



April 2023 CHNewsletter

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THE COMING HOME NETWORK INTERNATIONAL

My 500-Year Journey from Scotland to Rome

By Don McLane

My journey into the Catholic Church begins with the long line of McLanes who were ordained Presbyterian pastors and elders, extending from the Reformation until today. Most recently, both my grandparents and parents were Presbyterian missionaries. Eventually, the Eucharist drew me into the Anglican Church, where I served as a priest for 30 years. But as much as I love my parents and grandparents (my father was my best friend), the Bible and the Catholic Magisterium drew me into the Catholic Church.



Roll Over, Beethoven!

To my parents and grandparents, I say, “I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world” (Romans 1:8). For 41 years, my grandfather was principal and later president of the Presbyterian Pan

American School in Kingsville, Texas, for students from Latin America. The Lord blessed me generously with godly and loving parents and two wonderful sisters. My father was a seminary professor and evangelist in Brazil, where my younger sister and I were born. When I needed a series of surgeries, my parents returned to the USA for my medical care, where my father served and built Presbyterian churches throughout Texas.

My heart is so thankful that our family, while not perfect, was a place where my sisters and I

experienced the joy of living in a faith-filled home. Living in the manse (the Presbyterian name for a rectory or parsonage) near the church meant that church was the center of our lives. I loved Jesus as a boy and was sometimes asked to lead the devotions on our Boy Scout campouts.

Even though I knew God’s love from childhood, when I left home, I also left the church. Jesus said, “It is harder for a PK (preachers’ kid) to enter heaven than other people.” Okay, maybe I’m taking translation liberties here, but you get the point. I didn’t reject my faith, but was simply no longer interested in it, since I had lost my personal relationship with Jesus.

My clarinet became my world; I hoped that someday I would play in a symphony orchestra. At the conclusion of my first year of studying under Richard Picar, principal clarinetist (first chair) with the Houston Symphony, I was required to perform for a panel of the Symphony’s top instrumentalists. I practiced for hundreds of hours for a full year to be

Continued on page 2 ➡

Journeys Home

reviewed by the finest of professional musicians. No pressure there! I was, in St. Paul's words, "in much fear and trembling," but also in awe of performing for these accomplished musicians. My joy knew no bounds as they enthusiastically encouraged me to continue studying music.

A Seed Must Die Before It Can Grow

Coming home from college, I found that my girlfriend of four years had suddenly eloped with a man she had only recently met. I knew then that there is no such thing as a true friend — you are on your own! So it seemed.

So, I partied every night with a different girl, going to the famous dance halls in central Texas. I drank until I passed out and blew out my car's engine. I could not deal with this rejection and decided I needed more than alcohol and partying to ease my pain. I was ready to move on to drugs.

Returning to college, the first suitemate I met had longer hair than mine and had been heavily into drugs, which led me to believe I would have no problem getting whatever I wanted from him. However, I was shocked when I found out that he and one other of my new suitemates were newborn Christians. They had both flunked out of college, both were drafted to serve in Vietnam, but then both had come to know Jesus. They read to me from Romans 10:9–10 "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." My third roommate, Ken, was a close friend and fellow musician, even more accomplished than I was. He was raised Catholic but had, like me, left his church. Yet when asked, Ken, too, confessed Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

I still had no interest in religion; that was my father's thing. But I had to decide. Was I a Christian? If so, why couldn't I say His name? This was the height of the Jesus Movement, and I was not sure about these Jesus freaks, as we called them. But if I openly confessed Jesus as Lord, they would at least leave me alone. I wanted the joy and peace they had, but did not want to be a religious fanatic.

However, my heart was so hurt and lonely that I knew I needed something more to ease my pain than what I was trying. Now,

even my friend Ken had become one of them—another Jesus freak. So I confessed that I do believe in Jesus as my Lord. The moment I said His name, I was filled with overflowing peace, knowing that all my sins were forgiven, and I was filled with joy that I had finally found the Friend who would never abandon me. Ironical, isn't it? The one guy I thought could supply me with drugs ended up giving me Jesus!

On Sunday I attended the Presbyterian church and knew that the Lord was present in His Bride—the church. The next day, I shared with the pastor the details of my conversion just days before. He asked me to speak to the congregation the following Sunday to tell of coming back to faith and the church. Though I had long hair and didn't look like them, they received me with open arms and loving hearts. All I did was tell my story of coming to Christ. This congregation had an Altar Call at the end of every service. A 16-year-old girl with long hair and beads, who had related to this hippy looking PK who had found Jesus, came forward.

One thing I had never witnessed in my childhood in the Presbyterian Church was any kind of emotion. But this girl was weeping profoundly. Soon, a woman in the choir also began weeping, along with most of the choir. Then some in the congregation began weeping. I had no idea what was going on. After church, the pastor explained to me that this girl's father was an atheist and philosophy professor and had convinced his daughter that God does not exist. She had attended confirmation classes for a couple of years but would not join the church. The pastor had visited with her more than once about the reality of faith in Jesus, but she resisted.

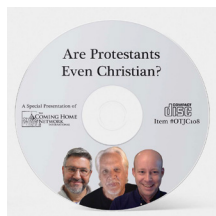
So, what was all the crying about? Her mother sang in the choir and was overjoyed to tears when she saw her precious daughter publicly professing her faith in Jesus as her Lord and Savior. The rest of the choir, then some in the congregation, also wept for joy. God used the fumbling words of a new believer who could neither quote much Scripture nor articulate the depths of the faith to touch another soul who so desperately needed to know the Friend who would never leave her.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

ARE PROTESTANTS EVEN CHRISTIAN?

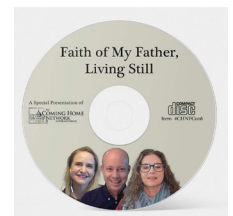
It's not uncommon for some Protestants to wonder if Catholics are actually Christians. But for Matt Swaim, Ken Hensley, and Kenny Burchard, who came from Protestant backgrounds and became Catholic, what was it like to have that question reversed? These two former Protestant pastors and graduate from a Protestant college unpack their own experiences, with gratitude for what they received from their Protestant traditions, as they answer the question: Are Protestants Christian?

#OTJC108 • \$7.00



FAITH OF MY FATHER, LIVING STILL

If you're a preacher's kid, what happens when you become Catholic? MaryJo Burchard and Denise Bossert, who both grew up in households where their dads were pastors, reflect on that experience and respond to the big question: Was their desire to become Catholic a rejection of the faith they were given, or a fulfillment of it? #CHNPC008 • \$7.00



This was the peak of the Charismatic Movement, and many of my friends were encouraging me to ask for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Having already been baptized in water by my father, I was interested, but I did not believe that I was spiritual enough nor had enough faith to receive this blessing. They then invited me to visit Abundant Life Pentecostal Church in Pasadena, Texas. I went out of curiosity. In the middle of the service, just as the pastor was about to begin his sermon, two young men my age, wearing my same dress code—jeans, sandals, long hair, etc.—approached me and asked if I would like to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. I did, but I did not want to interrupt the service, so I followed them back to one of the classrooms. They listened to my reasons for not having yet received this baptism. They simply told me that they were going to praise the Lord and worship Him, reassuring me that we were all going to trust on faith that I would receive this blessing, then walk in the assurance that I was filled with the Holy Spirit, whether there was any outward manifestation or not. They began to praise God in English and then ever so joyfully in a heavenly language. I realized their focus was on God and not on me, which set me free to praise Jesus with all my heart in English. And then it happened. I burst forth in a heavenly language, praising God with more than my rational words could express.

It would be many years later, in seminary, before I would more fully understand the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Professor Rod Whitacre explained in his commentary on John, when Jesus breathed on the disciples to receive the Holy Spirit in John 20, we see the conception of the Church. Later, after Jesus had returned to the Father, at the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we see the birth of the church.

David du Plessis, the well known and respected Pentecostal pastor, was invited to attend Vatican II as an observer. When some of the Cardinals asked him if he thought Catholics had the Holy Spirit, he lovingly explained. “If you have Jesus, you have the Father and the Holy Spirit as well.”

Rev. du Plessis went on to explain: “If you drink a glass of water, you have water in you. But when you are emersed in water by diving into a fast-flowing stream, the water now has you. The water will carry you along by the Spirit of God to go wherever He calls you to go.”

Some of my classmates and I started a contemporary music group known as Life, Fresh and New. We sang in both Protestant and Catholic churches, coffee houses, prison units, etc., and finally acquired our own coffee house, known as The Open Door, in Huntsville, Texas. We discovered the Episcopal Church of The Redeemer in Houston and fell in love with the charismatic worship, the Spirit-filled music, and most importantly the Holy Eucharist.

From the Driver's Seat to the Altar

I had changed my major from music to psychology, as I had planned to become a Presbyterian pastor but had reservations and did not move forward. After marriage to Glenna (the sweetest girl with the sweetest voice on earth, who was also a Lutheran who had come to a personal relationship with Jesus



**We bring you the good news
that what God promised to the
fathers, this day he has fulfilled to
us their children by raising Jesus.**

ACTS 13:32-33

and was one of our featured vocalists and song writers), we moved to Colorado to explore joining an Episcopal Christian Community made up of both married and single parishioners. We did not move into the Community, but stayed in Colorado Springs, where I drove a city bus for 10 years. Then I again heard God's call to be an Episcopal priest. By now, we had been blessed with five children, but lost three of them prematurely. Our son Bryan and our daughter Curren are truly our greatest blessings.

The Lord blessed me abundantly again as I attended the newest Episcopal seminary, Trinity School for Ministry in Pittsburgh, which was based on Psalm 119:105: “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” Yet even in seminary, I struggled with the validity of the sacraments, especially infant baptism. The call to priesthood was still strong, so I prayed and felt that the Lord was gently tapping me on the shoulder, asking: “You know that Catholics, Orthodox, Presbyterians, Methodist, and Lutherans, etc., all practice infant baptism. Are you sure you alone and your Bible alone have all truth?” I was humbled and had to admit that I did not possess all truth and proper interpretation of Sacred Scripture, so I decided to be ordained but still felt uncomfortable, especially with the sacrament of infant baptism.

A few weeks after ordination, as a priest at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in San Antonio, it was my turn to conduct the baptisms. I could not refuse my rector and so reluctantly obeyed. I baptized twin infant boys named James and Gregory. My heart was overflowing with the presence of the Lord, because a few years earlier our first-born twin sons died prematurely, whose names were James and Gregory! The Lord is so patient with us. He knew I needed that clear sign that He was indeed in the sacraments, and that they are valid and necessary. I went on to serve churches in San Antonio, Seattle, and finally in Dallas. Life was good, and I loved being a priest, even though it was more challenging than I could have ever imagined. Pray for our priests! They need our love and prayerful support more than we realize!

Nowhere to Run to, Nowhere to Hide

Protestant churches were changing, and I became unsettled in my spirit, not knowing where to go. I just wanted to love and follow Jesus!

A Note from JonMarc



Dear Friends,

The theme of this CHNewsletter is gratitude for the many men and women who formed us on that journey which would ultimately lead us to the Catholic Church. We are thinking of the non-Catholic parents, pastors, youth leaders, friends, writers, and others who first introduced us to Jesus Christ, who taught us how to pray, and who lit within our hearts by their witness the spark of faith that would kindle our desire for Truth, Goodness, and Beauty — not letting us rest until the Holy Spirit called us home to the Catholic Church. Such gratitude is a key part of the ethos my father always tried to cultivate in the work of the Coming Home Network. Appreciation for our initial formation in faith is a thread that ties together the stories of so many of our convert members over the years.

The many converts that share their stories on *The Journey Home* Program or here in the CHNewsletter have come to recognize the Catholic Church as the Church Jesus started, the Church He guides through the ages by the Holy Spirit, and the Church in which the fullness of His revelation and sacramental grace are present for our sanctification and salvation. These converts have also come to be ever more convicted of the power of God's grace as the driver of their conversion to Christ and (for many) only later to the Catholic Church. They are not Catholic because *they* found the truth, but rather because the Truth, in His mercy, found *them*.

In reflection upon their paths home to the Catholic Church, converts recognize the many graces that God gave them along the way — some that they eventually accepted and responded to in obedience, but also so many others that they rejected and ran from for a long time. In many cases, those graces took the form of faithful Protestant Christians who loved Jesus Christ and who were following Him the best they knew how. These brothers and sisters in Christ planted the seeds of faith that would eventually flower into a converts' journey to full communion with the Catholic Church. **It is for this reason that converts carry both appreciation for the faith of our separated brethren as well as a continued pain for the division that remains among Christians.**

Why have we been blessed to have been drawn home to the Catholic Church while other Christians who love Jesus remain outside the Church? God only knows, and it is not for us to dare to presume the reasons. We must continue to share our testimonies and remain faithful to the graces given us, just as we have witnessed so many Protestants respond in faith to the graces given them.

This is perhaps a good spot to reflect on a couple key paragraphs from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* which inform the way we've always approached our mission at CHN:

818 "However, one cannot charge with the sin of the separation those who at present are born into these communities [that resulted from such separation] and in them are brought up in the faith of Christ, and the Catholic Church accepts them with respect and affection as brothers . . . All who have been justified by faith in Baptism are incorporated into Christ; they therefore have a right to be called Christians, and with good reason are accepted as brothers in the Lord by the children of the Catholic Church."

819 "Furthermore, many elements of sanctification and of truth" are found outside the visible confines of the Catholic Church: "the written Word of God; the life of grace; faith, hope, and charity, with the other interior gifts of the Holy Spirit, as well as visible elements." Christ's Spirit uses these Churches and ecclesial communities as means of salvation, whose power derives from the fullness of grace and truth that Christ has entrusted to the Catholic Church. All these blessings come from Christ and lead to him, and are in themselves calls to "Catholic unity."

While all division in the Church is ultimately the result of sin, none of us now living caused the "Protestant Reformation" which divided and continues to divide so many Christians today. We have all been born into a broken family. Yet each of us nevertheless bears the terrible weight of responsibility for responding in faith to the particular graces we have been given. How we respond will either help to heal or further wound the broken Body of Christ, the Church.

In spite of our sins, the Holy Spirit continues to work among our separated Protestant brothers and sisters. Converts appreciate in a particular way the "many elements of sanctification and of truth" that are present amongst our non-Catholic Christian brothers and sisters, for they can see the tangible evidence of sanctification and truth in their own stories. For so many of us, we know that it was through fidelity to the Gospel — as they had received it — that our Protestant parents and grandparents, friends and ministers were able to share the gift of faith with us — blessings that proved over time to be "calls to Catholic unity" in our lives.

We thank God for the life-changing faith of those who helped bring us to Jesus. We pray that they are renewed and strengthened in their faith and that God will open their hearts to the fullness of the Catholic Church in His own good time and providence. May we be found faithful witnesses when He does.

In Christ,

JonMarc Grodi

**"Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!"**

PSALM 133:1

Overheard

AROUND THE CHN WATERCOOLER

It was a confusing time when we first encountered the Church. Our thoughts had us bouncing between extremes. Do these Catholics focus on death, dying, and sacrifice? For it can seem like they do. Or do they focus on joy, newness of life, celebration? Do they drink and party too much? And how are they able to tie all of this to Christ? The low, the high, and everything in between? For some outside the Church, it all seems so banal. Nothing holy here. Nothing to see. Keep moving.

But making everything about Christ is not like the worldly who flit about, distracted by every shiny thing.

Recently, our conversation as a staff touched on this. We volleyed the idea back and forth, lamenting that, guided by our own earthly interests, we can spend too much time entertaining ourselves or filling our bellies that these become an escape, losing all that is potentially good in eating or drinking or resting, or being entertained. As **Jim Anderson said**, *we chase these things and soon find ourselves like "Ebenezer Scrooge, staring into the fire" with the dark cold all around him.*

JonMarc pointed to the way forward. *"The key is to begin with justice," what is rightly due to God, which will "ultimately conform our hearts to Christ, and fit us for heaven, ready to enter the Kingdom."* This is the way of laying down and a way of rejoicing in and a way of turning toward...Christ. It's all Christ.

Our newest staff member, **Melissa Slagle**, sat quietly and listened. Ken invited her to share her thoughts. *"I'm just thinking I can't believe this is what y'all get to do!"* We smiled. Yes, that is a typical conversation around here.

Ken Hensley added, *"The Church is one big rock tumbler. What goes in is not so beautiful, but what comes out is the real me, the real you. The disordered part is gone."*

"It gets us closer to that pre-fall state. Something so pure." **Seth Paine remarked.**

"It matters how we engage with the world." **Kenny Burchard added** his usual pithy and powerful insight. *"Like St. Teresa says, 'Ask God for big things'. It gives Him honor. We settle for too little. God can do far more than we think or ask."*

What could be bigger than saying to Him, "Make me holy, even as You, oh Lord, are holy?" It is like passing through Triduum, where "Dust you are" is changed into "Rise, Shine, for your Light has come. And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!"

Journeying with Christ through the Cross to the empty Tomb, we find reality and the true self. We discover the Lord of Life and find the path to becoming like Him. He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!



RIPPLE EFFECT

By Chanea Heard

In 2018, I learned about Theology of the Body (TOB) through a Protestant podcast that had Christopher West on as a guest. I bought West's book *TOB for Beginners* and shared it with my friend, Kelsey. She grew up with a similar background (Church of Christ) and values. Both of us were grappling with being unmarried and in our late 20's, wondering how we could still glorify God with our bodies and live a life of meaning. Finding TOB deepened and enriched our view of human sexuality and living as Body and Soul. Kelsey and I continued our studying of Catholicism (teachings on the saints, Mary, history of Christianity) and would share books and talk about what we learned whenever we saw each other (around once or twice a year since we lived in different states).

In 2020, I had a new roommate who used to be a Catholic FOCUS missionary (no coincidences with God). She ended up being my sponsor and helped me cross the Tiber in February 2021. Kelsey was at my Confirmation, and I got to be at hers a few months later on Easter 2021.

Another dear friend, Desi, who was baptized Catholic, was also at my Confirmation and was grappling with her faith as well. Her family did not attend Mass growing up, and she was brought to my family's church by her neighbor when she was little. She had a lot of pain and grief happen in her life and was asking God for answers on the afterlife and suffering. She had watched my journey into the Church and came to Adoration with me as well. She started attending RCIA in September 2021 and was confirmed on Easter 2022—the same parish, she learned that year, that she was baptized in. It's amazing the fruit and ripple effects that happen when we are faithful to what is in front of us.

Holy Saturday: The Lord's Descent Into the Underworld

Homily, Author Unknown, circa 180 A.D.

"Something strange is happening—there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep. The earth trembled and is still because God has fallen asleep in the flesh and He has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began. God has died in the flesh and hell trembles with fear.

He has gone to search for our first parent, as for a lost sheep. Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death (Luke 1:79), He has gone to free from sorrow the captives Adam and Eve, He who is both God and the son of Eve.

The Lord approached them bearing the cross, the weapon that had won Him the victory. At the sight of Him, Adam, the first man He had created, struck his breast in terror and cried out to everyone: 'My Lord be with you all.' Christ answered him: 'And with your spirit.' He took him by the hand and raised him up, saying: 'Awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will give you light' (Ephesians 5:14).

'I am your God, who for your sake have become your son. Out of love for you and for your descendants I now by my own authority command all who are held in bondage to come forth, all who are in darkness to be enlightened, all who are sleeping to arise. I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you; together we form only one person and we cannot be separated.'

Easter Homily

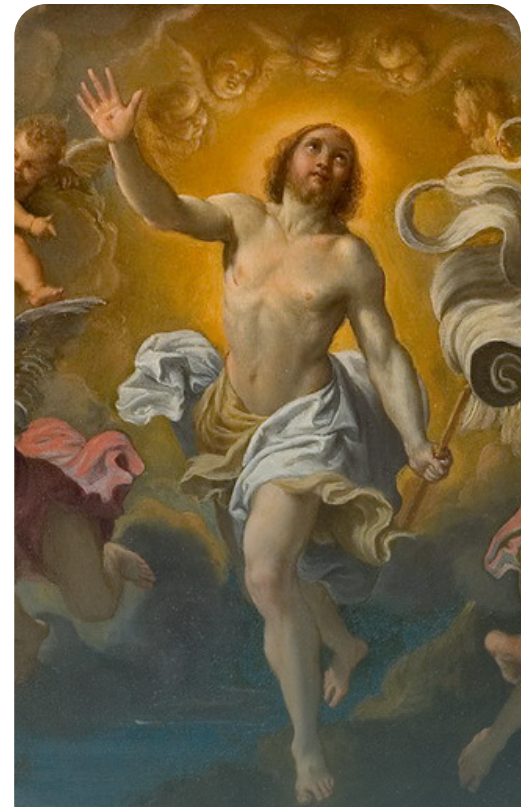
St. John Chrysostom, 400 A.D.

"Let all pious men and all lovers of God rejoice in the splendor of this feast; let the wise servants blissfully enter into the joy of their Lord; let those who have borne the burden of Lent now receive their pay, and those who have toiled since the first hour, let them now receive their due reward; let any who came after the third hour be grateful to join in the feast, and those who may have come after the sixth, let them not be afraid of being too late; for the Lord is gracious, and He receives the last even as the first. He gives rest to him who comes on the eleventh hour as well as to him who has toiled since the first: yes, He has pity on the last and He serves the first; He rewards the one and praises the effort.

Come you all: enter into the joy of your Lord. You the first and you the last, receive alike your reward; you rich and you poor, dance together; you sober and you weaklings, celebrate the day; you who have kept the fast and you who have not, rejoice today. The table is richly loaded: enjoy its royal banquet. The calf is a fatted one: let no one go away hungry. All of you enjoy the banquet of faith; all of you receive the riches of his goodness. Let no one grieve over his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed; let no one weep over his sins, for pardon has shone from the grave; let no one fear death, for the death of our Saviour has set us free: He has destroyed it by enduring it, He has despoiled Hades by going down into its kingdom, He has angered it by allowing it to taste of his flesh.

When Isaias foresaw all this, he cried out: "O Hades, you have been angered by encountering Him in the nether world." Hades is angered because it is frustrated, it is angered because it has been mocked, it is angered because it has been destroyed, it is angered because it has been reduced to naught, it is angered because it is now captive. It seized a body, and, lo! it encountered heaven; it seized the visible, and was overcome by the invisible.

O death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? Christ is risen and you are abolished. Christ is risen and the demons are cast down. Christ is risen and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen and life is freed. Christ is risen and the tomb is emptied of the dead: for Christ, being risen from the dead, has become the Leader and Reviver of those who had fallen asleep. To Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen!"



ARE YOU GOING
TO BE RECEIVED
INTO MOTHER
CHURCH THIS
EASTER VIGIL OR
DURING THE
EASTER SEASON?

We would like to rejoice
with and pray for you. Email
Denise@CHNetwork.org to
share the good news.

Tax letters for 2022
contributions will be e-mailed
to donors who have email
addresses on file. If you would
like your tax letter sent by
postal mail, please contact:

Ann Moore

Ann@chnetwork.org

740.450.1175 x101

Joyful Journey Updates

CHNI continues to reach active Protestant clergy on the journey home to the Catholic Church. Many Protestant clergy and missionaries have received financial scholarships to our retreats. Retreats in 2023 are scheduled for Ohio and Georgia.

From Todd

Everything is going really well. I'll have the [Rite of Sending] during 9:30 Mass at my parish in New Milford, NJ, then I will be attending The Rite [of Election] at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, NJ. I've never been there; it's supposed to be amazing to see, so I'm really looking forward to attending Mass there.

The RCIA class has really deepened my faith and has resulted in me wanting to learn so much more about the faith outside of what's talked about and covered during class.

Although I cannot yet receive the Eucharist, attending Mass and sitting while watching others receive has made me see the Love God has for all of us. So even though I can't physically receive yet, I feel my heart is filled by seeing God's love through others during Mass. I've come to understand the Mass is heaven on earth, and it's there for all.

I'm so thankful the process isn't rushed and is a long one because it makes you see everything so much more deeply and clearly. I find the process continually brings you closer

and closer to God and the Church. If it was a quick process to join, I wouldn't have had the fullness and richness I've experienced, and for that I am so thankful.

From Pam

My journey through the Catholic faith has been such a blessing and so fulfilling. In these years after finding my way home to the Catholic church, I have had the privilege of teaching Faith Formation class to the children of my parish, St. Therese of Lisieux. Now I am ever more blessed with the honor of teaching Sacramental class as well; a small step in helping to prepare the next generation for the single most extraordinary walk they will ever take in their lifetime. It is such an honor, and I am so blessed.

From Melissa

So much has changed in my life and in the world since I came home to the Church in 2006. One major change is that I am now a Nana to a 12 year-old grandson and a 13 year-old granddaughter. The world they are growing up in is so very different from the world of my youth. I find it

hard to express in words the joy I have in being able to share with them the beautiful truths of our Catholic faith. I love sharing the lives of the Saints with them and being able to call upon our Blessed Mother to pray for my precious grandchildren. I chose St. Monica as my patron saint in 2006, not knowing just how profoundly my children and grandchildren would need the intercession of such a prayer warrior as she. I know that in my weakness, when I fail to pray as I should, St. Monica and our Blessed Mother stand strongly in the gap for me. I could write a book on the joys of becoming Catholic, but for now, for today, I am a grateful mom and nana to have the truths and prayers of the Church to pass on to my family. ■

Quote From *Thoughts for the Journey Home*

by Marcus Grodi

"Those of us who are converts from the Protestant tradition are anything but anti-Protestant. We are thankful for the faithful witness of our families, friends, congregations, and pastors who led us to Jesus Christ and nurtured us in the Christian faith. It is now our desire to help others discover the fullness and power of the faith, as taught by the early Church Fathers and throughout history in Sacred Tradition." (13)

EWTN'S THE JOURNEY HOME on television & radio, hosted by JonMarc Grodi, CHNetwork Executive Director



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 1AM ET and 5PM ET
The Best of The Journey Home: Monday-Friday 1 AM ET

Monday, April 3

Deacon Larry Oney
Former Nominal Christian

Monday, April 10

Fr. Daniel Bowen
Former Jehovah's Witness
(Re-air from 11/18/19)

Monday, April 17

Soren Johnson
Former Evangelical Protestant

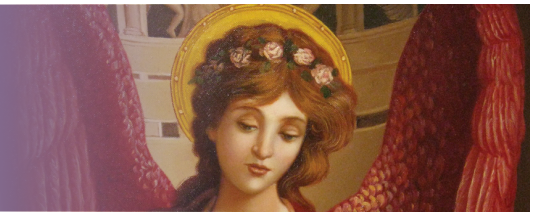
Monday, April 24

Marc Lozano
Former Athiest

Schedule is subject to change.

To access the full archive of past Journey Home programs go to chnetwork.org/journey-home

Prayer List



Clergy

■ **For James, a Baptist pastor** who has come to the conviction that the Catholic Church is Christ's Church and the historic Christian Church and wants to become Catholic and is struggling to find a way to lead his wife to see what he has come to see.

■ **For Phil, an Evangelical missionary** working in a foreign country who finds himself drawn back to the Catholic Church in which he was baptized and raised and is concerned for what would happen to the mission were he and his wife to leave it to become Catholic.

■ **For David, a Protestant academic** who has decided to leave his teaching position to enter the Catholic Church and is concerned about how he will make a living.

■ **For Austin, a Baptist pastor** who is on the road into the Catholic Church, that the Holy Spirit will go before him to soften the hearts of his wife and family.

■ **For Sergio, a Christian Reformed preacher** who is now attending Mass with his wife and working through many issues, doctrinal, personal, and vocational.

■ **For Michael, a Protestant seminarian** who began reading the Early Church Fathers, left the seminary and is entering the Catholic Church.

■ **For Jeffrey, an Anglican priest** who wants to become Catholic but has several difficult personal hurdles that would have to be cleared on the way.

■ **For Dustin, a Presbyterian pastor** who finds himself drawn powerfully to the Catholic Church, that the Lord will give him wisdom and grace as he continues to reveal his thoughts to his wife and soon to the leadership of his church.

■ **For Dylan, a student at a Protestant seminary** whose eyes have been opened to the errors in his historical tradition and is having a hard time finding people to discuss his ideas without defensiveness.

■ **For Grant, a non-denominational minister** on a journey toward the Church but struggling with a few of the Church's teachings, in particular the Marian dogmas, as well as the question of how he will support his family if he leaves the ministry to become Catholic.

■ **For John, a Baptist pastor** who has been attracted to Catholicism for some time but is turned off by some of the things he sees happening in the Church.

■ **For Darshak, who resigned his Protestant ministry** in 2020 and entered the Church and continues to deal with an extended family that opposes entirely his decision to become Catholic as well as the ability to earn enough money to cover his family's needs.

■ **For Wieslaw, a former Evangelical pastor** who was received with his wife into the Church this year and is asking for prayer for their son Kamil and his wife and daughter, Natalia and Maja, that they will all be united in one Church.

Laity

■ **For Bryan, a Pentecostal in Oklahoma**, that the Holy Spirit may guide him to his home in the Catholic Church so that he will no longer feel lost and let down.

■ **For William, an Episcopalian**, that the love of Jesus would soften his wife's heart and allow him to become a Catholic Christian.

■ **For Teagan, a Lutheran**, that God would show him the way to make a successful journey to full-communion with the Catholic Church.

■ **For Gert-Jan, a member of the Dutch Reformed church**, that he may be granted the grace to return to the Catholic Church.

■ **For Craig, an Evangelical in England**, that the confusion and scandals in the Catholic Church would not frighten him from his path to the Church.

■ **For George, a Baptist**, that as he continues to pray the Liturgy of the Hours, all the roadblocks that he sees preventing him from becoming Catholic would melt away.

■ **For Robert, an Anglican in Canada**, that our Lord would use the wisdom of St. John Henry Newman to guide him Home to the Catholic Church.

■ **For Jared, a Lutheran in Tennessee**, that the Holy Spirit would guide his RCIA experience and lead him joyfully to the Easter sacraments.

■ **For Luke, a Methodist in Michigan**, that he will meet good Catholics in his town who will be mentors to him.

■ **For Mark, an Episcopalian**, that he may find the church home his is seeking in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church of Jesus.

■ **For Autumn, an LDS member on the journey**, that she will have peace and discernment on her journey.

■ **For Rebecca, a Baptist**, that she will receive guidance and experience good mental health as she draws closer to Jesus in the Eucharist.

■ **For Kimberly, a recent convert**, that she will experience the marital unity she so deeply desires and an outpouring of marital grace.

■ **For Nicole**, that she will be given much wisdom as she discerns how Christ wants to use her right where she is.

■ **For Rae, a revert to Catholicism from Pentecostalism who is on the journey**, that she will have answers to her prayers for a new home and direction as she seeks God's will.

■ **For Pam, a convert from Baptist background**, that Christ will hear and answer her petitions for her grandson, and that he will receive all the guidance he needs to discover God's will for his life.

■ **For L.W. and her husband in Texas**, that they may be drawn closer to the Church and have all the necessary graces to be able to accept the Dogmas of the Church, especially that of the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption.

COMPASS

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The Coming Home Network International

The Coming Home Network was established to help non-Catholic Christians, clergy and laity, to discover the truth and beauty of the Catholic Church and to make the journey home.

PARTNERS IN Mission

By Michael Sharp

Donor since August 2020 (3 years)

My wife and I grew up faithful evangelical Protestants and graduated from Bible college not long before we were married. Shortly thereafter, I became dissatisfied with my inability to find solid truth within non-denominational Protestantism. Through years of searching, I wondered how I could find a church most like the one founded by Christ.

When I started seriously looking into Catholicism, I came across the Coming Home Network website. There I found articles by former Protestants of diverse backgrounds answering almost any type of theological question that I had about the Church. They explained what the Catholic Church teaches in a way a Protestant like me could understand.

After years of thought, research, prayer, and occasional discussions about Catholicism, I finally told my wife I needed to start attending a Catholic parish to experience the Catholic Church. By God's grace and the intercession of our Blessed Mother, my wife said she would join me and maintain family unity—until she could prove Catholicism false! Only a few weeks into RCIA she found the Catholic faith to be a fuller and deeper version of the Christianity we learned in Bible college, and we were received into the Church together at Easter Vigil 2021.

Through our conversion, podcasts like "On the Journey with Matt, Ken, and Kenny" and "Deep in History" with Marcus Grodi and Monsignor Jeffrey Steenson helped us to know we were not the only people to walk a similar path into the Catholic Church. We found great encouragement in the conversion stories and struggles shared every day on the Coming Home Network's online community as well.

We support the Coming Home Network monthly because we know there are many Protestants who feel adrift in a sea of doctrinal disagreements like we did. The CHNetwork provides amazing resources that helped my wife and me arrive on solid ground within the Catholic Church. We encourage you to join us in supporting The CHNetwork with a recurring gift so that more families like mine will find the encouragement they need to cross the Tiber to enjoy the fullness of the faith.



Michael and his wife have been supporting The CHNetwork with a monthly gift to COMPASS since August of 2020. If you would like to share a one-time gift, or become part of our ever-growing family of monthly donors, visit www.chnetwork.org/compass, or return the enclosed envelope indicating your one-time or monthly giving amount.

...Journeys Home Continued...

Step number one of my conversion to Rome came from the Bible itself. The Gospel readings each week began to challenge the foundation of the Reformation doctrines, in which salvation is based on grace alone, faith alone, and Scripture alone. The words of Jesus and other New Testament writers do not teach these principles. The word “if” appears 141 times in the Gospels. In so many of these “if” statements, Jesus is calling us to follow him with action, behavior, etc.

One of many examples that spoke of more than just “saying a sinner’s prayer and your salvation is now complete” is found in Matthew 6:14–15: “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Then I realized that neither the words “grace alone” nor “scripture alone” appear together even once in the Bible. And the only time the words “faith alone” appear together are in the Book of James, teaching us that “...a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.” The oldest member of the last Anglican Church I served, who had taught the men’s Bible study for over a third of a century, summed up this issue by saying; “We are not saved by faith alone, nor by works alone, but by “faith that works.” This humble farmer with no formal education had an all-encompassing understanding of Scripture that helped lead me home to Rome. There are many more biblical examples of Jesus calling us to live out our faith.

Then I thought about marriage. A wedding is a one-time event, but a marriage must be lived out over a lifetime of committed love and service. I am so thankful to God for the Presbyterians, Baptists, Pentecostals, and Anglicans who guided me through each step of my journey, but now I see that knowing Jesus is a lifetime journey of faith lived out in words and works.

Step number two of my coming home to Rome came as I discovered the Magisterium: the teaching order of bishops and popes throughout time. The role of a bishop is to defend the faith, as the Apostle Jude tells us. Truth is to be received, handed down, taught, and lived out in faith. The Bible is true because

it is inspired by God. The early Catholic Fathers of the first four centuries, the whole Magisterium, discerned which books were inspired, that make up our New Testament, and now the descendants of those Fathers, again the Magisterium, defend these biblical truths.

In the Middle Ages, some of the leaders of the Catholic Church had become corrupt in behavior, bringing about the need for reform. But now I observed that, during the last 500 years, through repentance of bad behavior, through wise decisions of councils, and through guidance of truly faithful popes and bishops led by the Holy Spirit, the very Church which had needed reforming was today more faithful to the Bible and the Creeds than the Protestant churches that were busy changing beliefs and behavior.

Anglicans consider themselves to be both Protestant and reformed Catholics. We were taught that our bishops were in apostolic succession from St. Peter via the bishops of the Church of England. But while the Catholic Magisterium was defending the faith, our Anglican bishops were changing it. All that is needed to change beliefs concerning faith and morals is to take a vote. One example was the vote taken to bless the killing of unwanted babies. This vote gave approval to a massive genocide which has killed over 60 million babies just in the USA—over 10 times the number of Jews that were killed in World War II. We could not live with this horrible practice.

I led our congregation out of the national Episcopal Church into the US branch of the Anglican Church. We thought this was a safe place to find home from unbiblical changes. However, we found that, even there, each bishop can teach and practice the faith any way he or she chooses. One bishop can teach there are two sacraments and another that there are seven. One bishop can ordain women, and other bishops who disagree choose to do nothing about that practice. I saw individualism taking over what I had thought was a unified church. There was simply no authority to hold bishops accountable to defend the faith and maintain the Church’s unity. Jesus had prayed for His church to be one. I wanted to be a part of the one, holy, apostolic Church.

My Journey to Rome

I had been drawn to the Catholic Church for years but was still not completely sure that it was biblically faithful. Would the Catholic Church disappoint us as the Protestant church had? One well-known Protestant historian stated that the Catholic Church will soon declare Mary to be a fourth member of the Trinity—which we now know will never happen—but his statement at that time left me lost. I did not know where home was for a Christian who just wanted to love and follow Jesus faithfully and truthfully.

Then God spoke again to me through Sacred Scripture: John 6:66–69; “After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” I still didn’t know where home was, but I trusted

“No one saw the hour of your victory.
No one is witness to the birth of a
world. No one knows how the night of
that Saturday’s hell was transformed
into the light of the Easter dawn.
Asleep it was that we were all carried
on wings over the abyss, and asleep
did we receive the grace of Easter.”

HANS URS VON BALTHASAR, HEART OF THE WORLD
“ROSE OF SORROWS” P. 157

Jesus to lead me. I also admired St. Peter for his solid faith in following Jesus, and I had a burning in my heart to be a part of the biblical New Testament Church that Peter then led.

Many people are drawn to the Catholic Church through reading the Church Fathers and Church history. But I am a tactile person who needs to see and touch historical and holy sites.

In 2018, I received a generous clergy sabbatical grant. We went on a long journey across Europe to visit the foundations of our faith, beginning in Edinburgh, Scotland, at St. Giles Cathedral, where John Knox had preached, to help form the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian Church). It was a moving experience to see the actual pulpit he used to light the fires of the Scottish Reformation. During the foundational years of the Scottish Church, a person had to be interviewed by the Elders to decide if you were truly living a holy life. If so, you were given a Communion Token, which would admit you to partake of communion. We still have a Communion Token with the McLane Pastor's name on it.

Moving on to England, we visited Canterbury Cathedral to see the home of the Anglican Church and Lambeth Palace, the residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, head of the Anglican Communion. I was sad to learn how few English citizens knew anything about their own native church. I asked a police officer for directions to Lambeth Palace, where the Anglican Archbishop lives. He did not know—yet we were standing in front of it. There are now more Catholics worshiping in England than Anglicans!

Our journey ended in Italy, first in Venice, to see the tomb of St. Mark the Evangelist, one of the four Gospel writers, at St. Mark's Cathedral. Then we traveled to holy sites around Italy to visit the shrines of some of the great saints, such St. Francis of Assisi, St. Margarita (Rita) and St. Pio of Petrelcina ("Padre Pio"). Our seven-week journey culminated in Rome, at the Vatican. On our first day, we experienced the joy of seeing Pope Francis up close in St. Peter's Square. We stayed in a monastery across the street from the Vatican and spent time exploring every area of the Vatican for several days. The last day of our pilgrimage culminated in taking the Scavi Tour in the excavations under the altar of St. Peter's Basilica to see the actual bones of St. Peter. This moving experience confirmed to me that I had found the biblical New Testament Church I had longed to know.

I knew I was called to be Catholic, but had a sad heart over leaving my much-loved McLane heritage, because I have such love and respect for my parents, grandparents, and so many other relatives. McLean (McLane) pastors and elders helped to form the Church of Scotland.

And then it dawned on me! While in Scotland, we had journeyed to the Isle of Mull to visit the McLean (Duart) Castle, still occupied by members of the McLean Clan. After that, we had traveled to the small Isle of Iona, where St. Columba brought the Christian Faith to Scotland in 563 AD. This Irish monk converted most of pagan Scotland and northern England.

Fast forward almost a thousand years. The Iona Augustinian Order nunnery and chapel were in ruins. In the 15th century,

The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ, a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on as fundamental by Tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal mystery along with the cross...

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH #540

on the eve of the Reformation, the now wealthy McLean Clan gave generously to help restore this most holy Island.

It was then that I had this awesome revelation: I had seen here the Church of my devout Catholic ancestors a century before the Reformation. Today, of the 560 tall stone crosses that had been erected on Iona as prayer stations, only three remain: St. John's, St. Martin's, and the McLean cross. Most of the nuns' graves over the centuries are lost to time, but one of the few remaining is that of a remarkable prioress, Anna MacLean.

Scott and Kimberly Hahn's book title, *Rome Sweet Home*, has a double meaning for me. In entering into full communion with the Catholic Church, I have come home to my spiritual home—to the Church Jesus founded on the Apostles and Martyrs. But I have also come home to my ancestral home, the church of my McLean heritage.

Our son married a wonderful woman who has a delightful six-year-old boy. We were blessed recently with the birth of our first grandchild. This precious boy will carry on the McLane name. Thank you, Mom and Dad, and Grandad and Nana, for living and passing on to us the faith you had been given. But now, after reforming itself for the last 500 years, the Catholic Church is once again home to the McLanes. ■



Don McLane is a former Anglican priest who, along with his wife Glenna, are both involved in music at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Aledo, TX, under the leadership of Monsignor Publius Xuereb. Don is also involved in the Kairos Prison Ministry and loves speaking to parishes, men's and women's groups, teens, etc., and with individuals about his conversion to the Catholic Church. (McLean Cross pictured)

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LORD JESUS,

Thank you for the people in our life that helped form our faith. Thank you for our pastors, youth leaders, family members, and friends. Thank you for the faith that they passed on to us. Without that formation of faith in You, Lord Jesus, many of us would not have the foundation of faith that would lead us into the Catholic Church. We pray for their faith, that You would strengthen it. We pray especially for those who, after helping form our faith, have left it because of doubts, disillusion, scandal, or any other unhappy reason. We pray for the unity of all believers and that you would, through our witness or other means, lead our loved ones into Your Catholic Church. We pray above all for your providence, that however You bring it about, we will all be together with You for all eternity. Amen.

—A prayer by Seth Paine, CHNetwork Developer of Web & New Media