



# Proclaiming the Gospel

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." - [Romans 1:16](#)

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Editor - [Evangelist Mike Gendron](#)

*"...it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame."  
([Hebrews 6:6](#))*

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## Apostasy Is Changing The Face Of Roman Catholicism

**D**id you ever think you would see the day when Protestant pastors would convert to Roman Catholicism and then use their influence to draw others into the Catholic religion? That day has arrived as evidenced by *The Springtime of Catholic Evangelization Conference* held June 27-29 at the Plano Center near Dallas, Texas. The sponsors gave my wife Jane and me complimentary tickets (\$65 at the door) in hopes that we would come back to "the one true church." The only request they made was to refrain from proselytizing Catholics. So off we went to see and experience the changing face of Roman Catholicism in America. The event was promoted by the *Fullness of Truth Catholic Evangelization Ministry*, a ministry "established to promote and share the inestimable gift and irrefutable truth of the Roman Catholic Faith with all mankind."

We were indeed surprised to see so many attendees. About 1500 zealous Catholics were gathered to learn how to evangelize non-Catholics and how to defend their faith. Surprisingly, only two of the ten conference speakers were Catholic priests, one of whom was ordained at the age of 44. Three of the featured speakers, Tim Staples, Jeff Cavins, and Marcus Grodi, promoted themselves as former Protestant pastors who have since converted to Roman Catholicism. Another speaker, Stephen Ray, was a former Baptist Sunday School teacher. The words of the apostle John came to mind: "*They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us*" ([1 John 2:19](#)). Also part of the platform of speakers were Patrick Madrid, the founder

and publisher of *Envoy Magazine* (a Catholic journal of apologetics and evangelization), Johnette Benkovic, host of a Catholic TV program, Marcellino D'Ambrosio, professor at the University of Dallas and Rosalind Moss, a Jewish convert to Roman Catholicism.

### The Protestant Influence

This is not the Catholic Church which I left in 1984. Twenty years ago, you would not have seen a conference where lay people outnumbered priests in such key authoritative teaching roles. Nor would there have been enough interest to schedule a lay conference on apologetics and evangelism. Yet these types of conferences are springing up all over America. Former Protestant ministers are writing books, creating websites, producing television programs such as *The Coming Home Network*, debating evangelicals and aggressively pursuing the reunification of all Protestants to the Church of Rome. Catholic bookstore shelves are now filled with books and tapes of these former Protestants who have left the true faith for another gospel and another Jesus. It is no wonder Roman Catholicism is beginning to appear more evangelical to the non-discerning observer. However, under this veneer of half truths remain the numerous unchangeable dogmas that oppose and nullify the Gospel of grace.

What is drawing these converts, who claim they were once "born again" as Protestants, to a religion they once protested? I asked that provocative question several times at the conference. Most of the respondents said they were proselytized by Rome's offer of the "fullness of salvation." I reminded [\(see Apostasy on page 2\)](#)

## [\(Apostasy from page 1\)](#)

them of what the Gospel offers - the complete forgiveness of sins, the gift of Christ's righteousness, the assurance of eternal life and an everlasting relationship with God. That is the fullness of salvation! The irony of all this is that the Roman Catholic Church does not offer what the Gospel offers, in fact it condemns those who believe these gifts of grace are secured by God's promises.

The conference had something for everyone. Each of the three days started with Catholics praying to Mary using the rosary, followed by the sacrifice of the Mass, a representation of Jesus as a sacrificial victim for sins. Those who wanted to confess their sins to a priest had several opportunities. Throughout each day attendees were encouraged to

**The irony of all this is that the Roman Catholic Church does not offer what the Gospel offers.**

go into a special room to spend time adoring the eucharistic Jesus. Booths and tables were filled with merchandise for sale, from statues and rosaries, to books and T-shirts. One T-shirt gave the top ten reasons to remain a Catholic. The *Mary Queen of Peace Center* sponsored a booth of particular interest. They offered pictures of Mary and a phone number (214-233-MARY) that is active 24 hours a day with the latest message from Mary's apparition in Medjugorje. Conference topics included "The Eucharist - You Are What You Eat", "Peter and the Papacy - Source of Unity and True Ecumenism", "Why Be Catholic When You Can Be Anything Else", "How To Keep Your Kids Catholic", and "Hey Catholic - Are You Saved?" In the main auditorium, the Virgin Mary had prominence with her picture displayed on two huge banners. The only sign of Jesus was a crucifix hanging near the stage.

## **Defending the Catholic Religion**

Much of the conference focused on educating Roman Catholics on how to defend their faith against evangelicals quoting Scripture. Needless to say, there were some questionable teachings presented and noted. Tim Staples said: "only a holy priest who has permission from his bishop can cast out demons." Regarding Mary's ability to hear the prayers of a billion Catholics simultaneously, Staples said: "Our blessed mother can do this because she is not bound by time." One of the priests, John Corapi, who spent most of his time sharing humorous stories, said: "I so often thank God that He allowed me to

be baptized into a good Catholic family."

Patrick Madrid presented several ways to overcome objections and defend the faith when confronted by evangelicals. He said, "The Catholic Church is the true church founded by Christ and the reason you do not see Monsignors, pope-mobiles and other such things in the Bible is because these are part of the organic growth of the Catholic Church." Furthermore, he proclaimed, "the Catholic Church does not amputate books from the Bible," suggesting that's exactly what the reformers did with the apocryphal books. When an evangelical opens a Bible and starts quoting Scripture, Madrid said to retort with, "Oh good! You are using our [Catholic] book, how nice." He said to be sure to contrast our rich soil which has

produced such saints as Mother Teresa with the Protestant soil, which is so thin. Madrid also talked about all the Catholics who died for their faith. He failed to mention the Christian martyrs the Roman Catholic Church brutally murdered for not bowing their knee to the papacy or the Eucharist.

The "Stump the Apologist - Question and Answer" session gave us a good insight into the contemporary Catholic mind-set. Most of the questions dealt with how Catholics should respond to evangelicals who use Scriptures to renounce the Catholic religion. Almost all the answers began with "The Church teaches..." instead of "The Bible teaches..." Of course, this came as no surprise since Catholics are taught that their Bishops are the only people entrusted to give an authentic interpretation of the Bible. How tragic that our Lord's authority has been replaced by a religious institution intent on controlling its people with insidious indoctrination.

## **Apostasy and Prophecy**

As more and more Protestants depart from the faith of the apostles and join the Roman Catholic Church, they will be instrumental in persuading others to do the same. This changing face of Roman Catholicism is consistent with how Scripture describes the last days. "Some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons" (1 Tim. 4:1). They appear to be godly men but they have chosen to believe another gospel. These men will be

[\(See Apostasy on page 8\)](#)

# The Ministry of Proclaiming the Gospel

## OUR PURPOSE

The ministry was established in 1991 and is incorporated in the State of Texas as a non-profit [501\(c\)\(3\)](#) corporation for the purposes of: 1) glorifying, honoring and serving the Lord Jesus Christ by proclaiming His Gospel of man's redemption with clarity, conviction and consistency; 2) providing evangelistic training and resources with an emphasis on biblical integrity; 3) exposing any doctrines that oppose or nullify the Gospel of grace so that people can discern truth from error, avoid deception and come to a knowledge of truth; 4) contending earnestly for the faith against the agents of compromise who suppress doctrinal truth for the sake of ecumenical unity; 5) encouraging and supporting former Roman Catholics who may be feeling a sense of guilt, ostracism or persecution from their family or friends for leaving the Catholic religion and culture.

## OUR METHOD

In a spirit of love and humility, we teach evangelistic seminars, conferences and workshops to train and encourage Christians to be effective witnesses to Roman Catholics and others who may be lost in their religion. We also offer resources designed to teach, equip and encourage others to labor in this huge mission field.

## OUR NEWSLETTER

Proclaiming the Gospel's bi-monthly newsletter is designed to extend the purposes of the ministry throughout the world. The editor is [Evangelist Mike Gendron](#), a graduate of [Dallas Theological Seminary](#) and a former Roman Catholic of over 34 years.

## OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, satisfied the righteous justice of God by paying the complete penalty for sin when He died as man's substitute on Calvary's cross. Any person who repents and receives Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior by grace through faith in His life, death and resurrection, ceasing to trust in anything else for salvation, becomes a child of God and receives the gift of eternal life, which can never be revoked.

## OUR PROVISION

Everything we do is made possible through the prayers and financial support of those who share our burden for the lost. We recognize the sacrifices God's people make to sustain our work and pledge to use these resources effectively and efficiently. Donations (except for products) are tax deductible.

## Top Ten Reasons to Remain A Catholic

Displayed on T-Shirts for Catholics to wear proudly are 10 reasons to remain Catholic...

10. It's politically incorrect. (Annoy the Catholic bashers).
9. You can sing badly, and no one cares.
8. You can impress your friends. (Tell them you belong to a militant international institution).
7. Your Mother. (Low cost way to keep her happy).
6. Great Weddings! (When it comes to ceremony, the Catholic Church is smokin').
5. Great Pope!
4. Saints. (Talk about friends in high places!)
3. Confession. (It's not fun, but what a deal).
2. Dependability. (Jesus founded our Church on Peter, the rock, and promised that the gates of hell should not prevail against It.)
1. *The awesome gift of The EUCHARIST!*

## Where Mike Is Speaking

- Aug. 21 [Northeast Assembly](#)  
Colorado Springs, CO
- Aug. 24 [Austin Bluffs Ev. Free Church](#)  
Colorado Springs, CO
- Aug. 31 [Believers Chapel](#)  
Dallas, TX (972) 239- 5371
- Sept. 12-14 [Garden Heights Baptist](#)  
Erie, PA (814) 825-5342
- Oct. 3-5 [Grace Bible Church](#)  
Richmond, VA (804) 794-0778
- Oct. 7,9 [The Master's Seminary](#)  
Sun Valley, CA (800) 225-5867
- Oct. 10 [The Master's College](#)  
Santa Clarita, CA (800) 568-6248
- Oct. 16-19 [Word of Life](#)  
Schroon Lake, NY (518) 494-6000
- Oct. 31 [Dallas Theological Seminary](#)  
Dallas, TX (214) 824-3094
- Nov. 8 [Steeling the Mind Bible Confer.](#)  
Spokane, WA (800) 977-2177
- Nov. 9 [Coeur D'Alene Bible Church](#)  
Couer D'Alene, ID (208) 664-4883
- Dec. 6-13 Apologetics Conference  
Central Florida (727)789-9196
- Dec. 14 [Lakeside Community Chapel](#)  
Clearwater, FL (727) 441-1714

**To schedule Mike Gendron to speak at your church or event, contact him at:**

phone: (972) 495-0485

**e-mail: [ptg@pro-gospel.org](mailto:ptg@pro-gospel.org)**

## Catholics & Billy Graham

The Roman Catholic Lay Apostolate group called *Peter and Paul Ministry* answered this question in their Volume VIII newsletter: "Should a Catholic attend The Billy Graham Crusade or any other non-Catholic organization such as the Promise Keepers?"

*Answer:* Catholics should not be associated with these organizations because their teachings are diametrically opposed to Christ's One, holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. The Billy Graham Crusade and Promise Keepers reject: The Roman Pontiff, The Four Major Dogmas about the Blessed Virgin Mary, Purgatory, The Intercession of the Saints, Justification by faith and Works, The Holy Eucharist, The Necessity of Baptism, The Sacraments of Confession and Confirmation, Original Sin, Holy Orders, Extreme Unction, and many other doctrines.

*Editor's note:* The contrast between the faith of Catholics and Evangelicals is quite troubling. Catholics are *standing firm and unwilling to compromise* their faith to the point of acknowledging that their teachings are diametrically opposed to the evangelical Gospel. Yet, so many evangelicals are *straddling the fence and willing to compromise* the purity of the Gospel for the sake of unity. In doing so they are tolerating the ungodly and unbiblical dogmas of Rome. Why is it that Catholics have no fear of renouncing and condemning those who refuse to submit to their dogmas, while, in the same arena, so many evangelicals are afraid to expose the errors of Rome for fear of being labeled "Catholic bashers?" What kind of church would we have today if Paul had not exposed the errors of the Judaizers ([Gal. 1:6-9](#))? I wonder if he was ever labeled a Judaizer-basher?

## Steeling the Mind Bible Conference, Nov. 8

Make your plans to attend America's #1 Bible Conference, Saturday, Nov. 8 in Spokane, WA. The all day conference will be held at the Spokane Convention Center and will feature thirteen speakers covering the critical issues affecting the church in these last days. Come and enjoy the fellowship of like-minded believers and enjoy the beauty of the great northwest!

For information and reservations please call 1-800-977-2177.

## Can Roman Catholics Trust Their Clergy?

Should Roman Catholics trust their clergy for the truth about their eternal destinies when they have failed so miserably in protecting their children from known sexual predators? This month, the 91-page report released from the Attorney General of Massachusetts cites the sexual abuse of at least 789 children by 250 priests or other workers of the Archdiocese of Boston since 1940. The document refers to a "massive, inexcusable failure of leadership" in the Archdiocese. The magnitude and extent of the sexual abuse of innocent children and the massive cover-up in the Roman Catholic Church is staggering. In Arizona, Bishop Thomas O'Brien, leader of the Phoenix Archdiocese for over 20 years, issued a signed statement that read: "I acknowledge that I allowed...priests under my supervision to work with minors after becoming aware of allegations of sexual misconduct" (Boston Globe, 6/3/03).

Over sixty-five million Catholics in America have been given good reasons to seriously question their church. The scandal has produced great windows of opportunity for the Gospel to go forth. Let us take advantage of this open door and point Catholics to the only Priest who will never forsake them or abuse them. A very effective way to communicate the Gospel is through our Gospel tracts and videos or through a small group Bible study using the book [Preparing Catholics for Eternity](#) available on page 7.

## Quick Quotes

*"Some souls...on their way from Purgatory to Heaven, stopped here to thank me because I remembered them at my Mass this morning. For some time now, I have felt the need to offer myself to the Lord as a victim for poor sinners and for the souls in Purgatory."*

Padre Pio, [Read Me or Rue It](#) by Fr. Paul O'Sullivan

*"Whenever you drive by an Evangelical Church you slow down and scream out the window, 'James 2:24! A man is justified by works and not by faith alone, suckers!'"*

Patrick Madrid, *One of Ten Signs You're An Overly Obsessed Catholic Apologist*, Envoy Magazine, vol. 7:1

# Seeking His Truth

## Letters to the Editor



Your web site offends me and one billion Catholics. If you could see this site from a Catholic viewpoint, you would see how antagonistic it appears, it divides Christ's Church, it incites hate not love. Our Lord wants us to be one so I challenge you to take this hate site down, not for me, but for Him. Don't let your pride get in the way. Grow up, your ministry is wrong, stop it, repent.  
*Stephen, Internet*

*Are you sure it is our web site that offends you or is it the Gospel we boldly proclaim? The Gospel is offensive to those who are offensive to God. It strips the religiously proud of their self-righteousness. It divides believers from unbelievers, the wheat from the tares and light from darkness. It is the Gospel that incites intense hatred for those who reject it but passionate love for those who embrace it. The unity our Lord desires is unity among those given by the Father to the Son, who have received and kept His Word ([John 17:6-11](#)).*

Thank you so much for your perseverance in proclaiming the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. Your newsletters have taught me so much about Catholicism, so much more than I knew when I was a Catholic. As a girl, I was never satisfied and always seemed to be on a quest for something more where "religion" was concerned. I now realize it was the Lord who was on a quest for me. He put that unsettled and unsatisfied feeling in my heart at any early age, then finally drew me in to Himself at the age of 32. It's been ten years since I was saved, and as the years pass, **I am increasingly overcome with emotion as I contemplate the glorious truth of how the Lord God of the universe pulled me out of the miry pit and proclaimed me as one of His own** for all eternity. What an awesome God we serve!  
*C. M., Rochester, NY*

Thank you and God bless you! Our Pastor used your tapes to teach several sessions; they're excellent. Your tape on *Telling Catholics the Truth* was great! My husband and I were delivered and set free from the

Catholic Church over 20 years ago! My sister-in-law was at that session and it was an eye opener to her. **She and her husband have rededicated their lives and are now coming out of the Catholic Church.** They have a lot of questions. Praise the Lord, His Word will set them free!  
*Grateful in Alamogordo, NM*

Thank you for your burden to faithfully represent the truth of the Scriptures, not only to Catholics, but to Christians who are still confused over the doctrinal differences. **Many friends of mine were called out of the Catholic church, but are often ill-prepared to graciously confront their Catholic friends and families.**  
*R.J., Plano, TX*

Some friends left me some tapes from a church in Connecticut which turned out to be the 5 sessions you taught there. I spent the weekend listening to each tape twice. Then **I became amazed at how different my take on Catholicism was from the reality you presented.** Until I heard your series, I was rocking along thinking that my Catholic friends were saved, if not living the spiritual life Christ intended for us all. Now I see, by means of your teaching, how very different their gospel and Lord are from our Biblical Gospel and Lord. Thank you for the many tools you provide.  
*C.M., Houston, TX*

The One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church has for 2000 years taught the truth. You can create your own belief system, but the truth is still here. You can run away, you can try to lead others down your path, but all you do is stroke your own ego by leading people to your gospel instead of Christ's. Catholics have made mistakes, sometimes horrible mistakes but we have the truth. **I pray that you stop attacking the Body of Christ and reunite with it.** It is not too late. You are always welcome home.  
*J. D., Tampa, FL*

**I agree with you. The Roman Catholic Church does teach some truth, but whenever God's truth is commingled with the er-**

*rors of men, it is no longer truth. In fact the mixture becomes much more insidious than outright error. Rarely will people be gullible enough to believe an outright lie, but when the lie is covered with a veneer of truth it becomes easier to deceive the unsuspecting. If someone adds a drop of poison to a high protein drink, it is no longer healthy, but deadly. So it is when anyone adds anything to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Rather than it being the power of God for salvation, the mixture has become fatal to all those who believe it. Your only hope for knowing the truth is to abide in the word of God ([John 8:31-32](#)). Only then can you be set free from the web of deception.*

I thoroughly appreciated your article on Biblical Evangelism. Praise God for the things He has taught us regarding the errors of man-centered evangelism. You are correct in that very few seem to have discernment in this area. **It really amazes me how many learned evangelical leaders seem to accept the "man-centered" Gospel presentation as Biblical.** Thank the Lord for opening our eyes. May we keep depending on Him!  
*B. S., Toms River, NJ*

**James says, "a man is justified by works and not by faith only."** I think it is fair to say that James is speaking of the ongoing life of justification that follows the initial, free gift of grace through Christ.  
*Mark, Internet*

*Please consider the context of the second chapter of James. Since any one can say they have faith, James is contrasting saving faith with dead faith ([2:14](#)). Saving faith is demonstrated by obedience and works, whereas dead faith provides no evidence of a changed life. The Greek word "dikaioo" used by James for "justified" has several meanings. One is "to declare righteous." This is done because **those "in Christ" can no longer experience condemnation ([Rom. 8:1](#)).** Throughout the Bible we see that God declares sinners righteous by faith apart from works ([Rom. 4:5](#)). James affirms this with the example of Abraham ([2:23](#)). However, another meaning of justification is "to demonstrate righteousness." James writes: "I will show you (demonstrate) my faith by my works" ([2:18](#)). James then shows that Abraham "demonstrated his righteousness" by his works, by offering Isaac on the altar ([2:21](#)). Therefore when James writes "a man is justified by works and not by faith only," he is*

saying "a man demonstrates his faith by his works" (2:24). Once God justifies a sinner by faith in Jesus Christ alone, the new creature in Christ justifies (demonstrates) his/her faith by living a life pleasing to God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

I found your website and am overjoyed to find the Gospel of Christ presented, not only to Roman Catholics but to all those who are lost. The wealth of information presented as a provision to those who are lost is of inestimable value.  
M.S., Seattle, WA

I read about your conversion and am interested in learning more. Are you familiar with *The Coming Home Network* and their radio program called *The Journey Home*? **There are hundreds of Evangelical Protestant ministers giving up their pastorates and doctorates and embracing what they call "the fullness of the faith."** I've listened to their reasons and they all glorify Christ. I too was raised a Protestant and what these people are saying is convincing to me! Maybe you, a former Catholic who went to an evangelical seminary, can refute what they are saying. The most profound of them is Scott Hahn, a former Presbyterian minister who has become one of the most "sought after" speakers in the Catholic world. All of his stuff is rooted in Scripture and confirmed by history, even stuff like the pope and purgatory. Can you help me?  
Justin S., Internet

*I am familiar with the "Coming Home Network" but how can you say these former Protestants "glorify Christ" when they substitute indulgences and purgatory for the sufferings and death of Christ? Did you know Scott Hahn has an entire teaching series on how indulgences can remit sin? Did you know that Jesus went to the cross to remit all the punishment for all the sins committed by those who trust Him (1 John 1:7)? How absurd for anyone to say that a human invention, such as an indulgence, can do what only the shed blood of Christ can do? Can you see that indulgences do not glorify Jesus but instead rob Him of all the glory and praise He alone deserves?*

Thank you for your faithful service to our Lord and your passion for proclaiming the pure Gospel of grace that saves lost sinners completely. Your newsletters encourage us and spur us on constantly. **We must never grow weary of telling religious people**

**that man-made salvation leads directly into hell (Isa 50:11).** When we experience the spiritual backlash of preaching Christ alone by faith and feel weary, the Spirit always places your marriage and ministry on our hearts and we pray to God for your strength in Christ to finish strong. Thank you for fanning our flame!  
J. & L. W., Haddon Heights, NJ

I love the wisdom God gives you for me to glean from as I am very involved in leading a women's jail ministry. I loved your teaching in Israel and am thankful God put you in my life. I will value and treasure your informational newsletters as I grow in Christ.  
L. P., Santa Barbara, CA

My husband is a very devout Catholic and believes his church is the one true church. I went to church with him for 13 years to be a supportive wife only, not because I believed in it. **Two years ago I started going to a Bible study and became very uncomfortable going to the Catholic Church because of the differences in our faiths.** I told my husband I would start going to Calvary Chapel with our children. He at first was fine with it but his mom started working on him so now he is fighting me about my beliefs. We have had severe problems since then so we went to Calvary Chapel for marriage counselling. The pastor told me that I am to submit to my husband, unless he wants me to do something that is against God, like rob a bank. I asked him if I had to go back to my husband's church if he asked me to and the pastor said yes. I said I feel that would be against God and the pastor told me it doesn't matter how I feel. I am writing to get your opinion. I feel I know too much of the errors of the Catholic church to just go and sit and wait for it to be over like I used to.  
Initials Withheld, Grand Terrace, CA

*You must be feeling very discouraged and disappointed by the counsel you received from your pastor. I am amazed that he said robbing a bank excludes you from submitting to your husband, but not the more serious sin of idolatry. Does he not know that false worship and veneration of statues, crucifixes, Mary and the Eucharist is fervently practiced and taught in Roman Catholicism? Would your pastor be open to a phone call from me or receiving some of our resources to educate him on the serious errors of Roman Catholicism? I am concerned for your children. **They should not be subjected to teachings that deny the***

**grace and sufficiency of our Lord Jesus Christ.** Just as you are doing your best to protect them from physical danger, you must also protect them from deception that will hinder their spiritual growth. In a spirit of love and humility you need to communicate your concerns and desires to your husband. Pray that God will draw your husband to the true Jesus as he sees your chaste and respectful behavior and your gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God (1 Pet. 3:1-6).

God is richly blessing you with clarity in revealing Catholic 'rubbish'. Your work is invaluable and your courage is humbling. Confronting that priest for Rose was genuine godliness. My brother, who spent time in an RC seminary, gives evidence of knowing Jesus, yet he is still caught in that web.  
T. F., Mesquite, TX

Jesus didn't come to write a book, nor did He ever instruct His followers to write anything down, that is why you need the Catholic Church. **The teachings of the Popes and Bishops, known as Tradition, are also considered God's word.** The Word of God is not limited only to the written Scripture. [Paragraph 97](#) of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that "Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture make up a single sacred deposit of the Word of God." You need to come home to Rome for the fullness of truth.  
Anonymous, Internet

*It is very dangerous to add man's words to God's holy words. God says when "man's own words" become His words "you have perverted the words of the living God" (Jer. 23:36). We have seen how the Lord stands against such wicked people who deceive others by perverting His word (Jer. 23:19, 20, 31). God "put an everlasting reproach" on them, "an everlasting humiliation which will not be forgotten" (Jer. 23:40). This is the destiny that awaits deceivers and their followers. On Judgment Day, those who stood solidly on the Word of God, rather than the word of man, shall receive everlasting peace!*

Please submit questions or comments to:  
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## Worship of Eucharist Is Source of Holiness

The abandonment of eucharistic adoration, or ignorance of its importance, is a grave loss that compromises the very identity of the Church, says Bishop Brandolini, the president of the Italian Center of Liturgical Action. Eucharistic worship becomes an "experience of listening, contemplation, adoration, offering, dialogue and communion," he said. John Paul II's encyclical *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* reads: "The worship of the Eucharist outside of the Mass is of inestimable value for the life of the Church" and is "an inexhaustible source of holiness." Consequently, the bishop emphasized the need to relaunch eucharistic worship. John Paul II "exhorts the pastors not only to give personal witness, but also to encourage and promote the different forms of eucharistic worship, also to maintain alive and to increase a 'tradition' that has produced fruits of holiness in the Church," said Bishop Brandolini. (Zenit, 6/23/03)

## Bishops Oppose The Rapture

According to many evangelical Protestants, the rapture is the fast-approaching secret and silent disappearance of Christians from the earth before a time of tribulation. The Catholic Conference of Illinois issued this statement on the phenomenon: When Jesus told us to be alert and ready for his return, he also warned there would be false prophets. One of the most attractively marketed false "prophets" has been the Left Behind series by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins. The series has been a tool for active promotion of a fundamentalist theology in conflict with Catholic teachings and has been a vehicle for anti-Catholic sentiments by the way Catholics are characterized and treated in the plot line. These materials popularize a com-

mon fundamentalist belief in a time of tribulation after the "rapture" (when the "good people" are secretly taken up overnight to Heaven). This belief is not supported in Scripture. Responding to similar fundamentalist agendas back in 1937, Pius XI, in "*Divini Redemptoris*" said any such speculations about a period when a remnant of the Church progresses towards its own ultimate victory might of themselves be a sign of the Antichrist. The Church rejected even modified forms of this falsification of the kingdom to come under the name of millenarianism. The Left Behind series is anti-Catholic in content and form, consistent with Mr. LaHaye's other writings, in which he associates the Church with "Babylonian mysticism." In the series, the new Pope is depicted as instrumental in establishing a world religion encouraged by the AntiChrist and operated from New Babylon (formerly Rome). While many adult Catholics are secure enough in their faith to avoid being proselytized by such works, or by the direct preaching of fundamentalists, the real danger of Left Behind is its attractiveness as a story of good people in a heroic battle against ultimate evil. We, the Catholic Bishops of Illinois, call upon Catholic institutions to remove any Left Behind books and videos from their shelves and to prohibit the sale of these materials in Catholic venues. (Zenit, 6/24/03)

## Rosaries for Peace

Catholics in Guatemala have prayed 3.7 million rosaries since the start of a prayer campaign for world peace last March. A lay group promoting the initiative has already run out of sign-up forms for people who want to volunteer to pray the rosary. On May 18, John Paul II's birthday, a 15-kilo box of signed forms were sent to the Vatican as an indication of the 2.7 million rosaries that had been prayed. That number has risen by 1 million and is still climbing. The campaign, which

includes the distribution of a guide to pray the rosary, sent the signed forms to the Pope in response to his appeal for prayer for peace, especially in the Middle East. (Zenit, 6/22/03)

## Mary and Ecumenical Unity

Because of her special place in Christianity, Judaism and Islam, Mary is regarded as a meeting point in interreligious dialogue. "While for Christians Mary is the Mother of God and Mother of the Church, for the Jews she is 'the exalted daughter of Zion,'" said Cardinal Francis Arinze. "For the Muslims, Mary is the Mother of Jesus," the cardinal continues. The Koran mentions her 34 times. "Although Jews and Muslims do not accept the divinity of Jesus Christ, they honor Mary greatly," Cardinal Arinze says. Archbishop Gioia explains, "There are at least two reasons that motivate Mary's role in the ecumenical and interreligious dialogue: her de facto presence in different religions and her figure, as model of faith." He said, "Mary can serve the function of a 'living catechism,' which exhibits intuitively the self-understanding of the Church, even more, of man on the way to salvation." A member of the Russian Orthodox Church said: "every prayer to God is also a prayer to Mary. She is omnipresent in prayer, the liturgy, iconography and above all in the Eucharist." (Zenit 5/17/03)

## Shrine Accepts E-Mail Prayers

The Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes offers an online service that lets people send their petitionary prayers via e-mail. The intentions are then placed in the Virgin's Grotto and read every day at 3:30 PM. The Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette Soubirous at Lourdes, France in 1858. (Zenit, 5/29/03)

## Two Preying Priests Released

Two former priests were freed from jail Friday following a Supreme Court decision invalidating a state law that retroactively extended the statute of limitations on old molestation cases. Lawrence Lovell, 55, and Michael Wempe, 63, were among 11 Roman Catholic priests in Los Angeles County whose charges were dismissed. The *Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests* criticized the high court's ruling saying, "Yesterday was a bleak day for everyone who wants to keep children safe. Hundreds of dangerous men who committed heinous and disgusting crimes against children will now go free." (FoxNews, 6/27/03)

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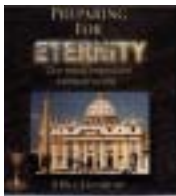
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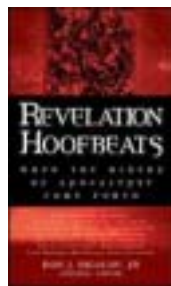
**Catholicism: Crisis of Faith** by James McCarthy. Former Catholic priests and nuns explain why they left the Catholic Church and how they are now reaching out with compassion to those they once served. **Closed Caption and available in Spanish.** Code: VCATH, Sug. Don. \$20.

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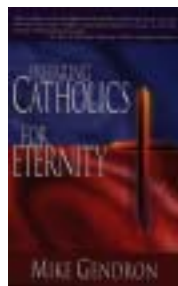
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*"He who practices  
deceit shall not dwell  
within my house;  
He who speaks  
falsehood shall not  
maintain his position  
before me."  
([Psalm 101:7](#))*

## Apostates From the Apostolic Faith

### True Believers

- Possessors of Christ, who are God's possession, who have heard and believed His Gospel and who are sealed with His Spirit, assuring their eternal inheritance ([Eph. 1:13-14](#))
- Chosen by God for salvation ([2 Thes. 2:13](#))
- Godly men granted life and the knowledge of God through divine power ([2 Pet. 1:3-5](#))
- Contend for the faith that was once for all delivered ([Jude 3](#))
- Know and remain in the truth by abiding in the Word of Christ ([John 8:31-32](#))
- Grace instructs them to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly ([Titus 2:11-12](#))
- Exalt and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by proclaiming His death and resurrection as God's only provision for reconciling fallen man to Himself ([2 Cor. 5:17-21](#))
- Devoted to the apostles' teachings, fellowship with the saints, the Lord's supper and prayer ([Acts 2:42](#))

### Apostates

- ◆ Professors of Christ, who were once part of an assembly of believers, but departed from them because they were never born of the Spirit ([1 John 2:19](#))
- ◆ Marked for condemnation ([Jude 4](#))
- ◆ Godless men with a form of godliness yet denying its power ([Jude 4](#); [2 Tim. 3:5](#))
- ◆ Depart from the faith because they do not endure sound doctrine ([2 Tim. 4:3](#))
- ◆ Turn away from the truth and turn to myths ([2 Tim. 4:4](#))
- ◆ Turn the grace of God into licentiousness with immoral behavior, unrestrained by a defiled conscience ([Jude 4](#); [Titus 1:15](#))
- ◆ Deny the Master and Lord Jesus Christ by rejecting His finished work of redemption as the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for sin ([Jude 4](#))
- ◆ Abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons ([1 Tim 4:1](#))

### (Apostasy from page 2)

seen "holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power" ([2 Tim. 3:5](#)). Clearly the power they deny is the Gospel which "is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" ([Rom. 1:16](#)). These former Protestants, who have demonstrated their denial of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by their adherence to a gospel of works, sacraments and indulgences, will continue to deceive others without resistance unless the Body of Christ takes a stand to earnestly contend for the faith.

Whenever doctrinal error is allowed to propagate unopposed, it flourishes to deceive even the elect if possible ([Mat. 24:24](#)). Christians must put on the full armor of God and be willing to suffer hardship as soldiers for Christ ([2 Tim. 2:3](#)). We can no longer be apathetic, indifferent or unconcerned. We can no longer allow the Gospel to be compromised or perverted without a battle. We can no longer permit false teachers to spew their fatal lies without a godly rebuke. The spiritual battle for the souls of men has intensified. Only the word of God can expose, refute and renounce this global religious deception and set captives free!