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History of the Coming Home Network International

Why

Though not generally known, non-Catholic clergy and laity from across the denominational spectrum are coming home to the Catholic Church. This journey, though overflowing with endless joys and blessings, can also be traumatic. It often results in the loss of friends and family, as well as the loss of career and financial support. It usually requires a rethinking of one's doctrinal and moral convictions, as well as one's vocation as a child of God.

Nevertheless, clergy and laity by the hundreds are entering the Catholic Church with great joy. They come with great enthusiasm and commitment to follow Jesus Christ wherever He leads, even if this means coming out of their previously comfortable and familiar spiritual surroundings into the Catholic Church. Many of them come with great gifts for ministry, including years of training and experience, along with information and ideas for authentic Church renewal.

Sometimes the most difficult part of the journey occurs after they have come home. They may feel unwelcome in their local parish and disoriented by the hierarchical structure of the diocese. They may find themselves overwhelmed by the great diversity of religious groups and spiritualities. They may become particularly disconcerted when they discover the large number of Catholics who seem to know little about their faith.

Even as they find their way through all of these things into authentic Catholic life and worship, they may still yearn for some of what they have left behind. Having resigned from their pastoral ministries, clergy converts especially struggle now with how to continue using their gifts for ministry while also supporting their families.

The goal of the *CHNetwork* is to assist the Catholic Church in fulfilling its mission of evangelization and its call for Christian unity, as proclaimed by Pope John Paul II in his encyclical, "That They May Be One" (*Ut Unum Sint*).

How

The *CHNetwork* began in 1993 out of the seemingly isolated experiences of Marcus and Marilyn Grodi and several other Protestant clergy and their spouses. Upon leaving their pastorates to enter the Catholic Church, these clergy and their families discovered with surprise that there were many others being drawn by the Spirit to take the same journey "home."

To help bring these inquirers and converts together, we started a simple newsletter and scheduled gatherings and retreats. The converts and their spouses showed great enthusiasm at the first of these gatherings, and the fellowship has continued to grow ever since. Now, every week the Lord adds new members as clergy and laity from other traditions seek assistance and encouragement as they contemplate coming home to the Catholic Church.

The *CHNetwork* has been featured on EWTN television and radio as well as in national publications such as *Our Sunday Visitor*, *The National Catholic Register*, *Christianity Today*, *This Rock*, *Lay Witness*, and *The Catholic Answer*.

We have also received great encouragement from such Church leaders as Francis Eugene Cardinal George, Archbishop Raymond Burke, Bishop Robert J. Baker, Mother Angelica of EWTN, Karl Keating of Catholic Answers, Patrick Madrid of *Envoy Magazine*, Dr. Thomas Howard, Dr. Scott Hahn, and Fr. Michael Scanlan, Chancellor of Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio.

Watch Marcus Grodi and guests on *The Journey Home* on EWTN TV and radio and online.

- Live: Mondays at 8 P.M. ET
- Encores: Tuesdays at 1 and 9 A.M. ET, Thursdays at 2 P.M. ET, and Saturdays at 11 P.M. ET

Listen to Marcus on our live radio program *Deep In Scripture* on EWTN radio and affiliates.

- Live: Wednesdays at 2 P.M. ET
- Encores: Thursdays at 1 A.M. ET and Sundays at 7 AM ET

Staff of CHNetwork

Marcus Grodi (former Presbyterian Pastor)
President/Founder

Kevin Lowry (former Presbyterian)
EVP/COO

Jim Anderson (former Lutheran)
Director of Pastoral Care

Robert Rodgers (former Anglican)
Director of Events/Marketing

Dr. Paul Thigpen (former Evangelical Pastor)
Director of CHResources

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Fr. Ed Sylvia
Deacon Dominic Cerrato



Are you interested in helping non-Catholic clergy, as well as laity and fallen-away Catholics, come home to the Catholic Church?

Are you yourself interested in coming home to the Catholic Church?

We want to help!

Serving Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church

The Goals of the CHNetwork

The Coming Home Network International was established in 1993 to help inquiring clergy as well as laity of other traditions to return home and then to be at home in the Catholic Church, by providing:

Contacts, assistance, and fellowship for those who are considering coming into full communion with the Catholic Church;

Continued fellowship and encouragement for those who have entered the Church and want to live fully Catholic lives;

Opportunities for these new Catholics to share with the Catholic Church ideas for renewal and evangelization that the Holy Spirit had blessed in their previous experiences;

Advocacy with the Church hierarchy to help them discern and discuss how they are to continue serving once they have come home;

Literature that gives clear expressions of the Catholic faith.

Reaching Out Through Services

CHResources publishes and distributes books, literature, *CHJournals*, and audio/visual resources to assist those on their journey home.

The CHNetwork website (www.chnetwork.org) provides information about upcoming events, *CHJournals*, conversion stories,

our online catalog, upcoming guests for *The Journey Home* and *Deep in Scripture* (www.deepinscripture.com) programs, and much more!

Internet-based communication enables members to discuss issues encountered along the journey through our online forum (www.chnetwork.org/forum).

The CHNetwork staff and an international Helpers Network of CHNetwork volunteers help answer questions, give encouragement, and speak at parish and diocesan gatherings.

At the annual **Deep in History Conferences** (www.deepinhistory.com) and regional gatherings, members and inquirers gather for fellowship, prayer, and encouragement.

Membership

There are three types of membership in *The Coming Home Network International*:

Primary Membership is for clergy, missionaries, academics, and others in full-time ministry (and their families) who are somewhere along their journey into the Catholic Church.

Secondary Membership is for laity of other traditions and non-practicing Catholics who are somewhere along their journey into (or back to) the Catholic Church.

Tertiary or Associate Membership is for Catholic laity, bishops, priests, deacons, and religious who support the *CHNetwork* with their prayers and generous contributions.

Members are encouraged to form local fellowship groups where they can join in prayer and small group studies of Scripture or Church

teachings, as well as reach out with the truth of the Catholic faith to friends and relatives outside the Church.

You Can Help

There are several ways you can support our work:

Become a member of the CHNetwork. Membership gets you on the mailing list to receive all *Coming Home Network International* mailings.

Pray for the CHNetwork, its staff and members. All members are encouraged to pray regularly for the needs of the *CHNetwork* and to present these needs at least one hour each month before the Blessed Sacrament.

Make a contribution to the CHNetwork. *The Coming Home Network International* is a non-profit 501(3)c Catholic lay apostolate, solely funded through the generous contributions of its members and friends. All donations are tax-deductible and are greatly appreciated.

Tell others about our work and encourage them to support it. Let your priest and bishop know about our apostolate. Often when clergy of other traditions become interested in finding out about the Catholic faith, they do not know where to turn. We want to help them.

Distribute our brochures, literature, journals, tapes, CDs, and DVDs to clergy and laity of other traditions. Most Christians of other traditions have been misinformed about the teachings of the Catholic faith. Following the model of St. Francis de Sales, who committed his life to bringing thousands back to the Catholic faith after the Reformation, we

believe the loving communication of the truth will win hearts back to the Church.

Schedule one of our staff members or a member of the CHNetwork to speak at your parish or at a conference. Marcus Grodi, as well as many other clergy and lay converts in the *CHNetwork*, are experienced speakers and enjoy sharing their conversion stories as well as other topics to strengthen the faith of Catholic laity.

Please contact us by mail, e-mail, or phone if you have any questions.

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Help Us to Help Others

To enroll as a member and be added to the Newsletter mailing list, please fill out the form below.

CHNetwork New Member Info

Any enclosed financial support is deeply appreciated!

Name _____

Address _____

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State _____ Zip _____

Home _____

Work _____

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Email _____

Would you like to receive our free monthly e-mail updates and our e-newsletters?

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Card number _____

Expiration date _____

Visa MasterCard Discover Amex

Signature _____

To donate online please visit our homepage and click the donate button. Thank you!

Please mail this form to

The Coming Home Network International
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