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# THE COMING HOME NETWORK INTERNATIONAL



## To Love Him and to Make Him Loved

Dr. Terry & Renee Wortz

"I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart" (Jeremiah 24:7).

As one of five sons of an Assemblies of God pastor, my family was always the first to arrive at the church and the last to leave. I have always understood that Jesus loves me and wants to have a close relationship with me.

### To Be a Pastor's Son

I have a vivid memory from 1963 of being at the Grand Ledge, Michigan, Assemblies of God Church. I was a nine-year-old, and my older brother was twelve. After the sermon, I went up to the kneeling rail with those who "wanted to have more of Jesus in their lives." It was then that I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, although I barely knew what that meant. My older brother, Dale, had not yet received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I heard him praying and pleading with God that if Terry, his little brother, was loved enough to receive this gift, then he ought to receive it, too.

The Assemblies of God does not believe in infant baptism. The denomination *dedicates* babies and only baptizes with water much later when one has had a personal encounter with Jesus and has accepted Christ as Lord and Savior. For this reason, I was dedicated to the Lord as an infant.

After receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit at nine years old, I asked my father if I could be baptized with water. He told me that I was too young.

My youthful brain reasoned with him that if I was not too young to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, then I wasn't too young to be baptized with water. I told him that God had accepted me and was living in me. This was an argument my father could not dispute, and he decided to allow me to be baptized with my older brother.

As a member of the Assemblies of God, I was taught that you could tell Christians by their deeds. However, it was not so much what they *did* that identified them, but rather what they *did not* do. I was taught that Christians did not go to movie theaters, did not play cards, did not smoke, and did not drink alcohol. Christian women did not use makeup and did not wear pants. Another prohibited activity was dancing of any kind. When I was in the eighth grade, I was voted vice president of my class, and I was expected to attend my grade's school dance. My father reluctantly gave me permission to go after I promised that I would not dance. I would just hang out by the snacks and talk with my friends.

While at the dance, I saw a girl who went to my church that I thought was rather cute. I was really surprised when she invited me to dance with her. I explained that if we danced, it would be a sin, and we would go to hell. She retorted that it wasn't true, that dancing was not a sin, that it was a lot of fun,

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Journeys Home

## ...Journeys Home Continued...

and that God hadn't struck her down for doing it. She was so convincing that I decided to accept her invitation. And it *was* fun! When the song ended, I was still perfectly alive and did not feel the least bit separated from Jesus nor convicted by the Holy Spirit that I had sinned grievously. I realized then that what I had been taught about dancing was not true.

That experience drove me into a period of trying to figure out what really was a sin and what wasn't. I concluded that the Assemblies of God did not have all of the answers. I realized that other Christians did not believe some of the things that I had been taught. Rather than causing me to rebel against Christ, my search brought me closer to Him. I studied the Bible more than ever as I tried to figure out what really pleased Christ, as well as what truly displeased Him. I was hungry for the truth!

At that young age, I started to believe that there was no real body of Christ on earth. Rather, this was only a metaphor for a universal group of people who had similar experiences concerning Jesus. While it seemed like Christians espoused different

beliefs, since we belonged to different denominations, I realized these variations were like the parable of the three blind men who tried to describe an elephant. The one who felt its trunk believed that the elephant was like a snake. The one who felt its legs believed that it was like a large tree. The one who felt its tail believed that the elephant was like a rope. I figured that the Holy Spirit would have to sort everything out regarding the full picture.

Around this time, I remember trying to speak to a drunken man about Jesus. He told me that he was a Baptist. He said that the Baptist church was the one true church because it was the very first church. This puzzled me since I knew that the Baptist church was formed after the Reformation, so I questioned him about it. He said the Baptist church was formed by John the Baptist, and since John was born before Jesus, the Baptist church was the first and true church. I didn't argue with the man since he was drunk. Besides, according to my upbringing, being drunk proved he wasn't a Christian at all. But I did find his reasoning quite amusing.

### To Be Loved and to Love

Somewhere along the way I picked up on the teaching of "the total depravity of man," although at the time I did not know what it was called. I thought that if this were true, then I was completely incapable of pleasing God. This was depressing. I asked my brother what I should do about my problem. His exact words were, "Man, I don't know what to tell you. Just read the Bible!" I opened my Bible and started reading the book of Romans. I will never forget what happened when I got to this passage: "We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). I heard Jesus speaking in my heart, telling me that He was so powerful that He could make even the wrong things that I did turn out for good — if I gave them to Him and asked for forgiveness. I told Him, "If you really are that powerful, then you are my God, and I will serve you the rest of my life." I finished reading the book of Romans and realized I was completely at peace for the first time.

Around this time, my church decided to start a study group on cults. I helped teach the class on Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Seventh-day Adventists, and Catholics. Why these groups? We believed they were cults and that we needed to know their teachings and how they differed from us. These groups all believed that Jesus had started each of their churches, rather than our supposition that Jesus had formed the idea of people coming together and creating communities of faith. I was taught that the Church of Rome was the whore of Babylon and that the pope was the Antichrist, and I then taught these misconceptions to others. My grandfather used to call the tail end of a turkey "the pope's nose," and when a cousin, whom I loved dearly, told us she was marrying a Catholic, my grandmother told her she would rather see her dead. We had all inherited a bias against Catholics.

One Sunday, when I was 16, I happened to read the religion section of our newspaper. It featured an article about a group of Catholic Charismatics who were meeting at a place that eventu-

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The Coming Home  
Network International

## ...Journeys Home Continued...

ally grew to become Christ the King Catholic Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan. This completely puzzled me because I had been taught that the Catholic Church was a cult. I felt convicted that I needed to see what was going on there for myself. My father allowed me to drive to Ann Arbor on one condition: that a board member from our church accompany me. The board member that my dad chose was a former Catholic who had been “saved” from the Catholic Church. When we arrived at the meeting place, I could not believe my eyes and ears. I saw priests, nuns, and men in monks’ habits. I saw guys with beards and blue jeans and girls with long hair and love beads. Everyone was singing the same praise music that I sang in my church. They were worshipping Jesus just like I did. This was a Cornelius experience in reverse for me. I knew in my heart and spirit that these people loved Jesus, and I also realized that the Presence of Jesus was in the Catholic Church, in a thing that looked like a little box.

I came home from Ann Arbor and reported what I had seen and heard to my parents. They became very excited, believing that all of these people could now leave the Catholic Church and be free from the “cult” — since they had obviously truly experienced Jesus. My response was quite different. I realized, once again, that I had been taught things that were not true. I concluded that Christianity had not begun at the Azusa Street Revival in the early 1900s, but that it had started in AD 33, on the day of Pentecost... and it has continued to this present day.

After my encounter with the Catholic Charismatics, my worldview changed completely. I became acutely aware that Christians who loved Jesus and claimed to hear from the Holy Spirit were interpreting passages from the Scriptures very differently from the way I had been taught. How could we both be right? How did I know whose understanding was correct?

### To Be Deep in History

Consequently, I became a student of Church history and the early Church Fathers and was introduced to Marian theology, the treating of the *Theotokos*, Mary, the Mother of God. I discovered that the *Theotokos* had been accepted by all Christians even before the theology of the Trinity was formulated. I also realized that these first Christians believed in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. It is said that if you do not want to be led into the Catholic Church, then you should not study the history of the early Church. Of course, I didn’t know that when I started studying the early Church Fathers, but I quickly discovered that this statement is true. A serious, open-minded, open-hearted study of the early Church will eventually bring you to the Catholic Faith. For 40 years, I wandered in the wilderness, searching for the Promised Land, the Church that Jesus said He would build, and the gates of hell would not prevail against it (Matthew 16).

In the church I grew up in, we had a memorial communion service. They did not teach the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine. In my reading, I discovered that the early Church believed in the Real Presence of Christ — the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus — in the Holy Eucharist, from the very

beginning. So, now, called to the Church as an adult, I began to sneak into Catholic Masses on Sunday mornings before my wife and children were ready to go to our Protestant church. This went on for a long time.

I had met my wife, Renee, at a revival meeting when she was almost fifteen. She had sauntered into the revival tent wearing a polka-dot halter dress. That was a bit scandalous for the Assemblies of God; however, her long hair made it almost impossible to detect her problematic clothing. I thought, any girl with guts enough to wear that kind of dress to an Assemblies’ tent revival was a girl I had to get to know! We became childhood sweethearts and, eventually, husband and wife.

### To Serve Abroad and at Home

Renee and I became medical missionaries in Kazakhstan in 1997. After three years of ministering there, I became the missionary medical director based in the US (Michigan), traveling frequently around the world. We worked in missions for a total of seven years, and afterwards, I returned to practicing internal medicine in Michigan. There I was offered a position at a Catholic hospital. I soon became the primary doctor for a group of retired nuns, some of the active priests, and even the bishops of the diocese. This gave me wonderful opportunities to talk with them about the Catholic Church. I would often listen to EWTN and, in particular, *The Journey Home* program with Marcus Grodi.

One day, Bishop Paul Bradley, the diocesan bishop and one of my patients, point blank asked me what was keeping me from becoming Catholic. I explained to him that the obstacle was my family. It would be especially devastating to my 80-year-old father, who was a high-ranking Assemblies of God minister. I told him that Jesus knew my heart, but I felt I couldn’t come into the Catholic Church while my father was still alive. Bishop Bradley agreed that, out of respect for my father, I should wait until he passed away. As my father aged, he never gave up his ministry, even teaching Bible classes until the very end of his life. After my father’s death, I went to Bishop Bradley and told him I was ready to enter the Catholic Church.

### To Be Ready When Your Wife is Not

My dear Renee was not ready to enter the Church with me, nor was she even interested in learning about it. Bishop Bradley assured me that I could still attend Mass while also going with Renee to our Protestant church so that we could worship together. He then assigned me a spiritual director who would be my mentor. At one point, my spiritual director asked me, “Why do you really want to enter the Catholic Church?” I explained, “It’s not because you have better preaching. It’s not because you have more lively music. But where else can I go to receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist?” Then he replied, “You’re ready. Welcome!” After that, I was joyously able to go to my first Reconciliation and receive my first Holy Communion and Confirmation.

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# Why Pilgrimage? Adding Faith Sites to Your Summer Travels

Our daily walk in the Faith, and thus our earthly life, are inherent pilgrimages. We are all bound together, as God's human family, in a transitory march toward eternity and our final resting place. Accompanied by the Word of God and the Eucharist, the faithful are called to seek paths of righteousness on their journey to the Father's house.

God's chosen ones have been wanderers since the dawn of humanity and throughout the biblical age. Therefore, it is no surprise that salvation history is rife with imagery of literal and metaphorical pilgrimages. The theme of straying "off the path," away from God's love, begins in the Garden, with man condemned to spend the remainder of his days searching for the divine presence and His love, in an attempt to regain entry into the Promised Land. This cycle of departure, conversion, return, and embrace by the Father is present in stories from Abraham to Moses to Elijah. The Psalms sing of the people's ascent toward God's holy mountain, where they will dwell in communion with Him. Revelation 21 describes our final destination as well: "... the Holy City... coming down from God out of heaven." Of course, it was not until God's Son Himself embarked on His own earthly pilgrimage that we were shown the true path to the Kingdom of Heaven and given the keys to re-open its gates. Christ's teachings, from His parable of the prodigal son to His metaphor of the wayward sheep, continued these "journey" and "seeking" motifs. They also illustrate man's longing and need for closeness with the Father and His Son.

Fostering a deeper union with Christ and His Church is the primary aim of any pilgrimage to holy sites and sacred spaces. The practice of Christian pilgrimage originated in the fourth century with treks to the Holy Land and Rome. So who was the first Christian pilgrim to set out on an odyssey to follow in the footsteps of Christ? A daring, sword-wielding young knight? No. A reverent Bishop or Church dignitary? No. A fervent descendent of an early disciple of Christ? No. Daring, reverent, and fervent... yes! But this pioneer pilgrim was elderly, a woman, and... *a convert*.

With a passion ignited by her newfound faith, St. Helena crossed treacherous waters and deserts in dogged pursuit of the True Cross and the Holy Sepulcher. This humble servant of Christ, and mother of Emperor Constantine, mapped the hallowed ground where Our Lord tread and unearthed relics of the Crucifixion, all while ministering to the poor along the way. St. Helena's journey became the paradigm for all future pilgrimages. It opened the door for all the faithful -- Church Fathers, future pontiffs and saints, and clergy and laity alike -- to go out and seek those places that connect us with our Faith, inspire us, and lead us to a spiritual conversion. And it stirred the hearts of believers and non-believers alike, illuminating our souls' hunger and thirst for a deeper intimacy with Christ.

St. Helena's odyssey also creates parameters that distinguish a true pilgrimage from tourism or an exotic vacation. Church Father St. Gregory of Nyssa first encouraged *authentic* journeys of the soul, and St. John Paul II clarified that these can only be spiritual if they constitute a time of prayer, reconciliation, charity, and renewal -- intentional, humble, and sometimes arduous walks to-

ward a holy place. As such, the sojourn and chosen destination will then provide "an oasis of contemplation," a source of grace, encouragement, solace, or wisdom.

Pilgrimages help us (re)discover the tangible and intangible treasures of our Faith -- relics of the past, Christian brotherhood and fellowship, Our Holy Mother, divine love and mercy. Thus, the fruits of the journey are many, such as conversion, renewal, communion, and evangelization. Their transformative power can unveil the truth, beauty, and mysteries of our Faith.

However, one does not need to trek across the globe to have such personal, spiritual encounters. As summer reaches its zenith and then lazily winds its way to autumnal breezes, consider including some sort of mini-pilgrimage in your travel plans or leisure time. There are many inspiring, soul-feeding meccas of the Faith right here in the United States. Listed below are some of the favorite destinations of the "pilgrims" who visit our online community:

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## ***"The National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann***

***Seton*** in Emmitsburg, MD is on the campus where Mother Seton herself lived, taught, and prayed, up in the mountains. There's a TON of history up there and an amazing museum that includes things like the medical documents related to her sainthood cause, her wedding ring, a piece of the altar rail where she received her First Communion, and more." — Matt Swaim, CHNetwork Director of Outreach

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***"San Antonio, Texas!*** It's like a Catholic museum: the missions, San Fernando Cathedral, Basilica of the Little Flower, Oblate School of Theology... so many wonderful Catholic spots." — Catherine Ranum, CHNetwork Community Moderator

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***"St. Leo Abbey*** is a Benedictine monastery north of Tampa, FL. The historic abbey church is lovely, [with] a Marian grotto on the grounds and a retreat center for individuals and groups." — Gregory R.

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***"The Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation***, in Carey, OH -- a wonderful place, especially during the Assumption pilgrimage. If you haven't been there, then you don't know what you're missing." — Thomas S.

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**“Holy Hill** near Milwaukee, WI. My family would go and climb the 172 steps to the top of the tower. Climbing the tower is a test of bravery, as the spiral staircase dangerously narrows past a 12-foot open window way up there in the sky.... Its spires can be seen from miles away.” — Linda L.

**“Mary Queen of the Universe Shrine** in Orlando, FL used to average 300,000 visitors every year. They just installed a huge pipe organ with 32-inch pipes.... [There are] statues of St. Michael, St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. Joseph in his carpenter’s shop with Jesus as a boy.” — Bradlee S.

**“The St. Frances Cabrini Shrine** near Denver, CO has everything expected at a memorial for a saint, and its location on a mountain top provides incredible views of the peaks above and the plains below!” — Chuck L.

**“The Shrine and Basilica of Nuestra Señora de San Juan del Valle** in San Juan, TX – the basilica is huge, holding 5,000 people – yet six Sunday Masses are required each week to accommodate all the pilgrims. The strange thing is that most people outside the immediate area have never heard of it.” — David Emery, CHNetwork Community Moderator

**“The Shrine of St. Katherine Drexel** in Columbia, VA, collocated with St. Joseph’s Catholic Church – a very rural and fun back-road area to visit and spend a few hours in contemplation.” — Tony F.

**“The Nine Missions of St. Junípero Serra** in CA – If you are up for a longer, yet very picturesque and spiritual, road trip, follow the 18th-century footsteps of the Franciscan padre who, from San Diego to San Francisco, founded nine missions, each with its own treasures of the Faith.” — CHN Staff

**“The St. Kateri Tekakwitha National Shrine** in Fonda, NY is located near the village ruins where St. Kateri lived and includes a chapel at the site of her baptism, hiking trails, and a museum.” — CHN Staff

While all of these locales and sacred spaces invite us to unique encounters with the Lord and our Faith, one’s itinerary does not necessarily need to be geographical in nature. On the contrary, it need only be an interior journey, a pilgrimage marked by a search for the One True Love and emanating from a pure desire to know Him, love Him, and serve Him. Consequently, these journeys, in whatever form they take, become catechetical and Trinitarian in nature – we seek a deeper walk with and through Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit, toward the house of our Father. The Blessed Mother cannot be left out of our wanderings, either. For Mary is “the one in whom the pilgrimage of the Word toward humankind converges with humankind’s pilgrimage of faith... thus [she becomes] a star of evangelization for the journey of the whole Church” (St. John Paul II, *The Pilgrimage in the Great Jubilee*, 1998, p. 17).

Therefore, even the most simple, humble journeys of the mind, heart, and feet can have the most profound effect on our souls. Zacchaeus climbed a tree; Martha put down a dish, and Nicodemus took a walk at night – all seemingly mundane events. Nevertheless, these intentional, albeit unassuming, sojourns held everlasting consequences. Thus, even those incapable of partaking in a traditional pilgrimage are able to embark on an interior journey, one leading to a deeper intimacy with the Lord. So, go out of your way to get a closer look at Christ. Purposely set aside everyday distractions and tasks to listen to the Word of God. Take the time to walk, unafraid, toward the Truth and the answers you seek. Start a new journey, and see what wondrous things await you on the path... and who is waiting for you at the end. ■



Holy Hill



National Shrine of  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



The Shrine & Basilica  
of Nuestra Señora de San Juan  
del Valle



St. Leo Abbey

# COMPASS

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Please contact Ann at 740-450-1175 or [ann@chnetwork.org](mailto:ann@chnetwork.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

## EWTN'S THE JOURNEY HOME on television & radio



### TELEVISION

Mondays at 8 PM ET — Encores: Tuesdays 1 AM ET, Thursdays 2 PM ET  
*The Best of The Journey Home*: Saturday 6 PM ET

### RADIO

Mondays at 8 PM ET — Encores: Saturdays 7 AM ET, Sundays 1 AM ET and 5 PM ET  
*The Best of The Journey Home*: Monday-Friday 1 AM ET

**July 4**

Carlos Zamora\*  
(Catholic revert)  
(re-air from 8/12/19)

**July 11**

Dr. Ian Murphy\*  
(former Baptist and agnostic)

**July 18**

Fr. Bart Stevens\*  
(former Assemblies of God & Episcopal priest)  
(re-air from 8/19/19)

**July 25**

Dr. Tim Gregson\*  
(former Presbyterian worship leader)

**August 1**

Dr. Abigail Favale\*  
(former Evangelical Protestant)  
(re-air from 8/26/19)

\*Schedule is subject to change.

To access the full archive of past *Journey Home* programs go to [chnetwork.org/journey-home](http://chnetwork.org/journey-home).





## Joyful Journey Updates

**O**n behalf of the whole CHNetwork team, I would like to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to all of our brothers and sisters in Christ who recently entered into full communion with the Catholic Church. We praise God for His grace working in your life, your faith, your witness to the Gospel, and your perseverance in pursuing an ever-greater intimacy with our Lord Jesus Christ. As your Christian journey continues now as a Catholic, know that our prayers and friendship continue as well. We hope that you'll always see the Coming Home Network — the newsletter, website, events, the online community, your fellow members, and the staff — as YOUR network: your community of brothers and sisters in Christ striving to live the fullness of the Faith and to share it with others. — JonMarc Grodi, Executive Director

### From Madison, a recent

**convert** Since becoming Catholic a year ago, I have grown a lot. I am constantly amazed at the depth, richness, beauty, grace, and history present in the Church. I have had great conversations with many amazing priests, religious sisters, and Catholic friends. I have fallen in love with many prayers, including the Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Litany of Trust. I love the unity of the universal Church, the grace present in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and discovering friendships with the saints. I am also beyond excited to get married in the Church this month!

**From Justin, a clergy convert** I was counting down the heartbeats until the Easter Vigil. At the same time, I was feeling an intense amount of spiritual warfare during Holy Week. It was as though I was walking with Jesus in some mystical way through the week

leading up to His death and Resurrection. Reconciliation forced me to be honest about my sins and recognize more than ever what Jesus did for me on the cross. On Thursday, I participated in the Mass of the Lord's Supper and Eucharistic Adoration, knowing that in a couple of short days I would finally receive the Bread of Life. The Easter Vigil was beautiful, and the entire evening gave me an appreciation for all God had done to bring me and my children into the Church — the story of God's redemption, the story of the Resurrection, the Litany of Saints, etc. I will never forget the day when my three children and I entered the Catholic Church. It feels as though I've finally come home.

**From Rachel, a convert** I really believe in your apostolate. Over 20 years ago, when I felt the call to leave evangelicalism and become a Catholic, it was watching *The Journey Home*

for months, on EWTN, that finally gave me the courage to go to RCIA. I became Catholic in 2003. Your work is so important. . . . May God bless everyone at the CHNetwork for the work you do. It's life changing. It changed mine. I'm so grateful.

### From Seth, a convert & CHNetwork Developer of Web & New Media

**In** 2008 I was confirmed at Our Lady Help of Christians in Newton, MA. I was very blessed to have some of my good Evangelical friends there to support me; one of them was my good friend, Terri. Over the years I have had many chances to share all that I was discovering in the Catholic Church with my family and friends. This year I had the opportunity to travel back to Massachusetts for the Easter Vigil to celebrate Terri's Confirmation. I was so happy to have Terri standing in the same spot in which I had stood 14 years earlier, now being able to stand behind her as her sponsor. I saw how happy she was about becoming Catholic, and I could only thank God for allowing me to be a part of it. It made me even more in awe of the Providence of God, to see how He intertwines all of our journeys. It was only His grace that allowed my own journey to draw Terri home to His Church. ■

# Prayer List



*For all of those on their earthly pilgrimage who are lost or seeking the Truth, that the love of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit will guide their steps and turn their minds and hearts to Christ and His Church, as they journey toward their final destination, eternal life with our Father in His heavenly kingdom.*

## Clergy

■ **For Everett, a former Protestant chaplain** who is currently making plans with his wife to enter the Catholic Church, that the Lord will give him wisdom.

■ **For a Methodist pastor** facing the daunting decision of how and when to announce to his congregation that he is leaving to become Catholic.

■ **For a Messianic Jewish Rabbi** who is drawn to the Catholic Church and unsure what to do, that the Holy Spirit will give him comfort during this time.

■ **For Craig, a Methodist pastor** born, baptized, and raised Catholic who has decided to resign his pastorate later this year and come home to the Church.

■ **For Judson** who has been drawn to the Catholic Church for years and has finally decided to resign his pastoral ministry to enter the Church and work toward a doctorate in Catholic theology.

■ **For Bobby, a former Baptist pastor** who entered the Church a year and a half ago and is struggling financially, while also dealing with lung cancer.

■ **For Jeremiah, a Baptist pastor** who, having faced tremendous family opposition to his study of Catholicism, has decided not to make the journey at this time, that the Lord will be with him and continue to speak to him.

■ **For Michael, an Episcopal priest** seeking full communion with the Catholic Church and exploring possible ordination as a Catholic priest.

■ **For Brian, a Methodist pastor** who is convinced he must become Catholic and is struggling with how he will support his family when he does.

■ **For Bret, a former Baptist pastor** who has begun examining the teachings of the Catholic Church and attending Mass, and is attracted, but is struggling to reconcile his Protestant background and understanding with what he's now learning.

■ **For James, a Baptist pastor** who has become convinced of the truth of the Catholic Faith, that the Holy Spirit might soften his wife's heart and give him the wisdom to know how to lead her toward the Church.

■ **For Will, a former Lutheran pastor** who has resigned his ministry and found a teaching position and entered RCIA, all while working to complete a D. Min. program at a Protestant seminary, that the Lord will continue to lead him and bless his decision to enter the Church.

## Laity

■ **For Benjamin, a Baptist in Kentucky**, that the Holy Spirit would motivate him to complete his journey into the Catholic Faith.

■ **For Michael, a Mormon**, that he and his wife may be guided to the fullness of the Faith in Christ's Catholic Church.

■ **For Jamie**, who feels herself slipping away from the Faith, that she will return to the Sacraments in person and feel our Lord's loving arms around her.

■ **For Sawyer, an American Baptist**, that our Lord Jesus would guide him to prioritize his time and faith to best grow closer to God and His Church.

■ **For Ken, a Charismatic Christian**, that his curiosity about the Catholic Faith would blossom into the joy of full communion with our Lord's Church.

■ **For A.C.**, who is beginning the journey to the Church, that the Holy Spirit will quickly lead her to the answers she seeks regarding doctrine and will guide her through any struggles resulting from her previous faith background.

■ **For Bryan in South Africa**, that the Spirit of God will guide him through his Catholic vocational concerns.

■ **For Thomas, an Episcopalian in Missouri**, that the Holy Spirit would guide him to enough understanding so that his faith would help him to be a good Catholic.

■ **For J. in Indiana** who will receive the Sacraments soon, that she will no longer be afraid of Reconciliation and will have a better understanding of the difference between serious and venial sins, and that her first Communion will be a profound blessing.

■ **For Richard, a Southern Baptist**, that the grace of God would guide him to true worship of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

■ **For Eduardo in South Carolina**, that he may find his path back to full communion with the holy Catholic Church of Jesus.

■ **For Horea, a Baptist**, that, as he continues to read Catholic books and watch podcasts, the Holy Spirit would guide him Home.

■ **For Ben, a Methodist in Kentucky**, that, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, he may find his true home in the Catholic Church.

■ **For Natalie, a fallen-away Catholic**, that, as she navigates her way back to the Church, the Holy Spirit will guide her steps so that she will experience the grace, beauty, joy, and fullness of the Faith.

■ **For Michael in the Philippines** who is thanking God for making a way for him to participate in RCIA.

■ **For Bill, a recent convert**, that he might continue to grow spiritually and that his witness to the Truth of the Catholic Faith and Jesus Christ might be joyful and fruitful.

■ **For Jayden, who attended his first RCIA class**, that the Lord will continue to lead him in wisdom and knowledge.

■ **For Frederik, who was recently received into the Catholic Church**, that the joy of that day will never end.

■ **For Matt, who is on the journey**, that a book on Sacred Tradition will dispel his concerns and fill in the gaps of his previous formation.

■ **For all others** who seek a book, words, or a quote that will come like grace and open the pathway before them, that they might find their way home.

In every issue we include timely prayer concerns from the membership. All members are encouraged to pray at least one hour each month before the Blessed Sacrament for the needs, both general and specific, of the CHNetwork and its members and supporters. We use only first names or general descriptions to preserve privacy.



# MISSIONARY SAINTS

## Missionary Saints

Embark on a journey of the heart, across the planet, with these missionary saints. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, great sacrifice, and profound piety, each is responsible for spreading the Gospel to a different corner of the globe. They drew followers to the Faith not just through their words and teaching, but through the joyful witness of their very lives. Fonts of love, charity, and unwavering fidelity to Christ and His Church, even to the point of death, they cared for all on their path. May these pilgrims of the past, with their zeal, selflessness, and love, ignite a passion in our own hearts and inspire us to follow in their footsteps, shining Christ's light into the world.



### Africa

#### ST. ATHANASIUS (296-373)

- Doctor of the Church and Bishop of Alexandria
- Performed valid baptisms of his friends as a young boy
- Wrote a biography about his friend, St. Anthony
- Exiled 5 times for battling and denouncing Arianism, a heretical teaching that denied Jesus' divinity
- Contributed to the Nicene Creed with his writings



### South America

#### ST. FRANCIS SOLANUS (1549-1610)

- "Wonderworker of the New World"
- Contracted the plague after tending to its victims
- Refused to flee his sinking ship because he did not want to abandon the African slaves on board, remaining with them until the dying were baptized and the survivors were rescued
- Converted native tribes across all of South America



### North America

#### ST. MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS (1620-1700)

- Rejected by the Carmelites but became a fervent lay member of the Church - left France to do missionary work in Canada
- Established the first public school and the first permanent church in the region
- Founded an uncloistered, apostolic community of women dedicated to social services



### Asia

#### ST. FRANCIS XAVIER (1506-1552)

- Gifted athlete who initially balked at becoming a priest
- Was roommates with St. Peter Faber and St. Ignatius of Loyola
- Wanted to do mission work in the Holy Land but was sent to Asia and India instead - baptized over 30,000
- Was the first Catholic to set foot in Japan - converted 2,000 there



### Oceania

#### ST. PETER CHANEL (1803-1841)

- Served as a priest in the rural regions of France
- Approved to travel to the island of Futuna after his initial pleas to work in foreign missions were denied
- Struggled with inhospitable natives, language barriers, and isolation
- Murdered as retribution for converting the king's son (His murderer later converted to the Faith.)

## ...Journeys Home Continued...

The year I came into the Catholic Church was the year that Easter landed on my birthday. When my mother asked me what gift she could give me, I told her I would like her to attend the Easter Sunday Mass at our cathedral with me. To my great surprise and joy, she did so. When Mass was over, my mother was amazed. She didn't understand exactly what had happened, but she thought it was beautiful. She had a definite "softening of the heart" toward Catholics after her experience of the Mass. Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen's famous quote sums it up well: "There are not over a hundred people in the United States who hate the Catholic Church. There are millions, however, who hate what they wrongly believe to be the Catholic Church — which is, of course, quite a different thing" (Rumble and Carty, *Radio Replies*. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, "Preface," 2015). I am thankful that my mother had a glimpse of the beauty within the Catholic Church.

My coming into the Catholic Church would have been even more joyful if Renee had joined me, but she was not even close to being ready. She insisted I attend Mass out of town so nobody would recognize me. She did not want my conversion to Catholicism to fuel gossip in the rumor mill. Occasionally, she would attend Mass with me, and I would make her "cheat sheets" so she could follow along. I also discovered a wonderful publication called *Magnificat*, which made it easier for her to understand what was going on during the Mass. To the eyes of many Protestants, Catholic worship appears foreign and exclusive. Protestant culture places a high emphasis on welcoming the unchurched, while Catholic culture focuses on the members they already have. Catholics are not expecting non-Catholics to attend Mass. My observation is that this results in Protestants excelling in evangelization, but not in discipleship, and Catholics excelling in wisdom and sound teaching, but not in evangelization. Many, especially converts, are working to fulfill the New Evangelization, the call by St. John Paul II and others to begin a new approach to sharing the

Faith with those outside the Church, as well as those who may be asleep *inside* the Church.

As for Renee, I knew it would have to be the Holy Spirit that drew her to the Catholic Faith. I focused my efforts on simply praying for her. While practicing medicine, I had the habit of relaxing in my hot tub at the end of the day. I would spend an hour in prayer as I let the cares of the day melt away. After becoming Catholic, I would spend this "hot-tub time" praying the Rosary for my wife, asking the Holy Spirit to lead her to the Church.

Eventually, the news began to get around that "Dr. Terry has become a Catholic!" So Renee and I decided we should probably meet with the pastor of our Protestant church to explain our situation to him in person. I told him that I was, indeed, now Catholic and attending Mass. Yet I was also attending the Protestant church with my wife so that we could worship God together. He was so completely taken aback that he exclaimed, "... I don't have any idea what to do about this!"

### To Be Rejected in Order to Be Accepted

A few weeks later, the pastor decided that I was no longer welcome to participate in worship with my wife at their church. This shocked Renee and our friends at the church. This pastor was eventually dismissed from his position, perhaps in part due to his mishandling of my situation.

I'll let Renee pick up what happened from there:

I had understood for quite a long time that Terry had an interest in, and a real love for, the Catholic Faith. This was very foreign to me because it contradicted what I had been taught growing up. However, I knew that God was in this situation. For nearly forty years, I had trusted my husband as a wonderful partner and guide, and now I had a hard decision to make.

## Staff Recommendations for Virtual & Literary

### **Santiago: The Camino Within** (2021, Ahava Productions)

This movie's captivating cinematography follows

Bishop Donald J. Hying and other pilgrims as they retrace the footsteps of St. James across 500 miles of Spain to the apostle's shrine and tomb in Santiago de Compostela.



### **A Catholic Pilgrimage Through American History**

Kevin Schmiesing, host of "This Week in Catholic History" on EWTN Radio, shares his incredible knowledge of the history of Catholicism in his new book. The book examines several key moments in American Catholic history and the places in which they occurred, while also unpacking their significance for the Church today.

### **Damien the Leper**

Beautifully written by Hollywood director John Farrow, after months of research on St. Damien of Moloka'i, this



novel leads readers on a journey from Europe to a leper colony. Trudge through the muddy jungles of Hawaii with Fr. Damien during his self-imposed exile of triumph

## ...Journeys Home Continued...

Could I continue to trust him? It was at this point that I had an understanding, while praying, that *not* to follow Terry and *not* being united with him in this decision would be displeasing to Jesus. That understanding made a real impact on me! I prayed, “Lord, if this is really you encouraging me to come along with Terry, please make it very clear. Please, Jesus, make my eyes see what I have never seen before; make my ears hear things I’ve never heard before, and may it all be the truth!”

I then called St. Ann’s Catholic Church in Richland, MI, where Terry was a member, and asked when their next RCIA classes would start. I found out that they were going to start the next week! That was my first sign. I asked the church to register me, and they were happy to do so. At my first class I discovered that there was only one other person registered besides me. That made for an intense, almost one-on-one, learning experience with an amazing RCIA teacher. I then discovered that my classmate was a woman who raised alpacas. Terry and I had also once raised a herd of 22 llamas (before we left to become medical missionaries to Kazakhstan), so my new friend and I had much to discuss: llamas and Jesus!

But God wasn’t through with my surprises! When I had a chance to get to know the priest at St. Ann’s, I discovered that he had been baptized a Catholic as an infant, but then his family had left the Catholic Church and joined the Assemblies of God! He had even attended an Assemblies of God school. But after his graduation, God led him back to the Catholic Church. From there, he eventually discerned his vocation as a Catholic priest, and his family also returned to the Catholic Faith. The Lord, in His goodness, had “hand-picked” this priest just for me! Father understood my background and was a real comfort to me.

And then I found out that the deacon assigned to St. Ann’s was a man that I had been on a double date with years earlier! My best friend had gone with him, and I

had gone with his younger brother. What a small world! He and I were both surprised, and delighted, to reconnect.

Another surprise was the moment I remembered I had been a bridesmaid in a wedding at St. Ann’s some 40 years earlier. Terry and I were looking through some old photo albums when he found a picture of me wearing a bridesmaid’s dress at a church wedding, standing next to a statue of Mary. “That’s the statue at St. Ann’s!” he exclaimed. When I saw the picture, it all came back to me. That wedding at St. Ann’s was the one and only time in my life that I had set foot inside a Catholic Church... until I first went to Mass with Terry.

God had many such surprises planned just for me. He perfectly tailored every detail of my journey into the Catholic Church. I guess you can say I have come full circle in my worship. I never understood how someone could worship God quietly. Worship to me had always meant praising God with my hands raised high and singing lively, heartfelt songs. While that is good and pleasing to the Lord, there is another way that is the highest form of worship. It is in the context of the Mass or in quiet Adoration. When I walk into the Catholic Church in our town, I experience a sense of great reverence. The quiet lends itself to my anticipation of receiving my Lord Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. He is worth everything that I have ever given up. He is the Pearl of great price. ■



DR. TERRY & RENEE WORTZ are childhood sweethearts, both raised in the Assemblies of God Church. They worked as medical missionaries for seven years, are the parents of two grown children, and have six grandchildren. They currently reside in Ave Maria, Florida.

Continue the **JOURNEY**

Please visit [CHNetwork.org/converts](http://CHNetwork.org/converts) to comment on and share this or one of hundreds of other powerful testimonies!

## Pilgrimages\*

and tragedy as he builds villages and churches, tends to the sores of lepers, buries the dead, and confronts his own battle with leprosy.

### The Faithful Traveler

(video series)

Join Diana von Glahn for virtual pilgrimages to sites in the U.S., Portu-



gal, & the Holy Land. Her travelogue, *The Faithful Traveler – See the World through the Lens of Faith*, explores the art, architecture, tradition, and history behind each breathtaking sacred site.

### Story of a Soul: *The Autobiography of St. Thérèse of Lisieux*

“I feel that my mission is... to make God loved as I love him, to teach souls

my little way.” Embark on an interior journey toward Christ and His Kingdom with St. Thérèse through her own words and reflections. Follow her humble and joyful path through the days of her childhood, her entrance into the convent, and her final months of redemptive suffering caused by tuberculosis.



\*available from several Catholic retailers and online sites



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# CHN RETREAT

**October 17-20, 2022**

Marie Joseph Spiritual Center  
Biddeford, ME



“**D**iscovering the CHN retreat was an incredible blessing for me. I attended my first retreat in Ohio and my second in Texas. It's been a joy to meet and fellowship with others who understand and share in this journey. I always feel like I am coming to a family reunion. The retreat master, Ken, and the other staff members are so knowledgeable and genuinely care for each of us. They always make you

feel so welcome and have so much insight to share. I love the relaxed feeling and the quiet moments of shared prayer in the chapel every evening. The rhythm of the day structured around Mass, prayer, and fellowship makes this a true retreat for the soul.”

— **Melissa Slagle, convert** (former Baptist and Lutheran)

**Please go to [chnetwork.org/events](https://chnetwork.org/events) to learn more or to sign up!**