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04 04 2019 at 1600 Kresta in the Afternoon 120 minutes Broadcaster, journalist, author and public speaker, Al Kresta takes a closer look at current events, issues, and ideas. In the first hour, Al talks with Dr. Greg Popcak. Anthropologists at the University of Oxford have discovered what they believe to be seven universal moral rules. How do they relate to the Catholic idea of the Natural Law? Does the Natural Law have any influence on modern philosophical thought? Dr. Popcak and Al discuss this topic. In the second segment of this hour, Al visits with Pastor Jason Noble who witnessed the story that will be told in the upcoming film *Breakthrough*. The story is about a young boy who was declared dead after his body was pulled from icy waters. Sixteen days later he walked out of the hospital. In the last segment of this hour, Al visits with Matthew Bunson of the *National Catholic Register*. Earlier today Pope Francis announced that Archbishop Wilton Gregory, the first African-American archbishop, will lead the diocese of Washington DC. From Atlanta, Archbishop Gregory will be tasked with leading the diocese as it struggles with questions relating to Cardinal Wuerl and what the cardinal knew about McCarrick.

In the second hour, Al visits with historian George Marsden. Religion plays a unique role in American culture. Even with the rise of the Nones, a higher percentage of Americans identify as religious compared to most western countries. But many aspects of American culture have long been secularized and it's hard to find a field – whether it be entertainment, academia or the law – where one can honestly say Christians have a strong influence. George and Al take a look at this relationship between religion and culture in America.

04 11 2019 at 1600 Kresta in the Afternoon 120 minutes Broadcaster, journalist, author and public speaker, Al Kresta takes a closer look at current events, issues, and ideas. In the first hour, Al visits with Matthew Bunson regarding Pope Emeritus Benedict's essay, which was released today. This lengthy essay is his most significant pronouncement since 2013 as he addresses the clerical sex abuse including the roots of the crisis, the effects it has had on the priesthood and the Church as well as how the Church should respond.

In the second hour, Al visits with Fr. Thomas Weinandy, a prolific theologian who has observed that when Christ was conceived and named these acts, which Christians will celebrate during Holy Week, were still in his future. He needed to fully become Jesus. Fr. Thomas talks about what this actually means.

05 07 2019 at 1600 Kresta in the Afternoon 120 minutes Broadcaster, journalist, author and public speaker, Al Kresta takes a closer look at current events, issues, and ideas. In the first hour, Al talks with Dr. Greg Popcak. They talk about a new study that shows people are increasingly turning to vacations and leisure activities as an outlet for their emotions, confronting problems, grief, and feelings. The study investigated Lourdes, France and asked why the pilgrimage site is so popular and why pilgrimage is one of the fastest-growing motivations for travel. In the second part of this first hour, Jack Donnelly's children, Clare and Fr. Paul talk with Al about their father. Jack Donnelly was an ordinary man who devoted his life to intentionally following Christ. Whether it be proposing to a woman he barely knew or supporting his children on the front lines of the pro life movement, Jack was an example of a lay person taking co-responsibility for their church. He has since entered into eternal life.

In the second hour, Al continues his conversation from the day prior with Jimmy Akin, looking at the open letter regarding Pope Francis and those accusing him of heresy. In the second part of this hour, another study shows declining trends in U.S. church attendance. A Gallop report released last month shows that only half of Americans say they belong to a church or religious body down 69% in the last two decades. These trends are specially noticeable among younger generations. Newman Connection is trying to change that through its work with college students. Matt Zerrusen joins Al to talk about this topic. Lastly, it's been 500 years since the death of Leonardo da Vinci, the man widely regarded as the Universal Genius. What kind of man was he? How was he motivated by his insatiable curiosity about the created world? Walter Isaacson joins Al to talk about this topic.

05 16 2019 at 1600 Kresta in the Afternoon 120 minutes Broadcaster, journalist, author and public speaker, Al Kresta takes a closer look at current events, issues, and ideas. In the first hour, Al talks with Monica Miller. In the last week, several states have considered and even passed significant abortion legislation. On Friday, legislators in Vermont passed measures to enshrine unrestricted abortion access in to law at any time for any reason during a pregnancy, and also advanced a measure that would make abortion a constitutional right. Most attention has been given to Georgia's heartbeat bill and a law in Alabama that makes performing an abortion a felony offense. And in Michigan, the state House and Senate passed a bill outlawing dismemberment abortions. Governor Gretchen Whitmer has promised to veto it and Right to Life of Michigan is preparing for a petition drive, if they obtain 400,000 signatures the veto will be overturned.

In the second hour, Al visits with William Kurtz, Director of the Nau Center for Civil War History at the University of Virginia. A series of events in April and May 1865 marked the end of the American Civil War. Most famous is the surrender of Lee's army of Northern Virginia on April 9, and others include Andrew Johnson's May 9 Declaration and the capture of President Jefferson Davis on May 10. At that time, Catholics were not as prevalent in American society as they are today – but the War still affected them in profound and unique ways. What did the Civil War mean for American Catholics? William Kurtz & Al Kresta discuss this topic.

In the second segment of this second hour Fr. Dwight Longenecker joins Al to talk about Vatican journalist John Allens decade old book, *The Future Church*. At the time of publication, it had been a few years since the Boston Globe revelations of 2002 and the McCarrick scandals were still years away. Benedict was pope and most people could still relate the Church to the work and teachings of JP II and Mother Teresa. What has changed? Which of his predictions have come true, which have fizzled out and which are yet to come?

In the last part of this second hour, Joseph Pearce joins Al to talk about Cardinal John Henry Newman. Pope Francis has approved the second miracle attributed to Cardinal Newmans intercession paving the way for his canonization. Many American Catholics are not aware of the extraordinary role he played in the revival of Catholicism, both in England and in the United States.

06 11 2019 at 1600 Kresta in the Afternoon 120 minutes Broadcaster, journalist, author and public speaker, Al Kresta takes a closer look at current events, issues, and ideas. In the first hour, Fr. Charles Connor joins Al to detail the life of Catholics in the American Colonies. It is a tale that begins with the flight of English Catholics to religious freedom in Maryland in 1634, and continues through the post Revolutionary period, by which time the constitutions of all but four of the first 13 states contained harsh anti-Catholic provisions.

In the second hour, Al talks with Bishop Ed Condon from Washington D.C. with firsthand information on the proceedings dealing with the Plenary Assembly of the United States Council of Catholic Bishops.

Catholic readers will be proud to learn from that despite almost two centuries of ever-more-intense religious persecutions and even harsher legal prohibitions, American Catholics in the colonies simply refused to abandon the Catholic Faith.

Also in this hour, Al comments on Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano regarding the release of a new 8,000 word interview with the Washington Post. The interview was conducted via email over a period of two months, with the former U.S. papal nuncio providing answers to some 40 questions. Those who have read previous Vigano testimonies will find much that is familiar in the interview, discussed this time in greater depth. Al comments on all this.

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