



The Coming Home Network International
P.O. Box 4100
Steubenville, OH 43952



Membership Letter - October 1999

Convener's Corner

Dear Members and Friends of the Coming Home Network:

Last Friday evening—on my plane flight home from Birmingham, Alabama where I had just completed filming my weekly live *Journey Home* program with Dr. Douglas Lowry as my guest—I was filled with a deep sense of thankfulness and awe for how gracious and generous our loving God is!! For the many opportunities He has mercifully provided—as well as the opportunities you have provided for through your generous gifts.

The EWTN Network estimates that the potential viewing and listening audience for every live *Journey Home* program is over 700 million people! This program is then rebroadcast three more times each week, plus an additional “*Best of the Journey Home*” airing. God is so good!! And the kind and encouraging letters and email I receive from life-long and convert Catholics as well as inquiring non-Catholics are very rewarding and humbling.

But there is an important symbiotic relationship between the *Coming Home Network* and the *Journey Home* program—neither could exist without the other. It was only because I had recently resigned from my position at Franciscan University to focus full-time on the *CHNetwork* that I was available to respond to Mother

Angelica's request to host this new program. And the wide range of convert members has made it possible to film over 100 programs with plenty of potential guests for the future. (What a great phenomenon! Over a hundred converts and reverts have been able to tell potentially 700 million people around the world about the beauty, the joys, and the fullness of the Catholic Faith!) And in reciprocal manner I must admit that without the increased exposure of the *Journey Home* program the *CHNetwork* would not have been able to survive financially. God has richly provided through your generosity.

I am very thankful that God has allowed me to have this undeserved privilege. Thank you for your prayers and constant support. I pray that—with God's grace—I can continue to

represent both the *CHNetwork* and the *Journey Home* faithfully.

WHY 2K?

In less than four months Y2K will have arrived. So also, the climax of a wide divergent range of proposed biblical and Marian apocalyptic scenarios.

Before I converted to the Catholic Church six years ago, the only futuristic prophesies I was aware of were the numerous biblical verses that pointed to the eventual Second Coming of Christ. Every year as a pastor I preached at least one sermon on *I can guarantee that Jesus is coming again in your lifetime—if not in the clouds with the great sounding of the trumpets, at least at the very moment when you die—which can happen at any moment. Are you ready?* My strategy of course was to turn their attention away from the continuous sprouting up of doom-and-gloom voices who were hawking some new theory (and usually a new book) purporting an imminent day and hour. I wanted to turn their focus towards the more important, imminent issue of whether they were ready at that present moment to stand before God “without embarrassment.” I still have on file somewhere the little book which all of us pastors received in 1987 entitled “88 Reasons Christ will Come Again in 1988.” Christ didn't come. Which led the author to

EWTN's Y2K Special to Re-air

EWTN will air its Y2K special, “Why 2K? Countdown to the Millennium,” four times in both October and November. This special, hosted by Marcus Grodi, features three other *CHNetwork* members (David Palm, Steve Wood, and Kimberly Hahn). The October airings will be Saturday, Oct. 23rd at 8PM (EST); Wednesday, Oct. 27th at 1PM; Thursday, Oct. 28th at both 3AM and 10PM. The November airings are Saturday, Nov. 20th at 8PM; Thursday, Nov. 25th at 1PM; and Friday, Nov. 26 at both 3AM and 10PM. (see pg. 4 for more details)

publish another book with a corrected date for 1989. I've not heard of the author since.

But unexpectedly, becoming a Catholic only increased my horizon on apocalyptic scenarios. Sadly, many Catholics give a welcome ear to the speculations of Protestant apocalyptic

received numerous emails on these issues from recent converts.

Second, upon conversion we immediately discover many exciting new things about the supernatural and the communion of saints that we were ignorant of before. We hear of Eucharistic miracles and the incorrupt

I never dreamed that the CHNetwork would ever grow to this size! The Holy Spirit keeps bringing us more and more Protestant clergy and lay inquirers, and your prayers and generous giving have enabled us to respond to these needs.

writers, who teach millennialism and the Rapture, which Catholics are specifically called to reject. But many Catholics are also enthralled by the messages of hundreds of supposed visionaries who claim private revelations from the Father, Jesus, the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, and other saints. Others are convinced that the Masonic order, the Illuminati, and other conspiracy groups are manipulating our government, our Church, our country, even our world, towards a New World Order. And then in the midst of this arose the Y2K millenium bug.

Now what has all this got to do with the work of the *CHNetwork International*? Actually, quite a bit for several reasons.

First, those of us who swam the Tiber from a mixture of Evangelical, Fundamentalist or mainline Protestant backgrounds bring with us a host of apocalyptic baggage. It isn't always readily apparent how we now as Catholics are to take this stuff. Especially when we encounter Catholics who are avid fans of Hal Lindsey or those best-selling apocalyptic novels by Tim Lahaye. What must we leave behind and what can we continue to hold as valid? I have

bodies of deceased saints. We hear of the supernatural and ecstatic experiences of saints, such as St. Francis of Assisi and St. Catherine. And we discover that the Church has given approval to at least eight modern apparitions, like Fatima, Lourdes, and Akita. We also hear, as well, of an increasing number of new claims to private visions and messages. Those who take these messages very seriously envision a futuristic imminent apocalyptic scenario including a Warning, a Miracle, a significant Ecclesiastical Event leading to a major schism in the Church, followed by a devastating Chastisement, and ending with an era of Peace.

Because we now recognize how impoverished we had become due to our Protestant skepticism towards the supernatural and private revelations, we can become by the same token very open to these new views of our imminent relationship with Mary and the Saints. We can also become quite receptive to views that see the Church reft with dissent and error, and that She / we are in just need of the Chastisement that soon awaits us. How should we take all of this? How do we keep a balance? Where is the authoritative voice in all this?

A third reason is that because there are many conflicting opinions among life-long as well as convert Catholics as to how one should answer the above questions, the resulting disunity of opinion can appear as just one more check on the list of those who see the supposedly unified Catholic Church as terribly disunited. I know personally several very sincere, bright, well respected Catholic authors and speakers who are so divergent in their views on these issues that they in fact consider each other near heretics! I also know Catholics who will take the word of a private visionary over the decision of the local Bishop. How do we explain this confusion to potential converts who are looking for authority, truth and unity?

Now I do not purport to be a prophet, nor an expert on apocalyptic literature and theories. Therefore, I cannot say with certainty that all or any of these theories are wrong. It could certainly be in the Father's plan for Jesus to return on the stroke of twelve midnight January one in the year two thousand. But I do know that the Church has strongly reminded us that Jesus said that no one knows the day nor the hour except the Father. So we are not to get anxiously caught up in apocalyptic scenarios that claim a specific time of his coming. The Church's Magisterium, as well as respected and revered saints such as John of the Cross and Teresa of Avila, have also warned us not to base our faith on private revelations, but on the official teaching of public revelation.

So, as far as all the religious apocalyptic scenarios, I can only wait upon the Lord, be ready at any time for His coming, and wait on His Spouse, the Church, to guide us in our preparation. (With that in mind, I strongly encourage you to read Pope John Paul II's Papal Bull on preparing for the Jubilee Indulgence.)

But all this said, I believe Y2K is a

horse of a slightly different color. There is more than enough reliable and readily available information out there to explain what Y2K is, why it came about, and why it may cause drastic problems for our future. I have tried to stay balanced on this—limiting my research to voices I can trust, and avoiding those whom I believe have a hidden reason to push their doom-and-gloom scenarios. I have listened to reports by government agencies, economic institutions; read dozens of articles in the major national and international publications; I've talked with experienced programmers—both secular as well as religious. I've listened to the arguments from all sides: from those who believe Y2K is way over blown and will be a non-event, to those who believe it will cause minor but short-term inconveniences, to those who believe it will eventually lead to a major recession if not a depression, and finally to those who sincerely believe it will lead to a total and permanent disruption of the world as we know it.

My conclusion is that I just do not know what problems Y2K will cause in our lives. But I do believe Americans in general are being much too complacent about it. I have come to the conclusion that our lives and our economy will be adversely affected by the increasing ramifications of Y2K.

Just this morning I received an email from Lane Core, Jr., a convert and member of the *CHNetwork*. He is a computer programmer and a well-respected columnist on Y2K issues (His web site is <http://users.sgi.net/~elcore>). When I receive an email from Lane, I always listen because his information always indicates that he has done his homework. Today he sent me an article by Ronald Elwing (IntellectualCapital.com) entitled "Y2K Madness and Campaign 2000." It began as follows:

Will the current Congress be

remembered for its \$792-billion tax cut? Not a chance, says veteran journalist Arnaud de Borchgrave. In August, de Borchgrave told a national radio audience that no one would remember anything about the 106th Congress except its failure to warn the nation about the risks of the year-2000 computer bug.

De Borchgrave spent 25 years as a senior editor at Newsweek before becoming editor of the Washington Times and then president/CEO of United Press International. He also has been associated with the Center for Strategic and International Studies at Georgetown University, where he has been vice chairman of the Y2K Risk Assessment Task Force.

He is not the sort of Y2K alarmist who sees the U.S. electrical grid failing at midnight, Jan. 1, 2000, and the rest of our technological systems failing in rapid succession. But he argues that the United States will, over a period of time, suffer collateral damage from the breakdown of outdated, uncorrected computer systems in other countries and the introduction of destructive viruses through the Internet. "It is not a question of one thing going wrong," De Borchgrave says on the task force's Web site. "It is a question of tens of thousands of things going wrong."

How should this change our thoughts or plans about the future? I CANNOT speak for anyone else but for my family and myself. Everyone's situation and circumstances are uniquely different.

But I do feel that I am obligated to say at least something to you, my

friends and companions on the journey, and especially to you who have supported this apostolate with your generous donations. As the co-author of a book about Y2K (*Millennium Insurance*, Basilica Press) and the host of a special on EWTN entitled "Why 2K? Countdown to the Jubilee," I would consider it very dishonest if I didn't address this issue with you about Y2K and the future of the *CHNetwork*.

The short of it is to say that we are keeping a forward-looking approach, as I believe we should all also take for our families. In the short term, we are making basic preparations for various kinds of outages Y2K may cause, but we are not putting our future on hold. We believe that through whatever trials may be ahead, God is with us and leading us.

As Jesus commands us in Matthew 6.34, we are not to worry about tomorrow; we are not to base our future plans on fear. Rather we are to trust in the Lord for tomorrow and acknowledge Him in all our ways (Proverbs 3.5,6). I believe this boils down to planning with hope, not fear. This is in fact the focus of John Paul II's constant emphasis as we look forward towards the Jubilee. He doesn't say there won't be trials; he just says to trust and hope with joy. As Jesus illustrates, God takes care of the sparrow. But we all know how hard sparrows and other animals have to work to survive. It's a both / and: trusting that God will provide, yet doing all we must to do responsibly to provide.

For the *CHNetwork*, the short term involves making sure all of our computers are ready, and our financial statements are accurate and well documented.

For the long term, we actually have some very exciting goals. Our focus is on a very important date in the future: October 31, 2017. This is the 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of his

95 Thesis, which will most likely be a well-publicized and celebrated day for our Protestant brethren. The goals of the *CHNetwork* for the next nineteen years focus around doing all we can to help our separated brethren discover the fullness of the Catholic Faith so that this future date will be a date of reparation and reunification. We have a lot to do in the next 18-plus years, but Lord willing, we can work together to discern many ways to communicate the truth of the Catholic faith to our separated friends and family.

As far as Y2K, let's pray with hope that our Lord will be merciful. For those of you who are interested in finding out more about Y2K and how one might prepare, both physically and spiritually, let me encourage you to order the book *Millennium Insurance: A Christian's Guide to Y2K and How to Prepare Wisely For It* (Basilica Press, 1999). Four of the five authors are converts and members of the *CHNetwork* (Dave Palm, Scott and Kimberly Hahn, and myself), and we tried to present a balanced, more spiritual perspective. Being sensitive to the accusations that those who warn about Y2K are doing so to make money, we are offering this book at basically our cost (an \$8 donation covers shipping/handling), with any residual profit going directly to the *CHNetwork*. Please let me know your thoughts as you read this book.

Also, the program I hosted on EWTN entitled "Why 2K? Countdown to the Jubilee" will air eight more times in October and November (see p. 1 for times). This 1 ½ hour special also featured three convert members of the *CHNetwork* (Kimberly Hahn, Dave Palm, and Steve Wood) plus the resident theologian of EWTN, Colin Donovan. Again I look forward to your comments about this program.

Two other urgent issues I need to bring to your attention. We are

presently working on the Jul-Sep. edition of the *CHJournal* with the theme *Sola Scriptura*, and we need your articles. Remember that the Journal is one of the primary "outreach" tools of the *CHNetwork*. It contains articles written by converts to express the truths of the Catholic faith to our separated friends and family—in a winsome way and in language with which they are familiar and comfortable. So if you have anything already written or would like to write something on some aspect relating to *Sola Scriptura*, please pass it along ASAP. Thanks.

Also, we will be having our most recent **Regional Gathering** this coming November 19-21 at Marytown, Indiana. More details will follow in this newsletter, but I just wanted to mention it here to encourage you to consider attending.

All the above has been to say that though we are not oblivious to the concerns of Y2K nor without preparation, we are also not being distracted from our primary calling. I am very inspired and challenged by the following words on working for God from *Friends of God*, Homilies by Josemaria Escriva:

Many people begin, but few finish...only work that is well done and lovingly completed deserves the praise of the Lord...the fullness of Life that God rightly expects from His children means that they have to have a careful concern for the quality of their everyday work, because it is this work, even in its most minor aspects, which they have to sanctify...if the fact that God sees us were fully impressed on our consciences, and if we realized that all our work, absolutely all of it is done in his presence—for nothing escapes his eyes—how carefully we would

finish things and how differently we would react! This is the secret of the holiness which I have now been preaching for so many years. God has called on all of us to imitate him. He has called you and me so that, living as we do in the midst of the world—and continuing to be ordinary people!—we may put Christ at the top of all honest human activities.

Even this morning as I responded to the concerns of a another Presbyterian pastor who is struggling with the implications of his heart's desire to convert to the Catholic Church, I am reminded that God has much work yet for us to do. Please keep us in your prayers, and thank you for your continuing support.

Sincerely In Christ,



Marcus C. Grodi
President/Executive Director

From the Desk of Our Chaplain

Recently the *CHNetwork* received an inquiry about married priests. A man asked what it would take for a married Baptist minister to become a Catholic priest. He went on to say that in Texas he has heard of former Episcopal and Lutheran clergy who had been ordained to the priesthood. He wondered also whether “a married Mormon preacher” could ever become a Catholic priest.

We regularly receive inquiries like this from Protestant clergy who are giving some thought to becoming Catholic and who are wondering what a future in the Catholic Church might hold for them. Given the wording of this e-mail, I assumed the man was a Baptist minister looking seriously at the Catholic Church.

The substance of my reply to the man’s question was this. I know of a small number of former Presbyterian, Methodist, and Lutheran clergy, and a much larger number of Episcopal clergy who have been received into the Church and then eventually received dispensations from celibacy allowing them to be ordained as Catholic priests.

The matter is entirely at the discretion of a man’s bishop. All of us married former Protestant clergy who have been ordained as Catholic priests have sought this privilege because we believed that, as we entered the Church, we had a continuing vocation to ordained ministry. By God’s grace, our bishops were also convinced that we had this type of vocation and were

willing to help us fulfill that calling. Without their active support we could not have applied for consideration for this privilege.

The practice of allowing married clergy converts to apply for dispensations from celibacy and for ordination began almost fifty years ago in Europe. So far as I know, all the applicants there were converts from Lutheranism. In 1980, at the request of the American bishops, the “Pastoral Provision” was announced for this country. The Provision dealt only with former Episcopal clergy, simply because there were so many of them who after coming into the Church had petitioned their bishops for consideration as future Catholic priests.

Applying for dispensation from celibacy is simpler for Episcopal clergy converts, but only because the Pastoral Provision has provided a clear-cut procedure. Any of our bishops are free to consider a clergy convert from any *Christian* tradition as a candidate for the application process. In my reply to the inquiry about married priests, I neglected to speak directly to the question of whether a Mormon preacher could apply for dispensation. Mormons are not Trinitarian Christians. (That phrase, of course, is redundant; to be Christian is to be Trinitarian, and *vice versa*.) I do not know how the Church would respond to a Mormon clergy convert’s request for permission to apply for ordination.

Addressing my correspondent

directly, I said, suppose you are a Baptist minister (I assumed he was) and you are drawn to the Catholic Church. There is only one sound reason for becoming a Catholic: to realize that the Catholic Church is the one true Church founded by Jesus Christ; that she speaks with his authority; that only within her communion does one have full access to all the means of grace which Jesus Christ intends his followers to have.

Once one comes to see and accept these facts about the Church, he is obligated under God to act on that knowledge and enter the Church.

It would be wrong, I told the inquirer, for him to become a Catholic if his primary motive were to become a Catholic priest. He didn’t say this was his motive, but I wanted to make an important point. Whether he could ever become a priest is quite irrelevant to the question of whether he should become a Catholic.

Should he allow the Holy Spirit to draw him into the Church, and, after coming in, should he raise, with his bishop, the question of ordination with dispensation from celibacy, his bishop would probably tell him to live in the Church for a while. He would need to get his feet on the ground, spiritually and doctrinally speaking, before seriously discussing the matter of ordination. No bishop would make a commitment to support a man’s application to Rome for dispensation

continued on page 11 . . .

From the Director

Dear Members and Friends of the Coming Home Network,

Recent changes and current activities at the Coming Home Network have kept us busy.

Our two previous office assistants, Molly Growden and Susannah Brown, have moved out of the Steubenville area. Molly is currently residing in Washington D.C. where her husband is attending the Catholic University of America. Susannah was hired as the Director of Residence Life at Ave Maria Institute in Ann Arbor, Michigan. They have been a great service to the *CHNetwork* and they leave with our prayers and hopes for future success.

The transition in replacing them was somewhat of a setback in our day to day office duties and in responding to your requests. However, it did provide the opportunity to analyze and revamp some of our procedures. The influx of email, letter, and phone correspondence is constantly on the increase, especially since the *CHNetwork's* 800 number is now being posted on the television screen during the *Journey Home* program on EWTN. Since we envision an even greater increase in correspondence, we have taken this time to improve our office organization and the managing of our Helpers Network.

To meet these growing needs, the *CHNetwork* has hired a **full-time Executive Secretary, Heather Keimig**. Heather is a convert from the Presbyterian Church of America. She received her undergraduate degree in Human and Organizational Development from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, and is currently attending classes part-

time at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. Heather has excellent organizational and communication skills. She will be assisted by two part-time office assistants provided through the services of The Ridgefield Group. We believe the team we are building will be more effective and punctual in addressing the needs of members and inquirers, for the pursuit of the mission of the *CHNetwork*. *To assist the Catholic Church in fulfilling Her mission of evangelization and its call for Christian unity as proclaimed by Pope John Paul II: "That They May Be One."*

Though our **Helpers Network** is growing, we still need more convert and revert volunteers, most especially clergy converts whose own journeys have equipped them to best assist others who now find themselves on the same road they traveled. Our helpers correspond principally through email, but also by phone and letter. An impressive academic CV is not necessary to participate. Sometimes what are most needed are words of encouragement and support; other times it is answers to doctrinal or apologetic questions. We try to assign each inquirer to a helper with similar backgrounds. It's a unique opportunity to participate in the New Evangelization! Here are two excerpts from letters that show the joy and fruit of those already involved:

From a Protestant on the journey home: *"Hi!! Just read your email. I received the information you sent me yesterday- what a great gift! As to the length of your emails, you couldn't write long enough for me to tire of them. I love it. I am so impressed that the Coming Home*

Network has someone as diligent and as well-spoken (written) as you are..."

From one of our helpers: *"As for [the other revert I was helping], she is doing great and is now even evangelizing other fallen away Catholics to come back to the Church. We keep in constant touch and she's doing great on her journey – even bringing her pastor and his wife along with her to the Church."*

If you are interested in participating as a *CHNetwork* helper, please contact me (email: Chris@chnetwork.org phone: 800-664-5110).

UPCOMING EVENT

We have scheduled a **Regional CHNetwork Gathering for November 19-21 at the Marytown Retreat & Conference Center in Libertyville, Illinois**, approximately forty miles north of Chicago. Like our previous retreats, this will hopefully be a great time of fellowship, discussion, prayer and support. David Currie, Marcus and Marilyn Grodi, Dr. Kenneth Howell, and David Palm will be speaking or leading discussions. See the ad for more details, but please note that this gathering is for *CHNetwork* members only (please see the back page for information on how to become a member). We hope to schedule more such conferences in the coming year, so let us know if you would like to help organize one for your area.

The Journey Home program on EWTN continues to be received with great enthusiasm. Here's a message we recently received from a fallen away

Catholic revert: "By the way, love the [Journey Home] show. Keep up the good work. You brought me back to the Church!!!" That's what it's all about! And *Radio TV Esperanza* in Bolivia informed EWTN that the program "is having good results and an impact in Latin America." Thank you for forwarding us your many suggestions about the show, conversion stories of friends and acquaintances, and possible future guests. As you may guess, we receive great numbers of suggestions, and with less than fifty-two shows a year we're limited in choosing our guests. Many of your candidates are outstanding, so please continue to send us your suggestions as we do consider each of them. At this time we have booked guests through the first part of January and will soon be completing the show's schedule through March.

The *CHNetwork's* website is receiving an impressive number of visitors. The entire web site has been recently upgraded and now offers much more user-friendly information. We still hope to do more and to keep it up to date, so please bear with us – we're getting there! You may also have seen the **new Email-Based Discussion Group** offered on our site. This format (much like our discussion group through Catholicity) enables you to receive and respond to the groupmember's responses without having to go into the website. If you would like to join this discussion group, just follow the instructions on our website by clicking on "e-Mailing list." This is a moderated list, which means that a *CHNetwork* staff member will review messages before they are passed along to the list.

We have now completed four editions of the *CHJournal* (*Mary, Mother of God; The Authority of the Church; The Eucharist; Salvation and Justification*). The theme of our next Journal will focus on the significant Protestant doctrine, *Sola Scriptura* (the

Bible alone as the sole authority of truth). Remember: this is YOUR journal. So please send us ASAP any articles you've written addressing this issue, particularly aimed at telling our separated brethren the shortcomings of *Sola Scriptura* and the need for the fullness of revelation as preserved and proclaimed by the Catholic Church. We are also looking for conversion stories that emphasize this theme.

Please forward the names of Protestant clergy converts that you may come across. Many times we may know nothing about their journeys. In a recent article by Brad Wilcox which appeared in *Crisis* magazine entitled, "A River Runs to It: A New Exodus of Protestants Streams to Rome," he cited over a dozen converts, many of which we hadn't any information about. So please encourage clergy converts or inquirers to contact us, so we can network them and put them on our prayer list.

Thank you for all your generous and continuing support of the *CHNetwork International*. We hope to have our next Members Letter to you (at the very latest) in early December.

In Christ,

Chris Erickson
Director

Regional *CHNetwork* Members Gathering

When? November 19, 20 and 21, 1999

Where? Marytown Retreat & Conference Center in Libertyville, Illinois, approximately forty miles north of Chicago and fifty miles south of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

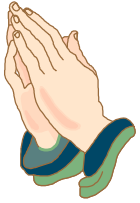
For Whom? *CHNetwork* Members. Our speakers and discussion leaders will include:

- David Currie, Protestant missionary convert and author of *Born Fundamentalist, Born Again Catholic*
- Marcus and Marilyn Grodi, former Presbyterian clergyman and wife
- Dr. Kenneth Howell, former Presbyterian minister and author of *Mary of Nazareth*
- David Palm, Protestant convert and co-author of *Millennium Insurance*

How much? \$125.00 single occupancy; \$95.00 per person double occupancy. Includes Friday and Saturday night stay over, continental breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday, brunch on Sunday. No Friday night dinner. For those who are only in need of the four meals (no rooms), the cost is \$50.00. For further information on rates, please contact us.

How do I register? Call 800-664-5110, or email us at heather@chnetwork.org or write to us at CHN, P.O. Box 4100, Steubenville, OH, 43952.

Directions? We will mail you directions to and information about the Marytown Retreat and Conference Center upon registration.



Let Us Pray . .

† Please pray for all who are making inquiries into what it means to be Catholic that those who they ask their questions of will answer in love and truthfulness, preserving the inquirer's dignity as a person.

† Please pray for all those who have left the Church that the Lord will soften their hearts towards Her and draw them back into full communion.

† Please pray for all those who are hardened to the Church for any reason that they will be able to forgive the wrongs that they have encountered and begin to make inquiries about the true teachings of the Church.

† Please pray for all those beginning the RCIA process this fall that they will have a positive experience and be taught the fullness of our Faith.

† Please pray for all the neophytes that they will not be discouraged during their first year as Catholics. Pray that they will continue to pursue holiness, fall deeper in love with the Church, continue to live their lives as Catholics and be responsive to the power of the sacraments in their lives.

† Please pray for all those facilitating the RCIA process that they will be sensitive to the specific needs of those sent to them by God and be faithful to the teachings of the Church as they deliver the deposit of Faith to them in a way that is understandable and appealing.

† Please pray for all those involved in catechesis of any kind that they will teach for conversion, faithfully transmitting the fullness of the Faith in a loving and powerful way, showing how attractive, inspiring and exciting learning the teachings of the Catholic Church can be to those listening to them.

† Please pray for all those involved in

apologetics that they will be kind, gentle and pastoral in their dealings with those inquiring about the Catholic Church, so as not to make issues of pride more difficult for our separated brethren.

† Please pray for all men discerning, or studying for, the priesthood, or who are already living this life, that they will be true to the Church's teachings and

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 and answers to CHN Prayer List, P. O. Box 4100, Steubenville, OH 43952. You may also email your prayer requests to prayers@chnnetwork.org We will use only first names to protect anonymity

welcoming of all who want to come home. Pray especially for converts like Jerry F. in this situation.

† Please pray for Dr. P.C., and all other health care providers, whose struggles with the Church's teachings on sexuality and birth control are blocking them from being willing to come into the Church or to fully embrace the Church of their youth.

† Please pray for the many people who

struggle with family tensions as a result of their conversion, especially Rita K. & Heather K.

† Please pray for courage, hope and a new job for all those who are out of work right now as a result of their conversion, especially P.T., Chris Larose & Daniel V.

† Please pray for all our members who have recently lost loved ones that they will have hope for the future, a sense of God's purpose for their lives and the comfort of loyal friends and family around them during this difficult time, especially Jane M., Paul D., Ben S., Margaret S. & Randy.

† Please pray for the souls of those who have gone before us, especially those in our membership and the family and friends of our members.

† Give praise for all the healthy families who are strong in the Faith.

† Angelo asks that Masses be offered up for his wife, who has been away from the sacraments for several years, and for his children, who have been away from the church for a long time.

† Please pray for those members who have asked for general prayers for themselves & their families, especially Charles & Eileen, Mary S., Larry & his wife, Br. Stephen J. & his dad and Edward.

† Please pray for Brad who has served as a pastor in a couple of different evangelical denominations, and is very interested in the Catholic Church, but is still struggling with various issues in the Church.

† Please pray for Patrick Lian, a Catechist in Myanmar responsible for training all the other Catechists in his Diocese, as he faces much hostility in his culture to Catholicism.

† Bill seeks prayers for his children that they would return to the Faith.

† Please pray for Randall, his wife Beth and their two medically fragile sons; Randall has just left his pastorate and the family is converting to the Church. He is not sure what he will do for a living in the future

† Please pray for the health of our members and their families, especially Catherine & her husband, Ben's wife, Anna's husband, Charles & Eileen's father, David P.'s son, Mary's husband John, Kevin S., Otto O., Margaret S., Mary H.'s grandchildren, Greg C.'s parents, Mary W. & Warren Carroll, Ph.D., the Founder of Christendom College.

† Jeanette has many family members and other loved ones that have been away from the Church and need prayers.

† Ted would like prayers for his evangelization group in the Philippines.

† Please pray for Lucy S.'s children to get closer to the Lord.

† Jeff asks for prayers that God will give him the grace to deal with his temptations.

† Mary seeks prayers for her children to return to the Faith and for her husband's conversion.

† Ron would like to offer prayers for E.P.

† Please pray for Sandra R. as she looks for an RCIA process in her area and formally begins looking at the Church.

† Bob sends a prayer request for his four daughters who have drifted away from the church and also for their husbands and children.

† Pat requests prayers for her five brothers and one sister who are away from the Church.

† Mary requests prayer for her family to return to the Church & Sacraments.

† Please pray for the conversion of Charles S.

† Please pray for Regina B.'s children & grandchildren to return to the Faith.

† Please pray for George F., a former Catholic, to return to the Church.

† Please pray for Rebecca C. as she inquires about Catholicism.

† Please pray for Dale S. as he begins to look at converting to Catholicism.

† Fr. Reynierse would like to lift up a family of Episcopalians who are in the process of converting to the Catholic faith.

† Please pray for Mary W.'s daughter and her family that they will return to the Church.

† Pat would like prayers for her son who is searching for Jesus but is confused about his faith.

† Mary would appreciate prayers that a former student of hers would be open to the grace of the Lord and come into the fullness of the Catholic Faith.

† Bill requests prayers for his family members who have left the Church that they will discover the beauty and truth of what they have left behind and come home as a result.

† Dolores seeks prayers for several family members who are out of the Church and for a certain family member who needs direction for change of occupation.

† Edward B. requests prayer for himself to be bold but loving as he reaches out to non-practicing Catholics in his parish.

† Joan asks for prayers for her family, that they may know and live the Faith again.

† Diane F. asks for prayer for John R., John M., Jack W., & David B. to return to the Church.

† Janine P. asks for prayers for her daughter and son-in-law to come home to the Catholic Church; she gives praise for finally accepting the truth of the Real Presence

† Mary W. requests prayers for her daughter and her daughter's family that they will return to the Church.

† Henrieta H. requests prayer for her husband's conversion to Catholicism & that she will have the strength to raise their children Catholic.

† Anne F. requests prayer for the conversion of a long-time friend of hers who is Lutheran and this woman's husband who is a former Catholic, now

Lutheran.

† Carl G. requests prayer for himself that he will be bold but loving in his evangelization efforts with his evangelical friends & co-workers.

† Brian M. requests prayer for his brother-in-law & family who are seriously considering leaving the Church.

† Theresa C. asks for prayers for a local protestant pastor who attends daily Mass at her parish and weeps at the Consecration from his desire to convert.

† Please pray for George B. as he tries to evangelize his daughter who has left the Church and seems to be completely uninterested in talking about her current faith life.

† Please pray for Karen M. as she examines the Church in RCIA this year and especially as she struggles against great anxiety.

† Greg C. asks for prayer for God's will and guidance for his own life as he makes some significant changes, including whether or not to return to the Church.

† Please pray for the *CHNetwork* Helpers that they would honestly and effectively communicate the teachings of the Church when responding to Inquirer's questions.

† Please pray for the *CHNetwork* staff that we will all be gentle and respectful towards the people God prompts to make contact with us and that we will keep our focus on the Kingdom of God in all our dealings.

Note: In future issues of the Newsletter, we regret that we will be limiting the prayer requests that we print to those directly related to conversion issues, due to the volume of prayer requests we receive. We believe that prayer is the most important thing that we can ask of our membership and, for this reason, want to be very focused in what we request that you pray for, keeping it limited to that which most closely matches our organization's mission. More general requests for issues of health, etc. are not unimportant, but would be best directed to other organizations with that focus to their mission.

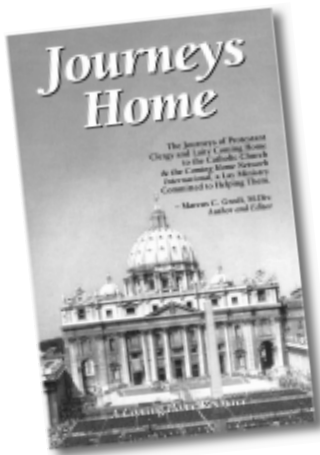
NEW! JUST PUBLISHED!

MILLENNIUM INSURANCE

By David Palm, Marcus Grodi, Kimberly Hahn, Rev. Joseph M. Esper



When it comes to Y2k, you need a down-to-earth, Catholic discussion of the issue, and that's precisely what this excellent and timely book gives you. Coauthored by a parish priest (Esper), a veteran computer engineer and expert on "embedded chips" (Palm), a renowned Catholic leader and writer (Grodi), and a respected author and conference speaker (Hahn), Millennium Insurance cuts through all the hoopla and gives you a balanced analysis of this potentially serious problem from an orthodox Catholic perspective. It includes chapters on physical and spiritual preparations, checklists, suggestions for parishes, and even the complete text of the Holy Father's recent papal bull announcing a special Jubilee Year indulgence. **Only \$8 per book, postage paid.**



JOURNEYS HOME

The Journey of Protestant Clergy and Laity Coming Home to the Catholic Church.

What began in November of 1997 as a condensed compilation of the "best" of the *Coming Home Network* newsletters has turned into an exciting and winsome resource for helping those outside the Catholic Church, as well as life-long Catholics rediscover the truth and joy of the Catholic Faith. **Only \$15 per book, postage paid.**

Please send me _____ copies of *Millennium Insurance*. My donation of \$8 per book is enclosed.

Please send me _____ copies of *Journeys Home*. My donation of \$15 per book is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Please charge my _____ Visa _____ M/C _____ Discover _____

Acct.# _____ Exp. Date: _____

Make checks payable to:

The Coming Home Network International
P.O. Box 4100, Steubenville, OH 43952

Fr. Ray from page 5 . . .

and ordination until he saw the man settled down in the Church and came to know him rather well.

I ended with these words: "Your letter implies that you are being drawn to the Catholic Church. If I correctly read the implication, I urge you to follow the guiding of the Spirit and concentrate on the basic matter, which is coming into the communion of Christ's Catholic Church. Once you come home, so to speak, and have *lived* in your home for a while, then you can begin to pursue the matter of ordination."

The man's response to my e-mail reminded me of the experience of a little boy who came in from play and said, "Mom, I have to ask you a question. Where did I come from?" His mother said to herself, "This is *the* moment I've been waiting for." She sat the boy down and began a rather detailed, twenty-minute lecture on human reproduction. Again and again he tried to interrupt her, but she asked him to wait with his questions until she finished. Finally, she said, "Now, does that answer the questions you've been trying to ask?"

The boy said, "Well, Mom, not really. Tom and I were playing and he told me he came from Cincinnati. Where did I come from?"

Here's why this story came to mind. My inquirer thanked me for my answer to his question. Then he told me why he had written. He needed the information for his work as a Catholic journalist writing for a diocesan paper.

What the mother told her son was true, but irrelevant to his inquiry. What I wrote to the Catholic journalist is true. I hope he found it relevant.

Yours, in Christ,

Fr. Ray Ryland
Chaplain†

Missing a back issue of *The Coming Home Journal*?



Mary, Mother of God (1/98)

Our Journey Home • Our Lady's Gentle Call to Peace • Who is Mary of Nazareth • What is Devotion to Mary • Hail Mary • Mary and the Problem of Christian Unity • What About Marian Apparitions • St. Joseph: The World's Greatest Father • A Convert's Response to Friends

The Authority of the Church (6/98)

Searching for Authority • A Hop, Skip, and a Great Leap • The Crisis of Authority in the Reformation • Have You Not Read? • The Rule of Faith in Patristic Thought • Authority in the Catechism • Papal Infallibility Explained • Scripture and Tradition • The Authority to Preach

The Eucharist (1/99)

How I got This Way • Affirming All Things • The Real Presence • Transubstantiation and the Eucharist • But What Do We Mean By "The Real Presence"? • St. Augustine's Belief in the Real Presence • The Holy Eucharist • The Meal of Melchizedek • One Step Enough

Salvation and Justification (6/99)

We Do Not Stand Alone • Returning Home • One Saving Action • A Voice from the Catholic Pulpit • But How ARE Catholics Saved? • The Early Church Fathers on Salvation • Justification By Faith • Did Paul Teach Justification by Faith ALONE? • NOT by Faith Alone • Or Is There Something Else?

Copies are available only while supplies last! Only \$1.00 per copy plus shipping and handling charges.

Call (800) 664-5110 to order today!

Visit the new and improved *Coming Home Network* website!



- Read the latest news about the Coming Home Network,
- Check out recommended resources,
- Read the Journal online (and tell others about it!)
- Check for job openings around the country,
- Join a discussion group, and more!

<http://www.chnetwork.org>

If You're not yet a Member . . .

Levels of Membership

Primary Membership is for former clergy or academic and their families who are somewhere along their journey into the Catholic Church. **Secondary Membership** is for laity of other traditions and fallen away Catholics who are somewhere along their journey into the Catholic Church. **Tertiary, or Associate Membership** is for Catholic laity, priests, deacons, religious and bishops who support the *CHNetwork* with their prayers and generous contributions.

Get Involved!

Become a member of the *CHNetwork*. Membership gets you on the mailing list to receive all *CHNetwork* related mailings including the bi-annual *CHNetwork* Journal. Please **pray for the *CHNetwork*, its staff and members.** All members are encouraged to pray regularly for the needs of the *CHNetwork*, and to present these needs at least one hour each month before the Blessed Sacrament.

How to Help

Make a contribution to the *CHNetwork*. *The CHNetwork International* is a non-profit Catholic lay apostolate, solely funded through the generous contributions of its members and friends. All donations are tax deductible, and are greatly appreciated. Please mail any donations to:

CHNetwork
P.O. Box 4100
Steubenville, OH 43952

DO YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS?

We'd love to have an email list compiled of all our members and supporters. This would allow us to communicate with all of you who help make the *Coming Home Network* a true network. If there is a member in need and a call for prayer is necessary... If we would like to update everyone with *CHNetwork* related news... It can save us potentially thousands of dollars in postage alone! Please consider emailing us just your email address to **emailme@chnetwork.org**.



Tune in each Friday evening at 8:00 PM EST to *The Journey Home Program* on EWTN. This exciting call-in talk show examines why so many people—fallen away Catholics as well as individuals from other Christian backgrounds—are being drawn home to the Catholic Church. Host Marcus Grodi and his special guests discuss their personal conversion stories and important themes and issues of the journey. Encores on Sundays at 1AM, Mondays at 11PM and Wednesdays at 10AM. The Friday evening broadcast can also be heard simultaneously on WEWM short-wave radio.

Now listen to Marcus LIVE! or on demand on the Internet. Did you miss a show? Now you can listen to the 'taped' interview at EWTN's website. Point your browser to <http://www.chnetwork.org/ewtn.htm> and visit the Audio Library for *The Journey Home*.