

THE COMING HOME NETWORK INTERNATIONAL

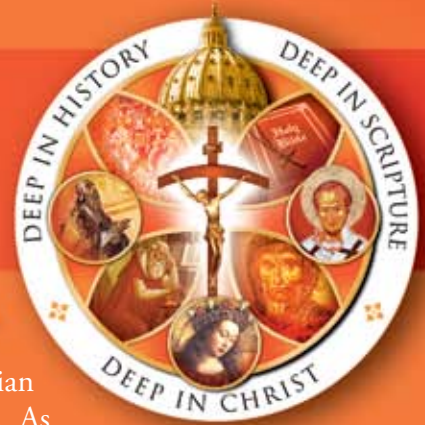
SPECIAL EDITION

JUNE 2010 NEWSLETTER

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

The 8th Annual Deep in History Conference

OCTOBER 22-24, 2010 — HILTON EASTON — COLUMBUS, OHIO



With the Deep in History conferences standing on the Pillar and Bulwark of truth, in October, 2010, we will turn the focus to the *Authenticity of the Sacred Scriptures* as we look to the authority and history of the Sacred Writ.

Join us this fall as we bring together another exciting group of speakers to discuss the authority of the Scriptures. We will look at the Scriptures from the penning of its books to its binding into the Bible we hold today, so that as Catholics, we might better profess our faith through His inspired Word.

The Sacred Writ is inerrant; however, because of individual human interpretations of the inspired

Word, the Christian world is divided. As we look to discern

how firm is our foundation, we will respond to the errors of today and yesterday as we continue our journey into the teachings of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

We invite you to come and be a part of another inspiring weekend, with an aim to end ignorance and enlighten the heart, mind, and soul as we dive into the history of the Sacred Scriptures. The result, we trust, will be a new confidence in the firmness of our foundation.

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY — OCT. 22nd

- 3:30 Travelers' Mass ~ *His Excellency Bishop Frederick Campbell*
- 5:00 Dinner
- 7:00 Opening ~ *Marcus Grodi*
- 8:15 The Logos in the Mouth of the Church: Origin & Authority of Sacred Scripture ~ *Msgr. Frank Lane*
- 9:15 Social

SATURDAY — OCT. 23rd

- 8:00 Morning Prayer & Rosary*
- 8:30 Mass ~ *Fr. Ray Ryland* ~ *Sola Scriptura*
- 9:30 Breakfast
- 11:00 The Wisdom of St. Augustine on Science & Genesis ~ *Dr. Kenneth Howell*

12:00 Critical Methods of Scriptures: What Are They & How Are They Used?

~ *Fr. Mitch Pacwa*

1:00 Lunch ~ Confessions

2:30 The Fathers Know Best: A Look at the Relationship Between Scripture & Tradition in the Early Church.

~ *Patrick Madrid*

3:30 Tales of Thomas, Judas, & the Magdalene: The Fourfold Gospel & the False Gospels ~ *Dr. Paul Thigpen*

4:30 Panel Discussion

5:30 Dinner ~ Confessions, Primary & Helpers' Dinner

7:30 Ice - Water - Steam: Catholics Are Not Called to be the Frozen Chosen ~ *Richard Lane*

8:30 The Sacramental Authority of Scripture ~ *Dr. Scott Hahn*

9:30 Adoration

SUNDAY — OCT. 24th

8:00 Morning Prayer & Rosary*

8:30 Mass ~ *Fr. Mitch Pacwa*

9:30 Breakfast

11:30 Christ in the Fullness of His Word ~ *Bruce Sullivan*

12:30 The Authority of Scripture in Marriage & Family Life ~ *Kimberly Hahn*

1:30 Closing

*Morning Prayer: In the Ballroom, from the *Magnificat*
There is a ten-minute break between the talks.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 1:00-2:30 & 5:30-7:30

2010 SPEAKERS



Marcus Grodi and his wife, Marilyn, were both “cradle Protestants.” Marcus received his Master of Divinity Degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and was ordained to the Protestant pastoral ministry. During more than 15 years of youth, young adult, and pastoral ministry, his main emphasis was church and lay spiritual renewal.

Marcus, Marilyn, and their sons Jon Marc and Peter were received into the Catholic Church on December 20, 1992. When their third son, Richard, was born, he entered through baptism.

Marcus is the founder and the President/ Executive Director of *The Coming Home Network International*. He hosts the weekly live television program on EWTN called *The Journey Home* and a weekly live radio program, *Deep in Scripture*. He is the author of the novel *How Firm a Foundation* and editor of the book *Journeys Home*. Marcus’ website is www.marcusgrodi.com.



Bishop Frederick F. Campbell is the bishop of Columbus, Ohio. Bishop Campbell has a Ph.D in history, and prior to entering seminary, was a professor at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, and at California State College. He was ordained a priest in 1980 and served at several parishes in Minnesota before he was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis in 1999.

In July 2002, Bishop Campbell began service as Rector and Vice President of the Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity of the University of St Thomas. He served on the Saint Paul Seminary Board of Trustees, the Saint Thomas Academy Board of Directors, and the Saint Bernard School Board of Directors, all in St. Paul. Bishop Campbell also served on the Archdiocesan Bio-Medical Ethics Commission and worked with the Office of Marriage and Family Life, the Respect Life Program, and the Office for the Permanent Diaconate.

Bishop Campbell was installed as the 11th Bishop of Columbus in 2005. Presently, he sits on the boards of the Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence, Mother Angeline McCrory Manor, and the Pontifical College Josephinum, where he is the Vice Chancellor of the College. Bishop Campbell will be celebrating the Traveler’s Mass during this conference.



Dr. Scott Hahn is an exceptionally popular speaker and teacher. Dr. Hahn has delivered numerous talks nationally and internationally on a wide variety of topics related to Scripture and the Catholic faith. His talks have been effective in helping thousands of Protestants and fallen-away Catholics to embrace or re-embrace the Catholic faith.

Dr. Hahn is currently a Professor of Theology and Scripture at Franciscan University of Steubenville, where he has taught since 1990, and is the founder and director of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. In 2005, he was appointed as the Pope Benedict XVI Chair of Biblical Theology and Liturgical Proclamation at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Two of his newest books are *Kinship by Covenant: A Canonical Approach to the Fulfillment of God’s Saving Promises* and *Covenant and Communion: The Biblical Theology of Pope Benedict XVI*. For a complete listing of Dr. Hahn’s books visit www.scotthahn.com.



Patrick Madrid is the publisher of *Envoy* magazine and serves as director of the Envoy Institute of Belmont Abbey College. He is the author or editor of 15 books on Catholic themes. He was Vice President of Catholic Answers for eight years, from 1988 through 1995, helping co-found that apostolate’s flagship magazine, *This Rock*, in January of 1990. He has hosted several EWTN television series and is the host of the Thursday edition of EWTN Radio’s *Open Line* broadcast.

Over the past 20 years, Patrick has delivered over 1500 public lectures on Catholic history,

theology, and apologetics, in English and Spanish, at parishes and universities around the world. He is a veteran of a dozen formal public debates with Protestant ministers, Mormon leaders, and other non-Catholic spokespersons. Visit Patrick’s website at www.surprisedbytruth.com.



Dr. Kenneth Howell is Director and Senior Fellow of the St. John Institute of Catholic Thought located on the campus of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He is also Adjunct Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Illinois, where he teaches classes on Catholic history, theology, and philosophy. He has been a visiting professor at several universities and published dozens of articles in scholarly and popular journals.

Dr. Howell was a Presbyterian minister for 18 years and a theology professor for seven years at a Protestant seminary where he taught Hebrew, Greek, and Latin as well as biblical interpretation and the history of Christianity. During his ministry and teaching, Dr. Howell’s reading on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist started him on a six-year journey that eventually led him into the Catholic Church.

Dr. Howell has authored eight books. His latest book is *Ignatius of Antioch & Polycarp of Smyrna: A New Translation and Theological Commentary* published by *CHResources*, *CHNI*’s publishing outreach.



Father Mitch Pacwa, a well-known biblical scholar, has lectured at hundreds of conferences and churches around the world and has hosted numerous international radio and television broadcasts.

In 2000 Fr. Pacwa established Ignatius Productions, a Catholic media production apostolate, whose mission is to teach people the Scriptures, educate Catholics about their faith, and promote unity and understanding within the Mystical Body of Christ. He is best known for his appearances on EWTN.

Fr. Pacwa is fluent in twelve languages and has a unique understanding of the peoples and cultures of the Middle East. He has led over fifty pilgrimages to the Middle East, Europe, and the Holy Land. Fr. Pacwa's teachings and travels are available as CDs and DVDs on his web site at www.fathermitchpacwa.org.



Dr. Paul Thigpen, a former Evangelical pastor, is a best-selling author, award-winning journalist, and popular Catholic apologist who has published thirty-seven books in a wide variety of genres and subjects. He has served on the theology faculties of several colleges and universities and is past editor of *The Catholic Answer*, a national bimonthly magazine that answers questions about the Catholic faith. Dr. Thigpen graduated from Yale University (1977) *summa cum laude* and was a Robert W. Woodruff Fellow at Emory University in Atlanta, where he earned an M.A. (1993) and a Ph.D. (1995) in historical theology. He presently serves on the National Advisory Council of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and is the Director of *CHResources* for *The Coming Home Network International*. Dr. Thigpen's website is www.paulthigpen.com.



Richard Lane was received into the Catholic Church on April 19, 2003. In 2005 he began proclaiming the Gospel as a street corner evangelist, sharing the Word of God, and passing out Bibles, crosses and other religious items. Since that time, Mr. Lane has been featured in *Our Sunday Visitor*, the *National Catholic Reporter*, and *Sports Review Magazine*. He has also been interviewed on *Catholic Answers Live*, Ave Maria Radio, Relevant Radio, and Eternal Word Television Network's (EWTN) *The Journey Home* with Marcus Grodi. Richard Lane is the co-founder of the Catholic Men for Christ conference in St. Louis, Missouri, which continues to draw thousands of men each year to hear the powerful message of the Gospel.

Mr. Lane is one of the only African-American Catholics in the United States on Catholic radio, and is the producer and co-host of Covenant Radio Network's *Evangelizing St. Louis* weekly radio show since 2006. You may learn more about Richard's ministry at www.catholicevangelist.net

Richard is the proud husband of Donna L. Lane; they have a beautiful daughter, K. Alexandria Lane.

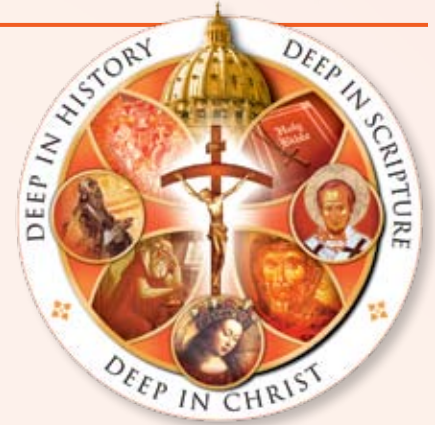


Kimberly Hahn was raised in a Presbyterian family and is now a popular Catholic author and speaker. Kimberly's educational background includes a BA in Communication Arts from Grove City College in Grove City, Pennsylvania (1979, *magna cum laude*), and a MA in Theology from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (1982, *magna cum laude*).

Kimberly is the wife of well known Catholic apologist Dr. Scott Hahn. They have six children. Kimberly became a Catholic at the Easter Vigil in 1990 after a difficult struggle during the four years following Scott's entrance into the Catholic Church. She and Scott are coauthors of the book *Rome Sweet Home: Our Journey to Catholicism*. Kimberly is also the author of *Chosen and Cherished: Biblical Wisdom for Your Marriage*, coauthor of *Catholic Education: Homeward Bound* and *Journey Through Scripture: Genesis to Jesus*. Through her many books and talks she shares wisdom on topics related to women, family life, and the Catholic faith. Kimberly resides with her family in Steubenville, Ohio.



Bruce Sullivan was raised as a Southern Baptist and served as a Church of Christ preacher for seven years. As a Church of Christ preacher, Bruce was a zealous apostle for what he believed to be the true Gospel and was an ardent anti-Catholic. All of that changed, however, when he was confronted with the truth and beauty of the Catholic faith while trying to "evangelize" a Catholic family who had moved into his community. His studies precipitated by his



encounter with his Catholic neighbors eventually led Bruce to recognize that the Catholic Church is, in fact, the true Church of Christ. As a result, he was received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil of 1995.

Bruce is a graduate of Auburn University and the Sunset School of Preaching. He has been a guest on EWTN's *Mother Angelica Live*, *Bookmark*, *The Journey Home*, *Deep in Scripture*, and *Catholic Answers Live*. He is also the author of *Christ in His Fullness: A Protestant Minister Discovers the Fullness of Christ in the Catholic Church* published by *CHResources*, *CHNI's* publishing outreach. Bruce and his wife, Gloria, reside with their five children on a family farm in rural Kentucky.



Monsignor Frank Lane presently serves as an adjunct professor at St. Bonaventure University in New York. From 1997-2002 Monsignor served as Vice-Rector of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Ohio. He has given a number of lectures and is the author of articles published in the *Josephinum Journal of Theology* and the *New Catholic Encyclopedia*. He is a past member of the Board of Trustees for the Pontifical College Josephinum and of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Columbus. From 1984-1987 Msgr. Lane served as lecturer in Church History for the Lay Ministry Program in the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. In 1985, he was a guest lecturer at Capital University for the European Humanities classes and from 1970-1973 served as lecturer in European History at The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

2010 CONFERENCE LOGO



The Bible as the Sword of the Spirit

The Catholic Church teaches that God is the author of Sacred Scripture. The divinely revealed realities, which are contained and presented in the text of Sacred Scripture, have been written down under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Holy Mother Church, relying on the faith of the apostolic age, accepts as sacred and canonical the books of the Old and the New Testaments, whole and entire, with all their parts, on the grounds that, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they have God as their author, and have been handed on as such to the Church herself. "The Church forcefully and specifically exhorts all the Christian faithful... to learn the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ, by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures.

Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 133). "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Heb. 4:12).



St. John Chrysostom St. John, named Chrysostom "golden-mouthed" because of his eloquence, born of Christian parents about the year 344 in the city of Antioch. He studied rhetoric under Libanius, a pagan, the most famous orator of

the age. In 374 he began to lead the life of a hermit in the mountains near Antioch, but in 386 the poor state of his health forced him to return to Antioch, where he was ordained a priest. In 398 he was elevated to the See of Constantinople and became one of the greatest lights of the Church. But he had enemies in high places including Theophilus, Patriarch of Alexandria. His most powerful enemy, however, was the empress Eudoxia, who was offended by his bold condemnation of the morality of her court. Several accusations were brought against him in a pseudo-council, and he was sent into exile. In the midst of his sufferings, like the Apostle Paul, whom he so greatly admired, he found the greatest peace and happiness. He had the consolation of knowing that the Pope remained his friend,

and did for him what lay in his power. His enemies were not satisfied with the sufferings he had already endured, and they banished him still further, to Pythius, at the very extremity of the Empire. He died on his way there on September 14, 407.



St. Ephraim the Syrian St.

Ephraim was born in Nisibis of Mesopotamia around the year 306.

In his youth he was the disciple of St. James, Bishop of Nisibis, one of the 318 Fathers of the First Council of Nicaea. Ephraim lived in Nisibis, practicing a severe ascetical life and increasing in holiness, until 363, when he moved to Edessa, where he fought many heresies. He waged a special war against the Gnostic Bardaisan, who had written many hymns propagating his errors. In response, St. Ephraim, having received from God a unique gift of eloquence, wrote a multitude of hymns that set forth true doctrines, refuted heretical error, and praised the triumphs of the martyrs. He may rightly be called the first and greatest hymnographer of the Church and is referred to as the "Harp of the Holy Spirit." St. Ephraim died around the year 373.



The Blessed Virgin Mary

Often our Protestant brothers and sisters are offended when Catholics refer to the Blessed Virgin Mary as Queen of Heaven. What they fail to understand is that this title is deeply rooted in Sacred Scripture. In ancient Israel the Queen Mother enjoyed an elevated status higher than the King's own wives. When subjects would come before the King, they would bow before him. Yet King Solomon would stand and bow before his mother, Bathsheba, when she entered the throne room. He then provided a throne for her at his right hand (see I Kings 2:19). The Queen Mother also had a special role as intercessor with her son the King for the people (see I Kings 2:20). Throughout the history of

the kingdoms of Israel and Judah the Queen Mother also served in a special role for the nation.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Rev. 19:16). Jesus has fulfilled the prophecy that from David's throne would rule a Prince of Peace whose kingdom would be universal and everlasting (see Is. 9:5-6). Jesus' Kingdom is not of this world. It is "in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion" (Eph. 1:20-21). In the book of Revelation, the "woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars," bore a son "who is to rule the nations" (Rev. 12:1, 5). Is there any wonder that Catholics view Mary as Queen of Heaven?



St. Jerome St. Jerome was born

around 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 379. He visited Constantinople, where he became the friend and pupil of St. Gregory Nazianzus. After returning to Rome, Jerome became secretary to Pope Damasus, but after the pope's death in 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 420.



St. Clement of Rome Pope

St. Clement I, also known as St. Clement of Rome, is listed from an

early date as a Bishop of Rome. He was the first Apostolic Father of the Church.

Few details are known about Clement's life. According to Tertullian, Clement was consecrated by St. Peter, and he is known to have been a leading member of the church in Rome in the latter part of the 1st century. Clement's only genuine extant writing is his letter to the Corinthian church, 1 Clement (c. 96), which was a response to strife in the community, where certain presbyters had been deposed. He asserted the authority of the presbyters (elders) as rulers of the church, on the grounds that the Apostles had appointed them such. This important work was the first to affirm the apostolic authority of the clergy. According to a tradition not earlier than the 4th century, Clement was imprisoned under the Emperor Trajan but nonetheless led a ministry among fellow prisoners. He was then executed around the year 99 by being tied to an anchor and thrown into the sea.



First Council of Nicaea

Though the council of Jerusalem recorded in Acts 15 was the first Church council, the first ecumenical (world-wide) council met in the city of Nicaea in 325. The First Council of Nicaea defended the apostolic teaching of the full deity of Jesus Christ against the teachings of the heretical priest Arius. Called by the emperor Constantine and headed by the representatives of Pope Sylvester I, with 318 bishops from across the empire, Nicaea set the precedent for the following 20 ecumenical councils of the Catholic Church, including Vatican II. "The college of bishops exercises power over the universal Church in a solemn manner in an ecumenical council." But "there never is an ecumenical council which is not confirmed or at least recognized as such by Peter's successor" (CIC, can. 337, LG 22).

THE COMING HOME NETWORK INTL'

PO Box 8290
Zanesville, OH 43702
740-450-1175
www.chnetwork.org

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THANK YOU

The Coming Home Network International would especially like to thank *The Catholic Times* for their help in advertising our event.

ADORATION

Come and adore the Eucharistic Lord Jesus during our *Deep in History* conference! Adoration will take place during normal conference hours in the chapel. CHNI extends our grateful thanks to the Children of Mary, a semi-contemplative community of sisters devoted to the Eucharist, who have made this possible. For more information on the Children of Mary please visit www.childrenofmary.net.



RCIA

Again this year, *The Coming Home Network International* is offering a special conference rate to those in RCIA, their sponsor, and Director(s) of the RCIA class. Please contact Rob Rodgers at rob@chnetwork.org for more information.



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KOINONIA

At all of our *Deep In History* conferences we have continued a tradition of inviting all non-Catholic clergy and their spouses, both those on the journey as well as converts, to enjoy a free private meal of good food and wonderful fellowship in the Holy Spirit. This dinner will be at 5:30 pm on Saturday. It's an excellent opportunity to get to know one another, to share what the Lord Jesus has been doing in our lives, and to encourage those of us who have struggled in our faith journey.

Please don't miss this opportunity to be blessed with great fellowship, not to mention good food!

RESOURCES, VENDORS, & OTHER STUFF

Once again the *Deep in History* conference will be hosted at the beautiful Hilton, Easton Columbus, Ohio, with its spacious main ballroom and lots of room for vendors, the Friday night reception, and meal seating.

Among our many vendors, you can expect our main bookstore, The Catholic Shop, with lots of great Catholic resources. As usual, the *Coming Home Network* will have a booth with special conference merchandise and *CHResources* publications. Fr. Lutz will once again be present with a display of historic Church items from the Jubilee Museum. Ron Meyer will be representing EWTN.

Be sure to stop by the Friday evening social, as it offers an excellent opportunity for you to meet up with old friends and make new ones. Many of the speakers will be there to sign books and answer questions. The social is open to everyone registered for the conference. While the catered refreshments and wine require a ticket (see the registration form for details), the socializing is free.

We hope you will join us once again this October as together we study the authenticity of the Sacred Scriptures.

T-SHIRTS

Pre-order your 2010 CHNetwork Conference shirts and beat the rush!

Pre-orders will be taken until July 16, 2010 and will be shipped in August. Shirt colors are tan (short sleeve) and black (long sleeve) with this year's logo on the back. Shirts are \$18 (includes shipping). \$2.00 extra for plus sizes.



Order Form

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SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The *Coming Home Network International* offers scholarships to Primary members who financially cannot otherwise attend the *Deep in History* conference. If you would like to help non-Catholic clergy, or former ministers who have recently become Catholic, attend the conference we would ask that you consider donating to the scholarship fund. You may do so by calling the *CHNI* office at 740-450-1175 or completing a section on the registration form.



HELPERS DINNER

Each year, our *Deep in History* conference offers an ideal opportunity for *CHNetwork* Helpers to meet and discuss the assistance they give to inquirers. Since 2004 *The Coming Home Network International* has sponsored the Saturday Helpers meal. With humble beginnings, this gathering has offered a chance for Helpers to meet together and share stories they have heard and experienced. Not only do we gain a better understanding of our relationships with Christ, but we find ourselves recharged and more focused for the road ahead. This meal brings us fellowship and leaves us better equipped to spread the truth of our Catholic faith. Come join us at 5:30 pm on Saturday!

How Firm is Your Foundation?

The theme of this year's *Deep in History Conference* is adapted from a familiar hymn: "How Firm is Your Foundation?" The question at issue for the weekend will be whether the Bible alone is truly sufficient for all matters of faith. This is a teaching most Protestants believe, or at least upon which they have based most of their doctrinal apologetics, ever since Martin Luther made the following bold statement at the Diet of Worms:

"Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen."

Over the weekend, our various speakers will address the important implications of this statement, both obvious and hidden. But suffice it to say that out of this bold stand (in which Luther was actually holding stubbornly to his own private interpretations of a select list of verses) has evolved the modern view: "all I need is the Bible to know all I need about Jesus and salvation."

On the surface this may sound gallant and faithful—as if one is rightly raising and praising the divinely inspired Word of God—but, from personal experience, I can only admit to how blind I was to how naive, if not downright ridiculous, this notion is. On top of this, like so many others who hold to *sola Scriptura*, I was also blind to how we were actually giving higher precedence to the other two foundations upon which Luther had taken his stand: "clear reason" and "conscience." With the clarion call of *sola Scriptura*, Christians have been drawn into all kinds of theological and philosophical aberrations, including the defense of divorce, contraception, abortion, euthanasia, and homosexual unions.

As an example of the problem of *sola Scriptura*, consider carefully the implications of the following passage from Deuteronomy. As you do, remember that when Jesus confounded the Devil during his forty days in the desert, he relied upon the authority and truth of this book (Deut 8:3; 6:16; and 6:13). When he summarized the Law by stating the Greatest Commandment he again confirmed the authority of this and other books of Moses (Deut. 6:5 and Lev. 19:18). Also, remember that most Protestant scholars, preachers, and teachers begin building the doctrine of *sola Scriptura* upon the fact that Jesus quoted from these books.

*"Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to it or take from it. If a prophet arises among you, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder which he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, 'Let us go after other gods,' which you have not known, 'and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or to that dreamer of dreams; for the Lord your God is testing you, to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him, and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and cleave to him. **But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to make you leave the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from the midst of you.**"—Deuteronomy 12:32–13:5*

Now imagine yourself the pastor of an independent Christian Bible Church, responsible to no one but Jesus through the Holy Spirit. How would you, or should you, interpret and apply this passage to your congregation? What should you do with those prophets and dreamers in your midst who claim private messages from God, who then attempt to pull people from your congregation in directions different from where you believe God is calling you?

Let's say you have chosen to teach your people the Trinitarian and Christological formulas of the Ecumenical Councils in the third and fourth centuries, while these new leaders—confirmed by signs and wonders—are teaching that God is found only in Jesus or in the Holy Spirit. What should you do with these teachers of rebellion?

Now I suppose having them stoned seems a bit violent in our modern civilized (?) society, but this was the prescribed punishment described in Scripture: *"You shall stone him to death with stones, because he sought to draw you away from the Lord your God. . . . And all Israel shall hear, and fear, and never again do any such wickedness as this among you"* (Deut. 13:10–11).

You can tell by the wording of this passage that a few leaders must have been flinging sheep instead of stones for this punishment. Why else would Moses need to be redundant about emphasizing that stoning was to be done with stones? More importantly, however, you can see that there would be great benefit to the future stability of your congregation if you were to heed these instructions from God's Word.

Now you might say that, as the New Testament Church, you are not bound by these Old Testament Jewish regulations. However, though the apostle Paul may have exhorted his followers to cease being slaves to "old Testament Jewish regulations," when push came to shove he confessed his unswerving loyalty to them: *"But this I admit to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the law or written in the prophets"* (Acts 24:14).

What will you tell your elders and congregation they should do with the schismatics in your midst? And what about those of your congregation who follow them, for the Scriptures command that you stone them as well (see Deut. 13:6–11)? And how will you handle any fights that may break out amongst your warring flock? The Scriptures are very strict about what must be done. (You *must* read Deut. 25:11–12!)

Now I'm not bringing these regulations to your attention because I think we should rethink how we deal with schismatics or family squabbles. Rather I'm pointing out how dangerous the doctrine of *sola Scriptura* can be and has been ever since it was first coined by the Protestant Reformers in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. When the wisdom and guidance of Sacred Tradition and the Church Magisterium were thrown to the wind, Christendom fell victim to "every wind of doctrine" (Eph. 4:14). In fact it was in this context that Paul begged the Ephesian believers to "maintain the unity of the Spirit," recognizing that Christ had gifted His Body with apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to enable the Church to "attain to the unity of The Faith" (Eph. 4:1–16).

Now granted, some of the men and women who have held positions of Church leadership throughout history have done much to sever this unity. Some have made unity so downright uncomfortable that we could nearly justify breaking free to be all that Paul exhorted a Church to be. But then on what side of Deuteronomy 13 would we fall? And once we've successfully dodged all the stones, when might you need to start throwing stones of our own?

As I ruminate on my years as a Protestant pastor, I'm now much more aware of how I unconsciously categorized Bible passages into those that were easily interpreted and preached (such as John 3:16, Romans 8:28, or Galatians 2:20) and those that needed qualifying explanations (such as Matthew 16:16-19, John 6:51ff, Hebrews 6:4-6, and James 2:24). I have come to realize that we Protestant clergy had an unspoken way of dealing with difficult, uncomfortable verses like the latter list. We'd essentially let them sit until we heard or read someone we highly respected, and who also passed the litmus tests of our other accepted dogma, give a plausible, believable, repeatable answer. This we then memorized and added to our list of quick knee-jerk responses.

I also began to see the many "verses I never saw," which I will discuss during the *Deep in History* conference.

Whether you are Catholic or Protestant, I strongly encourage you to consider joining us for the weekend. Our goal, of course, is not to diminish our appreciation for the divinely inspired Sacred Scriptures, but to emphasize with great thanksgiving how gracious and loving Christ our Lord was when He gave us not just Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, but also the Church as our infallible guide to interpretation and truth.

—Sincerely In Christ, Marcus Grodi ■

Prayer List

Clergy

- For Sarah, the daughter of a non-denominational minister in New Jersey, that Jesus would heal her of her eating disorder and fill her with the deep knowledge of His loving grace.
- For Scott, a United Methodist minister in the Midwest, that he may be given the grace to knock so that the Lord Jesus may open the door to him.
- For Jason, a Lutheran minister in Iowa, that he may experience the joy of returning to his Mother, the Holy Catholic Church.
- For a husband and wife who are both Lutheran ministers, that God would remove every obstacle preventing them from coming into full communion with the Church.
- For a Presbyterian seminarian in London, England, that he may learn the riches of the Catholic faith in which he was born, be received back into full communion, and be enabled by God to serve in His Church.
- For a Lutheran minister in Missouri, not only that he may find his true home in the Catholic Church, but also that he may also find in it the vocation God has for him.

Laity

- For the repose of the souls of James and William. May they rest in peace.
- For Tom; may his love for all things traditional bring him ever closer to his Divine Savior.
- For Jessia; may the saints and angels pray her into a deepening union with the Mystical Body of Christ.
- For Chris in Pennsylvania, who was raised Catholic but is now an atheist. May he find the Truth for which he is so ardently searching and may God grant him the gift of faith.
- For Mary, that she will be able once again to go forward with her faith journey.
- For Jack and his wife to be able to come into full communion with the Church of the Apostles.
- For Sister Antonia as she continues serving the Lord; may He shower His blessings upon her.
- For Elizabeth; may her generosity and faith be rewarded in the Kingdom of the Father.
- For Paul; may he find comfort and peace after the loss of his beloved wife.



- For Mary Anne to rediscover the depths of truth awaiting her within the arms of the Catholic Church.
- For Lorraine and her husband; may God surround them with His love and peace.
- For Kay as she continues exploring Catholic teachings; may the Spirit of truth guide her studies and give her peace in her discernment.
- For Kenneth, that he will be granted the wisdom to understand how Scripture and Tradition work together to give Christians the fullness of the truth.
- For Darla; may all obstacles and impediments to her reception into the Catholic Church be removed.
- For the members of Lois' family to return to the fullness of truth.

In every issue we include timely prayer concerns from the membership. All members are encouraged to pray at least one hour each month before the Blessed Sacrament for the needs, both general and specific, of the CHN network and its members, and supporters.

Please submit all prayer requests and answers to CHN Prayer List, P. O. Box 8290, Zanesville, OH 43702. Or e-mail prayer requests to prayers@chnetwork.org.

We use only first names to preserve anonymity.

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June 7

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Former Charismatic Episcopal Priest

June 14

Father Brian Harrison*

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June 21

*The Journey Home in Scandinavia**

June 28

Father Jordan Turano*

Revert

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Deep in Scripture Guests for June

June 2

Andy McNutt*

June 23

TBD*

June 9

Richard Ballard*

June 30

Robert Koons*

June 16

Frank Hermann*

**This schedule is subject to change*

FEATURED RESOURCES

Featured books from two of our conference speakers!

How Firm a Foundation

By Marcus Grodi



How Firm a Foundation is a novel that tells the story of a Protestant minister striving to serve Jesus under the weight of an escalating crisis: How can he be certain that what he is preaching is eternally true and not just his opinion? This crisis challenges not only his calling as a pastor, but the stability of his marriage and family. For some, this book will directly relate to their personal journeys. Others will come to appreciate the faith they may have taken for granted.

Christ in His Fullness

By Bruce Sullivan



Christ In His Fullness details the journey of Bruce Sullivan, who was a Church of Christ minister for seven years before entering the Catholic Church. This book explains the joys, struggles, fears, and peace that come from an individual's realization that the fullness of truth is found within the Catholic Church. Bruce Sullivan presents an in-depth study of the issues that prevent many from ever considering the Catholic Church while emphasizing in a positive way the great gift awaiting all who will embrace the Catholic faith, the gift of having Christ in all of His fullness.

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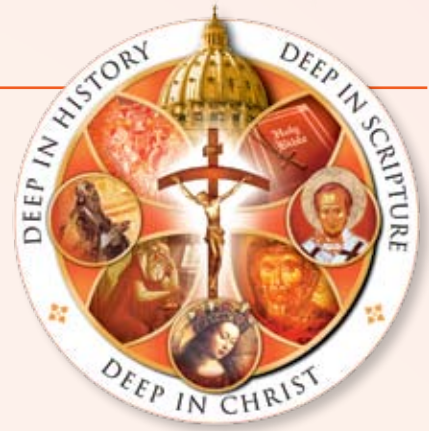
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Single Rate \$89 Married Couple Rate \$143

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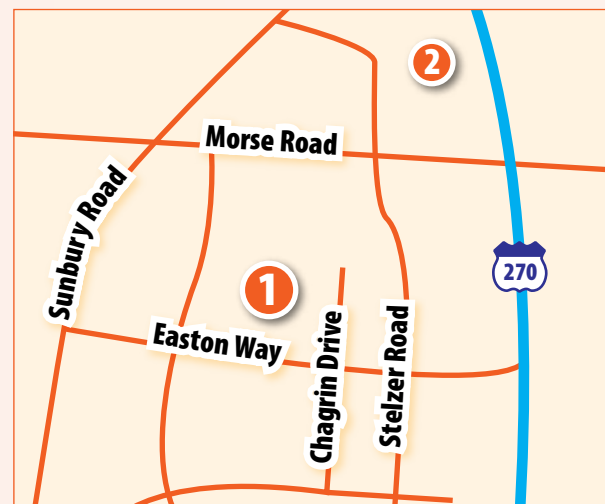
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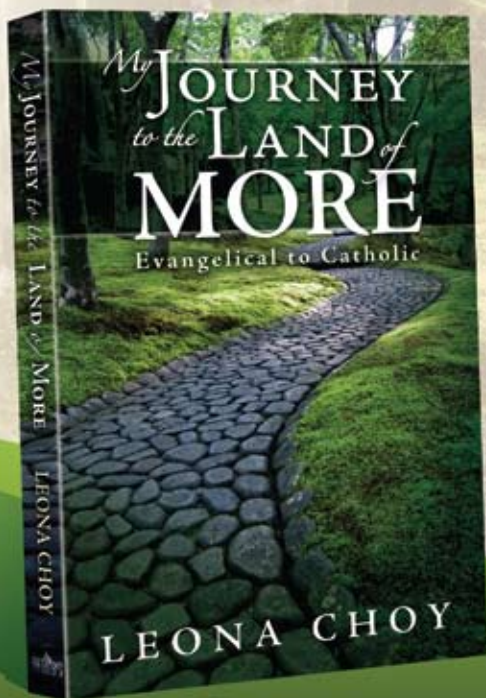
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