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The Coming Home Network International

Membership Letter

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“To Believe in Christ Means to Desire Unity; To Desire Unity Means to Desire the Church”

About five years ago, I submitted for your consideration a summary of how we understood the *raison d’être* of *The Coming Home Network*. This then became buried somewhere in the middle of *Journeys Home*. Given how much we have grown in the years since, it seems timely to represent this statement, slightly revised and updated, for your consideration and prayers.

Simply stated, the Goal of the *Coming Home Network International* is to help reverse the deleterious effects of the Reformation. This may seem a bit audacious or presumptuous, but having spent the first forty years of my life fanning the flames of autonomy, I would like to spend the next forty, God willing, promoting healing and unity.

Although the Catholic Church of the sixteenth century was certainly in need of renewal, the methods and innovative theology introduced by the Protestant Reformers led instead to schism, disunity, and confusion. Nevertheless, God always “works all things for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8.28). Those that left the Church continued to follow Christ with sincere hearts and with particular devotion to the written Word of God. They built churches and denominations and established standards of faith designed to lead their followers toward holiness and salvation. This fact is clearly stated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, quoting the Vatican II “Decree on Ecumenism”:

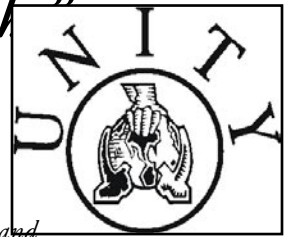
The ruptures that wound

the unity of Christ’s Body—here we must distinguish heresy, apostasy, and schism—do not occur without human sin ... However, one cannot charge with the sin of the separation those who at present are born into these communities [that resulted from such separation] and in them are brought up in the faith of Christ, and the Catholic Church accepts them with respect and affection as brothers... All who have been justified by faith in Baptism are incorporated into Christ; they therefore have a right to be called Christians, and with good reason are accepted as brothers in the Lord by the children of the Catholic Church.

Furthermore, many elements of sanctification and of truth are found outside the visible confines of the Catholic Church: ‘the written Word of God, the life of grace; faith, hope, and charity, with the other interior gifts of the Holy Spirit, as well as visible elements. ‘Christ’s spirit uses these churches and ecclesial communities as means of salvation...whose power derives from the fullness of grace and truth that Christ has entrusted to the Catholic Church. All these blessings come from Christ and lead to him, and are in themselves calls to ‘Catholic unity.’

‘Christ bestowed unity on his Church from the beginning. This unity, we believe, subsists in the Catholic Church as something she can never lose, and we hope that it will continue to increase until the end of time. ‘Christ always gives his Church the gift of unity, but the church must always pray and work to maintain, reinforce, and perfect the unity that Christ

wills for her. This is why Jesus himself prayed at the hour of his Passion, and



does not cease praying to his Father for the unity of his disciples: ‘that they may all be one. As you, Father are in me and I am in you, may they also be one in us, ... so that the world may know that you have sent me. ‘The desire to recover the unity of all Christians is a gift of Christ and a call of the Holy Spirit. (Catechism, 817 820)

We in the *Coming Home Network International* see these words as our charge, recognizing that the work of unity is primarily the work of Jesus Christ, for as He said, “apart from me, you can do nothing.” The *CHNetwork* desires only to be a channel of His grace, responding to whom the Holy Spirit is calling to listen to the Catholic Church and come home.

We believe this work of ours together is a grand and blessed work, in keeping with Pope John Paul II’s statements in his encyclical, *Ut Unum Sint* ...

The unity of all divided humanity is the will of God. For this reason he sent his Son, so that by dying and rising for us he might bestow on us the Spirit of love. On the eve of his sacrifice on the Cross, Jesus himself prayed to the Father for his disciples and for all those who believe in him, that they might be one, a living communion. This is the basis not only of the duty, but also of the responsibility before God and his plan, which falls to

Continued on next page....

Continued from front cover...



baptism become members of the Body of Christ, a Body in which the fullness of reconciliation and communion must be made present. How is it possible to remain divided, if we have been "buried" through Baptism in the Lord's death, in the very act by which God, through the death of his Son, has broken down the walls of division? Division "openly contradicts the will of Christ, provides a stumbling block to the world, and inflicts damage on the most holy cause of proclaiming the Good News to every creature.

The Lord of the Ages wisely and patiently follows out the plan of his grace on behalf of us sinners. In recent times he has begun to bestow more generously

upon divided Christians remorse over their divisions and a longing for unity. Everywhere, large numbers have felt the impulse of this grace, and among our separated brethren also there increases from day to day a movement, fostered by the grace of the Holy Spirit, for the restoration of unity among all Christians ... This unity bestowed by the Holy Spirit does not merely consist in the gathering of people as a collection of individuals. It is a unity constituted by the bonds of the profession of faith, the sacraments and hierarchical communion...

For the Catholic Church, then, the communion of Christians is none other than the manifestation in them of the grace by which God makes them

in his own communion, which is his eternal life ... To believe in Christ means to desire unity; to desire unity means to desire the Church; to desire the Church means to desire the communion of grace which corresponds to the Fathers plan for all eternity. Such is the meaning of Christ's prayer: 'Ut Unum Sint.' (Ut Unum Sint, 6 9)

To this end, under the maternal intercession of Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, and the paternal care of St. Joseph, do we in the **Coming Home Network International** dedicate our lives.

Sincerely in Christ,

Marcus Grodi;
President
mgrodi@chnetwork.org

An Often Difficult Journey

When I first began my duties with the Coming Home Network as Assistant Director, helping clergy converts, I mailed surveys to each clergy member in order to obtain a better grasp of the challenges and needs of Protestant ministers seeking membership in the Catholic Church. This month I would like to share with you some of the struggles that many ministers experience as they journey home to full communion with the Catholic Church. The following comments were extracted from some of the surveys recently returned by our primary members.

Sometimes the individual merely needs to muster up enough courage to take the final plunge:

"I consider myself an exiled Catholic and refer to myself as a Lutheran Catholic. I accept and acknowledge the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, as the Head of the Church and I consult the Catholic Catechism daily on what the Church teaches & believes. I accept Dominus Iesus as a true and accurate statement of the relation of the Catholic Church to the rest of Christendom."

Others have personal and family problems to surpass:

"I am a United Methodist minister, though I am Catholic in heart. I follow Catholic devotionals: Rosary, Liturgy

of the Hours, Adoration, etc. Many lay Catholics as well as priests are my friends and mentors.



I attend Mass once a month. I cross myself for Methodist service and several of our members do also. I cannot convert because my first

wife left me and divorced me. I remarried before my knowledge of the Catholic Church. My wife refuses to get an annulment from her previous marriage. So I remain a Catholic in heart but am unable to convert unless my wife changes her mind."

Still other ministers experience barriers created by members of the Church herself:

"I am a Moravian minister. I have been unable to enter the Catholic Church. My efforts in making contact with Church authorities were rebuffed. Despite my profession of belief in Catholic truth, no interest at all was shown in me. I was looked upon more as a potential problem than anything else. My wife was ready to follow my lead and that of the Lord into the Church, but now she has some hostility toward it because of the cold reception I

received."
also

"I attend Mass infrequently. The priest, though, does not want to cause trouble in the local community by having me (a Presbyterian minister) in church. Even so, I do attend a monthly men's group from the local parish with many members."

Please pray for members as the Holy Spirit leads them over the obstacles they encounter, often difficult, journey home to the One, Holy, Catholic



and Apostolic Church.

God Bless,
Jim Anderson

Survey of Membership

In the past few weeks many of our members have been receiving surveys from Jim Anderson asking for information about our primary members. We would like to encourage you to fill out this survey and return it in the envelope provided, as this is crucial to the mission of our apostolate. By knowing a little more about your individual interest and needs we will be better able to serve you.





Upcoming guests on the Journey Home Program on EWTN, Mondays live at 8 pm EST



Guest Schedule

**Oct. 1-
Kimberly Hahn**

**Oct. 8-
Carl Jahnes**

**Oct. 15-
Rev. Bryan Patterson**

**Oct. 22-
Mark Gordon**

**Oct. 29-
Cathy Duffy**

Can't catch the show when it is broadcast live?

Tune in for re-air: (EST)

Tuesdays 10 am

Fridays 1 am

Saturdays 11 pm



From our Chaplin

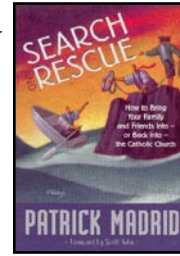
A review Patrick Madrid's, "Search and Rescue."

The Holy Father's repeated call for "the new evangelization" is his response to the fact that a great proportion of mankind has not yet received the gospel of Christ. If Catholic consciences can be stirred as indeed they must be stirred to take seriously each person's responsibility to evangelize, the question will arise, "How?" Few of us have had experience in evangelizing lapsed Catholics and non-Catholics and non-Christians. Heretofore there has been scant Catholic literature which truly helps us to learn how to be effective evangelists.

But now we have available an excellent handbook of instruction and resources and guides to training for would be evangelists. Patrick Madrid's new book, *Search and Rescue*, is aptly subtitled, *How to Bring your Family and Friends Into – Or Back Into – the Catholic Church*. Drawing on the wisdom of some of the saints of evangelism and on his own wide experience, Madrid leads unskilled evangelists step by step in acquiring both competency and confidence in proclaiming Christ to those outside the communion of the Church.

Madrid gives helpful counsel concerning the virtues a person must develop in order to evangelize effectively. He discusses a prayerful attitude, absolute trust in God, humility, perseverance, regular and honest examination of one's motives, and above all, love. He urges readers to listen sympathetically to persons they are evangelizing. Hear them out, he says, in order to learn what keeps them away from the Church, what their questions and arguments are.

For each of his chapters Madrid provides questions for self-examination; positive actions to take (what he calls "search-and-rescue action agenda"); and an appropriate prayer. He



person about one is concerned; a weekly holy hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, imploring Christ to flood the person's heart and mind with grace; and a fast

from one meal a week in behalf of the person to whom one seeks to minister.

On-the-job training is also outlined in *Search and Rescue*. At the end there is an extensive annotated bibliography designed for persons of varying proficiency in apologetics and scripture. It is divided into three phases, preliminary, intermediate and advanced.

The final and perhaps most important chapter is entitled, "Let God Do the Heavy Lifting." Madrid reminds his readers, "you must always remember that, despite your best efforts to evangelize (as well as despite your worst failures), God's Providence is always active, directing on the path of grace the person you're trying to bring home." (220) He offers further encouragement in the words of a prayer attributed to St. Jerome: "It is our part to seek, his to grant what we ask; ours to make a beginning, his to bring it to completion; ours to offer what we can, his to finish what we cannot." (207)

And if you're not yet a Member of the Coming Home Network. . . Get Involved!

Become a member of the CHNetwork. Membership gets you on the mailing list to receive *Coming Home Network* related mailings. Primary members and donors also receive the CHJournal.

To become a member, contact the CHNetwork at 800-664-5110 or info@chnetwork.org





From the Directors Desk

Dear friends of the Coming Home Network,

I hope you had a good summer. It sure did go fast, didn't it?

In July, I took the family on a week long vacation in the Smokey Mountains and had a wonderful time. The scenery was great, and we left very relaxed.

One thing that I observed, however, was disturbing. It appears that Catholics are viewing their Sunday obligation for Mass not as a necessity but as an option while they are vacationing. We have been going to this little church about once every two years for the last 12 years, and although the number of visitors to the area remains high, the Catholics attending Mass while vacationing seems to be dwindling.

Is this part of the new age of "indifferentism"?

What is indifferentism? Are not all religions good? Is one not as good as any other?

These questions voice "the most popular religion of our time": the religion of indifferentism. It is the inevitable reaction of the false principle of many Protestants; "Faith alone without works will save".

The person who preaches "indifferentism", declaring God is indifferent to truth, simply because he himself is indifferent, is the same person boasting a religion free of constraints, restraints, and obligations and rejects the true church,

which requires absolute faith and enforces it's laws under the penalty of possible damnation.

Strange, isn't it, that the very man who worries night and day over worldly matters, which will end in a tick of the eternal clock, will sacrifice eternal happiness for that one "moment in time" as it were.

The assertion that "one religion is as good as another" is a contradiction. It is the first principle of reason that two contradictory statements cannot be true. If one is true, the other must be false. Either there are many gods or there is one God; either Jesus was the son of God, or he was not; either Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, or he is not. Therefore, to declare that all religions are equally true, is to deny truth altogether.

Recently, a Priest from California made this statement in an interview:

"One of the things that I have seen not only in the Catholic Church but other churches is the change from having fear of God to being aware of God's love. . . We're all in this thing together, it's all the same thing, whether we are Jewish or Buddhist



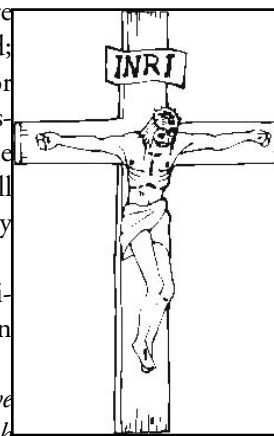
holic. We have to love one another and I think that's the message I hope the last twenty years we have been giving."

Isn't this the indifferent-ism that created the misinterpretation of Vatican II, which has had a profound effect on many Catholics today?

Yes, knowing Gods' love is great, wonderful, and necessary,

but it should be coupled with, not a replacement for the *fear of God*.

So, you might ask, how do we battle this age of indifferentism? In my opinion, as I stated in a recent *friendly discussion* with a local Priest, I see our obligation as good Catholics to accentuate that which is special to the faith. Yes, we don't deny that which we have in common with Protestants, but many "nominalistic" Catholics want to downplay everything that is not common with the Protestantism.

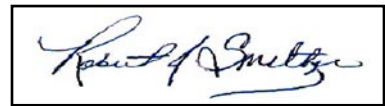


If one religion is as good as another", why would anyone want to be Catholic, a religion which is inconvenient and often seems to be suffering and not beneficial? Why doesn't it fit in to the thinking of

today's culture.

May the peace and blessings of our Lord be with you this day and always,

Robert j Smeltzer,
Director; CHN



rjsmeltzer@chnetwork.org

If you notify us of change of address, it costs us nothing. If the Post Office notifies us, it costs us \$.60. Please help us save this cost. Please email changes to info@chnetwork.org or mail them to us.



The Helpers Network has started a book club. This is a lending library for Catholic resources (books, audios, videos) now on-line by invitation only. Contact Christine by email: chrismariet@yahoo.com to join and be able to lend and borrow resources. Beat the high cost of buying these materials and help support others on





Please pray for...

- ✦ Marty, a recent revert, that his wife, a practicing Cradle Catholic will come to the church with him, and that the baptism of our 2 young children Aaron, 3
- ✦ Irene, that her husband and her three children will be reconciled with the Church and with her.
- ✦ Pete, that he may return to the Catholic faith, and that his wife, Ethel, may be converted.
- ✦ Christi, that she may come to know the faith in which she was baptized and be healed of her mental illness.
- ✦ Fr. A, that he may abandon the New Age errors he holds disseminates.
- ✦ Maggie, that she may have the door-to-door zeal for the Faith she abandoned as she does for the false religion she has embraced.
- ✦ Lillian that she may be born yet again into the true Church of Christ.
- ✦ For Paul to be fully convinced of the teaching Authority of The Roman Catholic Church and for the courage to love his Protestant friends, including Mark.
- ✦ For a family of 7 who are now attending Mass weekly (Protestants), who love the Lord, and are open to the possibility of the Truth of Catholicism.
- ✦ Please pray for Maribel and her son and daughter, that they may convert fully to the Catholic Church.
- ✦ Please pray that Henrietta's husband will one day convert and that her children will remain Catholic.
- ✦ Please pray for Theresa and her family, especially for her niece Louise and her family and their special intentions.
- ✦ For Jim's fallen away adult children that they may find their way home to the Catholic Church.
- ✦ Aine, Bridgett's daughter, that she will return to Church with her two young children.
- ✦ Rob & Margaret for decree of nullity, sacramental marriage, & healthy, Catholic children.
- ✦ For Helen's children & grandchildren, Karen, Barry, Theresa, & Kenny that they return to The Catholic Church.
- ✦ That the Holy Spirit would assist Rhany and his prayer group as they strive to remain faithful to Jesus and His Church.
- ✦ For Delores' children, that they may come back to the church, and/or practice more devoutly
- ✦ For Jon and his wife as they seek direction on their Journey.
- ✦ For James' daughter Maria, that she may be embraced again by the Catholic Church
- ✦ For the conversion and/or return for the children and grandchildren of Joao.
- ✦ Bob, that he may come back to the Church
- ✦ For Lisa, that she may open her ears and eyes to the teachings of the Church, and return.
- ✦ Andy, brother of Jacque, that he will return to the Church



The Coming Home Network Staff



The Home Office Staff:

Marcus & Marilyn Grodi, Bob Smeltzer, Jim Anderson, Shala Fleece, Cathy Eickle, Sharon Coen, Steve Smeltzer, Arielle Anderson



Chris LaRose

Fr. Ray Ryland






From The Web

“ Be not angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be. “ (Thomas a Kempis) As moderator of our daily email discussion list , a common subject is how to deal with our non-Catholic family and friends. As committed converts or reverts to the faith, we desire unity with God **and** our loved ones, just like Jesus does in John 17. In this month's featured resource, *Search and Rescue* by Patrick Madrid, we read some reasons why non-Catholics stay away from the Church: 1) misconceptions about the Church; 2) prejudices against the Church; 3) genuine disagreements with the Church; 4) suffer from the ' I'm not being fed ' syndrome; 5) and some hide the real reasons for leaving or coming in. For this last group, we must listen to what they're not saying, listen with your heart, and let God's grace show you how to respond to unspoken issues.

[taken from *Chapter 4, Assess the*

Here are some comments on this from our email list:

I have only been Catholic since last Easter. My wife and children are still en-route. I pray constantly that they, moved by their own consciences, will join me soon. None of my friends, my wife, read John 17:21-23 the way I do.... The way I read it is that Jesus *cares* DEEPLY about actual physical bodily institutional unity,



To join our daily e-mail discussion list go to:
<http://www.chnetwork.org>

‘...May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.’ In other words, it leads me to consider very seriously the Catholic Church's claim to be the 'location' where this unity exists.

By my action, I “broke fellowship” in a fundamental way with the members of my immediate circle. But, again, I see ‘not acting’ as lukewarmness and indifference, and ultimately disobedience.

My friends simply will not consider the Catholic Church's claims at this point...I tend to think its simply because they cannot suffer to even *think* of themselves as Catholics in the future, because of the anti-Catholic propaganda they've suffered...my wife attends Mass with me now and then, but does not want to be put in a position where she must refuse the grape juice and wafer at a Church of Christ service, were we to attend one with her parents.

Blessings to you,
Carl J.

Yes, my parents are living. They are more or less not speaking to me right now. There is nothing I would love more than to see my family come

my husband and children all safely home. Only one of my daughters is following me into the Church in April. Thanks for your prayers.

Peace of Christ,
Patty

These are just a very small sampling of the wisdom and gifts of the Body of Christ as manifested on our CHN email list. Together, we bear each others burdens and share in each others joys, as we walk side by side with our eyes fixed on Jesus and following His Holy Church, knowing He is in control, not us.

Pax eT bonum,
Chris LaRose
larose@chnetwork.org

**THE
HELPERS
NETWORK**

This is the core of our apostolate, comprised of CHN member volunteers who: provide support, answer questions, offer encouragement and prayer, and when necessary, ongoing contact with inquirers to the Catholic faith. Our Helpers Director, Mr. Chris LaRose, matches people based on faith, life, and if required, geographical locations.

Now you can support The Coming Home Network by making your donations online !



Come visit us at www.chnetwork.org

In July of 2001 our web site had over quarter of a million hits in one month.

You can find support in the ways of online discussion boards, chat rooms,

New resources such as “*Search and Rescue*”, online access to past journals, conversion stories, CHN news and events, “*Journey Home*” program information, suggested reading materials, employment offerings, and links to other useful sites. **Now making donations to the network is fast and easy online!**

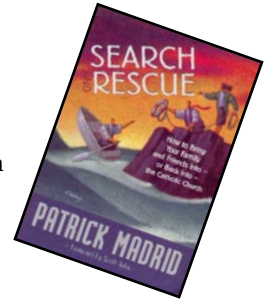
Coming soon an online catalog for resources.





Coming Home Resources

This Month's featured resource: Search and Rescue
by Patrick Madrid



You don't have to become a biblical scholar or a theologian to be an effective spokesman for the Catholic Faith. In fact, even though you don't know all the answers and can't explain every aspect of the Faith, you can begin winning souls to the Church right now... using prayer, friendship, and common sense.

It sounds almost too good to be true, but in *Search and Rescue* Patrick Madrid explains why these are among the most effective, time tested methods for bringing family and friends into – or back into – the Church. As the publisher of *Envoy* magazine, the author of many apologetics books, and a veteran defender of the Faith, Madrid himself has used these methods successfully for years.

But Madrid doesn't give you only the benefit of his own considerable experience: in *Search and Rescue* he also includes simple and genial advice from St. Francis of Assisi, St. Augustine, and other great lovers of God. Get *Search and Rescue* – the book that shows you how you can start winning souls of Christ today!

“How do you bring a friend or relative back into the Catholic Church? First, you pray. Then, you follow Patrick Madrid's advice in Search and Rescue.”

✦ Edward Cardinal Egan
Archbishop of New York

Price	Amount/Shipping	Quantity	Total	Other
Surprised by Truth 1	\$15.00			
Surprised by Truth 2	\$17.00			Total Resources: \$ _____
Search and Rescue	\$12.00			Additional Donations to CBN: _____
Journeys Home	\$10.00			Total Donations: \$ _____
The Ladies Supper	\$17.00			
Holy, Holy Guest	\$17.00			Check this box for a free copy of "Search and Rescue" (with \$15 donation):
A Father Who Knew His Promise	\$17.00			Name _____
Catholicism and Fundamentalism	\$12.00			Address _____
When Catholics Really Believe	\$10.00			
The Spirit & Form of Protestantism	\$12.00			Phone _____
Catholicism	\$17.00			Email _____
Journal: Way Authority	\$20.00			Method of Donation: Check / Cash
Liturgical Calendar & Gola Corp				Also: MasterCard / Discover
Total Book Resources				CC# _____ Exp _____

Book Stores: Call for Stock Finding

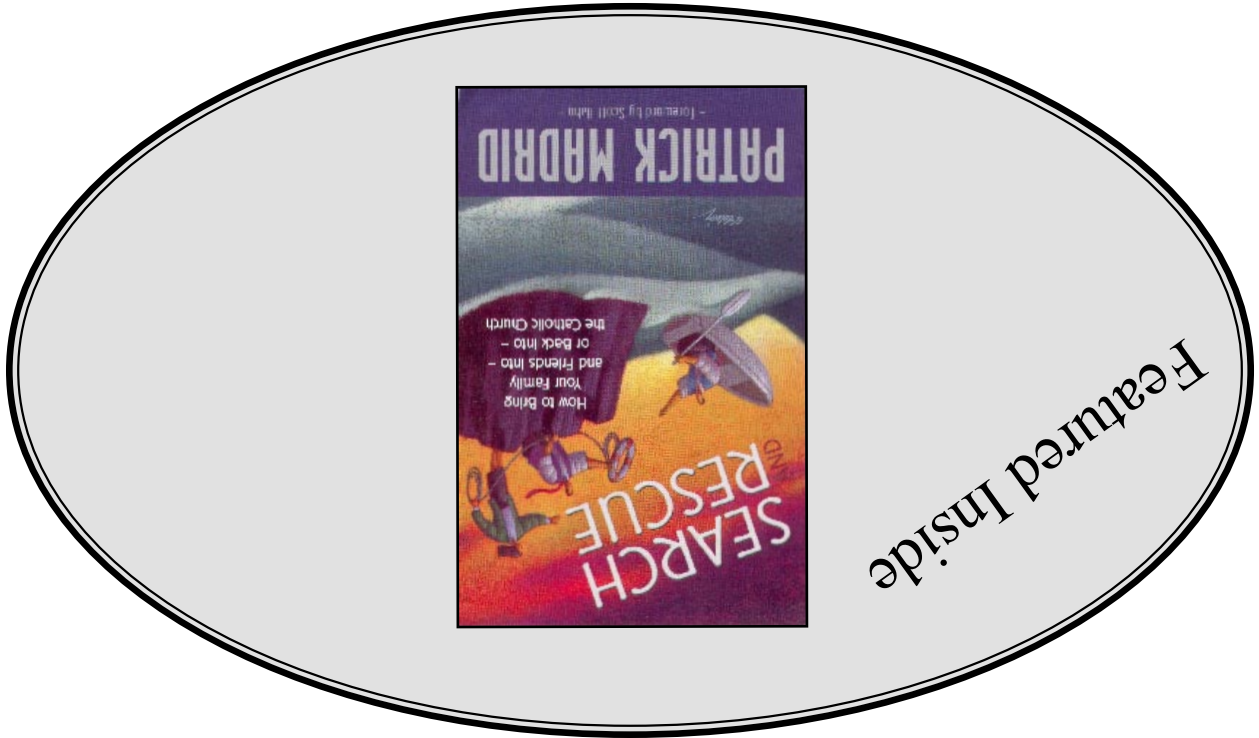
Supporting Member: Annual donation of \$25 or more receive Low Rates and Newsletters

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PO Box 8060

Zionsville, IN 46072-8060

A New CHN Resource by Patrick Madrid !!



The Coming Home Network
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Address Service Requested