initiative is also connected to the benefit of the human person. St. John Paul II observed in his encyclical *Sollicitudo rei socialis* that to deny the right of economic initiative in the name of an “alleged ‘equality’” would be a violation of “the creative subjectivity of the citizen” (no. 15). Again, human persons don’t just have material needs, but spiritual ones that creativity and economic initiative help fulfill.

Socialism focuses on justice, but Catholic teaching emphasizes that for a good society, something much deeper is needed: love. Yes, justice is the main goal of politics, but political life is not all there is, because human persons are more than just material beings. Pope Benedict XVI wrote that even the most just society would require love, something that cannot be given by the state: The State which would provide everything, absorbing everything into itself, would ultimately become a mere bureaucracy incapable of

guaranteeing the very thing which the suffering person — every person — needs: namely, loving personal concern. (*Deus Caritas Est*, 28).

The Pope, the Rosary and the Battle of Lepanto **Kathy Schiffer (from the *National Catholic Register*)**

On October 7, Catholics remember Our Lady of the Rosary.

The feast was actually instituted under another name: In 1571 Pope Pius V instituted “Our Lady of Victory” as an annual feast in thanksgiving for Mary’s patronage in the victory of the Holy League over the Muslim Turks in the Battle of Lepanto. Two years later, in 1573, Pope Gregory XIII changed the title of this feastday to “Feast of the Holy Rosary.” And in 1716, Pope Clement XI extended the feast to the whole of the Latin Rite, inserting it into the Roman Catholic calendar of saints, and assigning it to the first Sunday in October. In 1913, Pope Pius X changed the date to October 7, as part of his effort to restore celebration of the liturgy of the Sundays.

The Battle of Lepanto

On October 7, 1571, a patchwork fleet of Catholic ships primarily from Spain, Venice and Genoa, under the command of Don Juan of Austria, was at a distinct disadvantage. The much larger fleet of the Ottoman Empire—a force with 12,000 to 15,000 Christian slaves as rowers—was extending toward Europe.

However, St. Pope Pius V, realizing that the Muslim Turks had a decided material advantage, called upon all of Europe to pray the Rosary for victory. Christians gathered in villages and towns to pray as the sea battle raged; and at the hour of victory the pope—who was hundreds of miles away at the Vatican—is said to have gotten up from a meeting, walked over to an open window exclaiming “The Christian fleet is victorious!” and shed tears of joy and thanksgiving to God.

The toll of the sea battle was great: The Holy League lost 50 of its galleys and suffered some 13,000 casualties. The Turks, however, lost much more: Their leader Ali Pasha was killed, along with 25,000 of his sailors. The Ottoman fleet lost 210 of its 250 ships, of which 130 were captured by the Holy League. Coming at what was seen as a crisis point for Christianity, the victory at Lepanto stemmed Ottoman incursion into the Mediterranean and prevented their influence from spreading through Europe. Through the intervention of Our Lady, the Hand of God prevented the Muslims of the East from overcoming the Christian West.

The epic victory has been commemorated in literature: Miguel de Cervantes, a Spanish soldier wounded in the battle, recovered to become a novelist, poet and playwright; and he was so inspired by this

battle that he incorporated elements of it in his own acclaimed novel, *Don Quixote*. And philosopher/writer and Catholic apologist G.K. Chesterton retold the story in his 1915 ballad, *Lepanto*. Here, an excerpt from that great narrative poem:

The Pope was in his chapel before day or battle broke,
(Don John of Austria is hidden in the smoke.)
 The hidden room in man's house where God sits all
 the year,
 The secret window whence the world looks small and
 very dear.
 He sees as in a mirror on the monstrous twilight sea
 The crescent of his cruel ships whose name is
 mystery;
 They fling great shadows foe-wards, making Cross
 and Castle dark,
 They veil the plumèd lions on the galleys of St. Mark;
 And above the ships are palaces of brown,
 black-bearded chiefs,
 And below the ships are prisons, where with
 multitudinous griefs,
 Christian captives sick and sunless, all a labouring
 race repines
 Like a race in sunken cities, like a nation in the mines.

Imitation of Christ

This weekend we will promote the classic book, *Imitation of Christ*. We will ask for a \$5 donation.
Read→Think→Love. We read so that we can think, and we think so that we can love (God and neighbor). If we don't study, our faith and prayer life decline. Fire up your intellect (mind) and will (heart) while you have them!
 We have 200 copies, 20 of these in Spanish. If we run out, we can easily order some more.

2018 Public Square Prayer: Saturday, October 13

God wants you! Our nation is in great need of public prayer, repentance, and conversion.
 Join us in prayer for our country this Saturday, Oct. 13 at noon. We will pray in the park by Granby Town Hall for about an hour. Meet us at OLS at 11:30 a.m. first.
 Please contact Larry Poehler at 970-699-2685 for more information.

Begin to Think about All Souls Envelopes

Begin thinking about your deceased loved ones, for whom we can offer Masses in November. All donations pay for *Totus Tuus* Vacation Bible School.

MTYR is Kindness Joy Patience! These are the ways you are called to be in your real life interaction with others. These are the ways you are called to be with your family, your children and your spouse. Set your mind on The Above, on God. It may not change your situation, but it will change you. If you can put Kindness, Joy, Patience first at home, how much better

you will be in your community. You are **More Than You Realize** when you practice **Kindness Joy Patience** in your marriage and at home.

The Catholic Biblical School is still accepting new students into both the Idaho Springs class and the Steamboat Springs class. Both classes meet once a month through June. Idaho Springs meets the second Saturday. Steamboat Springs meets the third Saturday. Rides are available from other parishioners attending the Idaho Springs class. For more info please call the Catholic Biblical School at 303-715-3195.

Calendar of Events

- Oct 13 (Sat).** Prayer in the Public Square, noon.
- Oct 13-14 (Sat-Sun).** Promote the Bible. Bibles to be sold at all Masses, including children's Bibles.
- Oct 14 (Sun).** StB, coffee and doughnuts after Mass
- Nov 1 (Thu).** All Saints Day—Holy Day of Obligation. Mass schedule in the next bulletin.
- Nov 2 (Fri).** All Souls Day. Begin Novena.

Mass Collections, September 29 – 30	
St. Anne	\$ 2057
St. Bernard	1132
Our Lady of the Snow	2340
St. Peter	433
St. Ignatius	384
Total	\$ 6346

Vocations Prayer Calendar	
<i>Please pray for our seminarians every day.</i>	
Sat —John Croghan & Tony Davis	
Sun —Ryan Kent & John Stapleton	
Mon —Peter Srsich & Patricio Chuquimarca	
Tue —Justin Doerr & Juan Hernandez	
Wed —Christopher Marbury & Christian Mast	
Thu —Samuel Rendon & Cristian Rivera	
Fri —Men and women applying for formation	

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS	
KEY: StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard;	
OLS = Our Lady of the Snow	
-Sat, Oct 6, StA, 5 p.m., Chris and Lisa Attencio	
-Sun, Oct 7, StB, 7 a.m., Barry and Aimee Kroneberger	
-Sun, Oct 7, OLS, 9:30 a.m., People in our region/visitors	
<u>Weekday Masses</u>	
-Mon, Oct 8, StA, 8:30 a.m., Steve McGinn	
-Tue, Oct 9, OLS, 7:30 a.m., Margaret Ledezma	
-Wed, Oct 10, StB, 8:30 a.m., Mass of Reparation/Healing	
-Thu, Oct 11, OLS, 8:30 a.m., Keith and Debbie Morrison	
-Fri, Oct 12, OLS, 8:30 a.m., Peter/Mary K. Savarie	

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI	
KEY: StP = St. Peter; StI = St. Ignatius (Walden)	
-Sun, Oct 7, StP, 10 a.m., People in our region/visitors	
-Sun, Oct 7, StI, 1 p.m., Brian and Kim Raber Family	