

Father Lawrence Con't

The Church needs those who will defend its faith when it is under attack. Everyone may be sometimes called upon to give an account for the hope that is within them, but not everyone is called upon for this specialized ministry of defense. Those that were called to this ministry in the past were given the name “the Apologists” (from the Greek *apologia*, meaning “defense”). Those fulfilling this task expose themselves to certain dangers. They may be subject to name-calling, misunderstanding, or in extreme cases, persecution—just ask Saint Justin, one of the Church’s earliest Apologists (also called “Justin Martyr”). But the task must be undertaken today nonetheless, often by the clergy, part of whose job it is to defend the flock from wolves. That is why a battle shield and a sword are necessary, and why one looks for a soul’s shelter and a high tower. The forces that would drag one down are many, ferocious, and unrelenting. An evangelical apologist will ask the divine Power of his power to raise him heavenward and defend him. When we ask the Ruler of all and Lord of our hearts to be our vision, we need all the gifts available to us.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (Epistle)

But this I say: “He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.” Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

Martyr Arethas and 4,299 Martyrs with him Commemorated on October 24

The Martyr Arethas and with him 4299 Martyrs suffered for the Lord Jesus Christ in the sixth century. Arethas was prefect of the Christian city of Negran in Arabia. The Arabian (or Omirite) king, Dunaan, who was Jewish, decided to eliminate Christianity from the land. He issued an edict that all followers of Christ were to be put to death.

Because the inhabitants of Negran remained faithful to the Lord, Dunaan came with a large army to destroy the city. At the city walls of Negran the king’s heralds announced that Dunaan would only spare those who renounced Christ and referred to His Cross as a “sign of malediction.”

Not daring to assault the Christian city by force, Dunaan resorted to a ruse. Dunaan swore an oath that he would not force the Christians into Judaism, but would merely collect a tribute from Negran. The inhabitants of the city would not heed the advice of Saint Arethas, and putting their trust in Dunaan, they opened the city gates.

The very next day Dunaan gave orders to light an immense fire and throw all the clergy of the city into it in order to frighten the rest of the Christians. 427 men were burned. He also threw the prefect Arethas and the other chief men into prison. Then the oppressor sent his messengers through the city to convert the Christians to Judaism. Dunaan himself conversed with those inhabitants brought from the prisons, saying, “I do not demand that you should renounce the God of heaven and earth, nor do I want you to worship idols, I want merely that you do not believe in Jesus Christ, since the Crucified One was a man, and not God.”

The holy martyrs replied that Jesus is God the Word, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, Who for the salvation of mankind was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary. Those suffering said, “We shall not abjure Christ, since He is Life for us. To die for Him is to find Life.”

More than four thousand Christians, men, women, both the aged and children, from the city of Negran and surrounding villages suffered martyrdom for Christ.

Luke 16:19-31 (Gospel)

There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

March for Life / Washington, DC January 20-22, 2022

Sign up NOW!

Jan. 20- Bus leaves Port Clinton and Sandusky early

Jan. 21- March for Life

Jan. 22- Return w/ special stop along the way home to St. Anthony's Chapel in Pittsburgh, PA

This trip is sponsored by the Respect Life Ministry of St. Joe's & Immaculate Conception. Reminder: Fr. Andrew is Orthodox representative.

Total Price: \$240 before 12-11 / \$290 after
Single room: \$360 before 12-11 / \$410 after
75% refund for cancellations before Jan. 1 / No refund after. See Fr. Andrew for additional info.

Archpriest Emilian Hutnyan Awarded Maple Heights Citizen of the year

On the evening of October 12, Archpriest Father Emilian D. Hutnyan from St. Andrew Church in Maple Heights, Ohio was awarded the 2021 Maple Heights Citizen of the Year Award by Mayor Annette M. Blackwell. Mayor Blackwell has stated several times that when she is in need of something, she can call Father Emilian and he always answers.

In 2020, Fr. Emilian celebrated his 30 anniversary of ordination to the Holy Priesthood. He was awarded the proclamation at the State of the City meeting for being a valued and selfless dedicated resident of Maple Heights, Ohio. "Because of his diplomatic and prudent judgement he has been called on by the Mayor and the city administration to assist in conflict resolution. He has also offered his own money for a reward to residents who were instrumental in saving a young mother and daughters life," shared a parishioner of St. Andrew Church.

Fr. Emilian regularly engages with city offering the hall at no cost to the Mayor, Council Members, Department Heads for community meetings, Easter Fest, Community Shred Days, and the Mobile Farmers Market. The Farmers Market takes place once a month at St. Andrews; "Fr. Emilian is the first one there to open the doors and assist with the distribution of food."

Giving special attention to the youth in his area is not unusual for Father. He is also known for offering weekly prayers for the Mayor, Police and Fire Departments, and First Responders.

Many years to Fr. Emilian, his family, and his parish community

Why go to the March for Life?

As our voice grows stronger, abortion advocates are changing the narrative and the tools to kill baby humans with:

-Abortion pills by mail

-Removing the Hyde amendment from national legislation allowing taxpayers dollars to pay for abortions

-H.R. 3755, the so called Women's Health Protection act (which would allow abortions through all 9 months of pregnancy and cripple state heartbeat and other pro-life laws) has passed the U.S. House of representatives and is under consideration in the U.S. Senate. We need to fight this aggressively.