



## August 2009 Newsletter

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# THE COMING HOME NETWORK INTERNATIONAL



## Keeping Jesus at the Center — W. Keith Moore

I grew up in the deep south. Louisville, Mississippi is a small farming town. Meridian, Mississippi is one of the larger towns in the state. I spent the first twelve years in Louisville, the next six in Meridian. The two towns are as different as night and day. They symbolize my early journey on this good earth.

In Louisville, my parents were never serious church goers. When we went we were United Methodist. I was an only child and loved my life of living in the country. I spent my days riding horses, motorcycles, fishing, and discovering whatever the piney woods of Mississippi gave me. My great uncle was a missionary, and whenever he would come back to preach at our church my mother made sure we were in the front row. I remember as a kid thinking this guy must be pretty important.

When I was 12 my parents divorced and everything in my life changed. I went from a 60 acre horse and cattle ranch to an 850 square foot apartment over night. When my mother met me that day at a secret location to take me away from my father, I left my five dogs, many horses, and innocence behind forever. My dad moved to Texas and my mother and I moved

to Meridian. We made a life as best we could. Meridian had temptations Louisville didn't have. Needless to say, I rebelled pretty seriously during this time. By the time I was fifteen I was smoking marijuana, drinking, and trying to deal with the pain a teenager feels in times like this. I was in bad shape.

It was a very dark period in my young life. The last thing on my mind was God or church. In fact, I only joined a local Methodist church to meet girls. I was a bit of a con-man and was soon voted Youth Fellowship president. I used my status to make out with girls in the balcony. I was lost.

It wasn't long after this that something strange happened. I was sitting at the house of a pot smoking buddy one night, and the next night I was sitting in the largest Baptist church in Meridian for the spring revival. My friend's mother had somehow convinced him and me to go. I'm not sure how she bribed us, but there had to have been a bribe.

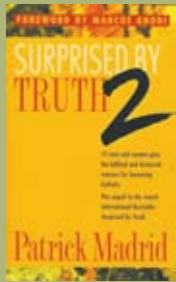
I do not remember anything the preacher at the First Baptist church in Meridian said that Wednesday night. I do not remember how or why the next thing occurred. ...continued on page 2

Journeys Home

## FEATURED RESOURCES

### Surprised By Truth 2

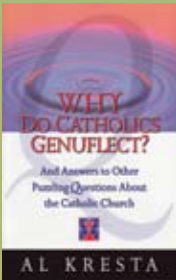
By Patrick Madrid



These eye-opening accounts by more than a dozen new Catholics reveal why these people changed their minds about their old beliefs and entered the Catholic Church. Dramatic and thought-provoking, these intensely personal stories answer - definitively - virtually every common objection to the Catholic Faith.

### Why Do Catholics Genuflect?

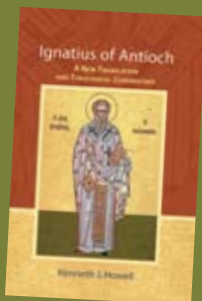
By Al Kresta



*Why do Catholics Genuflect?* answers in clear, concise terms many of the most common questions asked about the Catholic faith — queries such as: Why do Catholics make so much of Mary? Do Catholics really think the pope is infallible? Why do Catholics confess to a priest? Were Catholics ever forbidden to read the Bible? Non-Catholics, new Catholics, and even “cradle Catholics” will find fresh insights to the Catholic faith.

## SPECIAL OFFER!

This fall, CHNI will be releasing the new enlarged edition of Dr. Kenneth Howell's book *Ignatius of Antioch: A New Translation and Theological Commentary*. This new version will include his brand new translation and commentary of Ignatius' letters plus the letters of Polycarp. Therefore, we are offering a special deal on the first edition of *Ignatius of Antioch: A New Translation and Theological Commentary*. This book is an outstanding resource on the Apostolic Fathers to read for yourself and to give away to friends. Order your copies today at only \$5 each, while supplies last.



## ...Journeys Home Continued...

To this day, I do not understand it. When the preacher asked if anyone wanted to “come down and be saved,” I looked at Ronnie, my friend, and said, “I’m going down and you’re going with me.”

I cannot explain it now, just as I could not then as to why I did it. Every member of that huge church wanted to shake our hands and give us advice. The very last lady, who had waited a long time to be last, came up to me and looked me straight in the eyes and said, “The devil is going to be after you now.” I asked her what I was supposed to do. She said, “Read the Word of God, and start with the gospel of John!” She asked me if I had a Bible and I told her I thought so. For the next few months, Ronnie and I would meet after school either at his house or mine and read the Bible out loud to one another. I owe much of my memory knowledge of Scripture to that period. It became the music and muse of my life. To this day, by God’s grace, those times of discovery are still with me.

The very next day, a girl at our school, who did not know about my night before at the revival, had decided to witness to me. I was not a friendly person in school. I often fought and played football simply to hurt people. For this young girl to approach me in the hallway of our small school was brave indeed. She told me later that she was so scared she almost backed out. She came up behind me and said, “Keith, do you want to go to a Bible study tonight?” I almost screamed the word YES as I spun around to face her, giving her a big hug! That night I walked into the apartment of the youth director and sat down on the couch. I had long hair and a long reputation that everyone there knew about. The first girl I saw sitting across from me was Renee Case, the preacher’s daughter. (She and I have been married for 22 years! I love to tell people that I found Jesus on Wednesday and Renee on Thursday. Those were the best two days of my life! Isn’t God something?)

Renee’s father, John Case, is one of the most popular United Methodist ministers in Mississippi. He is retired now, but he is still preaching, and when people find out I am his son-in-law in our little town of Oxford, it gains me immediate respect. That is until they find out I am Catholic, which confuses them deeply. From the time I was 15, I grew up learning from this man. He is a Wesleyan Methodist. John’s main focus was youth. We always had the largest youth groups and the most highly trained youth directors in the country. Most of them had graduated from Asbury Seminary in Kentucky. These guys were sound in their theology! Orthodox Methodist! I felt the call to youth ministry for years and often worked with youth all during college and for a year after college in Nashville. Nashville is where things started to get complicated spiritually.

(I must go back for a moment in the story. That first week after the night I was “saved,” someone gave me something I have around my neck as I write this. It is a silver miraculous medal cross with the Holy Family depicted on the four beams of the cross. On the back it says, “I am Catholic, call a priest.” At the time I was given this, I do not remember even noticing the

words on the back. I didn't care. If it was a cross I wanted it around my neck! I believe I will find out one day that the person who gave me this cross had something to do with my journey home.)

I wrote songs and performed in Nashville for 14 years. During this time my wife and I ended up in mostly 'non-denominational' Bible churches. The Methodists in Nashville were too liberal for us. We ended up at a Charismatic church where we were group leaders. I taught a Bible study for 20 or so people weekly. But something happened in this church that ended all of it abruptly. I won't go into it, but it was bad at the time. I am grateful for it now because it ended up being the thing God used to turn us toward home. At the time, it wasn't enjoyable. I became anti-established religion.

For two years we never set foot in a church. To me, God had nothing to do with religion, or at least the religion I was seeing around me. We would meet with friends in homes. We felt this was getting back to the "Early Church." One night I recall a friend of mine being so excited that we were getting back to the Early Church's ways. This made me curious. I went to a Christian bookstore and tried to find something about the Early Church. I asked someone who worked there if there was any such thing. I never got anywhere. They could only go back to the 1500's. I wondered why there

was nothing about Christianity in these Christian bookstores before the 16th century. There had to be something!

I began working at a secular bookstore in Nashville. I love poetry, and one day I stumbled across St. John of the Cross. I read his canticles and some of his book *The Dark Night of the Soul*. It was odd and intriguing. I must make it clear that I was in no way thinking about Catholicism during this time. St. John of the Cross was simply a Christian poet to me. I spoke to a friend about this and for some reason he told me about

a book called *Evangelicals on the Canterbury Trail*. After reading it, my wife and I started visiting an Episcopal church in Nashville. There was something about this experience I really liked. In some ways it reminded me of when I was young in the Methodist church. But they had more, they had Communion every Sunday! Here was a religion that focused itself on Jesus and not the preacher. I liked this. I spent much time in the church library and found this style of worship was very ancient. ...continued on page 4

## NEWSLETTER COPIES



CHNI encourages members to make copies of the newsletter and distribute to friends, family, church groups, etc. We do ask that copies of the newsletter not be sold. CHNI and the authors reserve all rights and permissions.



## DEEP IN SCRIPTURE

On EWTN radio with  
Marcus Grodi & Guests

Wednesdays **LIVE** at 9:00 PM EDT  
Encore: Sundays @ 7 AM EDT

Join Marcus and his weekly guest as they discuss "what verses have inspired us to follow Jesus Christ?"

For more information and a link to watch the program LIVE online go to [www.deepinscripture.com](http://www.deepinscripture.com)

### Deep in Scripture Guests for August:

**August 5**  
Tim Drake

**August 19**  
Fr. Doug Grandon

**August 12**  
Dr. Jeff Schwehm

**August 26**  
Paul Abbe





## EWTN'S THE JOURNEY HOME

on television and radio, hosted by  
Marcus Grodi, president of CHNI.

### TELEVISION

Mondays **LIVE** at 8:00 PM EDT  
Encores: Tuesdays 1:00 & 10:00 AM EDT  
Wednesdays 1:00 PM EDT  
Saturdays 11:00 PM EDT

### RADIO

Mondays **LIVE** at 8:00 PM EDT  
Encores: Wednesdays 2:00 PM EDT  
Saturdays 6:00 PM EDT

### August 3

Sr. Teresa Benedicta Block\*

### August 10

Open-Line  
Mark Shea\*  
Former Baptist

### August 17

*The Journey Home* in Scandinavia\*  
Fr. Ulf Jonsson

### August 24

W. Keith Moore\*  
Former Evangelical Protestant

### August 31

John Giles\*  
Former Pentecostal

*\*This schedule is subject to change*



## ...Journeys Home Continued...

This is where I re-learned the word “Liturgy” from my early years as a Methodist.

I kept reading anything I could get my hands on about the Early Church, which wasn’t much. I remember I became fascinated with monks and the life of detachment from the world. Why, I don’t know. I then came across the book that really shook me.

I have no idea where or why I bought *The Way of a Pilgrim*. I had been asking God for a long time for a deeper more intimate prayer life. At first I read it with suspicion because it was about praying a rote prayer. I had always been taught that we were to stay away from vain repetitious prayer. But something happened when I started praying this prayer: “Lord

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Son of God,  
have mercy on me  
a sinner.

Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.” I even went so far as to learn it the way he learned it in the book. I started “breathing” the prayer, saying it hundreds of times a day, sometimes without even realizing it. Something beautiful happened. My desire for Jesus grew to a place I had never experienced. I realized that repetitious prayer was not vain unless one allowed it to be. THIS WAS HUGE! This opened a door in my mind. This simple realization challenged something in my spirit about other things I had been told in church. I became curious.

The thing about the book, *The Way of a Pilgrim* that really shook up the apple cart, was his mentioning things like the Mass, the rosary, and the Sacraments. I didn’t know what any of this was. The Episcopal church we went to for a short time for some reason didn’t make a dent in my understanding of these things. It is strange, but I don’t remember the words Mass, Eucharist, or Sacraments ever being talked about. But these things seemed very important to the writer. His entire journey began because of the readings in the Mass he was attending. I did not associate this with anything Catholic at the time. My impression of Catholics was that they worshipped statues, Mary, and they drank, cussed, and had to confess to a priest, which they did on Sundays after they had sinned like crazy the night before. Where I grew up, we didn’t think Catholics were Christian.

I kept searching for material about the Early Church. Everyone was still talking about being like the Early Church. One night someone mentioned an early figure named Clement. I had an uncle named Clement, which may be why I remembered his name. I looked at the secular bookstore and found some things written by Clement, Justin Martyr, and a couple of other guys who KNEW THE APOSTLES!!! I was blown away! And here was the kicker, they mentioned the same things as the guy who wrote *The*



*Way of a Pilgrim*. They talked about the Sacraments, and something else I had never heard, **The Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist**. It was as if someone had slapped me in the face. What the heck was this? Justin Martyr described in detail what the Early Church gathering looked like. It was nothing like what we in Nashville were calling the Early Church! My curiosity began to germinate.

As I said before, I am a songwriter and singer. One of my best friends is Phil Keaggy. Phil was producing an album for me during all of this seeking, which had begun a couple of years before. One day while we are in the studio the phone rings and it was a guy named Jeff Cavins. Phil hangs up and says that he and I are going to be on a show called "*Life on the Rock*" on EWTN. I said sure, whatever. I thought it was just another religious TV show like all the rest, which I didn't like, but I was grateful for the opportunity. I figured if Phil was doing it, it must be ok. I knew nothing about EWTN. A couple of weeks later Jeff Cavins shows up to meet with us for some pre-production. For some unknown reason, probably the book, *The Way of A Pilgrim*, I had just purchased an Irish rosary from a Catholic book store in town. When I met Jeff and found out he was Catholic, I figured he knew what a rosary was and I showed him my Irish one. He asked me if I was Catholic. I laughed and said no, but I liked anything Irish. He then asked me if I wanted him to take it and have Pope John Paul II bless it. Jeff was on his way to meet with the Pope. I remember thinking, sure, what the heck. He took it with him. I didn't even know how to pray the rosary at the time. Later that week I was at the bookstore, though by this time I no longer worked there, and I noticed a book with the Pope on the cover. It was called *Crossing the Threshold*. I read it and was amazed how much this leader of Catholics loved Jesus and knew the Scriptures! My curiosity was growing.

EWTN was bizarre! I had never met a priest, much less a nun! There were nuns everywhere. Without a doubt, to that point, they had the biggest influence on my journey home. I called my wife the night after the show and told her about the nuns. They were so full of humor, joy, simplicity, peace, and sincerity. Their detachment from the world was palpable. I wanted what they had!!! It is amazing how God works. The show went great and that night Jeff and I talked until 2:00 in the morning. Jeff had great respect for non-Catholic Christians, and he never once made me feel anything but love and acceptance. His witness and passion for Jesus moved me deeply. God used Jeff to plant the seed of longing for the fullness of Truth in my heart. He and I are very close today. Jeff is the first Catholic I ever talked to. His witness, knowledge of Scripture, and dedication to Jesus and the Church made a huge impression. The seed was beginning to break through the soil.

Not long after this, life took us to Spokane, Washington. I was working on a music project with an old friend of mine. When ...continued on page 6



## MARCUS GRODI'S SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

### August 28-29, 2009

Faith Matters Conference

"Living Your Catholic Faith"

Polk County Convention Center: Des Moines, IA

Admission: Adult \$50, Couple \$90, Family \$125,

Youth 30-under \$30

All are welcome, go to: [www.kwky.com](http://www.kwky.com)

### September 18-19, 2009

Fire at the Beach Conference

Diocese of Charleston

St. Francis by the Sea Church

Hilton Head, SC

[www.catholic-doc.org](http://www.catholic-doc.org)

[cathy@catholic-doc.org](mailto:cathy@catholic-doc.org)

[psmith@catholic-doc.org](mailto:psmith@catholic-doc.org)

### October 6-16, 2009

Catholic Answers' Cruise—Witnesses to the Faith throughout the Centuries: saints, martyrs, scholars, statesmen, and even art and culture.

10-Day Western Mediterranean Cruise

Among the other speakers will be Karl Keating, president of *Catholic Answers*, and Christopher Check, vice president of *The Rockford Institute*.

The Holland America Line ship will sail from Rome. We'll visit Florence, Monaco, Barcelona, Mallorca, Tunis/Carthage, Palermo, and Naples/Herculaneum.

There will be instructive talks aboard the ship and exciting excursions on shore.

For complete details, please visit [www.catholicanswerscruise.com](http://www.catholicanswerscruise.com), or call 1-800-707-1634.

## THE COMING HOME NETWORK INTL'

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www.chnetwork.org

### **President/Executive Director**

Marcus Grodi (*former Presbyterian Pastor*)

### **Chaplain**

Fr. Ray Ryland (*former Anglican Priest*)

### **Director of Pastoral Care**

Jim Anderson, M.A. (*former Lutheran*)

### **Director of Administration**

Robert Rodgers (*former Anglican*)

### **Studio/Office Manager**

Scott Scholten (*former Presbyterian*)

### **Administrative Assistant**

Sharon Coen

### **Financial Coordinator**

Ann Moore

### **IT/Facilities Coordinator**

Bill Bateson (*former Mormon*)

### **Assistant Coordinator**

Mary Clare Pieczynski

### **Resource Specialist**

Jon Marc Grodi

### **Resource Specialist**

Peter Grodi

### **Resource Specialist**

Matthew Church

### **Forum Coordinator**

Dave Armstrong (*former United Methodist*)

### **Theological Advisor**

Dr. Kenneth Howell (*former Presbyterian Pastor*)

### **Board of Trustees**

Marcus Grodi, President

Fr. Ray Ryland, Vice-President

Kevin Lowry, Treas. (*former Presbyterian*)

Dr. Paul Thigpen (*former Evangelical Pastor*)

Dr. Charles Feicht (*revert from Evangelicalism*)

## ...Journeys Home Continued...

we arrived we had nowhere to go to worship so we talked to my friend about it. His wife is Catholic and I was fascinated by this. I asked her if we could visit. Up until this time, my wife and I had never been to a Catholic Mass. She agreed to go since we were so far from home. We started going to St. Aloysius on Gonzaga campus. I will never forget walking into that beautiful Cathedral. I had never seen the Stations of the Cross. I had never seen such amazing stained glass windows, not just for there beauty, but for the stories they told of God's work in our lives. The statues were amazing to me and I did not feel as if anyone was worshipping them. They suddenly seemed to me very important because of what they pointed to. I was almost trembling by the time we left that day. We were a little confused and upset when we found out we couldn't receive during communion. We didn't know anything about the Catholic Faith at this

point. But grace got the best of me and I read about why this is so. I then agreed with this teaching passionately. I got involved with the ministry to the homeless while we lived there. I started to see something authentic in Catholics. But here is the real life changer. One Sunday during the Liturgy of the Eucharist while Communion was being distributed, I started to cry. I couldn't explain it. At this time I did not understand the teaching on the Real Presence, but my soul did. My soul was starving for the Bread of Angels. A leaf of change was growing on my curiosity tree.

When the music project was complete we moved back to Oxford, Mississippi. We were glad to be back home. We went back to the Methodist church. It wasn't long before I was dying inside. It was the most depressed I have ever been. For a year I taught a Sunday School class and was miserable. I probably confused those people in the class with all of my Early Church talk. But with John Case retired and living in this little town, my wife could not see us going anywhere else. I was reading now about the Early Church Fathers daily on the internet, and we discovered with our satellite dish we had EWTN! I watched every second I was in the house. Renee started watching it some with me, but she was not open to visiting the local Catholic parish.

Finally, one day as I was driving by the parish offices of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, I turned in and parked. I walked in the front door and asked to see the priest. This very short, middle eastern looking guy





in black with a white collar came from around the corner. He had a deep Mississippi Delta accent. We went in his office and I told him my story. The first thing out of his mouth was, "Would you like a job leading the music for Mass?" I asked if this was possible since I was not yet a Catholic, he said, "Don't worry about it, I'll take care of it." I started my new job a month later and my wife decided that since they had hired me she could go. This would be a good excuse to her dad. (This is how I learned the Liturgy, by leading it! Isn't God something?) My curiosity began to bloom!

I was patient with Renee. I never pushed her once. But I knew where God wanted us. I had read about Scott Hahn by now and some other converts in the book *Surprised by Truth Volume 1*. I was also reading the Church Fathers on a regular basis, and praying the Liturgy of the Hours, which I had received from our priest. (At the time I had no idea how blessed we were in this little southern town to have Fr. Joe Tonos. He is an "orthodox" Roman Catholic priest who follows the lead of Pope Benedict down to the letter. He respects the Liturgy and never adds to it or takes away from it in any form or fashion. We even have one Mass each Sunday Ad Orientem.) We watched *The Journey Home* program without fail. It became the most important show for us on television. I would record it and watch it over and over, sometimes taking notes. Fr. Corapi played a huge roll in Renee's understanding. I remember one night after we had watched him teach on the catechism, she looked at me and said, "This is starting to make way too much sense." The one thing that really brought Renee to the point of no return was the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The first time we watched this on EWTN we both became emotional. St. Faustina is Renee's patron Saint.

We went through RCIA with our then 15-year-old son Wesley. We were received into the Church on Easter, 2006. Since that wonderful day, our lives have not been the same. We feel as if we are babes once again in our spiritual lives. The breadth, depth, height, and wealth of the Roman Catholic Church is mind boggling. We thank Jesus for shedding the grace on us that brought us into His liturgical family. I have no idea why we heard Him. As St. Thérèse, the Little Flower says, "Everything is grace..."

We thank God every day for His Church. I would be lying if I did not say I want all of my wonderful Protestant brothers and ...continued on page 8

## DEEP IN HISTORY MP3s

*The Coming Home Network International* is pleased to announce that MP3s of our recent *The Catholic Paul* conference are now available for download online. All past *Deep in History* conference talks are also available in MP3 format through our website. Go to [www.chresources.com](http://www.chresources.com) to download the MP3s. Each talk costs \$5.

## DONATIONS

CHNI is excited to announce that we are now able to accept donations by bank draft (ACH) for one time or recurring donations.

If you are interested in making a donation using your checking or savings account, please contact Ann Moore at 740-450-1175 ext. 101 or [ann@chnetwork.org](mailto:ann@chnetwork.org).

## SPOUSES NETWORK

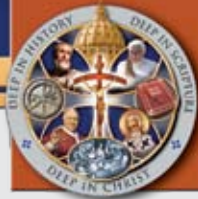
Are you the spouse of a clergy interested in becoming Catholic?

The *Spouses Network* exists to aid and provide fellowship for the spouses of clergy on the journey to the Catholic Church as well as those who are new Catholics. The mission of the *Spouses Network* is that through one-on-one assistance given by spouses of clergy who have embraced the Catholic faith, clergy spouses who are on the journey to Catholicism or have recently become Catholic will find a source of friendship, support, and increased love of Jesus Christ and His Church.

If the *Spouses Network* is something you feel called to, whether you are a spouse of a clergy who has made the journey home and would like to assist someone, or if you are a spouse of a minister and are either on the journey or a new Catholic, we would like to invite you to contact CHNI to assist us in the development of this network.

If you would like more information or if you feel called to become a part of this apostolate please contact Mary Clare Piecynski by e-mail at [maryp@chnetwork.org](mailto:maryp@chnetwork.org) or by phone at 740-450-1175 ext 105.

We do ask all the *Coming Home Network International's* members to please keep the *Spouses Network* in your prayers as we seek to answer the needs of those spouses of clergy on the journey home and those who are new converts.



## The Pillar & Bulwark of the Truth

### Tentative SCHEDULE

#### FRIDAY — OCT. 23<sup>rd</sup>

- 3:30 Travelers Mass ~ Fr. Ray Ryland
- 5:00 Dinner
- 7:00 A Verse I Never Saw ~ Marcus Grodi
- 8:15 Jewish Roots of the Papacy ~ Dr. Brant Pitre
- 9:15 Social

#### SATURDAY — OCT. 24<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00 Morning Prayer
- 8:30 Mass
- 9:30 Breakfast
- 11:00 Peter and the Keys ~ Steve Ray
- 12:00 The Issue of Authority in Early Christianity  
~ Dr. Kenneth Howell
- 1:00 Lunch
- 2:30 Authority through the Trinity ~ Msgr. Frank Lane
- 3:30 Spiritual Authority—Who Needs It?  
~ Dr. Paul Thigpen
- 4:30 The Issue of Authority in the Protestant and  
Catholic Reformations ~ Dr. Kenneth Howell
- 5:30 Dinner
- 7:30 What Connects Nicaea and Vatican II:  
Ecumenical Councils and the Magisterium  
~ Archbishop Michael Sheehan
- 8:30 Understanding our Father: The Power of  
Prayer and the Eucharist ~ Dr. Scott Hahn
- 9:45 Adoration

#### SUNDAY — OCT. 25<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00 Morning Prayer
- 8:30 Mass ~ Archbishop Michael Sheehan
- 9:30 Breakfast
- 11:00 Cardinal Newman and Papal Authority  
~ Fr. Ray Ryland
- 12:00 Panel Discussion
- 1:30 Finish

## ...Journeys Home Continued...

sisters in Jesus to come home and share in the family they are estranged from and do not know it. I want everyone to know this treasure, beauty, and fullness that is the Roman Catholic Church! It blows my mind every day. I now partake of His Body and Blood, I now know forgiveness in a way I never dreamed through Reconciliation, I NOW HAVE A MOTHER I NEVER KNEW! Mary has taught me more about loving Jesus than anyone. How I love Mary! I now know saints like Thérèse of Lisieux, Terese of Avila, Francis, Augustine (my patron), St. Catherine of Sienna, St. John of the Cross, and Padre Pio; the Apostles are now my friends. This is too much for my little soul. Glory to God! The journey of curiosity has become a journey of clarity. I am nowhere near understanding the immensity that is His Church, but I am so glad to be learning of its mysteries. I love the smells, sounds, and rhythms of the Liturgy. I feel like a little baby again. How amazing that now, by grace, my goal is to be a saint. Please pray for me.

Renee's father and mother have in their own way been supportive. The one thing John said to us the day we told them we were going to join the Catholic Church was this: "As long as they keep Jesus at the center." Renee, my wife, smiled and told him, "I have never seen Jesus so much in the center." They came to our Confirmation and for that we are so grateful. He never asks me anything about it, at least not yet. I keep praying he will.

As I finish writing this, I must tell you about my new album coming out soon. It is called "**Beloved**." It is a collection of songs given to me in this journey of discovery. It is songs inspired by Mary, our mother, the Saints, and most of all, our Beloved.

Thanks for allowing me to tell you my story.

In Jesus and Mary—W. Keith Moore

[www.wkeithmoore.com](http://www.wkeithmoore.com) ■



*W. Keith Moore lives in Oxford, Mississippi. Keith has been writing songs since he was 14. He, his wife Renee, and their son, Wesley, were received into the Catholic Church on Easter 2006.*

*Keith has traveled on pilgrimages with Jeff Cavins, played with the Catholic Underground in NYC and Pennsylvania, produced and written for Phil Keaggy, and has played on EWTN with the Irish Catholic singing sensation, Dana. He has played for the Defending the Faith Conference at Franciscan University, and speaks to youth and adults in parishes wherever he goes. He will be the guest of Marcus Grodi on **The Journey Home** on August 24, 2009.*



# Prayer List

## Clergy

■ For Joanne, a former Lutheran minister in Pennsylvania, that the Holy Spirit would grant her the gifts of discernment, prudence, and perseverance.

■ For Eric, a Non-denominational seminarian in California, that the Holy Spirit would fill him with Christ's peace which passes all understanding so that he may trustingly make all of the truths about Mary the Mother of God his own.

■ For Joe, an Anglican priest in the Midwest, that Jesus would fill him with His love and grace as he learns more and more of the Fullness of Truth.

■ For John and his family, a former Baptist minister in Wisconsin, that the Holy Spirit would bless and guide them in the love and grace of Jesus to the glory of God the Father.

■ For David, a Nazarene seminarian in Illinois, that as he discards his previous distorted understanding about the Catholic Church may he become a beacon of truth to his friends and family.

■ For Thomas, a Presbyterian minister in Arkansas, that God would make his paths straight and fill in all the valleys of his journey to full communion with Christ's holy Catholic Church.

■ For John and his wife, a Non-denominational seminarian in Florida, that they many find strong Catholic fellowship to strengthen them in their journey toward their reception of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

■ For Father Michael, who was ordained an Orthodox priest, that God would quickly put him to work in the greater harvest of the Catholic Church.

■ For John, an Anglican seminarian in California, that as he is guided back to the Catholic faith of his youth God would open his wife's heart to the wonders of the Apostolic faith.

■ For Larry, a United Methodist minister in Florida, that the Holy Spirit would conform him to the image of Jesus and incorporate him full into the Body of Christ which is His holy Catholic Church.

■ For Michael, an Old Catholic priest in Florida, that the Holy Spirit would open the truths of the Catholic Church to him dispelling the distortions and untruths about the Church, which have caused him much anguish.

## Layity

■ For Mary, Tom, Judy, Caroline, and Anne and all those battling cancer.

■ For Camille and Stan that the Holy Spirit inspire them to be good witnesses to their friends who have left the Catholic faith.

■ For Michelle, her family and their intentions and in thanksgiving for answered prayers.

■ For all those who have left the Catholic Church that they re-embrace the Fullness of Truth.

■ For all young people as they struggle with the pressures of society that God reveal to them the mystery of His will.

■ For Jill that God surround her with His love and grace.

■ For Jerry and his intentions.

■ For Al a non-practicing Catholic and his wife who is a United Methodist minister.



■ For Connie that she receive family support in her desire to enter the Catholic Church.

■ For Jennifer and her faith journey. May God grant her clarity to do His will.

■ For those within the *Helpers Network* that God's grace enliven their hearts as they seek to be followers of Jesus Christ.

■ For the men and women who struggle with chastity, may they learn from Jesus' words "blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

■ For all discerning a priestly vocation and for the men who have answered the call may God give them courage and strength to persevere in their vocation.

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 in general and specific of the *CHNetwork*, its members, and supporters.

Please submit all prayer requests & answers to:  
**CHN Prayer List**  
P. O. Box 8290  
Zanesville, OH 43702

You may also email your prayer requests to:  
[prayers@chnetwork.org](mailto:prayers@chnetwork.org)

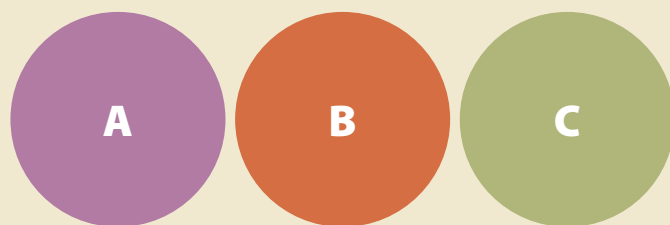
We use only first names to preserve anonymity, and the following code:  
(QV) *Quo Vadis*

# The Necessity of Continual Conversion

After 35 years of ministry, half as a Protestant and half as a Catholic, I've become more and more convinced that every single person—and this means me—needs continual conversion. I'm constantly being startled by new information about this Catholic faith that I thought I had come to understand so well, but still understand only partially, or as Saint Paul stated, "through a glass dimly."

I believe this need for continual conversion, or more correctly the absence of continual conversion, is the cause behind most of the misunderstandings, conflicts, and divisions within the Church. And this need for continual conversion is not only amongst converts to the Church, nor only amongst Catholic laity, but for every person, from the top down.

Allow me to use a diagram to illustrate, ("you can take the man out of engineering but not engineering out of the man") I will immediately concede, however, that this illustration is obviously simplified and incomplete, but I think it allows the point I intend to make. I will use this diagram to illustrate, at the most basic level, a person's conversion to the "truth." The following three circles represent:



**A**  
All the other sources or voices in our lives which did not lead us to discover "the truth," which include teachers, ministers, family, friends, books, media, experiences, etc.

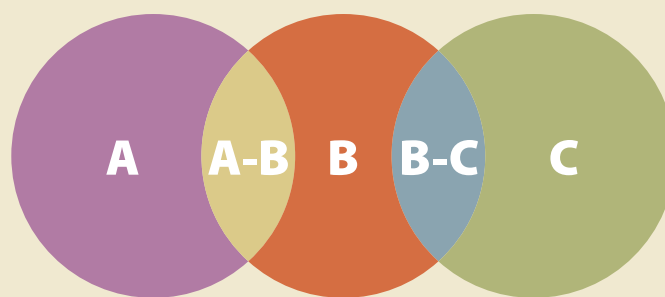
**B**  
All the sources or voices (teachers, ministers, family, friends, books, media, experiences, etc.) that helped us come to discover and convert to "the truth."

**C**  
"The truth" to which we have converted (i.e., the Catholic faith.)

In relation to my own discovery of the Sacrament of the Eucharist, for example, "A" represents what I used to understand and teach, as a Presbyterian minister, about the Eucharist; "B" represents all the sources that helped me to discover the Catholic understanding of the Eucharist, "C". Now in this short article I'm not going to venture into defending the Catholic understanding of the Eucharist, though this method could be used to address this belief.

This simple diagram of three circles, therefore, can be said to simply illustrate every single Catholic's journey from a previous understanding ("A") through witnesses ("B") to "the truth" ("C"). But, if this is true for everyone of us, however, why can't we get along? For this I believe the

following diagram is actually more accurate. It demonstrates why we each must experience continual conversion. The overlapping of these three circles represents an individual's present formation in relation to the three sources mentioned:



In other words, there are at least five kinds of knowledge and/or experiences that make up our present state of formation. First, let me address the two regions of our formation to which we are most conscious:

"A-B" represents those areas of knowledge and experience which we discovered need little or no change as a result of our conversion; areas of equivalence. We may have been surprised, even pleased, to discover this: God has always been guiding and forming us.

"B-C", on the other hand, represents those areas of our past knowledge and experience that we learned from our new sources "B", which required change from our past. Doctrines we had to relearn or correct; ways of living, ethics and morals, that we had to change.

For example, again in relation to the Eucharist, in terms of "A-B", I already knew the Gospel accounts of the Eucharist. I even knew by heart the words of consecration, for I had used them many times when I celebrated the Lord's Supper. But, there were many things ("B-C") that I had to relearn or beliefs and practices from my past that I had to reject. For example, I came to recognize that in the Eucharist was not merely a symbol but the Transubstantiated body and blood of Jesus Christ.

The other three regions of the diagram, however, are the most important for us to examine, for it is in these where we see the most common causes of our conflicts, as well as the barriers to our own individual spiritual growth. They represent the three areas of our spiritual formation to which we may be unaware, even blind, and, therefore, represent the areas which particularly need continual conversion:

"A" represents those areas of our past knowledge and experience that linger on into our present religious life that need constant examination and correction. This includes false understandings of reality and truth that remain unchallenged, uncorrected, and may remain for many years dormant until challenged. This may cross over into the "A-B" section—things we didn't think need changing, but in time we discover actually do.

For me, in relation to the Eucharist, it took a while to understand the distinctions between my childhood Lutheran understanding of Consubstantiation and the Catholic teaching on Transubstantiation.

"B" represents the areas of our new formation that are not actually in line with the fullness of "the truth" ("C"). Some of what we learned, from sources which we thought we could trust, ie "B", was not equivalent to "the truth", but in fact merely opinions. What is significant about this section of the diagram of our spiritual formation is that it represents our present state, in other words, we are yet unaware that some of the things we believe to be true are not equivalent to the fullness of "the truth", and this inaccurate understanding and practice may remain for many years dormant, until challenged.

In terms of the Eucharist, I once heard a priest preach that every time we celebrate the Eucharist, we are transported back in time to the actual moment of Christ's crucifixion, in essence we are watching him being re-crucified in every Eucharist. This, of course, is not accurate, but there are many Catholics who believe this inaccurate explanation of the Eucharist.

It's also possible that, we may be very much aware that some things we learned from "B" are not equivalent to "C," yet we are unwilling to correct ourselves. We may know, for example, that the opinions of certain "Catholic" politicians are contrary to the Church, but since we like these politicians, we choose to follow their opinions.

"C" represents those areas of "the truth" that remain outside of our present knowledge and experience, of which we are essentially ignorant. Due to the incompleteness or even inaccuracy of our new and continued formation, there are areas of "the truth" we have yet to discover, and this ignorance may remain for many years dormant, until challenged.

In terms of the Eucharist, I frankly do not know what it is that I do not know, and this is the point: this is one of the reasons I need, we all need, continual conversion.

This diagram can be applied not just to our understanding of the Eucharist but to every doctrine, practice, devotion, every aspect of our Catholic faith. It's maybe more obvious how the description above works in the journey of converts, but it is equally true for life-long Catholics, for they are often unaware of how much they have accepted as their Catholic faith that are merely the opinions of their Catholic teachers, family, and friends.

I believe that many of the divisions that plague the Christian community can be explained by the confrontation of the differing

combinations of formational experience of each individual Christian as well as different Christian groups. This would take another large article to illustrate, but just consider how different any two Christians are in relation to their comparative regions: **A**, **A-B**, **B**, **B-C**, and **C**. It is especially those areas to which we are blind (how much of our past remains, how much of our teachers' biases we have blindly adopted, and how much of the teaching of the Church we have yet to learn) that cause the most divisions.

It is for these reasons that every single person needs continual conversion. I chose not to say continual "catechetical instruction," because this need is not merely a matter of continual education—this is not merely a function of our active efforts to purge our minds of our past assumptions and learn the faith better and more completely—but primarily a matter of spiritual growth, a change that is primarily the work of God, not ourselves.

What this requires is a continuous humble recognition of the inadequacies, holes, and blind-spots in our spiritual formation, and an ongoing willingness to examine our understanding and practice of the faith. As Jesus himself instructed in his Sermon on the Mount, we need the attitudes of the Beatitudes: poverty of spirit, mourning for our sins, meekness, a hungering and thirsting for righteousness, purity of heart, etc., all of which lead us to grow more deeply in our union with Christ.

We also, in light of the diagram, need to humbly do all we can, aided by grace, to help purge our formation of the blind residuals of our past ("A") that are not in line with the teaching of the Church as well as correct those aspects of our new formation that were not accurate ("B"), so that our knowledge and practice are growing in line with the Church ("C"). This requires a regular examination of the Teachings of the Church from sources we are certain are trustworthy, like the new *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and official publications of the Church. This also means submitting our spiritual formation to the guidance of spiritual directors, who are submissive to the Church and humbly recognize their own need for continual renewal.

May the Lord help us each be fully open to continual conversion so that we can grow in union with Christ, with His Church, and with each other.

—Sincerely In Christ, Marcus Grodi ■

## QUO VADIS NEWS

[www.quovadis youth.org](http://www.quovadis youth.org)

The *Coming Home Network International's* youth apostolate *Quo Vadis* was established to provide peer support for the children of clergy of other faiths who are either on the journey to the Catholic Church or have already been received into the Church. If you are a young person who is interested in the Catholic faith or if you are a young person who would like to share your Catholic faith with others we invite you to discover *Quo Vadis*.

### Interested in learning more?

*Quo Vadis* has a web site, [www.quovadis youth.org](http://www.quovadis youth.org) with information about the network and ways to become involved. If you would like to learn more about *Quo Vadis*, or you have a question about the Catholic faith you are welcome to contact Mary Clare Piecynski.

**Mary Clare Piecynski**

[maryp@chnetwork.org](mailto:maryp@chnetwork.org)

740-450-1175 ext. 105



**The Coming Home Network International**

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