



# The Gospel Catholic



**II Timothy 2:9**  
**...But the Word of**  
**God is not bound.**

*The Sole purpose of this publication is to promote God's message of Salvation through faith alone in the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Additional free literature is available upon request.*

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## EMAIL VS. SNAIL MAIL (YOU CHOOSE)

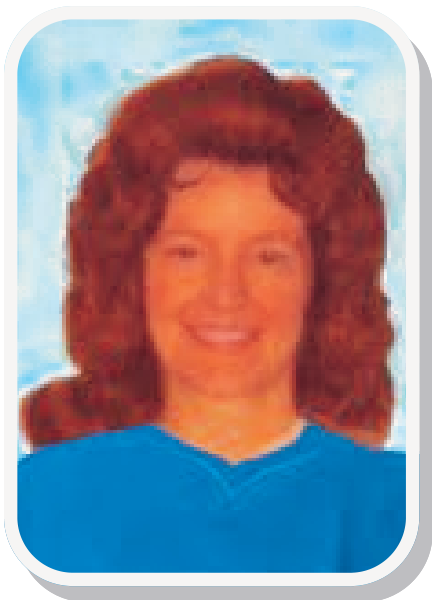


Some have suggested that we offer The Gospel Catholic to you in an email so that you won't have the clutter of a letter. In this day of 21st century technology and electronic communication, some would prefer to get this via email. We are currently working to offer each edition on our website. The QR code at the top of the page can be scanned with a tablet or smartphone and will direct you to your website. If you would like to receive future editions free of cost via e-mail, please write us in the enclosed envelope with your name, mailing address, and email address where you would like to have "The Gospel Catholic" sent. Another option is you can send all of the above information to me at my email address; [mreno@theconversioncenter.com](mailto:mreno@theconversioncenter.com)

That being said, many of our readers prefer to continue to receive "The Gospel Catholic" in the mail and you are certainly welcome to do so. The Conversion Center has had some very tight times financially but we will continue to send this to you in the mail. We do NOT want anyone to feel burdened or pressured to cancel their newsletters due to our finances. We know many of our readers can't support this work; we only bring this to your attention to pray for us. In times of turmoil and overall unrest, it's easy to forget that God is still in control and we need to trust Him.

Also, I have had several requests for a monthly newsletter with short updates about how things are going in the ministry, my trip itineraries, etc. We will be rolling out a monthly letter in the near future that will let our friends and prayer warriors know any updates we have to share. If you would like to receive this, please send me your email address in either the envelope enclosed or to [mreno@theconversioncenter.com](mailto:mreno@theconversioncenter.com)

I hope you enjoy the articles and letter enclosed.



# ***Be a Nun...***

## **...That Must be the Answer**

**By Shirley Waltz**

I was deeply concerned with the problem of how to live close to God and above temptation, and I came to the conclusion that separation from the world into a cloister must be the solution.

I was not born into a Roman Catholic family but was exposed to much of its influence during my childhood. As a teenager, I was determined to find the answer. I began to read all the books I could find on Roman Catholicism and St.

Bernadette, St. Theresa, St. Francis, St. Claire and many others. The “Ave Maria Hour” became my favorite radio program. One thing, however, that impressed me about the lives of the Roman Catholic Saints was their *lack of assurance* of eternal life—for I knew what the Bible said: “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” (I John 5:13). For awhile I dismissed this problem and became acquainted with the nuns at the Our Lady of Lourdes Church. With their assistance I chose the Carmelite Order and was determined to stay there for life after my graduation from high school. Surely then I could devote my time to God and life free from temptation!

The next step was Roman Catholic instruction. About a month before my high school graduation, a friend of mine, Gilbert Hetes, who was studying to be a priest, gave me a book on Roman Catholic doctrine. Up to this time I knew little or nothing of what the Roman Catholic Church taught doctrinally, but I felt sure that what little difficulties would arise could be smoothed out satisfactorily.

As I began to read, my eyes were immediately opened to the Roman Catholic teachings on works for salvation. I *knew* that the Bible said in Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.” These were the very verses that my mother had shown me when I accepted Christ as my personal Savior, and became a Christian, several years before.



As I continued to read the Roman Catholic doctrine book, I knew I could never become part of a system that taught its people to trust in their own righteous acts for salvation, when the Bible says, “All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6). **Continued on page 3**

I studied the Roman Catholic doctrines of The Mass, The Papacy, Purgatory, Confession, Penance, Sacraments, Perpetual Virginity, Immaculate Conception and the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. I investigated its claims of being the only True Church, Apostolic Succession, Papal Infallibility, etc. I learned that they admitted many of their doctrines were not found in the Bible. I discovered that the Bible references that they gave for their doctrines did not support them, but refuted them.

God was leading me, and it was not long before a book called “Absolute Surrender” by Andrew Murray fell into my hands. As I read it, I saw that I did not have to *try* to live the Christian life any more than I had to *work* for my salvation. I came to know Christ as my all-sufficient Lord. Just as I trusted in His *one* perfect sacrifice on Calvary for my salvation, so I learned that as I daily yield my life to Him— *He* will provide the strength for me to live a victorious Christian life. I experienced the truth of Paul’s inspiring testimony, “nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).



The story is not ended, though, for I realized that to enter a convent would be against the will of God rather than to honor Him. My heart went out to the girls who had entered the convents under the spurious guarantee of gaining merits and ultimately Heaven. I no longer wanted to become a Roman Catholic. Now I desire that they might come to know the Lord Jesus Christ in a real way. God opened the way for me to go to Providence-Barrington Bible College in Providence, Rhode Island. For three years I studied God’s Word and prepared for full time Christian service. While there, God deepened my burden to be a missionary to the Roman Catholic people— the “*Religious but lost.*”

Since my graduation, God has led me to work at the “Conversion Center”, which is being used for the evangelization of Roman Catholic priests, nuns, and “whosoever will”. By His grace we desire that many will find as their all-sufficient Savior, Jesus Christ Who said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: *no man cometh unto the Father but by me*” (John 14:6).

Will you now give your heart to the Lord Jesus Christ and trust Him fully as your all-sufficient Savior? It is written, “And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: but this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; ...For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified” (Hebrews 10:11,12,14).

Are you in a convent, or about to enter? There is a life that is far better. Would you like to know more about it? If so, please write The Conversion Center for more information.

**Editor’s Note; We have this tract in stock; write for your copy.**



# Catholic or Christian?

By Stella Ciampa

Is there any difference between a Roman Catholic and a Christian? According to the Roman Catholic Bible my answer must be: “Yes— a very real difference.”

I was brought up in a Roman Catholic home and was baptized and confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church. I was taught to love, respect and honor the Church and believe and accept all of its doctrines. I faithfully did this. It was not until after I had graduated from high school and enlisted in the United States Air Force that I learned from the Catholic Bible that there was a real difference between what I was— a Catholic— and what I must become— a Christian saved by faith alone in Jesus Christ.

After enlisting in the Air Force, I spent approximately six months training in Texas and was then transferred to Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois.

I often went to the Christian Servicemen’s Center in Rantaul, Illinois. This is a place of recreation for servicemen and women; however, the primary purpose of this center is to teach the Word of God to military men and women. Many times when I went into the center, the workers spoke to me, showing me verses from the Bible explaining that no church, Protestant or Roman Catholic, could save me. Neither could I merit eternal life by doing good works because the Bible says: *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works lest any man should boast.”* Ephesians 2:8,9

The Roman Catholic Church to the contrary, had taught me that I could merit eternal life through doing good works such as keeping the sacraments, the Ten Commandments, and so forth.

The following quotations are taken from *“A Handbook of the Catholic Faith”*. *“Good works are, therefore the reason for which God gives reward of Eternal life.”* (Page 217) *“The state of grace is not only a sanctifying state but it demands that we should earn the wages of supernatural life by our own labours.”* (Page 218)

As I continued to go to this center, I began to realize that although I was trying to live a good life and do all that the Roman Catholic Church required, I was not saved. I was a Roman Catholic but not a Christian just as there are Protestants who are not Christians.

One night I left the Servicemen’s Center and a young Christian serviceman walked with me back to the barracks. As we walked, he began to talk to me about Christ and my need to become a real Christian. I needed to accept Christ as my only and all-sufficient personal Savior. **Continued on Page 5**



Where I had been trusting in faith *and* good works to save me, I must trust in Christ alone. *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1)*

The Bible says, “Therefore being justified by faith”. It does *not* say by faith *and* the sacraments for good works. *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;” (Titus 3:5)*

When we finally reached the barracks, I turned to the Christian serviceman and told him I wanted to be saved. It was not religion that I needed, it was Jesus Christ. That night I prayed and asked Christ to be my only Savior. *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13)*

After my conversion, Jesus Christ became a living reality to me and I knew that I had eternal life. Heaven was my home for sure (John 14:1-6; 1 John 5:13). I experienced such peace and joy that my heart’s desire was to share what I had with others. I thank the Lord that after speaking to my mother, she too, was converted to Jesus Christ.



After I was discharged from the Air Force, I attended Nyack Missionary College in Nyack, New York for four years. Since my graduation, the Lord has led me to work as a missionary to Roman Catholic priests, nuns and laity. Roman Catholic people are sincere, but sincerity cannot save. They are earnestly trying to merit eternal life through good works, but good works cannot save. We are born again by faith alone in Jesus Christ. I love the Roman Catholic people and it is my desire to see them become true Christians. *“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).* And a New Birth is *not* water baptism.

Will you accept Christ as your only way of salvation? Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me” (John 14:6). You can become a real Christian right now by putting your trust in Christ alone. The Christ of the Bible. Not a counterfeit Christ. (Matthew 24:23-26; Mark 13:22).



The Bible says *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13).* It does not say *maybe* you will be saved or *possibly*, but it says you *shall* be saved.

*“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God” (1 John 5:13).*

Do you KNOW that Heaven is your home? I trust that you will give your heart to Christ. If you have a question, please write to me. I will try to help you find a fundamental, Christ-centered, Bible teaching church in your community. –STELLA CIAMPA



## *Dear Friends and Supporters,*

Thank you so much for reading this edition of “The Gospel Catholic”. I am working on this on Thanksgiving Day and can’t help but reminisce and think of all the things for which I am thankful. This will be the last edition in this calendar year and 2013 has been a great year both for us and as a ministry. I would like to take the next few minutes to tell you about some of our greatest moments.

One of our biggest desires was to establish our tracts in Print On Demand format. This way, we could order copies more easily, and other ministries would have the ability to order them at their leisure. We have also formatted them so that a church or ministry can individualize them on the back if they would like. We have added the QR code on the tracts (as well as the front of this Gospel Catholic) so that someone with a smartphone or tablet can go directly to our website.

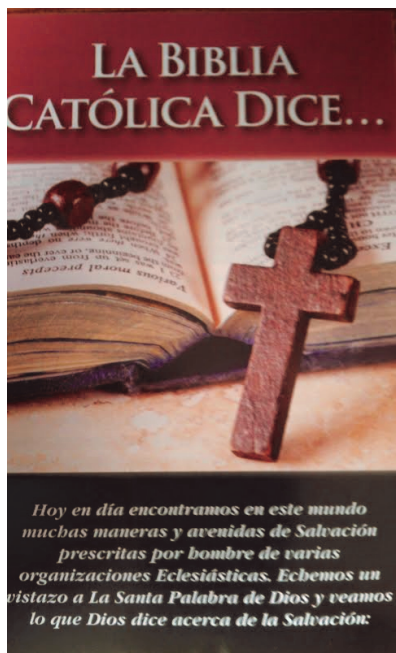
We have been able to get two tracts set up on POD and are currently working on a third. We have re-done and printed “The Mother of Jesus” and “The Catholic Bible Says”. We were able to reprint “Roman Catholicism vs. Fundamental Christianity” in January. Lord willing, by the time you receive this, this tract will be available in Spanish and Portuguese as well as English. The first two tracts we mentioned are already available in Spanish and Portuguese.

We have mentioned in previous editions how we wanted to send these tracts to other countries where pastors and missionaries could use them at their discretion. Earlier in the year, we were able to send 5,000 of the tract “Mother of Jesus” in Spanish to Mexico. It is the same as the tract you see here. We sent the tracts to a friend in the Brownsville, TX. area who distributed them.

I spoke with Dr. Ray Bearden and asked him how many could be used in a ministry he works with. This ministry is overseen by Bro. Jim Drew where he runs a warehouse and compiles literature in Texas for shipment into Mexico City. There the tracts arrive at a depot where countless pastors, missionaries and workers disperse the tracts to various works throughout the country. I am told that “all roads lead to Mexico City”. We have prayed and asked you to pray that we could send 50,000 tracts to Mexico. We received the last gift and ordered the tracts in late October. Lord willing, these tracts will be in Mexico and distributed by the end of the year. Thank you so much for your prayers and gifts to this project. Please pray as we try to send more tracts to other countries in the future. We just finished sending 1,800 tracts to Brazil in Portuguese. My parents are on a missions trip to Brazil right now and they gladly took them. I would like to start our next tract project. In Mexico alone, there are just under 100 million people who are Roman Catholic. **Continued on page 7**



The 50,000 tracts means that, on average, only 1 in 2,000 lost souls will receive a tract from the last project. I want to send another 50,000 tracts of “The Catholic Bible Says”. This tract shows that you CAN find the Gospel in the Roman Catholic Bible. People often ask me, “Why aren’t more Catholics being saved”? The answer is, most don’t READ their Bible, even. In fact, until the 1960’s, Roman Catholics weren’t *allowed* to read the Bible. Please pray that we can send these tracts quickly. It costs \$2,205 to print and ship these tracts. Also, I would like to take a trip to Texas to see this warehouse and look at the ministry of Bro. Drew. I think it would help me to better pray and know more on how we can help in this valuable ministry.



Please pray with us that we can continue to get more of our tracts redone. As we reprint them, I am looking for chaplains and other ministries who will be able to profitably use the older tracts. These won’t have a good picture, will be on older paper, and will likely have an incorrect address for The Conversion Center on the back. So, if you know some ministry who can maybe use some of these, please let us know.

I would ask you to pray for The Conversion Center’s finances. We have had some very lean times with support and as a result, different aspects of the ministry have either slowed or put on hold. We hear of churches and ministries that are struggling and most times, the Missionary budgets are the first to get cut. This is what has led us to offer The Gospel Catholic in email format. If you would prefer to receive it this way, please let us know. In the meantime, please pray for our ministry. Even if we had all the finances of the world, our work would be in vain without the prayers of God’s people. “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16).

On a personal note, we are doing well as a family. God gave is a happy, healthy baby (Patricia Sophia Reno) this year on Mother’s Day night. Stephen (5) and Katy (2) are growing and are a real joy to Rachel and me. We are very thankful for the prayers on ours and the ministry’s behalf. Our health has been good, and God has provided. I have also enjoyed safety on the many different trips I have had to make. As I write this, I am preparing for another trip to the Southeast. Stephen and I will be in 7 churches and schools in a period of two weeks. Please pray for Rachel and the girls as they usually remain behind. It isn’t easy on us but is necessary as it would be too tiring and expensive for all of us to travel every time.



As we are entering the Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years time of year, let me tell you that I hope and pray that this Holiday season brings you and your loved ones closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. God Bless you as you serve Him.

Yours for the Kingdom,  
Mark T. Reno, Director



# The Gospel of Grace

## God's Word, the Bible, Tells We Need To Be Saved

"For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." *Matthew 18:11*

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." *Romans 3:23*

"Except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God." *John 3:3*

## Even Religious Works Cannot Bring Salvation

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us." *Titus 3:5*

"...not of works, lest any man should boast." *Ephesians 2:9*

"all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." *Isaiah 64:6*

"This is the work of God that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent." *John 6:29*

## Jesus Christ – God Himself – Has Provided Everything For Our Salvation

"Who (Jesus) His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree..." *1 Peter 2:24*

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me." *John 14:6*

## We Must Accept Christ To Be Saved

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever Believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." *John 3:16*

"He that believeth on Him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already because he hath not believed...." *John 3:18*

"...and him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out." *John 6:37*

## We Are Saved By Faith Alone

"Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." *Romans 3:28*

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ...for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. *Galatians 2:16*.

# "For by Grace are ye Saved through Faith"

**HAVE YOU....**Been converted to the Lord Jesus Christ? Is He your personal and all-sufficient Savior? If not, you are invited to trust Him NOW. Then unite with a Christ-centered, Bible teaching, Missionary-minded, Separated, Fundamental and Protestant, New Testament Christian Church.

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## THE CONVERSION CENTER, INC.

A Bible-believing Nonprofit Faith Mission

**THE GOSPEL CATHOLIC** – the Official Quarterly Publication of the Conversion Center, Inc. will be mailed to you free and postage paid upon request. Free tract samples and a list of available publications will also be mailed upon request.

**HAVE YOU....**asked your church to include **The Conversion Center, Inc.** in its missionary program?

**HAVE YOU....**remembered **The Conversion Center, Inc.** in your Will?

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