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The Coming Home Network International

Membership Newsletter

February 2004

Praying Without Ceasing (Part Two) The Rosary

Jesus said, "When you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret" (Matthew 6:6). This is easier, of course, if you're a monk, but what do you do if you don't have a room in your home (except for maybe the bathroom) where you can isolate yourself for any length of time? Recognizing this problem in the "simpler" days of the late 4th century, St. Ambrose taught that "every place is a place of prayer, though our Savior says: Go into your room." He further wrote:

But by "room" you must understand, not a room enclosed by walls that imprison your body, but the room that is within you, the room where you hide your thoughts, where you keep your affections. This room of prayer is always with you, wherever you are, and it is always a secret room, where only God can see you.¹



Growing in perfection and union with Christ involves turning fully and perfectly in his direction. The Rosary is a wonderful means to help us turn into God's direction through the intercession of Mary.

With the encouragement also of other great Catholic spiritual writers like St. Francis de Sales (Introduction to the Devout Life), I have come to understand prayer as a positioning of myself straight away before God, no matter where I happen to be. In the traditional sense, conversion means turning willfully into God's direction in response to the gift of faith and aided by the power of grace. Sin involves turning back or away, focusing away from Jesus. Distractions, even good ones, can turn our heads away from God and this is why Jesus encouraged us to lock ourselves away from distractions.

Apostles' Creed

It's no accident that the Rosary begins with the Creed. When the Fathers of the Church taught "as we pray so we believe," they implied that our prayers spring forth from our beliefs; prayer is a fruit and a sign of our beliefs. In the Rosary we begin with a statement of faith because, contrary to the myriad other options vying for our attention, we turn ourselves directly in the direction of Jesus and the fullness of His Church when we profess the Creed. Once professed we have turned mentally in His direction and our prayers can then freely be said within this rule of faith. Then when we next pray the Our Father, we have entered in the correct "door."

continued on next page... 1

The Our Father

Other than in Sunday worship, funerals, and weddings, I rarely “recited” the Lord’s Prayer as a Protestant. I even have evangelical friends who insist we should never pray this prayer because (they insist) Jesus never intended this as anything but a model: “To repeat it would be to fall into his warning of mindless repetition!” they claim. This, of course, isn’t true, but it is possible to get so lost in our distractions that once we’ve refocused back onto the words of our prayer we may not be certain that we said all the phrases let alone prayed them.

Books on the Our Father by such authors as Dr. Scott Hahn, Fr. Dubay, and Fr. Garrigou-LaGrange help greatly, especially when one has time to meditate fully on the multiple meanings of each stanza. But more often than not, I pray the Our Father with the congregation in mass, at least twice daily in the Liturgy of the Hours, or when I’m saying the Rosary while driving or walking. Especially when I’m walking or driving it’s hard to focus on the underlying meaning of each stanza let alone keep my mind from wandering off onto all the other stresses of my day.

The following, though, has helped me: The great spiritual writers have generally divided the Our Father into seven stanzas, and rightly so. But it seems to me that this intimate family prayer is first and foremost a prayer of conversion and re-commitment. Jesus gave it to us in the midst of his Sermon on the Mount, and this context emphasizes surrender and detachment: “Blessed are the poor in spirit... be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect... do not lay up for

yourself treasures on earth... you cannot serve God and mammon... do not be anxious about your life... about tomorrow... seek ye first the kingdom of God.”

Encouraged by St. Paul’s personal confession of surrender, which we ought to repeat every morning (“I have been crucified with Christ; it



is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me...” Galatians 2:20), I have found it helpful to think of the Our Father as divided into five stanzas, each helping me re-commit myself to the Lord at that unique moment. As you consider these five stanzas, think in your mind’s eye of standing directly before Jesus. The spot where you stand is the now of your spiritual journey. What is in front of you before your face is what or whom you are committed to; to your left is the past you are to leave behind; to your right is the future you are to trust to God; behind you is what you are to turn your back on:

• Stanza One: Adoration of the God before you:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name!”

• Stanza Two: Complete surrender to Him:

“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

• Stanza Three: Detachment from all but what you need:

“Give us this day our daily bread.”

• Stanza Four: Forget and forgive the past, wiping it clean: (mentally to your left)

“Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”

• Stanza Five: Relinquish all anxiety about the future into God’s hands: (mentally to your right)

“Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

• “Amen.” Turning your back on all things that take you away from Jesus.

Thinking about these acts of commitment helps me grow closer to Jesus every time I pray the Our Father. And because my mind is always being led at least a little astray by distracting and sinful thoughts between each recitation of an Our Father, I can never re-commit myself too often.

Marcus C. Grodi
CHN President

¹From a treatise on Cain and Able by St. Ambrose, bishop
Found in the Office of Readings, 27th Wk in Ordinary Time, Monday

A look back at...

The First Annual *Coming Home Conference* November, 2003, Columbus Ohio



The Coming Home Network Marks a Banner Year With Their First Annual Conference- *Deep in History, Deep in Scripture, Deep in Christ!*

The Coming Home Network marked its 10th anniversary with its first annual Coming Home Conference: Deep in History, Deep in Scripture, Deep in Christ. Please join us in praising our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for such a great success.

First, we must thank the more than 500 attendees without whom this event would never have happened. Although most came from Ohio and the adjoining states, some traveled from as far away as the state of Washington, and even Germany. We were particularly blessed by the twenty-five seminarians who attended from the Pontifical College Josephinum across the street and assisted with liturgies.

For the rest of you, here's what you missed: three wonderful, inspiring days dedicated to God and His Church.

The weekend began on Friday afternoon with a travelers' mass and an amazing homily by Fr. Benedict Groeschel. As usual, he was both spiritually invigorating and funny. As we waited for the official program to begin, we were more than merely entertained by a brilliant musical concert given and narrated by Eric Genuis (piano) and William Merimee (violin).



The evening then proceeded with our first presentation by Dr. Kenneth Howell entitled, *Breaking Through the Myths of History*. He set the tone for our conference by beginning:

To be deep into history is to understand the meaning of history, and to understand its relevance to our present day lives. By entering deeply into the historical people and episodes of the past, we are, in fact, encountering the mysteries of salvation.

Fr. Groeschel then returned to the podium to discuss Authentic vs.

Inauthentic Renewal, and again, he was both enlightening and entertaining(!). In closing Fr. Groeschel said:

Let us love Christ; let us be grateful to him; let us observe him as best we can. 'If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.' Open your eyes, because Christ is all around us, and the more we see him, the more we will be changed, and the broken body of Christ in all different Churches will begin to come together.

The evening concluded with a social held in the spacious Holiday Inn courtyard. Under the tranquil, classical, and traditional ambiance provided by Eric Genuis, the guests fellowshiped with refreshments in hand, while the speakers signed books and answered questions.

Saturday morning began early with a high percentage of the attendees gathered for morning prayer and mass. After breakfast, Dr. Howell opened the day's session by taking questions from the audience



about the importance of being deep in history. He began, though, by posing and then discussing several questions for the audience to ponder:

1. When I try to serve my Lord Jesus Christ, do I serve him according to my conception of what is right and wrong or do I consciously try to connect myself with the great Saints of all the ages?
2. Do we use Christian history to analyze and dissect the past, or do we use the history of the

Church to enter into the mysteries of salvation?

Joseph Pearce followed with a presentation on *The Thread That Binds Literary Converts*: how becoming deep in history was instrumental in the conversions of writers such as Newman and Chesterton. All were astounded by his thorough yet entertaining survey of 18th and 19th century English literature.

After lunch, the conference continued with Fr. C. J. McClosky discussing how, *Breaking Through the Walls of Mistrust* was important in helping so many people with high public visibility come home to the Church. He stressed that:

History provides an essential perspective for the mission of conversion, and therefore we must understand the historical moment in which we live.

He also emphasized that:

It is safe to say that for the foreseeable future - in our life span - converts coming to the fullness of faith will come most likely one by one, or family by family, and occasionally



congregation by congregation. The Church was legalized in 313 and less than a century later Christianity was the state religion. The remarkable growth was not the result of mass conversion, but rather of the personal witness and behavior of individual persons and families, including confessors and martyrs fortified by prayer and the sacraments.

Our next speaker was Dr. James Keating who focused our attention on History and the Formation of Conscience. Emphasizing that “one has to discover a life which can live on through death,” he outlined four keys to achieving this goal:

1. Fidelity to ones vocation;
2. Service to the poor;
3. Cling to the Eucharistic mystery;
4. Cling to the truth of a well-formed conscience.



The afternoon concluded with an hour-and-a-half long panel discussion in which (from left to right in the picture on page 3) Howell, Pearce, Fr. McClosky, Keating, Grodi, Hahn, and Fr. Ryland answered a dozen or more questions from the audience.

in which he brought together many of the points made throughout the weeked and examined them in the light of his own pilgrimage home to the Catholic Church.

An extra plus to the weekend was Doug Barry’s stunning and explosive one-man performance of the Passion, under the meditative and often riveting impact of music composed specifically for this presentation by Eric Genius. It is nearly impossible to convey how one’s heart is moved by Barry’s Passion until you see it for yourself.

Each session of the weekend began with a brief Deep in History Moment video clip created by our own Steve Smeltzer and Jim Anderson. After just such a presentation on the life of St. Peter, Marcus Grodi explained the work of the CHNetwork in his talk Helping Them Home. In line with the theme of the weekend, he detailed how becoming deep in history was instrumental in the conversions of so many of our convert members. Following Marcus, Dr. Scott Hahn explained how Catholics can grow deeper in history and their faith through Scripture and Liturgy. This informative and inspiring day was then capped with a Holy Hour led by Fr. James Lowe.

Throughout the conference, between the talks, and scheduled times for Mass, prayer, or meditation, the attendees had the opportunity to experience the joy of individual adoration in a small intimate side chapel. They also could visit the many vendors who had come to display books, resources, and Catholic art as well as distribute information about Catholic apostolates, missions, and colleges.

The weekend came to a close on Sunday, with high Mass led by the Coming Home Network’s chaplain and spiritual advisor, Fr. Ray Ryland. After breakfast, Fr. Ryland continued with a discussion of History and the Necessity of Continuity

We hope this short summary has perked your interest in attending the **Coming Home Network’s second conference** to be held this coming **November 5-7 2004**, again



at the **Holiday Inn - Worthington Columbus, Ohio**. The conference will continue with the same general theme-**Deep in History, Deep in Scripture, Deep in Christ**-but with a specific focus on the **History of the Early Church**. Some of the confirmed speakers, besides our president, **Marcus Grodi**, are **Fr. Mitch Pacwa**, **Rosalind Moss**, **Dr. William Marshner**, **Fr. Charles Connor**, **Monsignor Lane**, and **Rod Bennett**. His Excellency **Bishop James Griffin** will also be attending and celebrating Mass. Please watch for further updates.



Please refer to the CHN Bulletin board for resources that are now available by these speakers.



The Coming Home Network listened to your responses!

Some affirming comments from a few attendees:

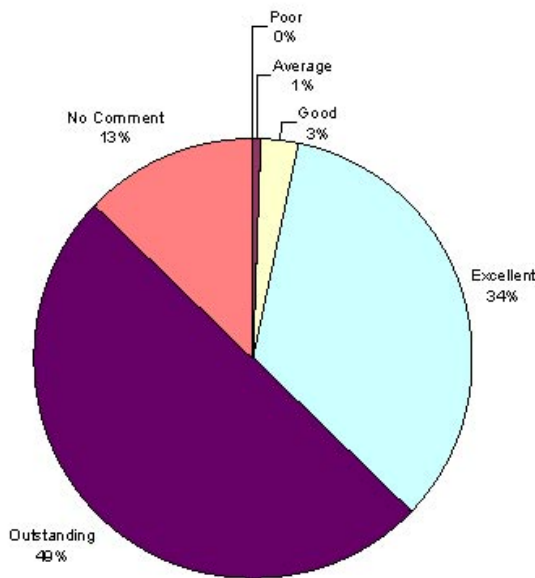
"I attended the conference in Columbus last weekend and found it most inspiring...You have made us 'cradle-catholics' aware of the treasures we take so much for granted."— A priest in NY

"Some of your witness, writings, and preaching have brought me as a separated Catholic back home.."
— An attendee from Ohio

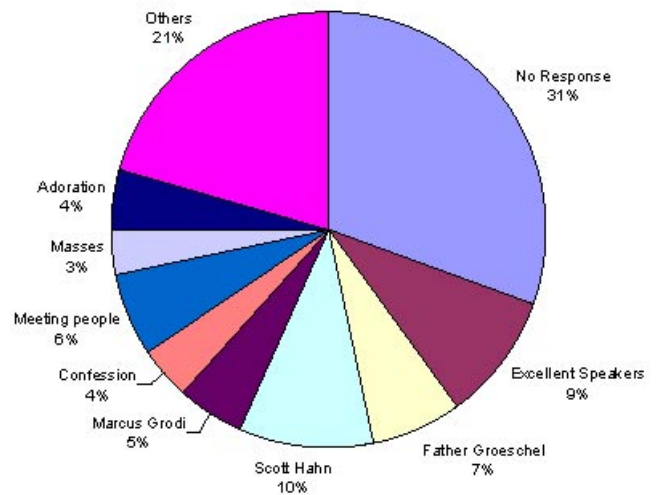
Q. What would keep you from attending next year?

A. "DEATH!!" — An attendee from Ill.

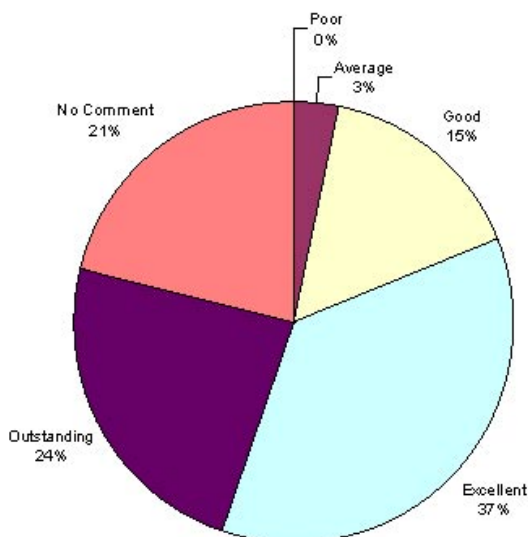
Overall Experience



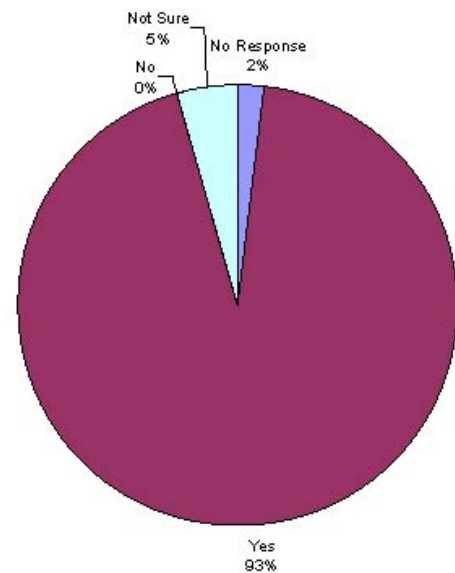
BEST EXPERIENCE



Facilities and Grounds



PROJECTED CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE 2004



Coming Soon...

Coming Home Conference 2004

Deep in History, Deep in Scripture, Deep in Christ...

History of the Early Church

November 5th through November 7th

Columbus, Ohio

Friday

3:30 Travelers Mass

5:00 – 6:00 Dinner break

6:00 – 6:30 Conference Opening

6:30 – 8:30 Evening Session

8:30 – 9:30 Concert *Eric Genius*

9:30 CHN social

Saturday

7:30 – 8:00 Morning Prayer

8:00 – 9:00 Mass

9:00 – 10:30 Breakfast

10:30 – 12:30 Morning Session 2 talks

12:30 – 2:00 Lunch

2:00–3:30 Afternoon Session

3:30– 5:30 Panel Discussion

5:30 – 7:30 Dinner

7:30 – 8:30 Evening Session

8:30- 9:30 *The Passion by Doug Barry*

9:30 – 10:30 Holy Hour & Exposition

Sunday

8:00 – 8:30 Morning Prayer

8:30 – 10:00 Mass

10:00 – 11:00 Breakfast

11:00 – 12:00 Morning Session

12:00 –12:30 Closing Session

Watch for more updates coming soon!

Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday 12:30 – 2:00, 4:00 – 6:30

CHN Bulletin Board

New *Coming Home Resources* available from the
2003 Conference speakers.

Fr. Benedict Groeschel

<i>Catherine of Genoa</i>	\$19.95
<i>Reform of Renewal</i>	\$10.95
<i>Rosary Chain of Hope</i>	\$12.95
<i>In the Presence of our Lord</i>	\$15.95

Dr. James Keating

<i>Conscience & Prayer</i>	\$14.95
<i>Crossing the Desert</i>	\$5.95
<i>Listening for Truth</i>	\$6.95
<i>Pure Heart, Clear Conscience</i>	\$7.95

Dr. Kenneth Howell

<i>Mary of Nazareth</i>	\$7.95
<i>God's Two Books</i>	\$39.95
<i>Meeting Mary Mother of Faith</i>	\$9.95

Other suggested resources available:

<i>Literary Converts</i> by Joseph Pearce	\$24.95
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Scott Hahn's

The Lamb's Supper	\$19.95
Hail, Holy Queen	\$19.95
First Comes Love	\$19.95

Please notify us of any changes to your address. If you tell us it costs us nothing; if the post office notifies us, it costs \$.60 . Please help us be better stewards of your donations.

Call 740-450-1175 or e-mail us at info@chnetwork.org.
Thank You.

Attention Members!

If you have joined the Church, or will be soon; please notify us, so we can update our records.

Call us at 740-450-1175 or e-mail jim@chnetwork.org.
Thank you.



*Upcoming guests on the
Journey Home Program
on EWTN, Mondays live at
8 P.M. EST*

*February 2
Dale Ahlquist*

*February 9
Fr. Steven Anderson*

*February 16
C.K. Chesterton
(Chuck Chalberg)*

*February 23
Dr. Robert Rice*

*Can't catch the show
when it's broadcast live?
Tune in for re-airs: (EST)*

Tuesdays 1 A.M.

Tuesdays 10 A.M.

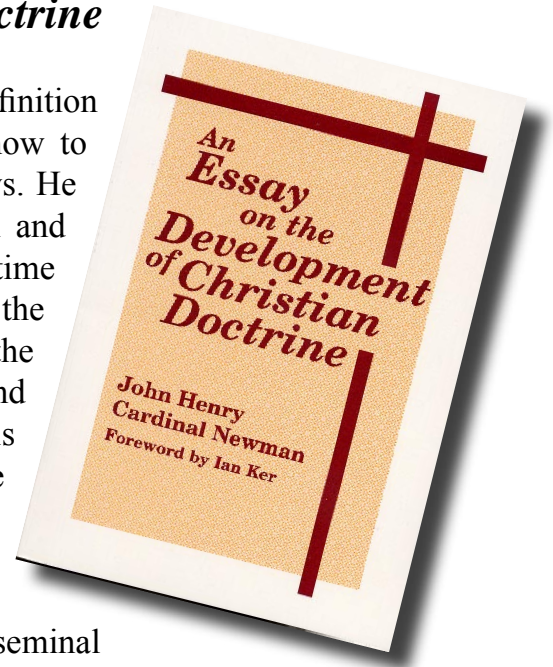
Saturdays 11 P.M.

*Best of Journey Home:
Wednesday 1 P.M.*

Or listen on the Internet at
www.ewtn.com.

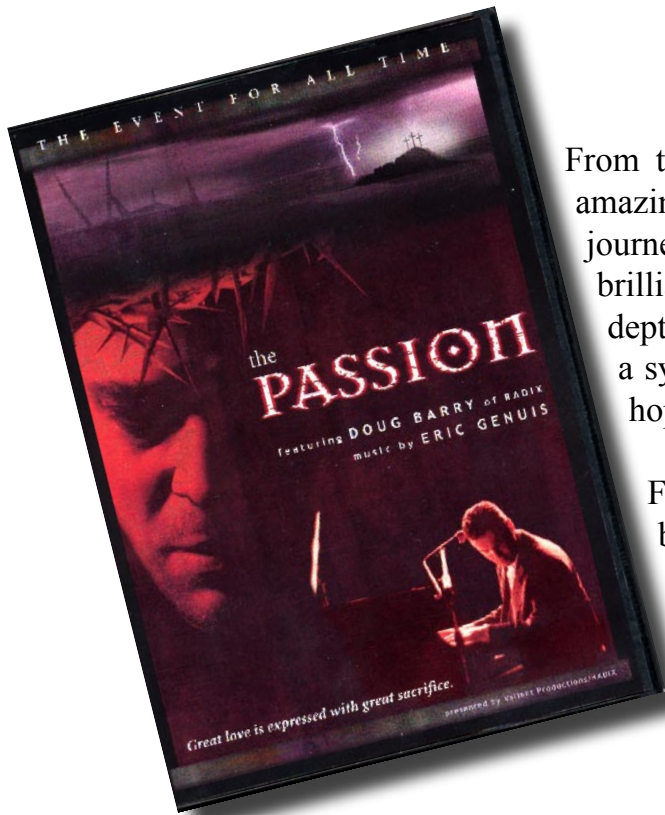
An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine

John Henry Cardinal Newman begins the Essay with a definition of development, pointing out that the real problem in how to distinguish true developments from corruptions and decays. He then goes on to a sweeping consideration of the growth and development of doctrine in the Catholic Church, from the time of the Apostles to Newman’s era. He demonstrates that the basic “rule” under which Christianity proceeded through the centuries is to be found in the principle of development, and emphasized that throughout the entire life of the Church this law of development has been in effect and safeguards the faith from any real corruption.



Fr. Ian Ker says: “An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine is rightly regarded as one of the most seminal theological works ever written...the classic text for the theology which has become especially important in the ecumenical era.”

Yours free with a gift of \$35 or more to CHN.



The Passion

From the epitome of pain and agony to the world’s most amazing act of love, The Passion takes you on an emotional journey through the most pivotal moment in history. It is a brilliant and gripping story that demonstrates not only the depth and power of God’s love, but His ability to transform a symbol of death-the cross-into a symbol of everlasting hope and life.

For more than a decade, audiences everywhere have been mesmerized by this powerful production. This captivating one-man performance of Doug Barry combined with the masterful compositions by Eric Genuis have left countless people speechless. This is a must see for all generations. It truly is THE EVENT FOR ALL LIFETIME!

If you missed the Coming Home Conference 2003 or would like to see it again, receive a copy of The Passion with any donation of \$50 or more.

Receive both with any donation of \$75 or more.

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