

The Coming Home Network SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER



The Coming Home Network International
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July 2004

The CHNetwork Conference 2004

Dear members and friends of the *Coming Home Network*:

With great excitement, the Staff and I are anticipating the second annual ***Deep in History, Deep in Scripture, Deep in Christ*** Conference. By God's mercy and grace, last fall's conference was an overwhelming success, and we hope many more of you will plan to attend this year.



The theme this fall follows the same emphasis on history that inspired our plans to begin these annual conferences. One hundred and fifty years ago, the highly respected Anglican minister John Henry Newman summarized how the study of history had influenced his own conversion to the Catholic Church when he wrote: **"To become deep in history is to cease to be Protestant."**

Newman's statement, of course, isn't always true. It was an expression of his experience. We all know people who seem to be quite deep in history yet show no movement towards the Catholic Church? Yet over the past ten years in our discussions with hundreds of converts, the majority testifies to the powerful place that becoming deep in history played in their conversions.

Another momentous future date also influenced our plans. In approximately thirteen years, on October 31, 2017, many non-Catholic Christians will be celebrating the five-hundredth anniversary of Luther's posting of the 95 *Theses* to the door of the Castle Church of Wittenberg. As the *CHNetwork* staff sets the goals for our future apostolic efforts, we can't ignore the significance of this event. We don't intend, however, to make too much of this, since many modern Protestants are indifferent to the events, leaders, and themes of the 16th century Reformation, (even though you may have noticed the release of the movie *Luther* last year**). Many Protestants do not consider themselves "Protestants." However, we believe that the "coincidence" of this upcoming anniversary in our lifetime is significant and should not be ignored.

In last fall's conference, our speakers reflected in general about how becoming deep in history and Scripture leads to a deeper relationship with Christ and His Church. I highly encourage you to get a copy of this fine collection of talks, available on cassette tape, CD, VHS, or DVD. These talks will also be published in book form and available at this fall's conference.

This November we are fine-tuning our theme on **The Early Church**. A significant majority of the inquirers and converts with whom we work and of those I interview on the Journey Home program testify to how reading the Early Church Fathers and the history of the Early Church opened their eyes to the truth of the Catholic Faith. We, therefore, have gathered together a team of speakers whom we believe will present

a inspiring examination of this important period in Church history.

These presentations will focus on history and Scripture, instead of purely apologetics, and not to a predominately Catholic audience, but to a mixed audience—Catholic, Protestant, and Eastern Orthodox. To this end, we are again offering incentives to encourage our non-Catholic Christian brethren to attend the conference—especially clergy, academics, and seminarians.

I think it is important to recognize, as I did last year, that the very existence of our apostolate has a subtle way of saying something that many people find uncomfortable, insulting, uncharitable, or even downright unecumenical: that our separated brethren—clergy and laity—should come home to the Catholic Church. Throughout history, the Church has expressed two important parallel thoughts concerning the salvation of

those outside the Church. Simply stated, if someone is invincibly ignorant (i.e., has never heard), then our merciful God will deal with him as a function of conscience. If, however, someone is not invincibly ignorant, he needs to be in the Church. Since Vatican II, and especially due to a heightened emphasis on ecumenism, it seems that many no longer believe we should tell our separated brethren to come home. (I usually receive one or two pieces of critical mail whenever I allude to this fact either on the *Journey Home* program or in *CHNetwork* publications.) An important purpose for our **Deep in History, Deep in Scripture, Deep in Christ** Conferences are to proclaim without apology yet with charity and clarity that this is still the teaching of the Catholic Church.

Given these goals, we hope you will find the overall setting of our weekend conference—the talks, music, worship, and fellowship—an inspiring

encouragement to your faith. We also hope this conference will be a welcoming environment to which you can invite a non-Catholic friend or family member.

Hope to see you there!

In Christ,



Marcus C. Grodi

****Please see *The Star Review* Magazine, Issue for Marcus Grodi's review of the movie *Luther*.**

2nd Annual CHNetwork Conference Scholarship Fund

As we prepare for our 2nd Annual *CHNetwork Conference*, we ask that you consider a special request on behalf of some of our clergy who want to attend the Conference. We do not want financial difficulties to prevent anyone from attending this wonderful opportunity to learn more about the early years of the Catholic Church.

A number of our Primary members have made great sacrifices by following the lead of the Lord Jesus into full communion with His Catholic Church. Many of them have experienced strained and even broken relationships with friends and family members. Almost as hard to endure are the financial difficulties which result from leaving the full-time Protestant ministry and entering the Church. Many people trained for ministry have found difficulty finding new employment. The financial pressure can be very stressful. We know of one *Coming*

Home Network member who had the mortgage on his house foreclosed.

It is unfortunate that the *Coming Home Network* cannot provide a free conference to all of its members. We really wish we could. We have created a **Scholarship Fund** for those members who have special financial needs and would benefit from attending the conference. A full scholarship includes conference registration (\$60.00), meals (\$70.00) and motel room for two nights (\$178.00), totaling \$308.00. We also are offering partial scholarships to members who are able to contribute a portion of the expenses.

In order to offer these Conference Scholarships, we need members—who feel so led—to contribute to the **Conference Scholarship Fund**. All such donations will be earmarked to this fund alone. Your support of these clergy will be greatly appreciated.

Also, I encourage those clergy members who wish to attend the *CHN* Conference, but are held back by financial restraints, to contact our office for a **Conference Scholarship application**. All information on the application will be kept strictly confidential.

Yours in Christ,



Jim Anderson

Is the *Coming Home Network* Conference only for Converts?

I wish I had a dollar for every time this question was asked of me over the past few months. As Catholic Christians, we are called to evangelize and witness to the fullness of truth found within our great faith. The *Coming Home Network* responds to this evangelistic commission from Christ by assisting clergy and their families, as well as laity, in their journey home to the Catholic Church.

This great commission—to assist the Holy Spirit in bringing souls home to the Catholic Church—led to our desire to sponsor these annual conferences, and now feeds the planning of every conference event or gathering, every booth or speaker presentation.

This conference also offers an excellent opportunity for Catholics to grow in the knowledge of their faith as well as meet other Catholics striving to become better informed witnesses. Potential converts can converse with practicing Catholics and converts, giving them needed strength and encouragement for the journey.

This year's *Deep in History Conference* particularly offers cradle Catholics and converts alike a unique opportunity to examine the roots of our Catholic faith. The inspiring talks and liturgies, all will enrich the faith of every attendee, from newly confirmed Catholics to those living their seventieth year of being a baptized Catholic—and give them a deeper look into the truth of our spiritual heritage. We begin each day of the conference by being fed of the Lamb of God in the Holy Mass and then continue being fed with wisdom from his flock.

As our separated brethren increasingly consider the truths of the Catholic Church, cradle Catholics need to be lights that guide them home. Weekends such as these—given unto God and His truth—help us receive the food of knowledge and the strength of fellowship to carry out this mission.

At last year's conference, cradle Catholics made up nearly seventy percent of the attendance. My question to you is not, Is this conference only for converts, but, How is this conference not for Cradle Catholics?

The words of Proverbs 27:17 stand as a strong reason for our conference: "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." May our fellowship together in Christ bring us to sharpen each other in faith for task of witnessing to others.

In Christ, His servant and yours,



Robert Rodgers
Coordinator, The Helpers Network & CHN Events
rob@chnetwork.org

St. Augustine of Hippo

Saint Augustine was raised in Roman North Africa, educated in Carthage and employed as a professor of rhetoric in Milan by AD 383. He followed the Manichaean religion in his student days, and was converted to Christianity by the preaching and example of Ambrose of Milan. Baptized on Easter in AD 387, he returned to North Africa and created a monastic foundation. In AD 391 he was ordained a priest in Hippo. Augustine became a famous preacher, noted for combating the Donatist, Pelagian and Manichaean heresies. In AD 396 he was made coadjutor bishop of Hippo, and remained as bishop in Hippo until his death in AD 430, during the siege of Hippo by the Vandals. St. Augustine's voluminous writings, including *Confessions*, *The City of God*, and *On the Trinity* influenced almost every sphere of Western thought for the next thousand years and even until today.

St. Ambrose

St. Ambrose was born in Trier, Germany, of Christian parents and educated in Rome. He became governor of the province around Milan. Popular pressure resulted in his appointment as bishop in AD 374, although he was reluctant to accept the position. After much study he became the chief Catholic opponent of Arianism in the West, and also served as advisor to Emperor Gratian. He excommunicated Theodosius I for the massacre at Thessalonica in AD 390, and imposed a heavy public penance on him before reinstating him. Ambrose's eloquent preaching spurred the conversion of St. Augustine. His writings have come down to us largely from his hearers. The writings reveal wide classical learning, knowledge of patristic literature, and a Roman bent toward the ethical and practical. About AD 386, he arranged hymns and psalms for the congregation to sing antiphonally. A plainsong called *Ambrosian chant* is attached to his name. His hymns became standard in Western hymnody. The Ambrosian Rite, now used in Milan, is probably a development of a liturgy Ambrose introduced.

St. Justin Martyr

Justin came from a Greek-speaking non-Jewish family living in Samaria. He wrote of how he searched for truth, attaching himself to a succession of philosophical schools. Finally, about AD 130, he met an old man while walking on the seashore at Ephesus who pointed out some of the weaknesses in his Platonic system. He showed Justin how the Old Testament predicted the coming of Christ; but it was seeing the courage of the Christian martyrs that finally convinced Justin. Still wearing his philosopher's cloak, he dedicated the rest of his life to defending orthodox Christianity against its opponents. Justin ministered in Rome, founding a school that attracted a wide variety of students. There, he vigorously opposed the Cynic philosopher Crescens, the Gnostic Valentinians, and the Marcionites. Justin earned his surname when he perished during the persecution of Christians, under Emperor Marcus Aurelius about AD 165.

St. Monica

Monica was born a Christian in North Africa, in AD 284. Her mother died in the faith. She was married to Patricius, a pagan, who died. Monica's whole life was centered on converting her husband to Christianity. Her bishop told her that she should be consoled because her husband was a Christian. Augustine sailed for Rome without her. She died in great part to St. Ambrose's preaching, Augustine's conversion in AD 387. Monica did not live long after Augustine's conversion. Monica expressed the profound peace she enjoyed in life completed with the conversion of Augustine. She had previously told Augustine: "Lay this body to rest, for I only do I ask of you, that you remember me at the hour of death."





St. Ignatius of Antioch

St. Ignatius was the bishop of Antioch, a city in Syria from which Sts. Paul and Barnabas set out on their missionary journey. Ignatius was appointed as the second bishop there, about AD 69, following St. Peter's successor, Evodius. That made him a very early witness, whose life stretched back to the roots of the Faith. Nothing is known of his life beyond his journey to martyrdom from Antioch to Rome. About AD 107, he was ordered by the Roman prefect to be chained and sent to Rome. On the way to the City, he wrote seven letters to Christian communities in Asia. His letters reveal a man completely devoted to Christ. His consuming desire for martyrdom comes out clearly in the *Letter to the Romans*. In the other letters he warns the recipients against heresies. He insists on the reality of both, the Divinity and the Humanity of the Lord, whom he calls "Our God Jesus Christ." Christ is truly present in the Eucharist, which he calls "The bread that is the flesh of Jesus Christ, this flesh which has suffered for our sins." The best safeguard of the unity of the Christian faith is the bishop, who is pre-eminent because he is "as the Lord," and without whose authority the Eucharist may not be celebrated.

St. Polycarp

In the second century, St. Polycarp was the revered elder statesman of the Catholic Church in the East. St. John had appointed him Bishop of Smyrna. Early in the century he had been a friend of St. Ignatius of Antioch. For more than a half of a century, Polycarp devoted himself to teaching sound doctrine, opposing the Gnostic heresy. In AD 155, persecution broke out in the province of Asia. Polycarp was arrested and taken to the amphitheater in Smyrna. The governor pressed Polycarp to abandon Christ, but he did not flinch at the threat of the wild animals or of being burnt alive. When the governor announced that Polycarp had declared himself a Christian, the frenzied mob gathered wood before the pyre. Polycarp submitted peacefully to his death. He prayed briefly and the fire was lit. Since the fire was not consuming Polycarp, the governor had one of his men plunge a dagger into him. The death of the bishop climaxed and ended the Smyrnan persecution. The report of the saint's martyrdom engendered faith and courage throughout the still very young Catholic Church.

St. Jerome

St. Jerome was born about AD 343, in Stridone, Croatia, of Christian parents. He studied at Rome under Donatus. After traveling in Gaul and elsewhere, he adopted a studious and ascetic life, spending four years in the desert of Chalcis, in Syria. He was ordained a priest in AD 379. He visited Constantinople, where he became the friend and pupil of Gregory Nazianzus. After returning to Rome, he became secretary to Pope Damasus, but after the pope's death, in AD 384, he withdrew to the Holy Land, accompanied by Paula, Eustochium, and other Roman women devoted to the ascetic life. For the remainder of his days, he presided over a monastery established at Bethlehem. There he completed his translation of the Bible from Greek and Hebrew into Latin, known as the Vulgate. He wrote numerous commentaries on the Old and New Testaments, and was engaged in controversies with Rufinus, the Pelagians, and others. St. Jerome died in Bethlehem, in AD 420.

Monica

331, the daughter of devout parents who educated a pagan Roman who became a Christian before he died for the salvation of her son Augustine. One day she saw the son of so many tears could not be lost to her. She followed him on a later ship. Later in Milan, due to her influence, he was finally converted and was baptized in the spring of 384. Monica's baptism. While traveling home to North Africa, she died and her conviction that her life's task had been to convert her son. Shortly afterward, she fell ill and died two days later. Monica said, "I am anywhere, and take no trouble over it. One thing I want, that you be at the altar of the Lord wherever you may be."

CHNetwork 2004 Conference Speakers



Father Mitch Pacwa, S.J. entered the Society of Jesus in 1968 and was ordained a Jesuit Catholic Priest in 1976. For over 35 years he has been teaching the Scriptures and Truths about the Catholic Faith through Catholic Radio and Television as well as at various universities, parishes, and Conferences around the world. Educating Catholics about their Faith and promoting unity in the Body of Christ. He currently hosts 3 new shows on EWTN. When he is not filming at EWTN, he is traveling around the globe teaching Catholics both Scripture and Sacred Tradition. In August of 2001, Father Pacwa founded IGNATIUS PRODUCTIONS, a Catholic Apostolate under the Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus, which produces video and audio tapes of Father Pacwa teaching at holy places and shrines around the world.



Rosalind Moss was born and raised in a Jewish home. In her adult years, Rosalind embraced Jesus as the Messiah of the Jewish people. After 18 years of Evangelical Protestantism, she entered the Catholic Church at Easter 1995.

Now a staff apologist at *Catholic Answers*. Rosalind is the editor of *Home at Last, 11 Who found their Way to the Catholic Church*, which includes her own journey to the Church. She is also a frequent radio guest on *Catholic Answers Live*, and together with Kristine Franklin, co-hosts EWTN's *Household of Faith* and *Now That We're Catholic!*



William Marshner, M.A., S.T.D, K.H.S.

Born in Baltimore in 1943, Prof. Marshner was raised in the Lutheran Church (LCA). He pursued his undergraduate studies at Gettysburg College as a pre-ministerial student, majoring in Greek. An interest in Old Testament studies led him to postpone entry into the Lutheran seminary at Gettysburg, in order to pursue a degree at the Yale graduate school. In 1967, Mr. Marshner was received into the Catholic Church and began writing for *Triumph Magazine*, where he was an assistant editor from 1971-1973. He then wrote for the *Wanderer Newspaper*, where he was Washington editor from 1972-1975. Since 1977, Prof. Marshner has taught theology at Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia.





Monsignor Frank Peter Lane presently serves as the Pastor of St. Margaret of Cortona Parish in Columbus, OH. From 1997-2002 Msgr. Lane served as Vice-Rector of the Pontifical College Josephinum. During this time as head administrator of the College of Liberal Arts, he also served as interim Academic Dean and Director of Recruitment.

Msgr. Lane received his Ph.D. in European History in 1973 from The Ohio State University, Masters of European History from The Ohio State University, Masters in Theology from Leopold-Franzens University in Innsbruck, Austria, Pre-Theology from St. Charles College University and B.A. from Ohio Northern University in Ada, OH.



Rod Bennett was, for many years, the editor of *Wonder Magazine*, a popular christian media journal. His writings have appeared in other national publications as well, ranging from Rutherford and Gadfly to Cornerstone and Catholic Exchange. Recently, Rod has appeared on well-known radio and television such as *The Journey Home*, *Bookmark*, and *Catholic Answers Live*. His first book, *Four Witnesses; The Early Church in Her own Words*, is a best seller from Ignatius Press. A convert from the Southern Baptist faith, Rod joined the Catholic Church in 1996. He lives in Atlanta with his wife Dorothy and their two children.



Father Charles P. Connor, the Historian of the Diocese of Scranton, received his early education at Saint Rose School, Carbondale, PA. He is a graduate of the University of Scranton, where he also received his Master's Degree in United States History. In 1979, he received his Ph.D., in United States History from Fordham University, New York City.

Father has co-produced several series for the Eternal Word Television Network, including: The History of the Catholic Church in the United States, Historic Catholic Converts, Defenders of Faith in Word and Deed, Doctors of the Church, The Catholic Priesthood through the Ages, Therese of Lisieux: The Saint for the Third Millennium, and most recently, The Sacraments through the Ages. He has appeared several times as a guest on EWTN live programs.



CHNetwork 2004 Conference Speakers Continued...



Fr. Ray Ryland was born in a small Oklahoma town. He was raised in the Disciples of Christ Church. While in college, he met Ruth Silvee. They married and moved to Cambridge, MA, whereupon Fr. Ryland entered the Howard Divinity School. There, he began to grow interested in the Unitarian Church. Upon entering the Union Theological Seminary, Fr. Ryland began to study more of the first four centuries of church history. This led Fr. Ryland to the Episcopalian Church. When he and his wife moved to Alexandria, VA, they began a journey as Episcopalians. John Henry Cardinal Newman's readings played an important role in leading Fr. Ryland and his wife to the Catholic Church. In 1963, they entered the Church, and twenty years later, he was given special permission by the Vatican to be ordained into the priesthood. He currently serves as chaplain for the Coming Home Network.



Marcus Grodi, a cradle Protestant and former Presbyterian Pastor, is the Founder/ President of the Coming Home Network International, a non-profit Catholic lay apostolate aimed at helping Protestant clergy as well as laity come home to the Catholic Church. He hosts a weekly television program on EWTN called The Journey Home. Marcus is also an author/editor of Catholic books, including *How Firm A Foundation* and *Journeys Home*.



Conference Performers

Eric Genius (conference pianist)



Doug Barry



The Passion of Christ

A gripping event that is brought to life by internationally recognized performer Doug Barry. This production is truly a masterpiece. *The Passion of Christ* is completed with a breath-taking musical score by world renowned pianist, Eric Genius.

Conference Schedule

Friday

3:00 – 4:00 Travelers **Mass- Father Ray Ryland**

4:00 – 6:00 Dinner break

6:00 – 6:30 Conference Opening

Marcus Grodi *Introduction to Conference*

6:30 – 8:00 Evening Session 2 talks

Dr. Marshner *How Do We Know the Early Church?*

Rod Bennett *Four Witnesses Brought Me Home*

8:00 – 9:00 Concert **Eric Genius**

9:00 CHN social

Saturday

7:30 – 8:00 Morning Prayer

8:00 – 9:00 **Mass - Ret. Bishop Dudley**

9:00 – 11:00 Breakfast

11:00 – 1:00 Morning Session 2 talks

Fr. Pacwa *Scripture and the Early Church*

Rosalind Moss *Discovering the Fullness*

1:00 – 3:00 Lunch

3:00 – 4:00 Afternoon Session

Fr. Ray Ryland *Papal Authority in the Early Church*

4:00 – 5:30 Panel Discussion

5:30 – 7:30 Dinner

7:30 – 8:30 Evening Session

Fr. Connor *Classic Converts and the Early Church*

8:30 - 9:30 Performance

Doug Barry *Passion of Christ*

9:30 – 10:30 **Holy Hour & Exposition**

Sunday

8:00 – 8:30 Morning Prayer

8:30 – 10:00 **Mass – Bishop Griffin**

10:00 – 11:30 Breakfast

11:30 – 12:30 Morning Session

Msgr. Lane *The Early Church and our Faith Today*

12:30 – 1:30 Closing Session

Marcus Grodi *Still Helping Them Home*

**** Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday 1:00 – 3:30 & 4:30-6:00

CHN Bulletin Board

Online Registration Now Available!

Coming Home Conference 2004

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

History of the Early Church

November 5-7

Holiday Inn, Columbus, Ohio

Members Only Special!

Early Bird Special \$72 (deadline July 31, 2004)

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Thank You.

Attention Members!

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

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

For further reading, Marcus Grodi and Fr. Ray Ryland are now writing articles in *The Catholic Answer* (bimonthly) magazine.



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

*July 5
Pre-Tape*

*July 12
Patti Defilippis
(writer of screenplay "Therese")*

*July 19
Deacon Steve Seever
former Mormon*

*July 26
Gary Hoge
former Baptist*

*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.

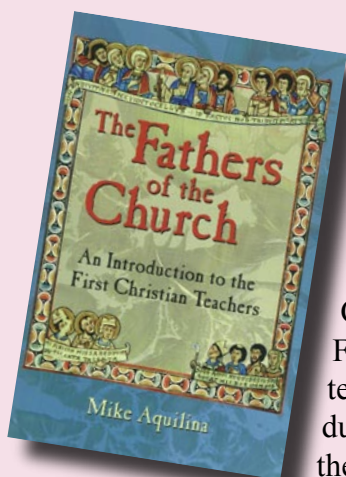
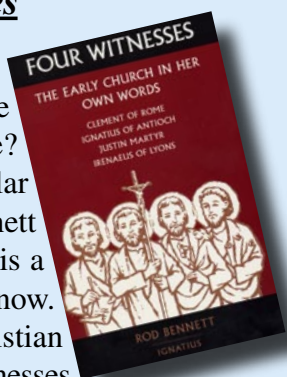
Or listen on the Internet at
www.ewtn.com.

Featured Coming Home Resources

Four Witnesses

By Rod Bennett

What was the early Church like? Contrary to popular belief, Rod Bennett shows that there is a reliable way to know. Four ancient Christian writers—four witnesses to early Christianity—have left us an extensive body of documentation on this vital subject, and this book brings their fascinating testimony to life for modern believers. With all the power and drama of a gripping novel, this book is a journey of discovery of ancient and beautiful truths through the lives of four great saints of the early Church—Clement of Rome, Ignatius of Antioch, Justin Martyr, and Irenaeus of Lyons.



The Fathers of the Church

By Mike Aquilina

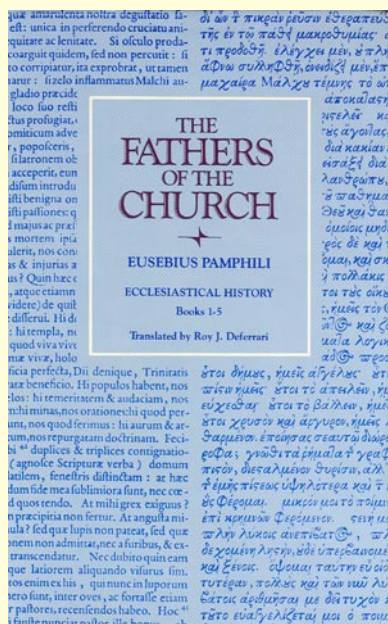
Irenaeus. Cyprian. Origen. Polycarp. Justin. Ambrose. Augustine.

Catholic tradition calls them “The Fathers.” They were the leaders and teachers of the Christian community during the first Christian millennium, the faith’s most formative period. Their judgments and insights gave us the creeds, the liturgies, the customs, and even the Bible as we know it today. Now, their stories and their writings are brought together in this vivid overview of the history of the early Church.

A must-read for all who seek to understand the Church’s past—and prepare for her future.

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The Fathers of the Church

Ecclesiastical History: Books 1-5 & 5-10

By Eusebius Pamphilus

Translated by Roy J. Deferrari

Fathers of the Church, begun in the early decades of this century, is a series of new translations of patristic Greek and Latin texts beginning with the Apostolic Fathers and continuing down to the times of Isidore of Seville and John of Damascus. Translations of representative works from these periods have already appeared and others are in various stages of planning, preparation and completion. Based on the latest critical editions available, these translations are the work of scholars recognized for their competence in Greek, Latin, philosophy, theology, Church history and related disciplines.

Receive Volume 1 with a donation of \$50 or more.

Receive the set for a donation of \$75 or more!

The Coming Home Network International
P.O.Box 8290
Zanesville, OH 43702



Conference Information Inside!

Earlybird registration
rates end July 31!